



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of 16 May 2016

Four guests joined us for this meeting; our speaker Brian Tackaberry, Doreen and Ed Wilson representing the North Lanark Historical Society, and Brian Armstrong's wife Jennifer who is a Director of that museum.

There was a short business meeting during which it was agreed that the Club will again fund \$350 bursaries for three high schools and Treasurer Mike reported that gross earnings from the mushroom compost sale would be about \$9,500 plus the \$550 we have invested in bags for next year's sale. A full report should be available at the next meeting (May 30). The highway clean-up will take place commencing at 5 pm Monday May 23 with volunteers meeting at the Pentecostal Church at 5:00 pm. There will be pizza at Teresa's house following the clean-up. It was also noted that the grass along the Rotary Trail should be cut before it gets too long and Robert and Eric volunteered for that task. Finally, it was agreed that the Rotary tent could be loaned to the Appleton Museum for their Strawberry Social on June 26.

Members and guests were then treated to a fascinating history of the travels and travails of United Empire Loyalists who settled in Eastern Ontario following the American Revolution. Speaker Brian Tackaberry noted that that Revolution was really America's first civil war as it pitted families against families and brothers against brothers. While the Revolution theoretically ended in 1781 skirmishes continued until 1783 when the last of the troops and Loyalists left. Most of the Loyalists came by ship around Nova Scotia (where some disembarked) and then up the St. Lawrence River to Sorel where they spent the winter of 1783, many of them in tents. In the Spring of 1784 they continued up the river to settlements between Cornwall and Brockville or between Kingston and Belleville where there were "lotteries" that determined what lots they were entitled to settle on. If the settlers had been in the army the lot size was determined by rank starting with 100 acres for a private. Fifty acres were added for each child. The Mohawks who had supported the British in the Revolution arrived in May 1784 under the leadership of Joseph Brant. The new arrivals were a quite a multicultural group. Brian concluded his comments by noting how familiar place names tie back to some of the original Loyalists.