

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

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

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### WEEKLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday February 21, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Dave Schulz, Hugh Graham, Bob Eamer, Annie Holtby, Janet Cripps, Collins Acheampong, Sharon Pfeifer, Mike Taylor, Troy Killick, Lance Wiebe, Crystal Lambkin, Carolyn Mullin, Christine Dekker, Heather Crouse, Diane Carter, Jim McEwan (Leadership Niagara)

1. **Welcome to our team from Leadership Niagara – Christine, Heather, Diane and Jim.**

2. **Land Acknowledgement. Sharon**

*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/Carolyn**

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

4. **4-WAY TEST. Janet**

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. Janet**

**Invictus**

Out of the night that covers me  
Black as the pit from pole to pole  
I thank whatever gods may be

For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced or cried about  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.

As we manoeuvre through these challenging times, let us keep in mind the power of this poem....to confront adversity and to come out the other side of it with the creation of positive change.

**6. President's Report. Correspondence and Announcements. Carolyn.**

**Mike re February 19's** Free Skate time, 11-230 at MCC. 3 Interactors attended and we collected 3 large bins of food for Food4Kids.

**February 21** , today, is Strategic Planning with Leadership Niagara with Christine, Heather, Diane and Jim.

**March 2.** A further Saturday workshop, 9-12 in our meeting room, (Kinsman Room), for Strategic Planning.

**April 5 & 6. Home Show. Hugh** will send a note out later. We're sharing link with Welland. Kudos to Lance for being the first to sign up! We have a booth reserved by the entrance/exit so we're last to set up after 7 and first to take down on Sunday.

**April 20. Clean up here at MCC. Tree Planting.** 400 trees at cost. We'll get people to sign up Pelham Cares – 100 trees for Pelham Cares Forest probably at a later date.

**April 26 & 27.** Rotary District Conference. Friday is more social in Buffalo. Saturday workshops are all day in the NW Amherst Community Centre.

**June 5 is tentatively our Paul Harris Evening**

**7. Introduction of today's Speakers.** Carolyn introduced **Christine Dekker of Meridian Credit Union, Heather Crouse of MCC, Diane Carter, also of the Meridian Credit Union, and Jim McEwan of Niagara College, both campuses with Computers Programming and all 4 from Leadership Niagara.** Here today to chat about the Strategic Planning we're doing with Leadership Niagara Team, the team introduced themselves more fully. Christine took the lead with sharing their research into both District and Rotary International and how organised each level was in many areas, especially in Strategic Planning. District 7090 has aligned its planning with Rotary International's (theirs 's goes from 2023-26) and now it's our turn. RI calls on Rotarians to keep an eye on making lasting goals. The team has developed a survey for our

membership to fill in with the hope each of us will fill out the survey before we meet March 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Saturday workshop.

8. **Thanks. Carolyn.** Thank you so much for your lead up to our Saturday work with your internal Rotary research, prep and sending out survey for our membership. Members, when you receive the survey, please return in time for our Saturday workshop.

9. **Happy Loonies. Hugh**

**Hugh and Rotary Moment.** Rotary's birthday is this Friday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Jim** had a fantastic Family Day weekend.

**Diana,** It was my husband's birthday and all the family were there!

**Christine.** It was just our family on the rink. Great time for fellowship.

**Heather.** Great Family Day! I felt grateful.

**Annie.** I enjoyed MCC and Family Day. So much going on and we had great Interact representation. Plus good response to Food4Kids bins.

**Mike.** Nice hanging out Family Day. Elbow room only.

**Crystal.** Increasingly busy at work but we got to Universal Studios at Christmas.

**Sharon.** Happy to have a Wednesday routine. Kids on their own! Rotary Trivial Pursuit tonight in Niagara Falls. A Rotary Day!

**Troy.** MCC was bursting at the seams. We did laser tag and were on the ice. Great for family.

**Bob.** Over 20 years ago at the end of my career, I was part of our Foundation for Kids: funding for children - whatever they wanted or needed. We had a great bursary program too. One sponsor signed up to help a child through university. When the recipient graduated, she supported another and so on. Other good people did the same.

**Janet.** Family Day Weekend was great with both sides of the family.

**Collins** was happy for Family Day. My brother was here and it's been a long time. I am also at peace today about the strategic planning process.

**Lance** My older sister just had a double hip replacement. Judy and I went to Florida for two weeks.

**Dave.** Thanks, Janet, for reading **Invictus**. My daughter has its symbol as a tattoo. She's got a puppy who is being trained as a support dog. I have to ask id it's ok for her to come to the club . Maybe our first meeting in March....

**Carolyn.** My U2 concert experience was a bucket experience. I've been a U2 fan since 15. Got back with a Sat/Sun overnight to Rochester and Family Day,

**Hugh.** Family Day Combo - Pair of tickets for Sabres' game with Daughter. Family Dinner celebrated Hugh's birthday. Great to have that meal. Valentine's Day is our Anniversary and we've been married for 54 happy years.

**Dates going forward!**

**February 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, MCC Concession area. Everyone is welcome.**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-12 in Kinsman Room for Strategic Planning with Leadership Niagara**

**March 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Weekly Meeting. Guest Spealer our own Bob Eamer.**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> No meeting - Spring Break**