



WEEKLY MEETING Minutes

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Bob Eamer, Mel Groom, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Troy Killick, Crystal Lambkin, Carolyn Mullin, Sharon Pfeiffer, Dave Schulz, Paul Snack, Mike Taylor, Maria Araujo, Guest Speaker **Dave Sherlock**, our very own, talks to us about the Railway of Pelham.

1. Welcome!

2. Land Acknowledgement – Collins

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 Anthem –All

4. 4-WAY TEST – Crystal - We use the 4 Way Test in business to encourage ethics.

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?

Cheers, everyone!

5. Invocation. David Sherlock

6. Key Events/New Correspondence. Collins. Carolyn and Troy are online this morning. There's a need for a New President for Rotary International.

Cornhole Tournament. Paul S. Saturday June 21/ WE have \$6000 in sponsorships. Ticket sales are slow. Please send out 10 emails – please reach out. Paul will drop some at the legion. **4**

Smart Serve have signed up. Interact can help with the competition. **Amber has the Tournament Template.** We guarantee 3 games for each team. **\$500 cash prize – you have to be 16 years old.** There's a meeting on Monday at 430 at White Meadows. On the Day of, we help Amber with the supplies. We need a high resolution for the sponsors.

Canada Day. Lance. Set up is 230. First shift is 230-5, second shift is 430-7.

7. Today's Presentation – David Sherlock needs no introduction. Suffice it to say he made this presentation a month ago at the Pelham Historical Society and was warmly received.

Railways in Pelham! Using photos and stories, David took us through the history of the Pelham Railway. The first image is of the CLOCK that came out of Pelham Station.

The NST Train came through Fonthill. **It's now the Steve Bauer Trail. In 1897, the**

Michigan Central, TH & B came out of Toronto to Buffalo. It was mostly passengers.

Fenwick and Chantler. You could get on a **sleeping car to NY City with no changing!** There was a little Branch Line that went up to Ridgeville. Also, Chantler – Sumbler – Canboro Rd – Hipwells. At the Quarry and nurseries, cow manure was off loaded. The grade at the top end was quite heavy. It was hard to maintain that grade. They changed to Ridgeville. There were two pieces of metal of **small gauge** in the 1890's. **There's an early picture of a train going through the Fenwick station!**

Station Chandler – no one has a picture. There IS a drawing.

At the Church St crossing, there's a fruit shed and a loading ramp for stock cars plus a maintenance shed with a little rock garden by it. There were outhouses too! **Station stayed operational till 1976!**

Ridgeville- Chandler – Fenwick stops in 1930. The track lasted to 1935.

There's a wartime photo – with two additions including a flag so trains would stop. Diesel trains carried express mail and had **sleeper cars that went to Boston, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and NY City.** **St Ann's and Smithville** had a commuter type schedule! Hamilton Station then is still there; it ran till the mid 50's. Famous people rode the trains like FDR to High Pointe on the Hudson or north of Manitoulin to fish. **Winston Churchill's daughter wanted to see Niagara Falls** and there's a photo from the top of Clifton Hill.

After Queen Elizabeth's coronation, **passenger side of the trains started to drop.** On March 1, 1966, the Fenwick Station closed.

WT Robins. Freight went to Smithville. Passengers went from 10-1 and the train would still stop for them to get off or on. Up for sale – purchased by farmer and moved, they still handled freight. Teams of horses would bring it from Toronto to Buffalo and then it was transferred to the NY train.

Fenwick was included in the reservation system. **April 5, 1981 was the last trip. They added a car because lots of folk wanted to take the last run.**

There was the Fonthill, St Catharines and Toronto Railway. There was a 1907 track built from Fonthill to Port Colborne. **On a 1911 map, there was a proposed Fonthill -St Catharines – Toronto route paralleling Hwy 20.** The CN Track was dug for 1920. Rice Road crossing Hurricane and Station Street towards Welland.

There's a photo of the trestle looking NW across the street to the Cannery in 1958.

Looking south, the town bought STN – Public Works. One is the former station.

Photo of the interior of a typical streetcar. **One of the electric freight models ran till 1961.** There was shelter at the Emmett Street crossing. There was a 6 am0midnight schedule till 1959.

8. Rotary Moment and Loonies. No time

9. Meetings to come

May 28, Board Meeting, Concession Area Main Floor, All Members Welcome

June 5, Paul Harris Fellow Evening. No Morning Meeting

June 9, Weekly Meeting, Railways of Pelham with our own David Sherlock.