



WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Paul Allen, Angela Carter, Bob Eamer, Mel Groom, Don Haber, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Karen Rush, Dave Schulz, Dave Sherlock, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe, Paul Winkler, Guest Speaker – Dr. Christiana Asantewaa Okyere-Folson, Brock University.

1. Welcome to Paul Winkler, past member of our club who visits occasionally!

2. Land Acknowledgement – Ann

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 – Frank

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 – Frank

With our friends beside us, and no person beneath us,
 With the bonds of Rotary between us, and our worries behind us,
 With our goals before us, and no task beyond us,
 With a thirst for knowledge, and a dream for a polio-free world,
 We are thankful for our Rotary friends.

6. Announcements.

Frank. Pole Meeting with Town. Eckhardt praised it. Mayor and CAO want to do a study. Not in favour. We COULD do it at Veteran's Park @ the Legion. **Good News re Trail.** Town has bought Lions' land. There have been a number of meetings re entrance to Trail there. Parking and washrooms are pluses. The trail would be alongside the hockey area. \$170,000 was agreed on amount to pay for trail join up. Town is not committed to regular trail yet. **On Thorald side of things, it's developing into 3 sections. It's coming together!**

Ann suggested advocating with council members. Show them the St Catharines press release. Let's advocate for ourselves! Push the 10th!

Dave. Fonthill Lions are promoting their steak Dinner - \$45/person.

7. Presentation. President Angela introduced and welcomed Guest Speaker Dr Christiana Asantewaa Okyere-Folson, of Ghana, of Canada, of Brock University. Angela highlighted Christiana's recent book 'Shining Ever Bright'.

Christiana. Thank you. I've just spent my second year at Brock wrapping up my book. It's a definite **Power of Resistance!** This is a photo of my mom – I was an anchor for her. I was 5th of 7 children. My dad didn't make good decisions. The 7 kids scattered. 4 girls lived secretly in the church although workers supported them. I became an individual. School was important. **I had to navigate a lot of barriers. Scarcity pushed me to aspire. I went to the University of Ghana** with very supportive Churches' support. I did a lot of advocacy work re education for other children and **worked with children with disabilities.** At that point I got my PhD and continued working with children with disabilities. I became part of She Rises, a women's collective. **I received a Mandela Washinton Fellowship.** I gave back in research with a degree focused on developing interventions.

In the middle of Covid, I documented my experience. I was hoping to inspire – hence 'Shining Ever Bright.'

In Calgary, I worked with other black scholars and **I learned three things. Resilience –** willingness to rebuild when the world feels heavy. Importance of **Community Support. Purpose.** Discover why I'm in this world.

Thank you so much.

8.

Next Meetings/Events

July 22. Weekly Meeting, Speaker Tia Lepp Returning Youth Exchange Student from Argentina

July 29. Board Meeting. All members are welcome. Concession, Main Floor MCC.

August 5. Weekly Meeting, Speaker Kate Marina, Kristen French Centre

August 12. Weekly Meeting, Speaker Dr, David Harper, Chiropractor