



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of 5 October 2015

Fourteen of our members were available for this meeting along with two guests and our speaker Toni Surko, CEO of the Carleton Place and District Memorial Hospital. Our guests were Mike Wray, a student at Notre Dame High School and our nominee to attend “Adventures in High Technology”, and Mike’s mother Denise.

While the business part of the meeting is usually abbreviated when there is a speaker there were a number of issues that had to be resolved prior to the next meeting on October 19. They were:

- 1. Highway clean-up: Scheduled for October 17 this has now been canceled by the County due to concerns regarding “...the potential risks associated with the influx of this weed (Wild Parsnip)”. However, the trail clean-up will proceed on that day with breakfast at 8 am at the Thruway and gathering at 53 Colours on Highway 29 at 9 am. Lawn mowers, pruners and rakes will be required. Robert is coordinating.**
- 2. Rotarians will be required for the set-up of barriers for the Halloween Parade on October 24. Set-up at 4 pm and removal at about 7 pm.**
- 3. Rose sale: Our supplier has advised of a price increases due to the exchange rate. It was moved and agreed that we would proceed with the sale at \$20/dozen but would order shorter stem roses to minimize the impact of the added cost.**

Toni Surko then gave an abbreviated talk on the hospital; its 60-year history, the current state of the building and the plans for redevelopment. She noted that while the building is no longer adequate to hold all of the services desired by the community (clinics are the fastest growing service) the building and its systems are inspected frequently and pass such inspections. Over 18,500 patients passed through the emergency department in 2014/15 and about 60% of those had conditions in the top three of the five acuity categories, i.e, conditions ranging from life-threatening to potentially serious. This is the highest and therefore most demanding acuity rate of any small hospital in the Champlain LHIN. Two redevelopment proposals are now before the Health Ministry, one seeking an entirely new hospital on a “green site” plus accommodation for the hospital’s health partners and one to a different funding envelope calling for construction of a new emergency department at the back of the current building. Initial reaction to the latter proposal is expected this month.