



WEEKLY MEETING Minutes

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

Mike Taylor, Annie Holtby, Frank Adamson, Hugh Graham, Bob Eamer, Ann Harrison, Sharon Pfeiffer, Carolyn Mullin, Collins Acheampong, Tory Killick, Lori Leline, Paula Poirier.

1. Welcome Guests – Collins Speaker: Frank Adamson

2. Land Acknowledgement – Carolyn Mullin

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 – Carolyn

- 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 – Carolyn

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

New plans New dreams New goals New schemes New hopes New joys
 May the new Rotary Year bring our club
 New projects New members, New success, New friends
 And a fervour for Rotary that doesn't end!

President's Report, Correspondence and Announcements – Collins

MIKE Youth Exchange - Meet Maria! Our exchange student is arriving Aug 15 from Sao Paulo, Brazil. We are still awaiting receipt of her Visa which is to arrive anytime. Maria is hosted and looked after till January/February. Many thanks, everyone. Pauline Oliver and family and the Fifes are hosting.

6. EVENTS:

2nd Annual Paddle for Polio: Saturday August 24/24, Mutual Riverfront Park, Buffalo, NY, Chaired by IPDG Scott Marcin sdmarcin@gmail.com

August 14: Ryan Bradbury, returning Youth Exchange Student

August 15: Momentum Choir at the Fonthill Bandshell

August 21: Cathy Henry from St Catharines South

August 24: **2nd Annual Paddle for Polio**, Saturday August 24/24, Mutual Riverfront Park, Buffalo, NY, Chaired by Immediate (I)PDG Scott Marcin sdmarcin@gmail.com

Sept 5: Supper market bar service – our night for volunteering to serve beer and wine.

Sept 13: Rotary Welland and Fonthill Annual Golf tournament (Youth Resources Niagara) Let Hugh know if you intend to play (almost sold out). Let him know if you want to help with Silent Auction. We could use some signs like 4Way Test, etc. if you want to.

Frank asked Scott M to play and they are looking for two more people to make 4.

Sept. 21: Frank 10 a.m. Sept. 21/24. N-O-T-L Firehouse social after 2 hour cycle. 35 are on the US side and hopefully we'll have 35 on our side. It's an opportunity to represent club and meet others. **5th ANNUAL "DR. RON MERGL", PARTICIPATE FOR POLIO:** Saturday September 21/24 Chaired by Sherry Miller, USA side & PDG Frank Adamson, Canadian side.

- 7. Guest Speaker Introduction – Annie** Frank Adamson needs no introduction but I will make a further toast to our intrepid cyclist who has cycled from Toronto to Miami and around Lake Ontario several times – both for Wellspring. Many a cycle has been done for Polio Eradication over the years and most recently, his trip to France to ride for Wounded Warrior Canada.

Frank Adamson, Guest Speaker Today. Click here for Frank's presentation:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/289/Documents/en-ca/4077372a-8784-4741-8cbd-b35ce3e28baa/1/> **Frank.** I rode with my nephew in the 'Battlefield Bike Ride' for

Wounded Warriors Canada. It supports returning veterans with PTSD. Starting this year they're including Fire/Paramedics now. The photo shows 85 of us in front of 'The Abbey.' It's been 10 years since the beginning – all Canadian and from Victoria to St John. I went with my nephew Craig who was with the RCAF and NORAD and retired at age 43. He's back working with the forces. There's a picture of the 5 landing sites and the 60th Anniversary of D Day picture. I was there with my dad those 10 years ago.

This year we did different beaches each day. We started in Caen which was 2 ½ hours away from Paris. There were flags for Britain, France, Canada and US along the route. We were very appreciative. Bayeux was a huge cemetery. Painted in shop windows were officers and flags. The Radar Museum was on itinerary for us as my nephew had taken care of the computer side of radar. We saw the Pegasus Bridge and the PB

Museum which featured glider planes (carried jeeps, machine guns) between paratroopers and that's how they got in!

Sword Beach has Piper Bill Millin Memorial. The British didn't allow bagpipes! Lots of poppies and flags there! At Juno Beach, it was primarily a Canadian landing. There's a Canadian House which was the first house to be liberated. 340 were lost with 1000 injured. We were there June 11th and June 6th was Liberation Day. The Juno Beach Museum was built entirely by Canadians with a few Rotary Memorials.

The German Cemetery was a large one with austere dark granite. 80,000 lost lives. At this site, 21,000 are buried plus a no name burial hill. Benny Sur Mer is a Canadian Cemetery. The entrance way is very peaceful. In the Caen Museum, there is an entire plane hanging in it! Hill 67 overlooks Caen. The Germans held this hill position. 315 of the 325 were killed (Blackwatch). 20 Canadians were captured on June 6th and were murdered at The Abbey. The lead Major was charged at Nuremburg and served 9 years, then let go.

We went to Omaha Beach. Brettville-Sur Mer Canadian Cemetery – 5000 died there.

British War Memorial – 30 million pounds. There's a list of all Brits killed in France. It's the 72nd anniversary. 1000 figures represent those killed in war. There are plaques in front of each grave.

We cyclists were fed all along the route!

Omaha Beach – the guns of Pointe du Hoc were at Omaha Beach. The American Cemetery there has white crosses – no flowers. For the many operations in Western Europe, there are monuments at Omaha Beach. The Polish Cemetery – many ended up in England. Lots of graves – it was a large part of the battle of Caen. All graves are maintained by the Commonwealth. Roses are in front of each grave.

Many that rode did so with a lot having issues with PTSD. Those riding ranged from ages 32 – 79.

We raised \$450,000.

Collins. Thank you, Frank. Quite the ride!

Board Meeting immediately following this meeting. One thing we did last Rotary year in January was raise our dues in January to \$200 and again THIS Rotary year our dues continued at \$200 July 1.

8. **Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies** – Mike. No Time for Happy Loonies today!