

“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 May 15, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Mike Taylor, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Bev North Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Sharon Pfeifer, Collins Acheampong, Paul Snack, Sofia Labricciosa.

1. **Welcome to our Guest Speaker, Sofia Labricciosa, our RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Award) candidate.**

2. **Land Acknowledgement. Mel**

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.

Toast. Hugh

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. Hugh

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 Hugh

Let us take a moment to remember all the religions represented in the worldwide Rotary family. Let us recall that when we were invited to join this Rotary club, we were not asked if we were a Protestant, a Hindu, a Muslim, a Jew, a Catholic, or a Buddhist. We were not asked because all religions are welcome in the Rotary family.

Please join me in a moment of reflection and thanks with these words:
With our friends beside us, and no person beneath us,
With the bonds of Rotary between us, and our worries behind us,
With our goals before us, and no task beyond us,
With a thirst for knowledge, and a dream for a polio-free world,
We are thankful for our Rotary friends.

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

Today, Sofia Labricciosa.

Canada Day Signup is available.

May 20. Board Meeting in Concession Area. Everyone welcome.

May 22. Satoka's parents are coming for a visit. May 22nd-24th they're going to Quebec City.

May 29th Satoka's Presentation. Her parents will be in attendance/

Golf Tournament is going to Pelham Hills on the 2nd Friday, September the 13th. Proceeds will go to **Youth Resources Niagara YRN.**

Welland Dragon Boat Festival. Sue is helping to organise it. There's an opportunity to participate.

Please read the Newsletters.

4. **Introduction of Guest Speaker Sofia Labricciosa by Mike Taylor**

Today I will be introducing you to Sofia Labricciosa (also goes by 'Sof'). At 21 years old, 'Sof' is **making waves studying the realm of human behaviour at McMaster University.** As she gears up for her fifth and final year beginning this fall, her passion for understanding the intricacies of the human mind and how it interacts with others knows no bounds! Beyond Sof's academic pursuits, she's had a tender heart for Rotary since grade 7 of elementary school. From *EarlyAct* to *Interact* and now *RYLA* and beyond! **Sof has done her best to embody the spirit of service and community engagement that Rotary has taught her she is capable of.** Sof's heart beats for social change; she's a strong advocate for raising voices of unheard demographics such as the neuro-divergent community with whom she works. She advocates for inclusivity and loves to spark meaningful conversations that have the power to shape society for the better. Welcome, Sof!

Sofia 'Sof' Labricciosa from Early Act to Interact to RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Award. I'm interested in doing more with Rotary. Today I'm starting out with an exercise WE did at our first session at RYLA! Take a square of cardboard and **write 3 things that describe you**, how you think best represent you. (Members spent time coming up with three qualities. It wasn't an easy assignment for many).

At the conference we had five minutes to write about 'My Ideal Day.' We had a Public speaking Drill – a 'Retirement Speech.' Everyone was embarrassed, all shared. For Project Planning, we were hitting roadblocks. How do we lead together? It got easier as the week progressed. We had **Individual Skill Strengthening lectures.** For Group Teamwork, we did a morals story. For Program Planning, we had an ID problem. We made headway..

On Day 3, we had **Program Presentation** – Group 1 took Protect the Environment and Group 2 had Disease, Poverty and Treatment. We were all human. It was messy, embarrassing, overwhelming and we learned it was ok to ask for help.

Life is short. World is wide. Voice what you care about. Don't take those opportunities to explore those interests for granted.

Life after RYLA. More volunteer opportunities! I'm looking a starting a potential virtual Club for members their age.

Mike. It's good to see you come in. It pleases me to see your journey.

Paul. What was the background of kids you were with?

'Sof.' Not a lot knew what Rotary was.

Mike. In recognition of completion of RYLA, here's your certificate.

Collins. In recognition of our speakers, we make a donation in their name to Pelham Cares.

Dates Ahead:

May 22. Board Meeting. Everyone Welcome.

May 25. Evening with Satoka's parents at Patti and Len Stolk's.

June 5. Paul Harris Evening.

June 22. District Changeover.

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