

“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 29, 2024

Hybrid Meeting

Mike Taylor, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Sharon Pfeifer, Collins Acheampong, Troy Killick, Ann Harrison, Lance Wiebe, Bob Eamer, Satoka Hayashi, Parents Miho and Tetsuya Hayashi, Michael Jacques, Nancie Taylor, Dave Sherlock, Patti Stolk, Kelly Bradbury.

1. **Welcome to our Guest Speaker, Satoka Hayashi, our dear Youth Exchange Student** and to Patti Stolk, mom of present Youth Exchange home and Kelly Bradbury whose son Ryan is our Outward Bound Youth Exchange student in Belgium.

2. **Land Acknowledgement. Sharon**

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. Collins

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. Bob

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 Bob

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.**

Dave Sherlock got his name tag!

Canada Day. Lance. Please look on line and sign up!

Summerfest and Serving September 5th. Just a reminder, that for both Summerfest and the last Bandshell Concert, we receive a stipend for serving wine and beer. You need a current **Serving it Right** Certificate. Please check your expiry date on your certificate. You can sign up to take course and be reimbursed by our club.

Board had good presentation by Leadership Niagara. A good discussion.

Youth Exchange. Mary Arilbo from Sao Paolo, Brazil is our next Youth Exchange student. We **NEED** Host Families.

June 5th PH Evening has 73 registered (At end, 86 were registered)

June 22nd District Changeover, Welland Rotary Park on Lincoln. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

June 26th Changeover Breakfast at Domenic's. Usual 730 a.m. start.

Please read the Newsletters.

4. **Introduction of Guest Speaker Satoka Hayashi by Mike Taylor.** Please welcome Satoka. She was very shy when she arrived and now is very comfortable and at home thanks to her hosts, her YE friends, our Club, her friends and teachers at Crossley. She will be doing her final presentation today although still has another 2 months with us. Please also welcome her parents, Miho and Tetsuya, who have travelled across the world to see this presentation and meet Satoka's friends and home families. Welcome! And know that Satoka is in a lot of hearts.

Satoka. I have done a slide presentation of my year. Before coming to Canada I looked forward to this Exchange in Canada. I was sad and scared because it was the first time to travel alone. On August 19th, I came to Toronto. **The next day, we were off too Niagara Falls. I loved it! I got very wet but it was so beautiful!** From August 23-September 3 we went up to Nancie and Mike's cottage. Everything was a first time experience. On September 16-17, I met other exchange students and went to a Japanese Garden. September 19-24 – I went hiking and made Japanese curry. September 28-1 **I realised each family was different.** We went to Toronto October 21. And on November 18-19, we went to Jamestown, NY for Hunger Games. Lots of fun and interesting!

For Christmas, traditionally in Japan, there is one gift each. Here there's a big tree and more than one gift. **I LIKE Christmas!**

Feb 2-5 was the big long weekend up in Algonquin Park. We learned to walk in snow shoes, how to hike through the snow. It was **very cold and hiking was very hard. Beautiful stars at night.**

February 16-19 we went skiing with the school, rode a snowmobile and tried ice hockey. Easter is not so popular in Japan. Here, we painted eggs! In May, we went to **NY City by car. We had long days, went to see a show on Broadway –all very good, very much fun!**

School. In Japan, school is only for study! It's different here. There are costumes, drama, seasonal observances, talking and dancing. With friends, I went shopping, to a dancing party and pool parties. Thank you for this opportunity!

Mike. Well done. **You can relax now! WELL DONE!!**

Patti Stolk. It's been a pleasure to have Satoka with us. She's very easy going and game for anything! I highly recommend being a YE Host. It was wonderful to meet Satoka's parents. **Satoka introduced her parents**, Miho and Tetsuya. And Carolyn presented one of our banners. A photo was taken. They presented a Banner with river and ocean. Tetsuya spoke in English saying they were giving each of us a gift from a Japanese Hot Spring. He spoke of this time in Canada as a treasured memory and thanked the club for taking such good care of Satoko.

Happy Loonies, Rotary Moment.

Carolyn. I'm happy to be here. I'm having a Bob bought coffee.

Troy. Took the kids to Europe – London, Paris, and Amsterdam. Great time!

Dave. Glad to be here on screen. Tina and I are heading out of town.

Collins. I had the opportunity to go out with the Hayashis on Saturday. I wish I could have done what Satoka's done. I know impact will be possible. (ed. Your kids can always have that opportunity!) When I think of myself being part of a club, I want to be here. Thank you, Mike, Patti, everyone who has played a role.

Patti. Happy to be here today with Satoka's family. I'm motivated to look at short term opportunities for kids.

Lance. 3 year old grandson joined soccer – kicked 2 balls! Re Canada Day, we're increasing to 400 'Sandastics!'

Annie. Wonderful Friday evening at Stolk's with Satoka and family!

Kelly. I had the opportunity to see Ryan in Belgium! I met a few of his home families. I see a lot of support across the street at the Taylors! They are generous, very valuable and appreciated!

Nancie. A happy Loonie to hear your presentation, Satoka, and to meet your parents!

Mike. This program means a lot to me. It's kept me involved. Each year it's been part of our family. The global impact of parents here hopefully experienced the support of the club – thanks to Patti for the welcome party, to Collins and Ann for taking them out.

Tetsuya. Happy to communicate with everyone!

Miho. I am glad Satoka is enjoying life in Canada. I am happy to meet you.

Satoka. I'm happy my parents are here and that I had trip to Quebec City with them.

Bob. It was an honour to meet you. You were brave to let her come. Congrats to everyone!

Ann. Wonderful to spend time with Satoka's parents! We dodged raindrops, lunched at Angel Inn and enjoyed some wine tasting.

David Thanks for the gift from Japan!

Mel. Happy you had your parents here, Satoka. I had a Japanese student Home stay a number of years ago. Two of my kids were also outgoing Youth Exchange students.

Hugh. Happy to meet Satoka's parents. We were part of a Chernobyl summer exchange for one of its youth that continued for 7 summers. We still keep in touch.

With our networking group we had a summer social at Fort Erie racetrack. Thank you again to Tetsuya and Miho for sharing Satoka with us!

Carolyn

Dates Ahead:

June 5. Paul Harris Evening.

June 22. District Changeover.

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

