

"Where everyone is kin; with a sense of worth, over all the Earth"

~ adapted from Robert Burns/Gordon McNally, RI President 2023-24

WEEKLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday May 8, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Ann Harrison, Mike Taylor, Dave Schulz, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Bob Eamer, Bev North, Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Sharon Pfeifer, Collins Acheampong, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe, Satoka Hayashi, Frank Adamson, Dave Sherlock

1. Welcome to our Guest Speaker, Shannon MacPhee, Working in the Canadian Arctic

2. Land Acknowledgement. Hugh

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.

Toast. Sharon

To the King and Canada, To the Office of the President of the United States, and To the President of Rotary International and To the Prime Minister of Japan

O Canada. ALL

4 Way Test. Sharon

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?

Invocation Sharon

This Invocation is for both Mental Health Awareness and Mother's Day. It's a call to be kind.

We're all deserving of compassion, kindness and understanding.

Cultivating self-compassion not only fosters more positive mental health but also supports the

development of stronger connections with others. This powerful tool empowers us to lead more fulfilling lives. By approaching it in a manner that respects our individual needs and journeys, we contribute to bringing healing into the world. The journey starts with each of us.

3. **President's Report. Announcements. Board Highlights. Carolyn.**

Colleen Smith was present for our cheque presentation to imPACT. She accepted with thanks for making music affordable! The presentation was with our new large cheque, followed by a real cheque for \$1500.

Canada Day Signup is available.

Summerfest We've had correspondence. Saturday the 20th July.

Youth Exchange correspondence from Mike. Our incoming student for 2024-25 is Maria from Brazil.

May 22. Satoka's parents are coming for a visit. May 22nd-24th they're going to Quebec City. May 29th is a meeting here. May 24th-29th we'll fill their time with activities. Still some holes in schedule. Week of 22nd there is a **social from 6-9 on Friday the 24th at Patti Stolk's**. It's a nice opportunity to get to know them.

Saturday May 4. Tim Horton small cookie decorating. (Proceeds to Wellspring) 2 shifts. Thanks to those who volunteered!

Wednesday June 5 is our Paul Harris Celebration. Invitation emailed. Deadline May 22.

Golf Tournament is going to Pelham Hills on the 2nd Friday, September the 13th. Proceeds will go to **Youth Resources Niagara YRN**.

Welland Dragon Boat Festival. Sue is helping to organise it. There's an opportunity to participate.

Please read the Newsletters.

4. **Introduction of Guest Speaker Shannon MacPhee by Mel Groom.**

Shannon MacPhee is a Biologist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada where she has been working on research and monitoring programs in the Canadian Arctic since 2012. Her work included being part of a team to establish the first integrated offshore fisheries sampling program and working as a science advisor to advance Arctic marine conservation initiatives in the Canadian Beaufort Sea. More recently, Shannon has coordinated a research team focused on the health and ecology of Eastern Beaufort Sea beluga whales using methods including harvest-based sampling, use of passive acoustic monitoring, drones and tagging in partnership with Inuvialuit. Through this work she has gained significant experience collaborating with co-management partners and building relationships with Indigenous Knowledge holders in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Normally dividing her time between Winnipeg, MB and Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Shannon is currently based in Fonthill while on assignment as a senior advisor to a Regional Director of Science. Shannon will share information and photos on some of the work that she has been a part of in Canada's beautiful Western Arctic.

Guest Speaker Shannon MacPhee

I'm going to share a sampling of my work. Normally I'm in the Beaufort Sea. Our team is based in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It takes 2 days to get there by charter helicopter. We work with locals on their boats, with helicopters. From the mountains to the west to the Yukon border, to the wide belt by the McKenzie River to the wide Delta. It encompasses 6 communities, 6 distinctive communities. They rely on the land for food. Right now that is the geese, the migrating birds! Cariboo are important. **There's a lot of diversity with the whales, seals, often from Alaska! Inuvialuit Settlement Region** – they maintain their language and participate in the

economy and the society. Belugas are the most important thing to them. 1000's immigrate to the Beaufort Sea and follow Bowheads. They can break through ice. One island is receding at a rate of 3 metres/year!

There's a 20% increase in traffic. **The permafrost is melting.** You can hear it..

There's a Pan Arctic disturbance of Beluga whale. Of their stock population, some are healthy but at risk. About 450 Belugas left.

We do aerial count of animals and camera imaging to corroborate what we see. We have to correct the river bias with satellite tags. It translates information to satellite receiving station. We can look at their social interaction. The harvesters find whales and tag them. It's a sensitive subject. We collect blow in Petri dishes and take a blood sample. We're learning the migration route changes, dive information.

Our information is on males – hunters didn't want to approach the females.

There are males making repeated dives and striking the bottom. They are here travelling, here feeding and foraging. We're mapping the prey distribution. **We're monitoring Beluga health with Inuvialuit harvesters. We work collaboratively with the harvesters. You are what you eat!**

Whales have different languages. They know of places to go. They learn from the mother where to go.

How long are you gone for? June 5-August 5. We're on the ship 4-5 weeks.

The narwhal is in the Baffin Bay area. Orcas, killer whales, kill Narwhals. These Orcas are just coming in.

What is your education? My educational background is a Masters in Biology; I'm a biologist working for my PhD at Guelph and Queens.

Carolyn Thank you Shannon for this riveting presentation. WE show our appreciation with a donation to our local Food Bank – Pelham Cares and their programs.

Happy Loonies

Bev. Nice to see a full house! Rotary expands my knowledge!

Bob. I did a eulogy for my best friend and the room was full of happiness. My granddaughter graduates this year, she's learning how to drive and she's been accepted into Guelph;s Environmental Science. Very proud.

Paul. Last week I saw Paul Allen – he's coming back! Lance, I feel your pain re Leafs!

Mel. My girls and I were away 3 weeks in Cambodia. Quite an eye opener.

Frank. I turned 75. Thanks for coming to the party! One month tomorrow I'll be in France cycling with my nephew, raising money for Afghan military who have PTSD.

Satoka. Happy to have gone to New York City!

Mike. Happy Eli is back home. Friday am at 430 we left for NY City with 6 YE Students including Satoka,

Ann. Daughter Kathryn may move back from BC!

Annie Happy to be home and although it was wonderful away, home is home.

David I'm happy my badge is on the way.

Sharon. April was a busy time – I love the interaction!

Lance. Our bikes are all tuned up for our trip to Jordan!

Carolyn. Last weekend was Rotary time. The Wheel is powerful! I'm away next week and Collins will take care of the meeting!

Collins. It's amazing to learn from today's presentation. My first conference was a few weeks ago. I'm looking forward to PH Evening. I have our new banner for next year – The Magic of Rotary.

Hugh It's great to see so many here! Sandy and Hugh active in a number of things, A week ago we helped with a spaghetti dinner. We're trying to take a break!

Future Dates

May 22-29. Satoka's parents here for a visit.

May 22. Board Meeting in Concession Area. Everone welcome.

May 29. Satoka's presentation, Parents attending.

June 5. Paul Harris Awards Evening. Registration is open till May 29.