



Unite for Good

WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Janet Cripps, Bob Eamer, Mel Groom, Don Haber, Phil Hanna, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Karen Rush, Dave Schulz, Dave Sherlock, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe. Guest Speaker – Aubrey Foley of Broken Spokes.

1. Welcome to Aubrey Foley, Broken Spokes, Port Colborne.

2. Land Acknowledgement – Janet

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 with Janet leading

4. 4-WAY TEST –

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 – The Value of Service is in its compassion and its collaboration

6. Announcements.

Cornhole Tournament. Paul. We have **\$4500** in sponsorships. Most recent photos. An individual donation of \$2500 and another for **\$500. Volunteer Signups** are in Clubrunner. You can sign up for Smart Serve as well there.

Ann. Interact raised \$100 for the Butterfly Garden. **Sarah Bradbury** has been successful in her bid to go on Youth Exchange next year.

Lance. Canada Day will be warmer. We need volunteers!

Frank. Polio Plus Society. Its aim is to completely eradicate Polio.

- 7. Today's Presenter is introduced by Janet.** 'I'm introducing Aubrey Foley whom I've never met before but know from reputation that he has changed thousands of lives! His initial small bicycle effort has grown. Tens of thousands of bicycles have been repaired for around the world. Aubrey is a community builder who advocates for youth. Welcome, Aubrey!'

Aubrey. I was a Port Colborne Rotarian! I volunteered to **set up a program** extremely important to me and did so **at the Port Colborne High School. I started in my own garage.** Kids would come by and I'd fix their bikes. I then did a presentation to the staff. I said give me a space and I'll prepare the entire shop and I'll do it as a trial – **it's now been 11 years! I teach two classes.** As a cyclist, a breakdown usually meant one of the tires. Then I learned to fix bikes! My bike took away any worries! Seven days a week, it was comfortable, something so simple but producing so much good. 18 agencies work with me. They can contact me any time – **if I have what's needed, they get it!** There are 7 stations at the school. I went to land fills, found cabinets for storage. The kids help too. **If we can't fix a bike, we use the parts!** 820-11 am is when I come into see the students. **30,000 bikes have been donated. We test ride them and put labels on them. 50 bikes have joined the ranks. We're putting containers together for Ukraine.**

For Grade 9 students, they are NOT allowed cell phones in class. Day One, students are introduced to the dustpan, broom, etc. to make the space we need, work! Every tool is cleaned before they leave. **One threatening gesture and you're expelled.** A minimum of **2 students have challenges, but they'll be part of the team, they will succeed!**

Our daily mission is to make life better for someone, somewhere! Every day, 30% is mechanical and 70% is life skills! Autism is very present! It's worked well – We have the space. There's no funding for equipment. The most cost is my own with the truck.

In Smithville. Niagara Falls Recycle and Welland Thorold site, there's an area designated for bikes – when they get 20 bikes, they call me.

No fossil fuels produced! The 2019 Waste Management Group in Toronto held a 5-day workshop. Canada US Conference held a three day workshop, Silver Medal held a two-day course for their program.

Countries we ship to. 4000 have gone to Cuba. We had to cancel because of the politics. There were 5000 deaths of children and no power to run the machines. NOT acceptable!

Credit Course in bicycle repair. Only one in Canada! It's right to recycle, to help. Medical supplies we take to Warehouse of Hope. Wheelchairs are picked up. We're helping to set up a shop in a school up north. I keep doing it.

I love what Rotary does. Keep doing it.

Paul Snack. What can we do to help? **Aubrey.** Fort Erie asked for help. I'm giving them some bikes.

Aubrey. I understand that we can transform the bikes, the wheel chairs. We have three volunteers who come in. There's a Board of Directors, Non-Profit. Meridian in Port

Colborne handles all the finances. E transfer \$20 – Philippines is getting a shipment! Cables themselves are \$175. I usually order 900 of them at a time.

Migrant Workers in Virgil have a Bike Me Up organisation!

Lance. Does it extend to the rest of the school? **Aubrey.** It changes how they act in their other classes.

Peka chum is included too!

Frank. This has been one of the most motivational talks we've had! Google The Broken Spoke!

8. Happy Thoughts

Bob with Cup

Lance. Happy. Enjoying hockey games.

Debbie. Sent regrets

Dave. Happiness index goes up when he sees Bob.

Don. My wife's a teacher. Others in family retired early because of the non educational things they had to do.

Frank. I did a Polio Plus Presentation at Welland. On Sunday, Elaine, Toppari and Frank talked of NZ.

Janet. John Rucetti decided to retire. If you had kids who had John, ti's June 20th at the Old Town Hall.

Angela. Loved listening to Aubrey – the hands- on was wonderful.

Mel. Thanks, Janet for bringing Aubrey in. Thanks, Dave, for the help!

Paul. Zak is in Croatia. His buddy lost his credit card. Now Paul is paying for 2!

Collins. I'm frozen.

Annie. Inspiring presentation, Aubrey!

Bob. Heard rain outside this morning and thought I don't need to go today – but so happy I did!

Next Meetings

May 20. Weekly Meeting, Speaker, Brenda Lagendoen of B'N'R Stables

June 1. Raising our new Rotary International Flag at MMC for a full week, 35 years old!

June 4. Paul Harris Evening

June 13. Cornhole Tournament

June 18. Pass the Torch Event at Sons and Daughters