

Rotary Club of Carleton Place & Mississippi Mills



Bulletin: March 16, 2006

MEETING OF 14/03/06

Only nine of our members were on hand to hear a very informative presentation on the ***Guatemala Stove Project*** given by Rotarian ***Bill Hale***, of the Perth Club. Bill's slides conveyed very graphically just how ineffective and dangerous to life and limb is the method of heating and cooking that has been the plight and the blight of Mayan Indian subsistence in the remote mountain villages. Forced into living in the mountains by the Central American form of apartheid, these native peoples have been caught in a devastating condition of poverty, with women having to spend almost their entire day gathering firewood, and burning it on unventilated, open fire-pits within their adobe houses or tin roof shacks. This was their only means to prepare food and provide basic heat. Severe lung disease, and children suffering serious burns were two of the main afflictions that were endemic.

For \$200 Canadian (before matching funds), and a few hours of volunteer labour from dedicated Rotarians such as ***Bill***, a cement block stove, with ventilating chimney, can be built in a single room home. Not only is food preparation much easier, but the air is finally free of ever-present soot, small children are freed from constant danger of falling into the flames, and the women

are freed from the day-long task of fire-tending and cooking. This last benefit is providing the freedom the women need to take the next huge step towards economic opportunity – getting involved in *micro-banking and micro enterprise*. Huge change in social and cultural well-being then comes into reach.

Bill informed us that the **Perth Club** is currently half-way towards raising \$15,000.00 towards a project to provide stoves and micro-bank loans to three Guatemalan Villages.

Along with ***Bill***, we also enjoyed the company of **Perth Rotarian *Ralph Fish***.

CLUB NEWS:

Marion reported on the status of the project to purchase a **TV for Alternate High School students'** lunch room. Since a combination TV/DVD player was not available through a local supplier, she will be getting one this week from Future Shop and will be presenting it to the students soon.

Stan demonstrated an admirable efficiency in providing the Club with a detailed project proposal for selling Christmas Trees as a major fund-raiser. Club members are encouraged to study the feasibility of ***Stan's*** idea, so it can be decided upon in the next few weeks.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday April 7th there will be a luncheon meeting hosted by the Ottawa West Club in honour of the **R.I. President's** visit to our area.

Next week's meeting will be a Club Business focus, to be followed by a Director's Meeting.