



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of May 14, 2010 Yikes! What happened to the week? The last time I looked it was last Tuesday, the day after our May 14th gala gathering at the Moose – and all of a sudden it is this Tuesday and a whole week's disappeared. Oh well... If my memory serves me well, we had 11 stalwarts out of our merry band of 13 members, along with five (count 'em), five guests. Four of whom sang (that is talked) for their supper, and one was along just to enjoy himself and listen to the singers (that is speakers). George's non-presenting guest was prospective member, Gerry Hoogheim.

Two of the speakers were from the Perth Club – Bob Strachan gave us a brief update on the state of the fund-raising for a new truck for Camp Merrywood. With funds being solicited from all the Eastern Ontario Clubs, Bob reported that they are half-way towards raising the estimated cost of \$34,000.00. President Mike presented Bob with a \$1000.00 cheque to fulfill our promised commitment towards the cause. Then David Batchelor introduced himself as our District Governor's representative for President-Elect Al's coming year. David is a long-term Rotarian with several re-runs as Club President under his belt – and is keen to be involved with supporting our Club's activities as we grow in stature. David's second purpose in being with us was to

invite our club to participate in a multi-club fund raiser on July 14 – through an evening of dinner out and then taking in the Classic Theatre Festival performance of "*Blithe Spirit*."

To round out the Rotarian speakers, current District Governor Arnold Lawrence gave us a brief greeting, along with a pitch for participation in the Montreal International Convention that will very soon be upon us – like in less than a month – on June 19 – 22.

Then we were treated to a true oratorical piece-de-resistance. Liam Vanderbraak, the 16 year-old dynamo we sponsored for the Adventures in Citizenship training program, gave us a dizzying walk-through of each of the five days he spent in Ottawa with fellow teen-agers from right across the nation. Highlights included guided tours of the National Library and Archives, the War Museum, the House of Commons, the Supreme Court, and the Department of Foreign Affairs. If that wasn't enough to set their teen-age heads spinning, they were treated to a panel discussion on political pressure by a group of M.P.'s, a talk from the Speaker of the House, a dinner hosted by the Rotaract Club of Ottawa U., and a dinner with Justin Trudeau. And then, of course, there were the instant friendships with the array of like-minded kids from hither-and-yon.

Next Week: Our May 31st. meeting, again at the Moose, will stay with the teen-ager theme. We will have what promises to be an entertaining visit from the Carleton Place High School's Reach-For-The-Top scholastic competition team.

