



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

June 14, 2010

Yes, the GSE trip to India was a fantastic experience for our sponsored member, Tom Bonhomme, and the team leader Annie Rochon. Tom gave us an impassioned run-down of the month long whirlwind tour of the area of India the team visited, along with a graphic display of pictures and video clips. He vividly recounted the intimate experience of what it is like to be in a very foreign culture, yet be given a chance to see things from the inside, as a hosted member of the *Rotary International family*. This aspect really came to life for Tom and the team. They were given the V.I.P. treatment being hosted in ten different Rotarians homes, giving presentations at twice that many Rotary Clubs, and being whisked around from one tour to another in getting the low-down on the vocational lives of people in this rapidly modernizing country. All three social classes; those suffering in abject poverty, the newly burgeoning middle class, and the layer of the wealthy, were all clearly evident. "Rotary was everywhere" was one of Tom's completely unexpected discoveries, as he came across signs and plaques announcing Rotary sponsored services like wells, schools, hospitals, and parks, again, and again.

Team leader Annie then gave a pitch for recruiting members for next spring's

GSE team that will be traveling to Brazil. She invited us to keep our eyes open for another up-and-coming young person like Tom for our Club to sponsor, and also for us to consider hosting the Brazilian team who will be coming to our district.

Club News:

This year's end of the year and Hand-Over party will be held at Robert's on Monday, June 28th. He has already sent around an email about it, so feel free to plan to attend along with your spouse, partner, friend, whatever – as well as anyone you would like to invite.

Given the ongoing closure of the Heritage Inn, the Club consensus is that we stay at the Thirsty Moose for now, and for the facilities committee of Bernie, George, and David M. discuss what changes could be made to the upper room to accommodate our Club's needs for a possibly extended stay.

President Mike reported that Rotarian David K. has arranged to have the graffiti defaced Rotary Trail bench repaired professionally.

Next Meeting:

Next Monday, the Club will be treated to an account of how Halifax and district was entertained by our very own Glenda Jones and her Stage Age Players – ably assisted by gopher-par-excellence, Rotarian Alan.

Then the following Monday will be the 28th, and the evening for Alan to wrest the gavel from President Mike's reluctant grip; and launch us off into our new Rotary year.