



Unite for Good

WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Janet Cripps, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Phil Hanna, Annie Holtby, Dave Schulz, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe, Gail Seers – Pelham Cares, Guest Speaker -Emily Fieguth – Fundraising Coordinator for Start Me Up Niagara

1. Welcome!

2. Land Acknowledgement – Phil

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. National Anthem – All

4. 4-WAY TEST – Paul S

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?
 Cheers, everyone!

5. Invocation. Janet

6. Updates, Correspondence, etc.

Frank. Good morning, everyone!

Dave. Breakfast at MCC update. There is food available downstairs. It's not a hot meal that they have offered. I could get them to quote some options. **Jan.** You'd probably need a number for the Rotarians. **Bob.** Maybe scrambled eggs, toast? Let them know we're interested. We don't know the charges. Ask 'what are YOUR thoughts? What about opening on Wednesday? Lots of people in the building! **Dave.** We'll keep working on it.

International Ploughing Day, Friday September 19. Rotary working the 4H Food Truck.

Two shifts – 730 am- 130 pm and 11 am-530 pm. Morning shift full. 2 places in afternoon shift left. Go to Events on Clubrunner to check out if still available!

Training is available Sunday the 24th of Aug. 10-2. Frank can go. It's at the fairgrounds. We will get all the proceeds for that day.

Board Meeting August 28, next week. All members welcome to attend in the concession area, first floor, MCC. 730 am

Frank. Still looking for a President Elect. By end of 2025 so the training in New Year prepares PE for the 2025-26 year.

Raise for Polio Ride in memory of Ron Mergl is September 13 leaving Lions Park at 10 and returning around noon. Lunch at Old Firehall Restaurant just around the corner at 12ish

Polio Plus Society started last month, \$100US donation will be a charter member of the Society. President of Rotary and Polio Lead met with Pakistan government re Polio vaccinations. Pakistan is one of two countries left to make us a polio free world.

Rotary Niagara Auction, Hugh is moving along quite well. Team is meeting every two weeks and in September every week. We're starting donor lists. Six clubs and we're letting donors we **need** them – can't do it without them OR you! Annie back next week and we'll bring it to an early September meeting.

Purse Bingo. Mel. November 7th. We're getting purses donated already.

Pelham Cares Diamonds has been cancelled this September.

Last of the Concert Series! Martin Kerr is sponsored by Rotary. We still need someone for the last shift of Serving! Also, if you are there, please wear your hat or other means of identifying you as a Rotarian.

7. **Introduction to Guest Speaker, Emily Fieguth, Fundraising Coordinator of Start Me Up Niagara, Emily Fieguth - Hugh.** Please welcome Emily Fieguth, Fundraising Coordinator at Start Me Up Niagara. In her role, Emily helps drive the **agency's mission to support individuals in our community who are facing poverty, food insecurity, and precarious housing. She leads key fundraising efforts and community events, most notably the Coldest Night of the Year walk in St. Catharines bringing people together to raise both awareness and vital support for those experiencing significant barriers.**

A lifelong Niagara resident, Emily has lived in St. Catharines, Welland, Virgil, and Niagara-on-the-Lake, giving her a deep connection to the region and the people it serves. **Today, she's here to speak about these urgent local challenges and to share how Start Me Up Niagara is creating meaningful change through collaboration, compassion, and community engagement.**

Outside of work, Emily enjoys staying active and connected to nature cycling with the Niagara 'Glowriders,' hiking the Bruce Trail, and exploring the natural beauty of the region she's proud to call home. **Welcome Emily!**

Emily's Presentation. Thanks for inviting me to speak! I've put out information packs over there for people to help themselves.

PPT. This is us – our team! Who we are – our words are important to us.

Filling out forms is most important to people who are struggling. We do that.

1 in 5 people are a paycheck away from living on the street. Our Resource Centre is a point of connection. Trust is hard to get – it can take a long time. We deal with the entire Niagara region. We have a beautiful connection with REACH – it keeps people out of Emergency. Partnership with REACH includes Working on the Streets. Welcoming presence. This is Jeff, someone close to my heart. He's been in foster homes, on the streets with a brain injury that prohibited working for a living. Working with us, he now works on the street (making money) talking to people who are where he used to be and helping them GET help!

Pop-Up Market – People pay what they can.

Niagara Mobile Chest, Bike Me Up - \$60 cost- half goes back to the worker, **Tool Box** – packed one night and distributes the next day. A few ways to build trust, help with getting a job, etc. Everything relies on building trust.

Giving. Volunteers gave **\$19,000 between parades and our Coldest Night event.** We have 3rd party funded events. We receive grants and donor funds. We also have a quarterly newsletter to keep donors and members in touch with us.

QUESTIONS. Are you in any way connected with the Pelham community? **Emily.** Not personally, but the regional organisations keep track of it. **Hugh. What has surprised me is that they've been here 25 years!** **Emily.** We're all leaning on each other (the 'helping' groups), **Costco is also very helpful and generous with food stuffs** – we get stuff from them twice a week. **RAFT takes care of children.**

Frank. How many staff? Do you get anything from government? **Emily. We have 24 PT and FT. We get no money from the government.** **Frank.** What are your revenues?

Emily. \$ 1 Million. It's down right now as many of our donors are now our clients!

Frank. Thank you so much! **It's amazing what you are doing.** For every guest speaker this year, we are donating in your name to Pelham Cares.

Emily's PPT Presentation:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/289/Documents/en-ca/51b62827-6731-4f91-bf1d-08abd1261f0b/1/>

8. Rotary Moment. Presentation of \$500 cheque (Guest Speakers Annual Donation) to Gail Seers, Pelham Cares

9. Meetings/Events to come

Board Meeting Aug 28th in Concession Area MCC 1st Floor. All members welcome.

Weekly Meeting Sept 3rd Speaker Jordan Sherlock, Executive Director, Niagara Industrial Association

Bandshell and Martin Kerr, Sept 4th - our sponsored Bandshell event. Wear Rotary if you're there!

Weekly Meeting Sept 10th Sonia Wierenga, CEO Rose City Kids