



**ROTARY CLUB OF FONTHILL
WEEKLY MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday, March 1st

Hybrid Meeting

Dave Schulz, Bob Eamer, Carolyn Mullin, Ann Harrison, Hugh Graham, Paul Snack, Troy Killick, Annie Holtby, Mike Taylor, Bev North, Kabir Ahmed, Frank Adamson, Roy Kirkup, Sean Racher, Paula Racher. Pauline Oliver, Lance Wiebe. Rhys Evans.

1. **Welcome** to Rhys Evans, our speaker today who works as a greeter at MCC and who sits on the Accessibility Committee amongst many others.
2. **Land Acknowledgement Paula**
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: Dave**
To the King and Canada, To the Office of the President of United States, and To the President of Rotary International
4. **4-WAY TEST: Dave**
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: Paul**
Each of us is called to be the best that we can be. We are not called to mediocrity.
Very few of us can rise to embrace our call on our own.
It takes great commitment, effort, and encouragement to achieve greatness.
Let us remember that while we work toward our own success – it is our responsibility to help guide others to their success as well.
We can achieve great things when we work together.
Let us be thankful for the opportunities we have in Rotary to work together, as well as for the people who inspire us to greatness and whom we inspire.

6. Presidents Report, Correspondence and Announcements. Troy

RYLA. Mike. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards costs have gone up. At 2 for Slapshot (now Young RYLA), it costs us \$700 CDN. We had a surplus from Purse Bingo and decided to send just one so it's just an extra \$100 we need. **Hugh** explained the History of the RYLA experience to 2 age groups. **Mike.** Because Interact has melded with the Student Council over Covid, perhaps we could check with Janet about what she thinks and if she says there are 2 worthy students, send two? We're looking at one unless Janet or the School is keen for two.

Motion: To send up to two students to Young RYLA to a total of \$700 but going in with the assumption it will be one. **M/S/C** Mike/Hugh/All

FarmFest. Paul Snack. I sent out a note to committee members. Sponsors are needed. Frank via Kwik Fit has stepped up with \$1000. A couple of other people have been approached. Check with Paul re your contact to save crossovers. **Carolyn.** If you can meet for 10 minutes then Paul could possibly populate with names. **Paul.** I have nothing with me today. **Paula** has put together a document that will work and will send to entire club. **What's the goal?** It's all in Documents. OK re \$1500 for sponsorship.

7. Guest Speakers. Ann introduced Rhys Evans whom she's known since he was graduating from AK Wigg and bringing him to EL Crossley. Anytime you come into the MCC, you'll see Rhys welcoming people and answering any questions they may have. Tell us about yourself, Rhys. I have been on the Town's Joint Accessibility Committee since 2015 and on its Active Transportation Committee since 2018. I am a three time graduate from Niagara College. I have two wonderful parents and a sister who works for the Federal Government.

When I was at Niagara College, I struggled to take notes so required an educational assistant. That was successful. It worked out that the same person was a tutor and came into classes with me. She was a good student and my marks went up 10%. I only used the tutor as an extra pair of hands. I can comprehend and read but I cannot write things down. I can read more easily on my computer because I can track and hear too.

Ann. In the old arena, what work did you do there? **Rhys.** I was coaching and motivating kids. In grad 9 we had to write a persuading argument. I thought I may as well try to make a change and argued for a ramp for the arena. When it comes to accessibility, I know finances can be tough but it costs less to make the adaptations in the first place. MCC is really good for accessibility. The Committee looked at the plans over and for example, the front doors – there is lots of space to move around and you'll see automatic doors everywhere: at the front desk, the lower washroom approach, the entry and its usability –aside from parking, everything is pretty good. You can't get everything but remember that everyone will need accessibility eventually in their lives.

There's an access guide for each age group but it's not in print yet. Washrooms, Parking, Outside – is there a barrier in front of you? Is there adequate time for the PSW to react? Education around service dogs! It's important at events too – Inclusivity! We work on different things to remove barriers where otherwise it can be a hazard. It's most exciting – everything is rewarding. It's got me to where I am today –at my job today at MCC. I'm proud of it and get to work with all groups – I'm not an expert with any group – I'm always learning. It allows me to give back, 21 years of people giving to me and now it's time for me to give back. As a greeter, I'm also a general information person. Questions arise about our programs, the town, restaurants, etc. You can answer random questions!

On the issue of access rights, what are they doing right? The fact that we HAVE it is amazing! Sometimes they're not talking to each other. Sometimes, they don't consult those with disabilities. The Town of Pelham has a website that updates about accessibility as well as other things. Every year, something is put into effect. Last year the goal was to be more accessible, more friendly. When you look at accountability for the Town, it's now law – it's illegal to do anything below 12 font! If you're using

signage, make sure it's big enough so visually impaired can read them! The contrast of colour is important. Black or white is best along with the large signs and the large font!

Question. What are YOUR thoughts on accessible transit on town website? I book something through the bus and often they wouldn't show or they would be late. It's hard when you have an appointment. I'm hoping On Call will work.

Kids come up and ask 'Why are you in a wheelchair?' My advice to the able bodied is to go ahead and ask the questions but be careful HOW you ask. Respectful is good.

Ann. Are you still a Maple Leaf fan? **Ryan.** If Boston would lose a few it would be better.

Ann. Thanks for spending time with us.

Ryan. If you guys are having events and are trying to make it accessible to others, you can like the Town's Accessibility page. Hopefully we can work together.

Troy. Thanks very much, Ryan, You honestly gave a review of transit, gave us a view on what's happening. On your behalf, we make a donation to Lincoln Pelham Library in your name.

8. Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies –

Paula. Today is International Women's Day and I'm happy to be in the company of good strong women in Rotary!

Paul. Thank you very much, Ryan. You're my go to guy!

Mike. Staying on the Rhys train, I liked the line that at some time in everyone's life, they'll need accessibility.

Bob. As husband and wife, we are now noticing obstruction and make me appreciate what you do.

Lance. The 12 point font will be kept in mind! I built an igloo with my grandson.

Hugh. Thanks, Ryan, for bringing our attention to accessibility.

Roy. Thanks, Rhys! I got 'don't be afraid to ask questions.'

Troy. Thanks to whoever brought the coffee!! Rhys, I appreciate the candor you brought.

Ann. IOU to the club! Thanks, Rhys. With my mom in Toronto, I've noticed managing a walker is a challenge. Thanks for coming!

Rhys. I would love to have Rotarians come as a guest to one of our meetings.

Dave. I'm grateful the igloo is melting.

Pauline. Thanks, Rhys, for the presentation. My friend's daughter is in a wheelchair too. Happy for our week in Vegas!

Frank. Thanks Rhys for your presentation and for your participation in the Canada Summer Games Torch Run.

Carolyn. Can you tell a journalism grad asked you the tough questions? We'll ask you back to share your experiences, to see what's happening.

Rhys. Happiness! It's a privilege to work and serve my own community.

Troy. Thanks, everyone!

Next Meetings/Events:

March 15th – Board Meeting is in the MCC's Concession area. Open to all members. 730 a.m.

March 22nd – Business Meeting for All

March 29th – Domenic's for Breakfast. Sign up on Clubrunner by Monday the 27th for numbers for the staff. **7:30 start time**