

*“Where everyone is kin; with a sense of worth, over all the Earth”*

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

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## WEEKLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday April 17, 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 Hiyashi, Sue Sarko, Troy Killick, Dave Sherlock

1. **Welcome to our Guest Speaker, Danielle Horodenchuk, YRN**

2. **Land Acknowledgement. Mike**

*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. Lance**

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. Lance**

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 Frank**

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

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

**Correction!** This Saturday is Earth Day and our Tree Give Away, Great Lakes Clean Up. Sharon in the courtyard with trees – may have to help carry trees – 8-9 volunteers for 231 orders. 35 came in yesterday. Rally is 1-3pm/ 9-noon for trees. Cleanup is at same time. Gloves provided by the town. We need a pole to help drag things out of the pond.

**April 26.** District Conference social on the Friday night. **April 27.** Workshops, plenaries are on the Saturday. Collins, Frank and Annie are going.

May 2. Donation to 1<sup>st</sup> Ontario Performing centre – a daytime presentation.

**Saturday May 4.** Tim Horton small cookie decorating. (proceeds to Wellspring) 2 shifts. Looking for 8 volunteers, 3 plus 3 hour shifts at Wellspring.

**Wednesday June 5** is our Paul Harris Celebration.

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

**Canada Day** is all set up with times. We're having Archery again – 3-7 pm again.

**Big Brothers, Big Sisters.** Paul went to their inaugural opening as a Niagara entity. They've amalgamated their resources throughout Niagara.

Paul finally met with **Richard Bering.** He knew there was no FarmFest this year. We talked about donating his facility for a barn dance, car show, something similar. He's happy to host – room for thought.

**Sharon** got her pin!

4. **Introduction of Guest Speaker Danielle Horodenchuk, YRN by Mike Taylor**

**Danielle** is Mike's replacement at YRN and he is very happy about it and about Danielle's previous experience and knowledge as well as her passion for the work he knows so well.

**Danielle.** Thanks to all of you for your support of YRN through your golf tournament. It's so much appreciated especially with the cutbacks on the government's side.

**We have 3 houses for ages 12-19. We support an average of 160 Youth each year.** We've been working for 4 decades since 1979. That first home, named Juvenile Detention Niagara Inc operated as a 10 bed, Open Detention/group home residence. Here they could have contact and connections close to home.

**In 2000 the Agency opened a second, 11 bed home behind the original one.** In 2001, we refocused our effort on the growing need for group homes to service high risk/needs young people. In 2006, we changed our name to Youth Resources Niagara Incorporated. **In 2019, in collaboration with FACS** (Family and Children's Services Niagara) we opened a 9 bed residential home for **female youth, Genesis!**

Our vision is to provide access to and support the individuals and the programs for 12-19 youth experiencing or at risk of, homelessness.

**Across all our programs we have onsite** clinical therapy, physical education is always a goal,, social skill training, **goal setting (reviewed each week)**, gardens on site, recreational activities, **life lessons.**

We work with the police and other agencies. We support extrajudicial sanctions and measures, detention support, custody support. **A new development is an additional home** – some are being housed outside of Niagara – we can bring them in. They'll prepare meals and eat together. We want them to feel at home. We do things with them that they haven't done before, e.g. going to the park etc. **We've had 3 Youth who have graduated.**

Most of them when they arrive have hit a very low point in life including addiction and mental health problems. Our goal is to help and support these youth.

**Paul** Big Brother Big Sister uses mentorship and spending a few hours/week with their little brothers, little sisters. **Danielle FAC** –youth is taken into care. We are seeing **Youth as young as 12. We want to ensure we catch kids early.**

**Troy.** It's always a struggle especially in times of inflation. I'm pleased we can support YRN with a golf tournament. How does Niagara Region hold up to other regions?

**Danielle.** There's only one other pilot project running. There's been a decrease in the budget for us.

**Collins.** I have a question about the surrounding family connection. How does YRN connect with families?

**Danielle.** Sometimes we don't have direct contact.

We DO have within 1 day and appointment with the family. We encourage family visits. They can go home on weekends. We include families in all our planning.

**Carolyn.** Thank you, Danielle, for your passion and your work. As a thank you to our speakers, we make a donation in your name to Pelham Cares.

### **Happy Loonies**

**Sharon.** I'm grateful for the work YRN is doing. I love to help people do something with the environment. Thanks for your cleanup help.

**Frank.** I'm happy to be here, happy that Sharon came on board. It's great to see the Great Lakes Project. I'm happy to see Sue and Dave here today.

**Ann.** My son, Andrew, is defending his Master thesis. He was accepted into the UBC Architectural Program.

**Lance.** I'm happy Leafs are still in the playoffs.

**Dave.** My daughter has been working for a year with this assertive dog program. I noticed that during O Canada the dog sat up!

**Paul.** Thanks to YRN work! It's tough work. Thanks for what you do.

**Dave.** I really enjoyed presentation. It's a hard job, it really is. I'm happy to hear how things are going.

**Danielle.** I appreciate your support. It's my granddaughter's birthday on Friday.

**Carolyn.** We presented the big cheque to EL Crossley to help the rowers nutritionally; I'm away next week, not here. The two girls, Bernie and I are going on a little trip to North Carolina.

**Hugh.** Being part of a family is great. Thanks, Danielle.

**Mike.** Happy that Danielle is here. Happy we're in receipt of the golf tourney fundraising.

**Carolyn.** We're looking into what's available for a regular breakfast and the next steps. Thank You! Have a great day!

### **Future Dates**

**April 10. Breakfast at Dominic's**

**April 20. Tree Planting.** 400 trees at cost. Same day as Clean Up. Pelham Cares – 100 trees for Pelham Cares Forest at the back of their property.

**April 24. Board Meeting. MCC Concession Area. Everyone welcome,**

**April 26 & 27.** Rotary District Conference. Registration is open.

**June 5. Paul Harris Awards Evening. Save the date.** If you have an honoree in mind send in their contact information and WHY you feel they are worthy of this award. **Deadline April 30.**