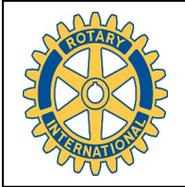


Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills



Bulletin Mar. 2, 2006

MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28:

With ten of our 14 members present we welcomed our speaker **Mike McCulley**, the Housing Help Worker of the Mills Community Support Corporation better known as "The Mills". Four members of our Club sit on the Board of Directors of The Mills, Fraser, George, Al and Gordon. Mike described the growing homelessness situation in Lanark County and the fact that rural areas and urban centres smaller than Kingston get no provincial support to help them address the increasing challenges posed by homeless families and individuals. Mike's efforts through The Mills are supported by an annual Lanark County grant of \$60,000 or about \$1 for each county resident. The homeless challenge in the County is partly due to an exodus of low income families from Ottawa seeking more affordable housing in surrounding areas. However there have also been substantial rent increases in Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills and Smith Falls, with the lowest rents in the area, has placed a moratorium on new low-cost rental accommodation. Mike helps individuals and families to locate accommodation, avoid evictions or utility interruptions and helps people address the issues that are causing their financial or social problems.

During an agenda-less meeting a number of matters came up for discussion. Members concluded that any repeat effort such as Kent Kirkpatrick's talk would benefit by a floor mike for questions, tougher control of questions and the provision of coffee, soft drinks etc. **President Brenda** read from an e-mail from Chris Hale of the Perth Club that reported on the situation in the Guatemalan villages we have supported and the use of recent donations. **David K.** said he hoped that Bill Hale will be coming to speak to us on March 14 on this subject. **Brenda** read District Governor Greg Campbell's e-mail reporting that **RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer's** visit to District 7040 will include his attendance at a Rotary lunch in Ottawa on April 7th. It was agreed that that luncheon meeting would take the place of our April 4 meeting. Seven indicated their interest in attending.

President Brenda reported progress on the May 27 comedy night arrangements and **Al** agreed to explore the possibility getting a liquor licence for the event. The comedy team will cost the Club \$400 - \$500 and the other costs will be for catering, licence fees and hall rental. Ticket prices will be established when all costs have been determined. **David K.** reported on issues that had arisen in his efforts to get nominations for a Paul Harris award through the Chamber of Commerce and, **following the meeting, he, Gordon and Brenda agreed to try to develop a list of nominees of our own. Input from members would be appreciated.**

Brenda closed the meeting by noting that Rotarians had undertaken 1.8 million projects over the past decade and that Rotary is the world's largest provider of private scholarships.