



Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills

Meeting of January 31st, 2011.

Eleven members and four spouses were on hand to enjoy a truly engaging evening with the newly elected Mayor of Carleton Place, Her Worship Wendy LeBlanc. Wendy regaled us with an in-depth look at just what it means to be a town councillor in a municipality like Carleton Place, and then just what is involved in making the transition to the chair of the mayor. Born and raised in Carleton Place, then schooled in the ways of the big, bad outside world for her early adult years of marriage, school teaching, and living the life of a military wife, gave Wendy the solid basics needed to not only appreciate the community advantages of the “old home town”, but the maturity to take up the reigns of responsible leadership in guiding the “old home town” into the sometimes harrowing, mostly exciting, challenges of rapid expansion and the attendant citification that is looming like a great big explosion in the very near future.

In Wendy’s view, the role of Mayor means keeping an eagle eye on all the balls in the air all of the time – all the way from the high-level items like balancing expansion with maintaining fiscal control of the best managed municipality in the province, down to keeping current on the minute details of the underground infrastructure that keeps our day-to-day comforts comfortably *in the background*. Wendy mesmerized her Rotary audience with revealing just how

her dealing with her day to day admission that “I do not know what I do not know”, has kept her avidly learning since her first day on the job as a councillor. It keeps on stimulating her fertile mind now that she’s in the top job with its endless array and scope of information to be digested and used for the fair-minded decisions that she and council have been entrusted to be making – based on the principle of “sticking with the issue and not with the people backing or opposing it”.

Club News:

Secretary George read a letter from the Municipality of Mississippi Mills inviting our Club’s participation in a Volunteer Recruitment Event. This couldn’t be more timely as our PR Committee is just about to launch a membership drive. Rotarian Doug jumped at the invitation, and has already got a head-start on recruiting people to staff our kiosk, and get things set up for the February 23rd event.

Treasurer Robert gave a verbal rundown of his detailed financial report of the past six months. He then emailed copies to the members, in preparation for a Club discussion of the report at next week’s meeting.

Rotarian Gordon distributed a financial statement detailing the past cost, and future estimates of maintenance, on the Rotary Trail. This special topic will also be addressed at the next meeting.

Next week:

Regular meeting at the Thirsty Moose, with Club item discussions on the program.

