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

**Meeting of November 22nd, 2010**

A 22 person ‘full house’ provided the setting for an exuberant, and very informative evening. Along with 14 of our 16 members we enjoyed the company of Jacquie Leach, the E.D. of the Carleton Place Day Care Centre, along with her Board Chairman, Bob Jenkins, and his wife Diane Eve (all three of whom were stellar sellers of 50/50 tickets the Riverside Jam). Then too we welcomed spouses (o.k. Arthur, “spices”) Glenda Jones and Lorna MacNabb, as well as our program guest Caroline Lawrence and her partner (and past long-term member of our Club) Fraser Scantlebury.

On the Club Business side of things, the evening got off to a pleasant start with President Al presenting a check for $1,700.00 to Bob Jenkins as the Day Care’s share of the funds raised at the Riverside Jam’s 50/50 draw. (while last summer’s draw organizer’s organizers, Rotarians Marion and George looked on, and got into the photo-op).

Rotarian Mike gave his report on the very successful annual **Just Because Rose Sale.** 212 dozen of the rich ruby red roses were sold and delivered to surprised and appreciative spouses, partners, employees, friends, and family members – another very successful blanketing of our community with pre-winter warmth-from-the-heart.

Rotarian Marion reported on the Christmas Dinner plans. All systems are go for Monday the 6th of December – which is only two weeks away. Marion will be looking for confirmation of who will be attending the Dinner – spouses, partners, and special friends are all welcome to help out our Rotarians in serving the meal, and joining in the singing. Sean Murphy will be there with his melodious keyboard to provide the musical background to the festive caroling.

A new **slate of Club Officers** has come together to be voted upon at next week’s meeting. Rotarians George, (President), Robert (President-elect), David K. (Treasurer), Doug (Secretary), and Arthur (Sergeant-at-Arms) make up the ticket. They will be joined by Al (as Past-President).

**Program:**

The horror of post-earthquake Haiti was graphically, and emotionally, presented to us by Carolyn Lawrence’s first-hand experience in her week spent there in June. From the pictures of crumpled buildings, and makeshift shacks harrowingly squeezed onto the median of a major highway, to the deplorable conditions of people in the country-side struggling with woefully inadequate medical services, and barely able to scrape a meager sustenance from the near barren soil, we were given a birds-eye view of just what is going on right now in one of the poorest countries in the world. Carolyn’s emotional commitment to the plight of these struggling people, was reflected in her optimistic theme of “Hope for Haiti”.

**Next Week:** Meeting at the Moose. OPP Officer, Sean Trehan, will alert us to common scams out there these days.