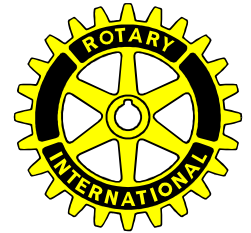


The Beacon News



The Rotary Club of Port Hope

News Bulletin for the Week of May 3, 2010

OPP Inspector Doug Borden

COMMENCEMENT

Meeting opened at 6:05 by Pres Sylvia who immediately awarded the stress ball to PP Ron for his “services last week”. Your humble scribe cannot illuminate on these, as he had to miss that meeting.



There is again an opportunity for the club to earn some money from Happy’s Car Wash.

PRESIDENTIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS

Sylvia reminded the members that the District Assembly is next week and so far, three of our members have said they will be attending. Anyone else wishing to attend should contact Sylvia.

Sylvia also mentioned that the Relay for Life is on June 11th and we are looking for volunteers to direct traffic that day.

DESSERT REPORTS

R. Ken — Looking to find a keynote speaker for the conference in Collingwood at Blue Mountain Resort. If you have a suggestion, please contact R. Jim Gilmer.



GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS

R. Jamison introduced Brad Smith



R. Joyce introduced her granddaughter Olivia whose mother is currently helping out at Camp Enterprise.



The Rotary apparel order should be ready next week.

Camp Enterprise is currently running and R. Leigh is there now.

R. Roger — Reports that 226 tickets have been sold for Lobster night and preparations are going very well. He is looking for volunteers to help set up before and cleanup afterwards as well as SmartServe qualified bartenders. He passed around a signup list.

Roger mentioned that as there will also be a number of 20lb. roasts of beef to be served, he is asking for volunteers who have ovens, to help with the roasting. R. George volunteered immediately.

Volunteers are also needed to deliver auction items. Roger added that next year, there will be a requirement for ticket stubs to be returned so that we know who sold to whom.



PP Ron — Thanked R Roger for his efforts and reported that it is “looking better” for auction items and Rotary members have also contributed money which R. Trish and R. Joyce will use to shop for more items. Rotarians have also donated new, unused items to be auctioned and if anyone has anything else to contribute, they can bring it with them next Monday.



HAPPY BUCKS:

R Bruce announced that it was PP Ron’s birthday and those sitting near him gladly added a loonie to the pot (it’s a chamber pot, right?).

PP Jim seemed to have something to add but reported that he was “just breathing hard”.

R. Bud mentioned that he had been assigned to do the Bulletin last week but did not get to it until Sat. Night. He apologized

for his tardy behaviour this year and likely next year by contributing \$2 to the previously mentioned pot.



R. Ben was happy that R. Bud had put doing Ben’s tax return ahead of doing the Bulletin and he was able to meet the submission deadline. He added that he had attended the bankruptcy of a certain coop and would likely be receiving 25¢ on the dollar.



R. Diane was happy that her musical evening was a big success. R. Paul sang “Who is Sylvia” (thought we all new that) and” Maria”. The evening ended as a kitchen party and many dollars were raised for the Friends of Music.

R. Dave was very happy having achieved 95% on his recent exam and will be officiating at a Paralympics “power of Sport” track meet on Saturday.



R. Roger is happy with the number of lobster tickets sold. PP Ron was happy that exchange student Elin’s parents paid a visit. They have now gone to Vancouver to visit friends.



R. Ken, (your humble scribe), was happy to be off training diet and can now actually eat at the meetings. He has just returned from Cuba and is happy to be back in Port Hope, which is of course, the centre of the universe.



GUEST SPEAKER

R. Linda introduced OPP Inspector, Doug Borden of Brighton who would be speaking on a special issue of a rural area, namely the proposed Marijuana (MJ) growing facility.



Doug, when not on duty, raises racehorses and is a Rotary

member. He has been a policeman for 28 years starting in NW Ontario and later Peterborough. He was a member of the tactical and rescue team that is involved with handling the biker gangs. He is one of 14 OPP who deal with hostage incidents, drugs and gangs.

Inspector Borden explored the issues of the Health Canada (HC) licensed gro ops — what's legal, what's not.

He told us that illegal grow ops were formerly outdoor but tend to be indoors now. In 2004 it was a billion dollar business in Canada — our largest cash crop. In 2005 grow ops counted for 85 million dollars per year in hydro theft. It is estimated that there are 50,000 illegal grow ops in Canada — 25,000 in Ontario alone! Every year, a helicopter survey is done over Northumberland to detect outdoor grow ops which can be easily spotted due to the plants lush green foliage. Indoor ops are easy to spot in the winter, as there is likely to be no snow on the roof due to the massive heat buildup inside. Another distressing statistic is that every 15 days there is a fire resulting from an illegal drug lab/gro op. He mentioned that one of the big problems is that the narcotic content of the MJ has increased drastically from what it was in the 1960's. MJ is being used as an "introductory" drug and being laced with seriously addictive substances — methamphetamines, I.C.E., etc. — in order to create further demand and get people hooked. Criminals are actually dressing up as police complete with bulletproof vests and automatic

weapons and ripping off each other!



The legal side, that is the Health Canada licensed gro ops, grow MJ for medicinal purposes and this usually works very well. A person diagnosed with certain painful conditions can become licensed to grow their own or hire someone else to do it for them. They can also purchase MJ from Health Canada but many regard the product as inferior. There are, however, many abuses in the system. HC only specifies the number of plants that can be grown not the size of the plant and quantity produced can vary widely. HC does not have enough inspectors to be able to monitor the licenses so the police become involved. The difficulty is that under the privacy act, HC will not share information about who is licensed for what.

Another problem is that the qualifications to be a licensed grower only stipulate that the person must not have been convicted of a "drug crime" in the previous ten years — apparently it does not matter if you are some other type of criminal as long as it did not involve drugs! HC does not regulate the price that the MJ

can be sold for so it can be a very lucrative business.

Most MJ grown in Canada goes to the US with most of it funneled through Ontario. A truckload can be bought for \$3000, sold in the US for \$20,000 worth of cocaine, which is brought back to Canada and sold for \$60,000.

The local operator says that he represents up to 400 licenses and is proposing a 4000 sq. ft. facility with unspecified security. The facilities tend to be so toxic that inspectors will not enter without HAZMAT suits. If a facility catches fire, the fertilizers on site create an extremely hazardous situation.

A question and answer session followed. R. Ben thanked Insp. Borden for his presentation.

RIVERFRONT PARK

President Sylvia opened a discussion on the proposed Riverfront Park project. Over the past 3 years, R. Jim and R. George have attended meetings to discuss with other groups. Last year, we contributed \$1750 to make a study of a possible park across from the Ruth Clarke Centre. Originally three groups were involved but now only two so the area our club has been allotted to deal with is from the footbridge south to the Bargain Shop (the original site was by the fish cleaning station).

It was noted that the club raised \$100,000 for the work done on the west side of the river, largely from the sale of pavers and trees and it is proposed to do a similar fundraising tactic for the east side. Sylvia has sent a letter of interest to the authorities asking for a letter of confirmation from them.

A motion was made to donate \$25,000 over a five-year period to extend the park. It was seconded by R. Ben and ultimately passed by a unanimous show of hands. The motion reads: "The Port Hope Rotary Club commits to a

\$25,000 donation over the next five years to extend the Riverfront Walkway on the east side of the Ganaraska River to Mill Street North from the Rotary Footbridge south and that any additional funds raised

over \$25,000 will also be designated to the project."


50/50 Draw

The winner was R. Ted R

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Date	Topic/Speaker	Location	Door	Scribe
May 10	Joe James - Classification	K of C	Bob W, John M	Jim
May 17	TBA	K of C	Roger, Brie	Rolly
May 24	Victoria Day Holiday	No Meeting		
May 31	Club Assembly	K of C	Cleve, Ken B	Dianne
June 7	TBA	K of C	Dianne, Jan	Bud

**ROTARY CLUB OF
PORT HOPE**



**THE FUTURE OF ROTARY
IS IN YOUR HANDS**

P.O. Box 191
Port Hope, Ontario,
L1A 3W3

Officers

President: Sylvia Binkley
Secretary: Erin Brown

President- Elect: John Mowat
Treasurer: Paul Tait

Directors

Club Service: Ken O'Neill
Community Service: Roger Ingram

World Service: Kelly Morgan-MacKenzie
Fund Raising: Jamieson Ross