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***Rotary Club of Carleton Place and Mississippi Mills***

 **Meeting of October 10th, 2010**

As our Sergeant-at-Arms is away enjoying the Agawa Canyon, we met without the usual paraphernalia this week. We improvised well, with the president clapping his hands in lieu of ringing the bell. As we had no 50-50 tickets, members were asked to donate $5 to the club, on a volunteer basis.

President Alan read an invitation from the BIA for us to drive a float in the parade on November 27th. This year there will be a Disney theme. We deferred a decision. We will also have to discuss having a float for the Halloween celebration.

Robert reported there is no change in our financial status.

The highway cleanup was completed last Friday. It was easier than usual, because fewer drivers seem to have thrown stuff from their windows. Thanks to Alan, Glenda, George, Marion, Bernie, Jim and Mike who worked hard for an hour or so.

We agreed to support the proposed change in rules for selecting a District Governor.

David Kirkpatrick will report on what to do with walkers from the Carleton Place Manor.

We still need to sell tickets for the Ball! Please be as aggressive as you dare!

David K and McG are trying to find places for the rose sale (for storage and packing). Mike will coordinate if it is to be held on November 20th, and Marion said she would assist.

Marion has booked the Arena for the Christmas dinner, for Monday December 6th. A deposit check will be sent to the arena at once. Meals will be provided by Dennis Burns, at a lower cost than last year. There will be a cash bar.

Gordon reminded us that we have agreed on a 15% cap for WCS donations, out of our annual budget for donations.

Our most recent member, Gerry Hooghiem, gave us a moving and very well prepared summary of his life and career. He was born in Friesland, in the Netherlands, in 1950 – the youngest of seven siblings. His family emigrated to southern Ontario when he was one year old, and lived on a farm there. Life was hard back then – he was paid 80 cents an hour, and gave 72 of them back to help support the family! The family later moved to Aylmer. He got his grade 12 diploma, and worked as an auto technician and painter, and then as manager of a GM outlet. Later he became an insurance adjuster, and spent 20 years in this profession. He was first diagnosed with health problems in 1991, and later met Cheryl, his wife-to-be, at Myrtle Beach while on vacation. They married in 1996. He has two children from a previous marriage and several grandchildren. His health problems worsened in 1997, but he overcame them after some grueling treatment, and enjoys life and pursuits such as golf and curling.

Welcome to the club, Jerry!

There will be no meeting next week, due to Thanksgiving.

The meeting on October 25th will be moved to Tuesday October 26th, due to the municipal election.