



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of June 29, 2015

Eleven members were present to hear our speaker Ron Ferguson, Principal of the Almonte High School, speak about the major changes taking place at his school. Many of those changes were prompted by a significant reduction in enrollment in recent years (650 down to 350) which, when replicated across Ontario, has prompted the movement of grades 7 and 8 to our high schools. Parents in Almonte have also promoted a return to artistic programs (e.g., music and drama) and a broadening of what is involved within the physical education curriculum. The school has also introduced a hot breakfast program for all students with 7000 meals served to date as well as a modification of desks etc. so that they can be rolled to accommodate more group involvement. Members thanked Ron for his very enlightening talk.

In the business session members approved an increase in the semi-annual fee to \$75 as well as a continuation of the practice of offering a six month waiver of fees for new members. There were also a number of items flowing from the last Board meeting including the following:

1. Mark the July 6 “change-over” meeting on your schedule. It takes place at Brian’s house starting at 6 pm and 35 to 40 people are expected. Rotarians are expected to bring either a salad or a dessert and folding chairs if possible.
2. The Donations Committee noted that the Club had not met its target for international donations in 2014/15 and members agreed that \$1,200 of the current year’s funds should be earmarked for that purpose and added to the commitment for 2015/16.
3. It was agreed that our July 13 meeting would entail participation at the Rotary Club of Brockville’s picnic at Camp Merrywood at 741 Port Elmsley Road near Perth. Members are urged to arrange car pools for that evening.
4. A request was made for volunteers to help set-up and run our 50/50 sale at the Bridge Street Bazaar on Saturday, August 1.

Our Club had an average 84% attendance for our five meetings in June.