



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of March 15, 2010

A very quiet start to our meeting this evening, with only eight members present, as ill-health and other things got in the way. President Mike reported on the Director's meeting held last week, at which plans were finalized for the bowling party on March 27th, and for this year's compost sale, to be held on May 1st.

The bowling party will get underway at 6:00 at the Carleton Place Lanes on Bridge Street. After loosening our kinks and sating our thirst for athletic prowess, we will mosey up the street to Rotarian Robert's Brush Stroke's establishment to partake in wine, cheese, fellowship, and a bit of Rotary Information. The idea is to have an informal evening to acquaint potential Rotarians with our Club and what Rotary as an International Service Organization is about.

Details of the Compost Sale will be finalized soon. Present plans are for the two soccer teams (one male, one female) to compete with each other in filling the bags again this year – and help with the delivery. Six trucks have been lined up so far, along with Rotarian Arthur's great wagon. More could be well used in getting the "stuff" where it has to go.

This "Ides of March" provided an excellent Shakespearian backdrop to our evening's program. We had the pleasure of meeting two devoted, life-long thespians, in the team of Mathew Behrens and Laurel Smith...a couple who have very recently re-located in Perth after ten years of theatre production in Toronto. They are on a mission to provide this undiscovered paradise we enjoy here in Lanark County with a first class Summer Theatre Festival – albeit that it will take a few years to mature into something that might rival what Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake have to offer.

Perth meets their business venture criteria of being a Heritage Site, that is close to a major centre, and that provides a wealth of tourist attractions. Laurel and Mathew are busily laying the foundation for their venture, by getting to know and be known in the whole major marketing area of Eastern Ontario through presentations to Service Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, local governments, tourist promotions, and every sector of the population that they can identify. Their project could well turn out to be a significant economic driver in the whole of Lanark County.

It is starting this summer with two professional productions, Noel Coward's well known "Blithe Spirit", and John van Druten's "The Voice of the Turtle" – two favourite mainstays of traditional theatre... pretty well guaranteed to attract a mainstream audience, and appeal to the tourists.

Next Week: Regular meeting at the Inn.

Given the need for our Club to settle on a major community service project that we can all get behind, President Mike would like us to each put our thinking caps on and come up with ideas. The major one so far is

the All Abilities Park that has been in the thinking-about stage for several years. Past President Marion is quite interested in spearheading such a project – given the willing assistance of a committee to work with her.

One other project that has been voiced is the idea of making the Alwood Drug & Alcohol Treatment Centre for Youth a major Club project focus. A problem here, however, is that Alwood is in the midst of amalgamating with the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre of Ottawa, and in three years the treatments centre will be in a new facility to be built near Carp.

Since we do not have a speaker for this coming meeting, President Mike would like us to devote the time to a thorough discussion of finding and throwing our community service energies behind a local project, either the All Abilities Park, or some other venture.

So please come at least somewhat prepared to engage in this planning session, and we'll see what we come up with.