



## WEEKLY MEETING Minutes

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Crystal Lambkin, Sharon Pfeiffer, Dave Schulz, Paul Snack, Mike Taylor, Maria Araujo, Guest Speaker Eric Baldwin of Niagara Peninsula Conservancy Foundation [www.npca.ca](http://www.npca.ca)

1. **Welcome!**

2. **Land Acknowledgement – Hugh**

*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 – Mel and All**

4. **4-WAY TEST – Mel**

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?  
Cheers, everyone!

5.

**Invocation – Paul H**

As we gather today, let's take a moment to be thankful—for good company, full coffee cups, and a meeting that (hopefully) ends on time.  
May our conversations be productive, our ideas inspiring, and our disagreements brief.  
Let us serve with purpose, laugh along the way, and remember that even small acts of kindness can change the world.

6. **Key Events** **Frank.** We have a new person interested in membership. **Fred Leppard of Thorold.**

**Cornhole Tournament. Paul S.** We're finalizing; we still need sponsors; our next meeting is at Baco Noir.

**Frank.** The President's Changeover is at Sons & Daughters' Winery on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Aaron, our 2025-26 District Governor, is planning to come to the changeover. Please plan on coming.

7. **Today's Presentation – Sharon introduced our speaker. There are 4 pillars for the NPCA – 1.**

Plant more trees. 2. Create more access. 3. Support education. And 4, create more protected spaces. Niagara Region has the 2 Great Lakes, the Fonthill Kame, Niagara Falls.

**Eric Baldwin** came in 2022 with a Masters of Environmental Studies. **Eric.** This is an informal

presentation so interrupt if you have questions. **I'm working with the Land Securement Program. This is a map of our watershed. Ottawa to Windsor, Sault Ste Marie and Sudbury.** We manage what's in their watershed. It's so unique but brings challenges. **We have 43 properties including Ball's Falls in and around its watershed.** The Land Securement Strategy is a strategic document to fall back on.

**Our 2024 success Stories. In 2 years, we've secured 180 hectares.** Our target was 180 hectares by 2032. Less than 1% of our taxes go to NPCA! \$4.25 M from municipal taxes. In our Box 30 program, **almost all Indigenous peoples signed up to conserve.** There are now almost 1900 hectares in that program.

**We have to focus our efforts.** I want ISOHA in 10 years. There's a list of features they go after! It's important to have good story areas – like the Wetlands! We don't have enough resources to manage them even IF we could get them.

**NPCA Securement Strategy is focused around key properties** Including the northeast portion town of Pelham.

**Frank** What's the relationship between agriculture and NPCA? **Eric** The Land Trusts at a National level. There are some local trusts as well depending on locale and features. We do a ton of fundraising to make it work. Lots of leads I get come from meetings like this. It's the equivalent of neighbourhood sales, etc. **Land Securement** can come from donations, a spontaneous receipt, a bequest. It can also come as an ecological gift. If an owner has land, s/he can donate all or part of it. You can write it off over 10 years. Capital Gains is there when you sell that portion but you can write it off too. **Bequest** in estate planning can be capital, cash, and the house.

**Projects are shovel ready.** The Feds can give money with short timelines. For instance, \$3Million and 3 parcels available. Half to the Feds and half to NPCA. Rotary Groups, etc., ID properties, etc. Recreationally, there's Long Beach, Chippawa Falls and Balls Falls. Feds say we have to generate funds. We could do it by expanding Long Beach camping for instance. Planned giving and Annual Gifts are another source. There could be targeted property in the area. You can have campaigns. All properties have restorative projects. Trees 4 All is another route.

**Invasive Species.** We already have them and they're still coming! It's another focus we have.

**Paul.** Land Development. Do you need approval from NPCA? **Eric** Yes, not the final say but we do have a say. Doing research on any property you want to buy is a good idea. If you have 50 acres and can't take care of it all, or perhaps 48 of the 50 is wetland – NPCA can acquire without severing.

**Hugh.** Thank you for all the work, all the time and energy that has to go into it!

## 8. Rotary Moment and Loonies.

**Mike.** Very informative! Personally I had a cortisone shot which was very good!

**Maria.** I'm looking forward to the end of school!

**Paul S.** Thanks for the presentation.

**Frank.** NPCA has \$5000 worth of trees to plant!

**Crystal.** I have a beautiful garden.

**Ann.** Thanks, Eric, It's encouraging to hear of all the areas you are working on.

**Mel.** I appreciate hearing local stories.

**Dave Sch.** My five year old grandson is playing on a T-ball Team and they scored 26-24

**Sharon.** Happy to enlighten people. We all benefit from our quality of life- nice to have.

**Eric.** My cousins and sister-in-law are heavily involved

**Collins.** It's interesting to hear what you do. We hike, etc., and love it 0 there's so much behind the scenes!

**Bob.** I had a call from the doctor: The prostate cancer is gone, the thumb feels good! It's amazing to get all these treatments in the area!

## **9. Meetings to come**

**May 28, Board Meeting, Concession Area Main Floor, All Members Welcome**

**June 5, Paul Harris Fellow Evening. No Morning Meeting**

**June 9, Weekly Meeting, Railways of Pelham with our own David Sherlock.**