



WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday September 16, 2026

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Paul Allen, Debbie Blakelock, Angela Carter, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Don Haber, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Crystal Lambkin, Sharon Pfeifer, Dave Schulz, Dave Sherlock, Paul Snack, Mike Taylor, Lily Laffinuer, Allen Sadikov, Guest Speaker, Don Haber, Classification Talk.

1. Welcome Allen!

2. Land Acknowledgement – Debbie

We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Metis and Inuit people and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people

3. National Anthems– ALL

4. 4-WAY TEST – Paul

Of the things we think, say, or do
Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build good will and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

5.

Invocation

With our friends beside us, and no person beneath us,
With the bonds of Rotary between us, and our worries behind us,

With our goals before us, and no task beyond us,
With a thirst for knowledge, and a dream for a polio-free world,
We are thankful for our Rotary friends and the meal we are about to share.

Rotary Moment. Crystal This was inspired by Hugh's request that we stand up when we're speaking. I went to Ridley College Conference and was asked to say something. I mentioned standing up in Rotary so all could hear you. I was approached later by 2 women about being a Rotarian!

6. Announcements.

Purse Bingo. Mel. 50 tickets left. \$250 purse sponsors get a free ticket. Need one more sponsor. **Mike.** Nancie will do it.

Pathstone Appreciation last night. I attended with my daughters. They said to say 'Thank you.'

Delta Bingo. Hugh. Did the early shift in morning. 1030-1230 there were 3 people playing Console Bingo. That's it! They did the 1230-330 too. \$2400 for 4 hours! **Mel.** I sent off information to everyone. We have 30 signed up. We have a list of who's available to work!

Last week re Bingo. If we send out information on our Facebook page re Welland Delta Bingo, we'll get **\$250** every quarter!

Youth Exchange. Mike. Special thanks to Debbie for hosting all the homestay folks! We need a to and from table tennis for Lilly on Tuesdays. 430-630.

Peace Pole. Meeting with the Mayor. Rotary's preference is Peace Park. Town date possibly the 24th October or the 26th? That's 2 days before the election. You can vote ONLINE!

Angela. Going to the Lincoln Club. Sept 10th great night, great turnout.

RLI Rotary Leadership Institute. Starts 20th September. Paul Hewitt is signed up!

Blood Drive (Welland) Wednesday October 14th.

7. Presentation. Dave Schulz introduced Don Haber for his Classification Talk.

Don's Background. Born and raised in Brantford, oldest of 6 kids, I participated in Cubs, Scouts, Venturers, Junior Achievement. I had a paper route and first REAL job was at Food City as a stock boy. I bought my first car, a 62 VW that I made into a Dune Buggy! I graduated from NPC's 5-year program – good marks; really liked math and science. I applied to McMaster, U of T and Waterloo. I chose to go to McMaster (my girlfriend was going there.)

I had 4 summer jobs over the summers of my university years. I framed houses one summer (learned pretty usable skills); I had 4 months at National Pressed Glass – making the glass part of a household fuse; another summer, I worked at Stelco Brantford works making nuts and bolts and there I learned to drive a fork lift. **My last summer job was at Ontario Hydro in downtown Toronto.** I believe I was hired because the 'hirer' was also a pilot and my resume showed that I was too! The next summer I was hired by OH as a Junior Engineer. **I liked hydro electric power generation best!** My first regular job was 7

years as a Jr Engineer in a Hydraulic Plant equipment. Lots of travel to northern stations. Next 4 years with OH Western Ontario in London. **Reorganisation after 4 years brought us to Fonthill and DeCew Falls Operating and Maintenance Unit.** (Personal note – oldest daughter Chantel was born before leaving London and youngest, Michelle, was born a few years after – now two beautiful granddaughters!)

(Another personal note – we built cottage on Lake Huron at Little Pike Bay on the Bruce Peninsula. I did the design to the building as well as a million other things!)

The job in DeCew was great, probably my FAVOURITE! Then another Ontario Hydro Reorganisation to OH and later to OPG. **Drive to Burlington for 4 years – one really good opportunity – Acting Manager for a year for two control centres,** Middleport and Kitchener. They house Operations and are staffed 24-7 by people monitoring electrical transmission and distribution systems. When there's a failure or rerouting need, these are the people who do it and they're GOOD at it! **Back to the Hydro Fold – Niagara Falls at the SAB complex.** Led the team that obtained **ISO2002 Quality certification for the facility.** An appreciation award for that success was box seats in Toronto for a Maple Leaf game!!

After that I was Manager of Engineering for the Niagara Plant Group. Great job, great people. My next role was Manager of Engineering – Balance of Plant for the hydro fleet across the province. 9 or 10 different jobs in OH/OPG without having to move from Fonthill. After 35 years of service, I explored some options enjoying first 4 years working with American Hydro – achieved \$7 million dollars in sales of hydro plant equipment & sales. It came to an end. Next job with American Hydro who was bought by a large multi-national firm looking to expand into Quebec. We parted ways as I didn't speak French. Still not ready to retire, I spoke to Hydro Tech in Sault Ste Marie and was offered a job. I enjoyed working with these specialists and played a part in convincing them to open up an office in NF which is still flourishing!

Now we're travelling!

PS That girlfriend I followed to MacMaster? Susanne, my amazing wife of 51 years.

Thanks, Don! Classifications and RE Classifications are done so we can get to know another side. On another side, pilot side, Don still works with the Fly for Free for Kids with 7 other Pilots. 300 kids came, between 8 and 20 years old.

8.

Happy Thoughts

Allen. Happy my kids wake up wanting to go to school.

Dave Sherlock. We went to Toronto for lunch. It's good to see how lively Toronto is!

Paul H. Street Barbie this weekend. We need 'no rain!'

Paul A. Thanks for your presentation, Don, Looking forward to more from others!

Lilly. I have met new friends at school. So good!

Debbie. Really enjoying Lilly. I'm glad she's here!

Sharon. I'm pleased that I and my daughter went out west to see son/brother! Pivotal memories! Now I'm getting into Fall routines!

Mike. Happy to spend time with the kids this weekend. I had the opportunity to take her to Table Tennis. Lilly played non stop 2 hours.

Hugh. Thank, Don. Life list had a pilot license on it. I went up to Buffalo introductory flights – it was cool!

David Schulz. Welcome Lilly to the Rotary family. Crossley has Interact with 45 members – bigger than OUR family. I also went for a ride with my daughter. Great afternoon.

Don. Off to Italy for 15 days. Looking forward to that.

Angela. I'm on the Shaeffer Board. They are stellar in everything they do. It brought peace to my whole day. A brand new facility is coming. We'll be doing Laps on Track to raise funds!

Frank. Don't fly out of Frankfurt if you can help it! I arrived 2 hours late and missed my flight; I stayed overnight. I missed the Big Bike Ride. Other than that it was a great trip.

Mel. I thought Don was a teacher! Happy to be home after being away for 3 weeks!

Collins. It was good to learn about Don. This week is the last round of taking kids to the Parks before closure for the year.

Bob. Classification presentations are great!

Paul s. Amazing what people do outside Rotary!

Rotary Meeting next week will be a breakfast at Domenic's. Please sign up!

Next Meetings/Events

September 16. Weekly Meeting. Rotary Speaker Don Haber, Classification Talk

September 23. No Weekly Meeting. Breakfast at Dominics. Please sign up.

September 30. Board Meeting. MCC Concession, First Floor. All welcome.

October 7. Weekly Meeting. Rotary Speaker Collins Acheampong.