



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of September 9th, 2009

Well...we got off to an awkward start with this evening's meeting. Sampling the potential of new meeting digs of the Thirsty Moose, was one thing...but having the Governor of our Rotary District arrive unexpectedly was quite another. Flexibility is a sine-qua-non for Rotary Leadership...and both our bemused President Mike, and our road-weary Governor Arnold both displayed ample amounts of it.

After an impromptu meeting with three of our five executive members, at which Governor Arnold displayed an admirable knowledge of our club's past and present activities – he had certainly done his homework – President Mike called us to order, and led us in a resounding rendition of our National Anthem – somewhat amplified by the contained acoustics of the Thirsty Moose's upstairs meeting room.

Rotarian Bernie then gave us a rundown of highlights from a World Community Service (WCS) meeting held last Saturday. Items of note included an *urgent call* from Katie Burke – the spirited lady in charge of organizing volunteers for the 2010 International Convention in Montreal. So far, Katie has only mustered 230 meeters and greeters to welcome, and shepherd, the thousands of visiting Rotarians from all over the world. A fun and rewarding experience awaits those of us that can find the time next June to

play host to the world, while imbibing the inspiration of Rotary and enjoying the delights of magnificent Montreal – all in one package.

Bernie then brought us up-to-date with his coordinating our Club's WCS activities with Chris Hale and the Perth Club. Chris will be reporting on the Guatemala henhouse project in a couple of months. She and a Perth ophthalmologist are collecting used prescription glasses for Guatemala, and Bernie has written to each of the local high school student council presidents, inviting the students to be involved in collecting used glasses.

Rotarian Gordon asked for volunteers to help with the pruning of the Rotary Trail this week, and moving some gravel fill next. Do give him a call to give Gordon a hand with this ongoing maintenance of our Centennial pride & joy.

Past-President Marion informed us that she is negotiating with several possible bands to fill the entertainment bill for our October 24th Maskeraid Ball.

District Governor Arnold capped his Official Annual Club Visit with an inspirational address, as he expanded on this year's theme of *Rotary is In Your Hands*. He acknowledged our club's history of *hands on* projects and urged us to do a fund-raiser directed specifically towards Polio-Plus. Along with reinforcing the invitation to volunteer at next June's Montreal Convention, Arnold, encouraged us to attend the Kingston Conference, if only for the Saturday, when most of the events will take place.

Next Week we're back at the Waterside, with deliberations of venue change a key item on the agenda.

