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**WEEKLY MEETING Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2024**

Annie Holtby, Frank Adamson, Troy Killick, Hugh Graham, Bob Eamer, Mel Groom, Sharon Pfeiffer, Collins Acheampong, Dave Sherlock, Paul Snack, Mike Taylor, Ryan, Rod, Sarah and Kelly Bradbury.

1. **Welcome Guests – Collins** Speaker - Return Youth Exchange Ryan Bradbury and Family (Kelly, Sarah and Kelly), District Governor Elect Michelle Starwalt-Woods

2. **Land Acknowledgement – Mel**

*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 – Sharon**

- 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 – 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?

5. **Invocation – Bob**

**President's Report, Correspondence and Announcements – Collins**

**Mike** Our exchange student, Maria from Brazil, hopes to arrive the 22nd Aug - still awaiting return of her Visa documents. Maria is hosted when she arrives at Pauline

Oliver's. I'm coordinating the pick-up with Pauline but we may need help with the pick-up from the airport. Nancie and I are scheduled to go back up north. August 22<sup>nd</sup> is hopeful date for Maria's arrival.

**Hugh. Golf Tournament at capacity for golfers.**

Looking at capacity for three more carts. We need golfers to register, register and pay.

**Collins.** At Board we talked about **Membership** as a huge opportunity.

Any update on the Polio ride?

**Frank.** St David's at the Lions Park is the start of ride to NOTL and back.

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

6. **EVENTS:**

**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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Paddle for Polio,** Saturday August 24/24, Mutual Riverfront Park, Buffalo, NY, Chaired by Immediate IPDG Scott Marcin [sdmarcin@gmail.com](mailto: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. Speaking of Auction.....**We also had a Steering Committee meeting for Rotary Auction Niagara.** Expect the information you need by end of August. We're going to have the sign for the RAN at the concert to start planting the seeds of 'auction is coming.'

**Sept. 21: Frank** 10 a.m. Sept. 21/24. **St David's Firehouse social after 2 hour cycle to NOTL and back.** 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:** Donations are tax deductible.

7. **Guest Speaker Introduction – Mike** introduced Ryan. Mike watched Ryan since he was knee high to a grasshopper. 'I knew he'd be a fantastic ambassador for our club and country and Belgium. Welcome, Ryan.'

**Ryan Bradford, Youth Exchange student from D7090 to Belgium.** Youth Exchange was a very long process to be accepted. Once there, School was very strict. There were 8 hour days except for Wednesday which was 4 hours long. I travelled to various places on weekends and Wednesday afternoons. **I went to 50 different places in that time.** I spoke French from the 2<sup>nd</sup> day.

**I LOVED my Science teacher!** Every time I came into the room, whether September or May I'd be greeted with '**Ryan! Canada!**' I soon started with my French greeting for him! My first home stay father asked me if I'd like to play Basketball with his son. I said yes, not knowing I'd be playing on the basketball team all year! **The first home family helped me get my bearings and were strict about speaking French which was great. I felt right**

at home with my second family, even the grandmother! And the third family was made up of the kindest people I've ever known.

**Belgium Incoming YE.** There were 80 inbound Youth Exchange students. I was worried about meeting and relating to all 80 but it turned out to be very easy. **On Wednesdays and Saturdays, we did things as a group.** At Christmas, we delivered food to poor people. **I travelled to 8 countries including France, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Vatican, Belgium and Luxembourg. I went to many Christmas Markets. I loved Germany especially! Italy was cool.** We went to Venice, San Marino, Vatican Rome and Florence. Luxembourg was the last organised event.

**I also got one of my wishes and went to a Euro Match!**

My friend and I tried 8 places for their Friend Fries and chose the best in the photo I chose to share. **The BEST Fries ever!**

**Ryan.** I learned a lot of leadership, for instance, knowing how to adapt to unknown situations. I texted my family during my first home stay but stopped with the next – I grew up. **At my going away party, I heard comments that I'd changed the most of my youth exchange counterparts.**

**Did I meet my goals?** 1. To be fluent in French. 2. Do well in school? 3. See and understand the world? **Yes to all.** Also, I was granted entry to senior year in Belgium so don't need to repeat Grade 11 here!

**I highly recommend Youth exchange!**

**Ryan's Presentation Link:** <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/289/Documents/en-ca/6be3ee34-455a-4e2a-9500-65e2c3b3e354/1/>

**Mike And an honour that you were our Outgoing Youth Exchange Student!**

**Paul.** How do you apply? **Ryan.** You apply in September, go through rigorous interviews at the club level, apply to District where interviews are pretty intense. It takes a couple of months. January is when the District interviews occur and February is when decisions are made. **Paul.** Any suggestions? **Ryan.** Be willing to be prepared. That ability to adapt.

## 8. Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies No time for Happy Loonies today!

**August 21st Meeting** is with Rotary Club of St. Catharines South member Cathy Henry and Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Central Ontario CEO Mario De Divitiis re a Niagara Project for a Ronald McDonald Room for kids HERE!