



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of July 20, 2010 An even dozen members this evening, along with our special South African Rotarian guest, Suzanne Oberholzer, were on hand to hear a chilling reminder of just how creative the crooks on the internet are these days. Past-President Mike's long-term friend and buddy in the trials and tribulations of cyberspace, George Kriger, provided us with a brief but very informative jaunt through the malware jungles – a dangerous terrain for most of us unwary unsophisticates in the 21st Century's magical mystery world of the internet.

To rivet our attention on his portrayal, George recounted a tale of an off-shore gang bilking an American bank of nearly half a million dollars (in a month!) by recruiting unsuspecting on-line “cyber-mules” who were instructed in how to withdraw money through fake accounts, set up by fake employees, and launder that money to the master manipulators. This is mind-boggling ingenuity to my trusting, near computer illiterate, mind-set.

Of more concern to the individual computer user – as we rely more and more on these marvelous devices – is that anti-virus protection is simply not perfect, as the game of cat and mouse between the anti-virus software and the maliciously minded software geeks continues unabated. In

addition to avoiding being a victim of such perverse pleasure that is engaged in mainly out of the challenge to prove it can be done, the danger of identity theft, and hence the rifling of a person's bank account is increasingly dangerous. Using a computer designated for internet banking and financial transactions only, is one of George's suggestions to safeguard against such threats to one's online business activities. And then, the stealing of one's identity, and/or personal harassment, is seen as dangers of unguarded posting of information on the currently popular social networking sites such as Face-book.

Club Business: Treasurer Robert reported we have \$13,672.00 in the bank at the moment.

Rotarian Marion updated us on arrangements for the upcoming. Jacquie Leach's Day Care Centre crew are all set to sell tickets – while Rotarians are responsible for manning the desk and taking care of the money, as well as selling all those tickets.

President Alan led us through a Club discussion of the pros and cons of our putting on a Maskeraid Ball this coming October. With a solid consensus behind doing so, Rotarian Robert volunteered to chair a Ball Committee, with Rotarians Jim and Past-President Mike as members. We will all have to be involved, of course, to make this fun and fellowship fund-raiser a rousing success.

Next Week: District Governor Katie Burke will be doing her Annual Club Visit.

