



Unite for Good

WEEKLY MEETING Minutes

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Frank Adamson, Paul Allen, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Phil Hanna, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Michael Jacques, Fred Leppard, Carolyn Mullin, Dave Sherlock, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe and Guest Speaker Diana Fulton.

1. Welcome!

2. Land Acknowledgement – Paul Allen

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 –Sharon and All

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?
Cheers, everyone!

5. Invocation. Hugh

It is good to recognise how different we are in our talents, our dreams, our backgrounds, our occupations. And it is good to know that when each of us was created, the mold was broken. No one is exactly like anyone else. Even our thumbprint and our voice track tell us how unique we are.
Yet, we are thankful that we can take these differences and mobilise them for the good of Rotary and our community. In our differences we can think the same thoughts and move together toward a common goal.
We give thanks for our individuality and for our common bond. May the universal spirit bless us as we meet together.
Shalom, Amen, Peace be with us.

6. **Business/Updates FRANK.** We held our Board Meeting last week and it was mainly on Budget. Board Members, please respond to Ann so we can get it passed. We are also going to look at goals and objectives for the year at a Club Meeting.
- Polio Plus Society** is being formed Districtwide. The Paul Harris Society is \$1000/year; The Polio Plus Society is \$100/year to become and stay a member. What we've raised prior has inoculated 20,000 kids!
- Announcement – Hugh. Rose City Kids Golf Tournament.** You can let Hugh know if you are interested or go to their site.
- Reminder to presenters with PPT presentations** – please bring a USB with your PPT on it for easy access to the screen.
- Sept. 4th – 4-630 and 630-9 pm shifts for our sponsor night at Bandshell. Smart Serve still needed for the second shift.**
- Raise for Rotary Polio** in honour of Ron Mergl. Peddle for Polio is **Sept. 13th**, Elaine Richards leading the cyclists from the St David's Lions Clubhouse. 10-noon is the ride with lunch at the Firestone Restaurant after. No rain this year please at the restaurant!
- International Plowing 4H Truck Sept. 19th – 730 am-530 pm Signup ready soon.** We have the Food Services Ticket covered.
- Purse Bingo Nov 7, Fri night.** Raising the ticket price from \$45-\$50. \$250 for a purse including One Ticket.

7. **Introduction to Today's Presenter Diana Fulton by Paul Hewitt.**

I Met Lori Oschefski from British Home Children Canada, about a year after she interviewed my grandfather and I have kept in touch. I reached out to her to present but she lives in Barrie and introduced me to Dianna to come do the presentation. Dianna Fulton is a British Home Child Descendant. She has spent the last 20 years researching her family history alongside her husband. Dianna works full-time with the Niagara region and is a wife and mother of 2 grown children. She is by no means an expert on British Home children but likes to tell her story and inform everyone about part of Canadian history that doesn't get spoken about a lot and give a voice to many who came over.

Diana Fulton, Speaker. Thank you, Paul. I am by no means an expert. My grandfather was one of these British Home Children. They could be as young as 4 and as old as 18. Over 100,00 were shipped to Canada. 80-85% didn't share their story. His sisters were shipped to Australia. His mother was still alive when his father died. I connected with 3rd cousins in Australia. They had done grandmother's history.

It started with the **Industrial Revolution**. Great grandfather died of consumption. Children were part of the workforce. Workhouses were established by the churches for the poor. Laurie has for 15 years been president of the British Home Child Organisation. **Passenger lists still exist. Later a Home Child website was created.** EJ Foster boy in Wainfleet. His trunk ended in Ft Erie. I now have his trunk and have looked for his family. Liverpool-Toronto-Huntsville-Collinsville- Niagara. **GF had arrived in Montreal, Pier 21. Grandfather was put on a farm owned by two 97-year-olds**

He had recurring homes in Peterborough, Toronto (Jarvis Street).

Fagans Company was the receiving company, Barnardo's was the biggest contributor, Middlemore was more Maritimes, Quarries got the training at the British end. There are records with the name and age of all the others that came on that shipment.

If you're looking for a relative, try the Library and Archives of Canada. Use their Genealogy form to get the record.

I found my Grandfather on the 1911 Census.

Other resources – city directory. 90% of the children with different names from the family were Home Children.

Obtaining that information, jot down all you have for information. Go back to Parents and grandparents. Expect a 2-year delivery date. They're never the originals, just copies. There are records from 1869-1930. There's a ship's seal on the monument on grave in Brockville.

I sat on my grandfather's lap. He always had a fork in his pocket. **Sunflowers are resilient so they were a symbol of their journey.**

Two Questions. **How much do you know about your family and Home Children?**

Diana's PPT presentation <https://portal.clubrunner.ca/289/Documents/en-ca/c044bdc3-b73f-437d-97b8-ce5016743aeb/1/>

Frank. Thanks, Diana for sharing your story. We give a donation for our speakers to Pelham Cares.

Sharon. Many didn't talk about past. How would we ever know?

Diana. Canada hasn't recognised technically recognised it. I'm trying to get it into the schools.

Dave S. Great you're talking about it. Great you are sharing it!

Sharon. Diana, I encourage you to talk on TV, radio, newsletters. Thank you so much!

7. Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies.

Hugh. Happy to be here!

Carolyn. Off for the next few weeks. I was introduced to the Bernardo Boy.

Annie. Thanks, Diana, for the interesting presentation and to Paul H for finding this topic! Personally, I am very happy to be getting my hair cut tomorrow. I'll be seeing clearly again!

Dave Schulz. We went away on the bike down east for 2 weeks. Happy to get home.

Lance. Interesting talk. My grandfather was an orphan from Scotland.

Sharon. We have an acre of blueberries – Original family put them in and started 'you pick. One for you and one for Pelham Cares.

Bob. Thanks for the presentation. I can't imagine the experience on the ship. I had met other descendants.

Ann. Happy to be here. Vaguely aware of the British Child story was when my mom was 30.

Mel. So important to our and successive generations to hear these stories. We're enjoying summer

Pail H. Showcasing my family. Went to Bismark and the first farm was in Fenwick.

Diana. You have all my notes.

Paul A, My grandmother was in the workhouse at Bigglesby.

Paul S. Thanks for the wonderful chat. I was hoping Collins would be here so I could talk about the hot weather!

Fred. Thanks for the talk. I'll have to look into it further. Our house closed and we're moving in Friday!

Frank. Thanks again, Diana!

8. Meetings/Events to come

Weekly Meeting August 13, Speaker Tia Lepp-Outbound Youth Exchange Student to Argentina

Weekly Meeting August 20, Speaker Emily Fieguth, Fundraising Coordinator, Start Me Up Niagara

Board Meeting August 28, MCC Concession area 1st Floor. All welcome.