



ROTARY CLUB OF FONTHILL

WEEKLY MEETING AGENDA Wednesday, May 10th, 2023 Hybrid Meeting

Dave Schulz, Bob Eamer, Paul Snack, Troy Killick, Annie Holtby, Frank Adamson, Paula Racher, Mel Groom, Collins Acheampong, Gail Levay, Ann Harrison, Carolyn Mullin, Bev North, Hilary Kellam, Christina Lajeunesse.

1. **Welcome** to our speakers today, Hilary Kellam and Christina Lajeunesse, Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

2. **Land Acknowledgement. Carolyn**

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.

O Canada was led by **Carolyn**

3. **Toast: Bob**

To the King and Canada, To the Office of the President of United States, and To the President of Rotary International, our very own Jennifer Jones!

4. **4-WAY TEST: Bob**

Of the things we think, say or do
Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

5. **Invocation: Bev**

You don't change the world with the ideas in your mind
But with the conviction in your heart.
Bryan Stevenson

6. **President's Report, Correspondence and Announcements. Troy**

Welland Paul Harris Evening is tonight. From our club, Michele and I are going, Frank, Mel and Rick, and Annie.

Paul. Early Bird Tickets available till the 15th. We still need to have more activities, displays, exhibitors. We just need to know who is coming – we need confirmation. 830 meeting downstairs today. Dave Swan is putting our posters up wherever the Bandshell posters are going up. 70 people have registered thus far. Last year the big rush was the night before.

Troy. Schedule going forward. Next week is **FarmFest** schedule. **May 24th is the Board Meeting.** **May 31st is Breakfast at Domenic's.** Laura Kenney is our speaker that day. **Year End** came up. Date isn't set yet. There was a question about what the Year End meant. Troy explained that was when the club celebrated last year's highs and when the incoming President started her new year with her/our board. Rotary Year is July 1st to June 30th. A passing of the Torch!

Carolyn: Introduction of Speakers Hilary Kellam and Christina Lajeunesse from Big Brothers, Big Sisters Niagara. Link to Presentation:

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/289/Documents/en-ca/25bc5897-7049-48f0-8742-c7ea298c118b/1/>

Presentation: Hilary is the Volunteer Enrolment Coordinator and Carolyn is the community Engagement Coordinator and is responsible for the nearly new thrift store. THE Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Niagara (BBBSN) brought together two organisations, BBBS of South Niagara and Niagara. We have professional case workers to oversee programs. We make sure they are trained before working with the kids. Mentoring is SO important. BBBSN has a tradition of partnering – kids graduate from the program at age 18 although the relationship can continue as friendship beyond 18. The partnering of Big Brother or Sister and child is based on mutual interests. The weekly commitment is 2-4 hours/week but we do ask for a 1 year commitment. It's a lot of fun. Hilary worked with a girl living with her grandparents. We accept volunteers from the age of 18. We welcome any age above that. In school mentoring is for grades 1-8. The match would last the whole year. Go Girls is for ages 5-8 and lasts 7-10 weeks. Game On is for male identifying kids in grades 6-8. **Carolyn** How do you identify the kids? **Hilary** For group programs, the school asks for the program and identifies the students they feel would benefit. **Paul** Is it still single parent kids? Game On is for Boys. We don't ask for that criterion here. We have 13 adversities to guide selection and most kids are facing 5. Things change. We have BBBS for a Day, asking them for once a month time. The volunteer will sign up for match events and pick kids up for events. They make sure the kids are having fun and behaving. The volunteers need a Volunteer Sector Police Check. They need a driver's license and insurance as well as a vehicle for community outings, pick up, etc. There's a manual for How to become a volunteer.

Our Nearly New Thrift Store is across from City Hall. All funds go back to mentoring. We have Purple Bins and we make 7 cents/lb from each bin. All you need to do is sign up. We get a lot of our funding from the Delta Bingos. There is OLG training on line. **Question.** How much funding is raised by BBBS?

Christina. 90%.

Paul I *am* a Big Brother. My little brother passed away a few years ago. He started at 9, excelled at school, went to U of T, and was married with 2 kids. We were family.

Doug Burr, no longer with us, worked with a Little Brother for 15 years.

Paul. Owner of Boggio's family adopted their Little Sister.

Troy. Many thanks, Hilary and Christina, for your presentation. We have a long history with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. In appreciation for your presence and presentation, our club makes a donation in your names and organisation to our local library – the Lincoln Pelham Public Library.

7. Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies. Lance.

Paula. It's our 14th Anniversary today.

Dave. Thinking of practicing gratitude. It helps me get through the week.

Bob. I'm pleased to see the amalgamation. The world is changing. (Holding pencil up) This is a recycled pencil. I worry about where clothing goes.

Paul. Thanks for coming! As Big Brothers did many things, my little brother and I had lunch with Wayne Gretzky – It opens up doors!!

Gail. It's brought back Burr memories. I remember Doug and family taking his Little Brother up to the cottage. I'm surprised that the water over the falls is for show!

Frank. We're proud to support you!

Ann. Michael and I went to Stratford to see Rent. There's a good message about Trans acceptance.

Mel. To continue with this theme of gratitude, The Board of United Way brought the Brothers and Sisters together in requiring a partnership for UA grants. Congrats to the two Niagara groups of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Carolyn. Bernie was on the board of Big Brothers Niagara Falls way back. I was on the west coast last week and next week will be on the east coast. My kids are using a new verb – thrifting. Thanks for sharing!

Collins. I'm amazed by today's presentation. Rotary brings new information each week!

Troy. Excellent presentation. Michele and I had a date night last week. Need to do more. We're camping this weekend (glamping). We were at the Paul Harris evening – My father-in-law is almost the most tenured Rotarian in Welland. He received a Paul Harris Fellow award.

Annie. Thanks Hillary and Christina for your commitment and inspiration

Bev. Presentation was fantastic. Happy my daughter is looking forward to her drivers' test!

Troy. See everyone next week!

Next Meetings/Events:

May 17th, Paul Snack and club members' last club meeting for and before Family FarmFest.

May 24th, Board Meeting. Everyone welcome. Consignment area of MCC.

May 31st, Breakfast Meeting at Domenic's 730-830 am. Please sign up by Monday, May 29th on Clubrunner.