

“Where everyone is kin; with a sense of worth, over all the Earth”

~ adapted from Robert Burns/Gordon McNally, RI President 2023-24

WEEKLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday August 9, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

Collins Acheampong, Mel Groom, Paula Racher, Bev North, Paul Snack, Hugh Graham, Frank Adamson, Cathy Berkhout Bosse, Ann Harrison, Bob Eamer, Gail Levay, Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Anneka Bosse, Sarah Escarraga

1. Welcome Guests
2. Land Acknowledgement (Bob)

We begin this gathering by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee (Hoe-de-ne-show-knee) and Anishinaabe (Ah-nish-nah-bee) 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 (Bob)
 - 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)

Respect Others Then Act Responsibly Yourself.

6. President's Report, Correspondence and Announcements
 - Aug 23 Breakfast at Domenic's... please register so we can provide numbers to restaurant
 - Aug 30 Board meeting at MCC
 - **Sept 7 Arches** official opening event/turnover to the Town of Pelham PLUS **alcohol service** in the Supermarket; please send your Smart Serve #s to Carolyn to provide to the town
 - Golf Tournament** Sept 15; need attendees and we have sponsorship opportunities; email from Hugh earlier this week. Funds raised will go to Niagara Children's Centre.
 - Sept 24: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Niagara community amalgamation celebration; Carolyn, Paul or David can provide details if you are interested in attending (4 to 6pm at regional headquarters)
 - DUES are due; e-transfer to accounts@rotarycluboffonthill.ca
 - Save the Date **Oct 4**: visit from 7090 District Governor Scott Marcin; induction of our 2 new members

7. **Guest Speakers** Mel introduced Anneka Bosse and Sarah Escarraga, our guests from the Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group. Please click the PPT link for their very interesting presentation. Sarah stepped into this group 3 years ago. It's a good group. It provides Primary Care un Lincoln and Pelham, There is a clinic in both Welland and St Catharines as well as a Legal Aid Sponsor. Occupational Health OHCOW is work related to agriculture. QUEAT is based in St Catharines but is present in Niagara, Lincoln and Welland. McMaster Family Health Team is in Pelham and Welland. Caribbean Workers Out Reach Program (CWOP) also is a great partner as is Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Group.

Statistics: 60% of the work force is temporary and migrant. Foreign Agricultural Workers are part of a Government Program. 46,707 positions under SAWP were approved in 2019. The program has existed for 40+ years, especially for those from Mexico. It's meant for those with high school education, not further education. Spanish is the main language. Farmers: Almost 500 are in Fenwick, 1359 in NOTL and 357 in Lincoln.

Barriers: Health, Sexual Health, Transportation, Housing, Service Providers' Cultural Literacy, Language Barriers, System Navigation, Invisibility in the Community.

The Migrant Workers Interest Group want to collaborate, they want to help with paperwork, drive people to appointments – rather than highlighting what's going wrong.

What needs to be done by Policymakers at Federal, Provincial and Regional Levels, by Local Government and service providers, by the community and its employers? Funding comes from Brock and Western Universities and events like Wine and Grape Festival.

Economic Development - there can't be any without Social Development.

Social Development. A great idea was to get a group of farmers who want to provide a place for workers to 'be; - to have a break from work. Employers and workers are building trust with service providers. Funding is becoming slowly available for programs to run. Conversations between Academic Research, Service Providers, workers and individuals in Community are happening. There's a focus on collaboration, on partnership. Gap bridging is stepping in when someone else can't.

Update on Pelham Health Fair, 2023. There was information from Niagara Regional Public Health, Occupational Health, Clinics for Ontario workers, etc, Grab bags were available to those

who came. We're not working with a lot but working with what we have. Since the Health Fair we now have a waiting list.

Question. How do you decide who comes? When a farmer has 100, where does he put them> The farmers are in charge of housing and services if needed. It's a 2 way street between Canada and Mexico. It looks different with each country. The paperwork is done with immigration. The program caters to the very poor. Most men come with dependents and women come in on their own. They live in bunk houses, some on the farm or off. There should be two to a room but we see more across Canada. Niagara is doing a good job getting up to what's requested. They don't want to come from a punitive approach.

Bob. Has the government extended the 18 month requirement to 3 years? My son in law wants his kids to learn to speak Spanish.

For MORE Information, here's the link for their website! <https://www.nmwig.ca/>

8. **Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies** (Hugh)

Cathy. Happy to be working with you.

Gail. I'm very happy.

Bob. Very informative.

Ann. It'd be great to be able to communicate in grocery stores, etc.

Frank. Glad our money helped you.

Bev. Eyes opening!

? Thanks for coming and hopefully you'll get funding

Collins. Thank you for coming.

Paul. Thanks. I have a FarmFest invite for next year (Collins. I'll drive!)

Anneka. Thanks for having us

Sarah. Thanks for open ears and hearts. We want to communicate moving forward.

Hugh. We always say hola in the grocery store.

9. NEXT WEEK: Guest speaker: Ryan Bradbury, outgoing exchange student