



WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Annie Holtby, Frank Adamson, Janet Cripps, Michael Jacques, Hugh Graham, Bob Eamer, Mel Groom, Sharon Pfeiffer, Carolyn Mullin, Collins Acheampong, Dave Sherlock, Lance Wiebe Susan Shepherd-Haley, Francis Wama.

1. **Welcome Guests – Collins** Speakers: Susan Shepherd-Haley and Francis Wama.

2. **Land Acknowledgement – Janet**

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. **Toast & National Anthem – Mel**

- a) To the King and Canada, To the Office of the President of United States, and To the President of Rotary International
- b) National Anthem

4. **4-WAY TEST – Mel**

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 – Hugh**

This month's Rotary Magazine had an article 'May Peace Prevail' that was about Peace Poles (it's a great story on page 54 and had its start after Hiroshima and Nagasaki). I think it would be great for our club to dedicate a pole. We can talk about it at a later time. In the meantime, I offer something I made up with ROTARY the guideline-
Respect Others Then Act Responsibly Yourself.

President's Report, Correspondence and Announcements – Collins

EL Crossley Scholarship Recipient: Gwen Farrow. Collins passed around a thank you from Gwen that came in mail addressed to Ann, our scholarship lead. For those who missed it – Thank you so much for the generous 'service above self' scholarship. I am immensely grateful for this contribution to my university tuition and educational expenses. Next year I will be studying ethics and political philosophy at University of Ottawa where I will continue my journey with Rotaract and Service above Self. Again thank you for your generosity. Gwen.

Mike (repeat) Youth Exchange - Meet Maria! Our exchange student is arriving Aug 15 from Sao Paulo, Brazil. We are still awaiting receipt of her Visa which is to arrive anytime. Maria is hosted and looked after till January/February. Many thanks, everyone. Pauline Oliver and family and the Fifes are hosting. Maria is with Pauline first. **Collins** (also from this month's Rotary Magazine) mentioned Mark Maloney's article and how his club encourages not only that everyone is a PH Fellow, but that they become Benefactors and Sustaining members at the same time. (Ed. Note – We've achieved one of Mark's accomplished goals. Fonthill members are all sustaining members - years ago we wanted everyone to contribute to the Annual Fund SHARE account and made it, the \$100 donation, part of our fees. It's made us a Sustaining Club. We have 17 of our 23 members who are Paul Harris Fellows. Some of our members are Benefactors because they've made the Rotary Foundation Endowment part of their legacy and they are recognised for that forethought while still an active Rotarian according to the level of that commitment.)

Mel. Purse Bingo is confirmed for November 8th. The license is ready; we're using the same format. We'll cancel Rotary on the 6th. We need Purse sponsors @ \$250. We're also looking for Gift Cards valued at \$100-250 for the Gift Basket game.

6. **EVENTS:**

August 14: Ryan Bradbury, returning Youth Exchange Student

August 15: Momentum Choir at the Fonthill Bandshell

August 21: Cathy Henry, from Rotary Club of St Catharines South and Mario de Divitiis, Chief Executive Officer for Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Central Ontario.

August 24: 2nd Annual Paddle for Polio, Saturday August 24/24, Mutual Riverfront Park, Buffalo, NY, Chaired by Immediate (I)PDG Scott Marcin sdmarcin@gmail.com . District 7090 doubles your donation!

Sept 5: Supper market bar service – our night for volunteering to serve beer and wine.

Sept 13: Rotary Welland and Fonthill Annual **Golf tournament** (Youth Resources Niagara) Sold out! Good problem is we have 110 signed up and need to expand capacity for that number. We need items for the Silent Auction. Let Annie know if you can help with items.

Sept. 21: Frank 10 a.m. Sept. 21/24. St David's Firehouse social after 2 hour cycle. 35 are on the US side and hopefully we'll have 35 on our side. It's an opportunity to represent club and meet others. **5th ANNUAL "DR. RON MERGL", PARTICIPATE FOR POLIO:**

7. **Guest Speaker Introduction – Sharon introduced Susan Shepherd-Haley.** While working for Global News, I was working from home during Covid. I looked for something to do with my time. I saw that sewers were wanted for **‘Comfy Cases’ Niagara Chapter**. These were pillow cases for children in the hospital. I got to use a basic skill and make a difference. Susan was the connection. She’d worked for Kumon Math in Pelham for 18 years before turning to this project.

Susan with Comfy Cases. Susan got involved in sewing again. Comfy Cases started with the Ontario Parents Advocating for Children with Cancer. All the funding goes through them. St Catharines General’s Children’s Ward plus Kids with Cancer. The cases are individually wrapped with our label inside. There’s a Child Life Specialist at the hospital. Siblings can get a pillow case too so they don’t feel left out. It reaches Ronald McDonald House in Hamilton as well. If you know any quilters who have left over material they don’t need, we’d welcome it!

There’s a **Cancer Camp in the summer** and Toronto folk supply to the camp. Lindsay at SCGH is where you can bring your cases. A good metre of Fabric is \$15. We’re always looking for a sale. Lindsay loves the Comfy Cases! Not only are they bright but each child has a choice. The Children and teens enjoy selecting a pillow case and that experience in the hospital stay.

How can you help? Sew. Donate fabric and other supplies. Donate \$.

Janet. Do you ever sell pillow cases? To get money to buy other material?

Shelley. Really, sewers are drawn to the kids.

Frank. How long has it been around?

Shelley. 25 years across Canada.

Bob. As organisation in Niagara. Are you the contact?

Shelley. Yes.

Shelley. 100 % cotton! We can use it!

Collins. Quite interesting! The little things we can do. The kids are interested, engaged.

Francis. Collins asked Francis to tell us about his club.

We have 2 or 3 E Clubs. We meet from home. Many have been invited in the other clubs. I was not active until I saw the projects.

I was involved with human trafficking in my work and how to support the victims. I was also involved in Adult Education – reading and writing. I supervise 4000 learners. Our literacy rate is 45%. I’m a Family Counsellor with the Government. Rotary has given me a different insight into life. 2 people from Canada had been there in Ghana – one for 2 years and 1 for 18 months. I have a big Rotary family. I reached Kingston club. A am grateful for Frank. I am grateful. I’m trying to help kids. Rotary via tree planting and working with the schools. In the schools we’re helping asthmatic students. We donated \$1000 to release 20 new mothers from the hospital – if they can’t pay, they stay in the hospital. Another project is going to the 5 islands where they come together. We’re going to do health screening. They have to cross the river so we’ve provided life jackets!

Thank you, Francis!

8. **Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies**

Annie. Good to hear Francis' experiences at home and here. I spent a wonderful week with oldest friend in Haliburton on Lake Kashagawigamog with the loons and on the backroads and just sitting by the lake! Lovely break.

Hugh. Happy to hear about Comfy Cases.

Susan. Happy to hear Francis! Happy to be here. We were just at a 50th Wedding anniversary – nice to have long-time friends.

Lance. Happy to be watching the Olympics!

Dave. Happy to have a holiday with my wife on our trip to NYC! It was a train trip with a lot of walking, subway travel and 1000's awaiting us at Times Square!

Bob. Thank you to both speakers! I have a close relationship with my pillow. Back to Olympics –great to see our medal in Fencing!

Francis. Happy to be here today! Thankful for Frank; I learned so much from him.

Frank. Great week! I got the call from my nephew about Francis coming. Wouldn't you know it there were no Rotary meetings to be had last week! We carried onto the Lilac Garden at Queenston Heights. Found out it was a gift in 1967 for our bicentennial from our American counterparts in D7090. We also went to Wellspring, Rotary Park, shucked corn and took in the Duck Race at Canal Days. Francis threw 250 ducks in the water!

Mel. Thankful to be here. I stepped on a bees' nest, had encephalitic shock, hospital for a day. Thankful to be here and now have an epi pen.

Carolyn. My dad had a wasp/s nest on the bird feeder – have to deal with it! Here it is, a random August Wednesday morning. Susan's here – her husband joined my choir! And Francis from Ghana – all the opportunities to help!

Janet. I'd been caregiving my aunt and other family members came and spelled me off. She had to go back into the hospital. She passed. It was quite the summer.

Collins. I'm away for a week. We're going to Washington DC. The kids wanted to see the White House. 3000 km were driven! I'm grateful to be back for a rest.

Next week's Meeting is with Ryan Bradbury presenting his Youth Exchange year.