

"Where everyone is kin; with a sense of worth, over all the Earth"

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

WEEKLY MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday June 12, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Sharon Pfeifer, Collins Acheampong, Ann Harrison, Lance Wiebe, Bob Eamer, Dave Sherlock, Dave Schulz, Greg Lewis, Pelham Cares.

1. **Welcome to our Guest Speaker, Greg Lewis, Pelham Cares.**

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 including the Elders from the Fort Erie Friendship Centre.

Toast. Paul

To the King and Canada, To the Office of the President of the United States, and To the President of Rotary International and To the Prime Minister of Japan

O Canada. ALL

4 Way Test. Paul

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?

Invocation/Reflection Ann

Today as we welcome Greg Lewis of Pelham Cares, may we reflect and consider how we can strive to create a world and a community where all have access to nutritious and sustainable food sources, and none live with scarcity or food insecurity.

How can we work to examine the systems that create these injustices and become part of a response that works in partnership with those of good will to foster equitable resource sharing?

How can we cultivate our resilience and expand our imaginations so that we might continually find new ways to answer the call to end hunger— until all may flourish.

3. **President's Report. Announcements. Carolyn.**

Carolyn. Last Wednesday was amazing – the food, the company, the presentations. It was a great opportunity to circulate!

Paul. I've reached out to Mike Chechalk but haven't heard back.

Canada Day. Lance. Please look on line and sign up!

Summer Market and Serving on September 5th. Just a reminder, that for both Summerfest and the last Bandshell Concert, we receive a stipend for serving wine and beer. You need a current **Serving it Right** Certificate. Please check your expiry date on your certificate. You can sign up to take course and be reimbursed by our club.

Bandshell on August 15 is when we, Rotary Club of Fonthill, sponsor Momentum Choir!

June 22nd - District Changeover, Welland Rotary Park on Lincoln. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 26th - Changeover Breakfast at Domenic's at our usual 730 a.m. start time.

Dave. Sharon is doing an interview on environmental projects, etc. on radio, Tuesday 610 a.m.

Hugh. In 6 months from now, we'll be wrapping up

Carolyn got the/her first donation from Rosemary Culos, Honorary Member for the Auction!!!!!!

Meetings in July. 10th and 17th with Board Meeting on the 24th!

Abby Stolk is willing to speak about Jr RYLA when there's a spot.

Ronald McDonald Project happening at the St Catharines Hospital. Opportunities for us to be part of it!!!

4. **Introduction of Guest Speaker Greg Lewis by Ann.** Greg is bringing his former business skills to volunteering. He's spent time on the Board of the Pelham Library as it made the transition to the Lincoln Pelham Public Library. The last few years, Greg has been the Chair of Pelham Cares. Food. Hope. Support. Please welcome Greg.

Speaker. Greg Lewis, Pelham Cares Board Chair. Thank you for inviting me out. I'm going to look at 3 areas: **the Organisation today, things we're involved with, and Stats.** It was Pelham Cares 40th Anniversary last year. We have one FT employee, 3 PT employees, 60-70 volunteers and a Board of Directors whose number has been 14 at the highest and right now is at its lowest.

We handle 5 different areas now: **Food Security** including Food Drives; Medical Drives as far as Hamilton and London; **Youth and Child Support, Financial Assistance** to participate in a variety of activities: Physical, Social. Mental- for the Children; Toys at Christmas – work with the Fire Department, Variety of Options, Toys there for Birthdays or for going to Friends' birthday;

Referrals – a lot come in like seniors moving, trouble paying taxes? Usually we know someone who can do this. The fifth area is **Emergency Support.** We do have people living in their cars.

We can provide a hot meal, other food, gas to get to wherever they need to get.

'Business' has never been better'. If we have a family of 4 we consider it 4 visits. Last year we were just under 3000 visits. It was up 53% last year and up 46% THIS year. There's a complexity in visits now. It used to be 'give a sandwich' and now, there are many different eating needs –

e.g. keto, allergies, etc. We're **focused on more nutritional food** and exposing clients to more nutritious meals. We're blessed to be in an agricultural area – the farmers are very good to us. **Feed Niagara** – 10 Food Banks. If we get an overload, we can share with everyone else. Food Security challenges are everywhere. We're big on Volunteers. Last year volunteers accounted for 4000 hours, up 40% from previous year.

Where we were. Where we are.

2 big challenges. There a renovation going on in the basement. Resources to manage new demand for new space – one floor, lots of space, office space - a new facility is a continuing need. **Could we look at tying a Food Donation to one of your present fundraisers?** Our Fundraiser Dance is coming up. We're trying to get more sponsorship of tables. Would you consider buying a table? You'd be acknowledged.

Sharon. There's an effort for Pelham Cares to have dry goods. You don't have resources so baby steps. Identify owners who have produce, individuals who want to help. Charity. One third stays with owner, one third stays with who wants it and one third goes to Pelham Cares.

Hugh. You could take money to buy fresh produce – milk, etc.

Greg. Annual Food Drive was the norm and during COVID, people started dropping off at MCC. Cash donations went up and it's still happening. Cash is important because we can buy what we need. A lot of seniors bring in envelopes of cash because they can't go shopping.

Don't forget pets! Pelham Cares takes donations of pet food.

Cling Wrap, cleaning supplies. If you need food, you don't think of cleaning supplies.

Lance. People living in cars. Is there a place they can cook their food? Greg. We can refer them to those who are better equipped to help.

Ann. Interact Club did Halloween for Hunger and won a District prize for most food collected. Crossley Holiday Cheer went directly to a family in need.

Carolyn. We bought a cooler for PC. We were part of the buying of the house you're in now. That has a renter as well! Great location! We're a great support as a club AND as individuals. We donated many years to the Lincoln Pelham Public Library with our 'thank you' to each of our speakers. This past year we've put that money toward Pelham Cares. With thanks for the presentation, we also want to present you with this past year's 'thank you' with a cheque for \$500 for Pelham Cares.

Greg. Thank you on behalf of our clients and for past and future donations!

Happy Loonies, Rotary Moment.

Dave. We're off on our first summer vacation next week!

Bob. Paul Harris Evening was lovely. Thanks! It was great to see members of the community there.

Hugh. Paul Harris evening great and community was there. Good format. Casual so great. Really pleased to have Greg speak to us. I'm thinking of our Golf Tournament. Maybe next year Welland and Fonthill could designate the Food Banks in each of our communities as beneficiaries of the Golf Tournament's fundraising!

Paul. I learned a lot. It's way beyond a grocery bag. What about driving? How would one do it? Pelhamcares.com – check it out!

Ann. Paul Harris was great. Leadership Niagara had their graduation. We opened our cottage. I'm happy to donate via MCC.

Greg. Appreciate the opportunity to come and speak.

Lance. Need 3 adults for Canada Day still. Off to Tofino for a full family get-together. Really looking forward to it!

Mel. Father-in-law is looking for more to do. The Lions Club in Welland are going to provide him with a scooter as long as he can use it. I believe they have 6 of them that they keep tuned up.

Collins. I'm excited. Paul Harris so far has been my favourite event. The stories. Déjà vu.

Sharon. Happy we have blueberries. We started sharing the 'you pick way.' Happy to hear what Pelham Cares does. Fundraising. All there is to do – glad we can help.

Annie. So pleased with our Paul Harris Evening and everyone that joined us to celebrate community and Rotary Service above Self honorees! Great MC! Great committee!

Carolyn Pelham Cares was an integral part of my life. My mom worked in the office, Dad was a regular driver for years and is now a participant/recipient. We're headed out to Guelph to watch Tess graduate with distinction.

Anything else for the good of Rotary?

Carolyn

Dates Ahead:

June 22. District Changeover.

June 26. Our Club's Changeover. Passing the Torch. Breakfast Meeting at Domenic's

July 1. Canada Day. Still need a few more volunteers.