



## ROTARY CLUB OF FONTHILL

### WEEKLY MEETING AGENDA Wednesday, April 19th Hybrid Meeting

Dave Schulz, Bob Eamer, Carolyn Mullin, Hugh Graham, Paul Snack, Troy Killick, Annie Holtby, Mike Taylor, Bev North, Frank Adamson, Sean Racher, Paula Racher, Mel Groom, Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozas, Collins Acheampong, Lance Wiebe, Jay Jayasankar.

- 1. Welcome** to our speaker today, Jay Jayasankar, Collins Acheampong and Maria del Carmen Suescun Pozas.
- 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.*  
  
**O Canada** led by **Carolyn**.
- 3. Toast: Frank**  
To the King and Canada, To the Office of the President of United States, and To the President of Rotary International, our very own Jennifer Jones!
- 4. 4-WAY TEST: Lance**  
Of the things we think, say or do  
Is it the truth?  
Is it fair to all concerned?  
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
- 5. Invocation: Mel**  
You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.  
What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.  
Jane Goodall
- 6. President's Report, Correspondence and Announcements. Troy**  
**Hugh. Home Show.** Checked in with Volunteers, sent an email thanking them. I'm impressed with our volunteers – 3 students plus Frank, Mel, Rick, Paul, Paula, Sean. FarmFest info was handed out. Some signs sold.

**Golf Tournament with Welland Club.** It's planned for September 15 (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday) at Riverview Golf Course. We should get 100 players between us and Welland Club. A couple of the board members in Welland are connected to the Niagara Child Centre and Mel has connections too.

**Welland Club Paul Harris Evening** is May 10<sup>th</sup>. It's a wine and cheese at the Welland International Flatwater Centre. \$25 cost. **Welland's Purse Bingo** is May 24<sup>th</sup>. Hugh is helping with Welland's clean up. **Mel** reached out about Tim's **Smile Cookies**. **WellSpring** asked if Rotary would do something. It would take 8 3 hour shifts to cook and decorate the cookies. We can have 4 shifts of 2 people each. **Purse Bingo** is November 10 in the Accursi Room. We're trying to get some money back to the town. Some of the proceeds could go to Pathstone's work with youth at MCC. It will make Vicki happy. The use of the room is approved without cost.

**Frank** said the District Conference (as an update) was held at Niagara Community College on Staruday, **DG Lisa** was very happy. 7 or 8 PDGs were there. In Frank and Anne's years, both conferences were virtual.

**Troy** reminded everyone that the **Watershed Clean-Up** was on Saturday.

**Mike.** Flag bearing by Youth Exchange at the Conference was the first time in 3 years. It was good to see all the kids. We need home stays – the first place will be at Mile's. Need to shake some trees!!!

**Paul.** Radio ads at Giant FM and Country 89. There's an info session on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May on how to do a media spot. **Dave.** Pelham Today approached Rotary about doing 'Rotarian' of the Month. It may be an event instead of a person – so we're highlighting events. It's a photo opportunity and a couple of paragraphs.

## **7. Lance: Introduction of Speaker *Subramanian Jayasankar (JAY)***

### ***Professor- Tree Fruit Breeding and Biotechnology***

#### ***Plant Agriculture-Vineland Station, University of Guelph***

Jay has over 25 years of experience in horticulture, especially fruit crop improvement in India, US and Canada. He has worked with diverse crop species and for the past 18 years has been working with tender fruits - both using conventional and contemporary approaches.

He has developed and released 14 improved varieties in India and Canada.

He is an investigator in several provincial, national and International grants such as IDRC and has obtained board in three International Journals and has reviewed manuscripts for over 20 International journals. He has published over 120 research articles, co-edited 3 books, has 8 patents and 20 PBRs, over 10 million dollars in grants as Planner or Co-Planner.

He has been invited to present his work at several national and International organizations including the **UN General Assembly's Market Place in New York** and at the **Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa**. He is a member of the editorial

His family includes wife Siva, daughters Varsha and Deeksha.

**Presentation: Jay Subramanian, Professor, Tree Fruit Breeding and Biotechnology.**

**PowerPoint Presentation:** <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/289/Documents/en-ca/a322f855-b383-4001-95a7-52889b0346ca/1/>

**Jay.** Thank you for the opportunity to talk. I was in Rotaract during University. The slide presentation is **Fruit Breeding: Food Waste and Security**. With fruit breeding, we do it through hybrids. Fruits are seasonal: there are very few fruits that we can have all seasons. Sometimes there are differences that bring incompatibility (like getting married). You want to cross A & B but A wants O, etc.! Apples, plums, peaches, mangoes are all seasonal. It was unfortunate that the decision to close the Peach Canneries

was made. Bananas are produced all year round. There are 300 varieties of Bananas, some even have seeds. This year round production is not possible with most fruits. Apples can be kept for up to a year in cold storage. There are many varieties of Apple. One of the most popular is the Honey Crisp Apple. It was bred in in 1962. In 1991 there was some interest. Then there was commercial interest in it. Now it's 3 times more costly it's so popular. In 2006, Minnesota made it 'the fruit of the state!'

Food Waste = fruit waste. India and China are in the top 5 producers. They produce a lot but they waste a lot. They produce mainly because of the climate. There's a map of fruit concentration. 40% of the fruit and vegetables we produce are wasted. The global warning about carbon dioxide pales as laughing gas, nitrous oxide, is worse. In fruit waste, it contributes 1 kilo of nitrous oxide for every 300 kilos of carbon dioxide.

3.7 trillion apples are wasted. In Canada half the apples on a farm are wasted. Where we have facilities, we have waste.

Fruit and Food Security. Availability, access, stability and affordability. We can keep apples almost a year. By bringing improved collection of seeds, we can get crisper apples through gene reading. After harvest, we lose a lot. We could transform from fresh fruit to dried, etc.

Clear H<sub>2</sub>O or Hexanol is a natural molecule present in every plant. Hexanol is the smell of fresh cut grass, a cut cuke's musky smell. Plants produce it in tiny quantities. That fruity flavour in gum is Hexanol. This natural product is in every fruit and vegetable. 6 countries use it and 40 days have been added to the life of a banana with Hexanol. How much is the cost of Hexanol? It's so little – 1 cent per kilogram! If we reduce amount to be used the actual cost is 0.02%. Another thing used is wax on cukes. Sometimes that's good.

The Rotary Foundation Freedom from Hunger has scholarships. Two or three of them including Jay are still working on this to reduce waste.

**Paul.** Thank You! This was real learning! What can we do to get word out? **Jay,** India and china don't give a damn. When there's starvation, things might change/ 50-80% increase in cost at Loblaw's.

**Troy.** What about 'ugly fruit?' Jay. Seconds taste the same. Canning factories closed that used seconds. Look at our Peaches in Niagara.

**Maria.** Eating local produce – how would that affect waster? **Jay.** Define local: region? county? state? country? Local has to be defined. It has to be the whole country. Parts of Canada do not have access to any fruits. The second part! Using technology, using Hexanol, you can then ship where needed. We have this technology. We have to get more technology and less red tape.

**Troy.** Thanks, Jay. Very enlightening!

Our club makes a donation in your name to our local library – Lincoln Pelham Public Library.

## 8. Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies

No time left for Happy Loonies

### Next Meetings/Events:

**April 26<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Tim Nohara, Accipiter Radar**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Breakfast at Dominic's**