



## *Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills*

Meeting of 20 July 2015

Eleven members were in attendance along with guests Ralph and Debbie Shaw and our speaker Arlee Sheets and his daughter Katie-Sue. President Brenda commented on the wonderful time that had been had by 10 of our members at Camp Merrywood on the previous Monday and Wes provided feedback on his attendance at a meeting of the Stittsville Club and the fund raising they did for the development of the Peace Park in that community.

A schedule was passed around for members to sign up for work at the Bridge Street Bazaar 50/50 on August 1; arrangements were made for the tent and other material and Mike distributed a mock-up of a Rotary banner that could go on our tent. Committee chairs were asked to arrange committee meetings before our general meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July and members were advised that all were invited to attend the next Board meeting at Brenda's office at 11 am on Friday July 25. Brenda reported that we had received our "Certificate of Continuance" from Industry Canada and that we are "this close" to getting our registered charity number. Teresa generously volunteered to prepare the annual reports that must be submitted to the Canada Revenue Agency once we have that number.

Members were reminded that a) there would be no meeting on August 3 and b) that the meeting of August 10 would be held at the Carleton Place and Beckwith Heritage Museum at 267 Edmond Street at the regular time.

Members then were enlightened by Arlee Sheets on how, starting with a new farm in 2006, he had progressively altered his farming techniques towards a far more sustainable agricultural practice. He is now a producer of beef, hogs, chickens, turkeys and sheep as well as feed crops, maple syrup and a variety of vegetables from the best 50 acres of his 250 acre farm; all with only a minute use of artificial fertilizers (only for the starting of seeds) or pesticides and much use of his teams of horses. He commented that when he started to see the insects returning to his acreage, followed by the raptors, he knew he was doing something right. He has sold his produce at Farmers Markets but now has regular customers "up-front" for the full 17 weeks of produce production including many who come and buy at his farm. For Rotarians of a certain age Arlee's presentation was very much a back-to-the -future experience. Arlee's farm is at 1267 Rae Road for those wishing to take advantage of his fresh produce.