



Unite for Good

WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Collins Acheampong, Angela Carter, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Touti, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Dave Schulz, Dave Sherlock, Paul Snack, Mike Taylor, Lance Wiebe, Brianne Willard, Kathryn Willard, Amber Hughes.

1. Welcome!

2. Land Acknowledgement – Randy

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 Anthems– ALL

4. 4-WAY TEST –Lance

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. Lance

Welcome. Collins. I'm replacing Frank today. He's off making his Presentation about Cycling for Wounded Warriors of Canada and the 80th Anniversary of D Day to a Hamilton Club. Rotary Today just came in and I was reading it. I came across Frank's name unexpectedly as the Canada Insert only comes out quarterly not monthly. Still it was great to see. So much inform on other projects happening around \canada.

Welcome to Paulette Poirier, friend of Karen's

Welcome to Aaron Carlson, District Governor for 2025-2026

We'll begin with Aaron's Induction of our three new members to be.

Karen Rush and Don Haber were inducted by DG Aaron and Angela Carson was welcomed back to the club by Aaron as well. Great additions to our Club. Great return to our Club.

Paul Allen came forward as a Paul Harris Society Member and was presented with his PHF+5 by DG Aaron. Congratulations, Paul!

7. Guest Speaker Introduction. Frank introduced Aaron Carlson, our District 7090 Governor.

Aaron is from the Lockport Club, Membership and Foundation Chairs, District Assistant Governor and at present, our District Governor this year. We're happy he's here for his Club visit and appreciate the long drive to get here!

Aaron Carlson. Greetings Fonthill. Our district encompasses 69 clubs across Northern New York and Southern Ontario. This year's Motto around Rotary – Unite for Good – is especially nice for our District with Best of Friends for its Motto. I'm from Dallas Texas and instantly found a family in Lockport's Rotary Club – my boss suggested Rotary as a great way to become part of the community. How did YOU become part of Rotary?

Paul S. I was transplanted from Toronto.

Hugh. Sandy, my wife, has been a member of the Rotary Club of Welland since '92 – I joined Fonthill in 2000.

Randy. I joined in 1991 – my boss told me to join!

Dave Schulz – Frank asked.

Bob. Welcome to our Breakfast Meeting with no Breakfast!

Sharon. 2 years ago, I joined. In Kenora, Rotary was a pillar of the community and I joined Rotaract!

Frank. 91 members invited him to lunch which was a Kiwanis meeting in Kitchener.

Lance. Paul Winkler invited me to help with Canada Day. I'm still doing Canada Day 20 years later.

Collins. I decided to join Fonthill because of the time of day.

Aaron. Great! As a club (and a District) it's important to set measurable goals. Track them. It's an opportunity to measure impact and let others know. Collaborate with other clubs! How would you say your club has impacted the community.

Tutie. I'm part of Interact! I got to go to Montreal. It was so great!

Crystal. In Toronto, we collaborated with each other.

Hugh. Here's a plug for the Auction. We've made 2 million dollars over the year including the past 17 years of 6 clubs working together as opposed to three separate weekends!

Sharon. Environment job allowed an earth day campaign to give away trees. Last year we had a district grant for planting 50 | Action Priority is How to enhance 0 trees in Burgoyne Woods as part of the Great Lakes Cleanup!

Mike. Thank Ann for the impetus for accessing an Autoclave for our Brazil exchange student's hospital. It was for 80,000. We got had other clubs in our district participating and with District matching grants the purchase happened!

I'd also like to mention Temperanceville project. Fonthill's first name and miniature buildings from that era were constructed and set up with boughs before Christmas to after New Year's in Peace Park. A recent restoration this year care of the woodworking students at E.L. Crossley High.

Ann. We've done 4 Purse Bingos that raised 11,000 each time. This year's 11,000 went to Pathstone for Mental Health Counselling for Teens. Interact also raised \$800 to go towards Pathstone as well.

Frank. Rotary Foundation – we do a lot here including the Polio Plus Society – Donate \$100US each year till Polio is eradicated.

Aaron. The second Rotary Action Priority is 'How do we access new members?' For Club visioning, there's a process for Membership Action Plan. Ann Bermingham, a Professional Development person, does it for free.

Carolyn. We're organising an Open House venue at the Legion here in Fonthill jointly with the Welland Club in February.

Aaron. Great idea!

The third Rotary Action Priority is How we can enhance what we're doing to keep people?

Unknown. If people enjoy, people stay!

Angela. I was a member of the Welland Club initially. Left because of work related things. Joined Fonthill Club, became involved in district things, left because of a new job. When I decided to host a Youth Exchange Student (Tutti) I decided to bring her to meetings as well. I felt a shift in how things were feeling and decided to come back. Happy to be back!

Hugh. There's lots that our club does. You don't have to do everything. That's a plus.

Aaron. Seems there's lots of diversity in club. Available at District level are Action Groups – they focus on different aspect. There are fellowships in cycling, birding, etc.

Be adaptable! How do we support and engage them? Aaron thanked Frank for all his work as President. The Lighthouse Award should have enough options!

David Sh. I respect how we spend our money.

Crystal. Well done, Aaron, how you've engaged us.

Sharon. It's inspiring what we've done here in the environment. We know the potential is there. Collaboration is important.

Frank. We have 6 Rotary Clubs, 2 Lions Clubs, the Rotary Foundation. There's a 10 km trail to join our community through Thorold. I'm hoping to get the trail project up and running this following year.

Aaron. On the US Side, there's the Greenway Community. The Global Grant can match \$10,000. Our District Global Grant is allowed in our District because we're an international District – they'll match \$15,000.

8. Happy Loonies

Frank. Thanks, Aaron, for taking on this challenging role as DG, for inducting and presenting Paul Allen his Paul Harris Fellow+5through his efforts in the Paul Harris Society.

Mike. We have the Flag Exchange.

Hugh. Welcome to our new members! Thanks for supporting the Auction, everyone. I've also had fun playing Old Guys Hockey!

Collins. Happy to hear everyone!

Pauline Poirier. TY Frank for inviting me today. I'm here as support for Karen.

Karen. I have so much to be happy for. Thanks, everyone for being so welcoming. Best of the Season!

Sharon. Happy this week as we have a celebration in Ball's Falls for Changing of the Season. Check out NPCA.ca/newsroom. There's an issue about lumping us in, we who have the largest geography, with Hamilton, etc. There's an opportunity to comment with December 29th as the deadline.

Bob. I'll echo Crystal's comment – one of the best DG presentations I've heard (and I've heard many!)

Ann. E transfer to Interact Club. The Interact Club is what it is because of a group of staff members who meet with the student executive and they are doing fantastic coverage.

Mike Everything! Thanks Aaron for the chance to wallow!

Aaron. Thanks! Truly a great group.

Randy. Happy to see how things are run these days!

Paul A. Paul A had his other hip done.

Dave Sh. The cross border cooperation is great!

Crystal. Thank you, Aaron. Feeling better.

Lance. Best speech, Aaron!

Angela. Thanks. The energy has gone way up in the room!

Carolyn Happy Christmas, Happy Randy back otherwise I'd be longest member - 28 years and 15 months.

Annie. Proud to be a member of International District.

Frank. Thanks, Aaron.

Dave Sh. 42 yrs of Marriage today.

Frank. Last Meeting of 2025.

Next Meetings

No Meetings between Dec 17, 2025 and Jan 7, 2026

January 7. Planning Next Cornhole Fundraiser with Food4Kids.