

Rotary Club of Fonthill
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2025

Land Acknowledgement

Frank Adamson spoke about why we do a land acknowledgement

Invocation

Lance Wiebe

Happy 18 Birthday Maria

Guest Speakers

Christina Lajeunesse

Franklyn Searle

Big Brothers Big Sisters

Announcements

Home Show April 12 and 13

Hugh is sending out an email with volunteer details

Earth Day Events

Thursday, April 17

Tree Planting at EL Crossley by Interact

Saturday, April 26

Activities with Town of Pelham

Saturday, May 3 Tree Planting behind Lions Hall on Hwy 20

Next Week's Meeting April 9

Guest Speaker Kristina Clint

Recreation, Community and Culture

Town of Pelham

Guest Speakers' Presentation

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara

Their mission

All young people will recognize their full potential!

The organization has been around for 87 years providing life changing mentoring programs in Niagara. They are inclusive, accessible, and free.

In 2023 they expanded to one Niagara wide organization which strengthens their services. In 2024 they supported 1060 children and youth.

There are currently 6 programs

- Mentoring Big-Little activities 2-4 hours per week
- Young Parent bi-weekly Mentoring Program for 25 and under moms
- In school mentoring Grade 1-8 1 hour per week during school hours
- Go Girls in school program promoting healthy choices and self-esteem for Grade 5-8. 8-12 students for 1 hour weekly for 7-10 weeks
- Game On for boys Grade 5-8 promoting healthy choices and life skills
- Power Up and Play Grade 4-5 multi-week group mentoring program promoting health and positive self-esteem

They talked about their back to school program which gives Bigs \$200 gift cards to take their Little shopping for new school year plus each Little gets a full school supply back pack.

They have a Holiday Hamper Program which distributes donated toys and cards.

What is the need....there are currently 300 children and youth waiting for a Big match. Program is so worthwhile. They calculate that there is a 23:1 invested dollar return ratio to society.

They operate a thrift store in Niagara Falls called Nearly New. Donations can be made at Seaway Mall, second floor or their St Catharines office.

Fundraising comes from numerous events and donations plus financial aid from Delta Bingo and Gaming Centres. They are always looking for new volunteers to help with the bingos.

If you are interested in playing golf and supporting their cause, they are holding 2 golf tournaments at Bridgewater June 2 and St. Catharines Golf and CC on June 23.

Happy Loonies and Adjournment