



Unite for Good

WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Paul Allen, Shekhar Burthun, Angela Carter, Bob Eamer, Touti Gendre-Guittard, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Don Haber, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Troy Killick, Fred Leppard, Carolyn Mullin, Sharon Pfeifer, Karen Rush, Dave Schulz, Dave Sherlock, Paul Snack, Mike Taylor, Ryan Bradbury, Guest Speakers – Touti Gendre-Guittard & Madeline Gerbracht, Habitat for Humanity, Niagara.

1. Welcome to Madeline Gerbracht, Habitat for Humanity, Niagara.

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

3. National Anthem– ALL with Carolyn leading

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?

Invocation – Sharon

Rotary Invocation -what is it for? To set a positive tone, foster fellowship, and encourage reflection on service-oriented values. They are ideally about two minutes long and are a tradition in many clubs. Invocations might: demonstrate inclusivity, set a tone for service, express gratitude, inspire action. Invocations are sometimes given as a prayer – although Rotary is non-religious. They may also be a poem or freely spoken word.

Acknowledging the speakers we have today and the month of May, we're reminded of Rotary's themes of 'Connecting for Good,' celebrating Youth Service, Serving with Heart and Leading with Purpose.

As we gather today, let us be grateful for the opportunity to engage, to serve, to be mentors, and to be inspired. Let us give thanks for the connections that make our Rotary family strong.

6. Announcements.

Because of two presentations today, we'll go directly to them.

7. Today's First Presentation is by Touti Gendre-Guittard, our first Youth Exchange Honorary Member. Angela introduced Touti and her awesome trip out to BC.

Touti had a PPT presentation - The Discovery of Beautiful BC. Flight was **Day 1**.

Day 2 was a tour of Alice Lakes AND the only day it rained!

Day 3 was a tour from Nanaimo to Duncan, Port Renfrew and Ladysmith on Vancouver Island.

Day 4 featured Tofino and Ucluelet that fulfilled my desire to touch the Pacific Ocean. The three hours from Ladysmith to Tofino was magical. With Angela's love for waterfalls (one a day) – I was in awe of the Island. It was such a blessing – the art, the native art.

Day 5 Last day in Vancouver and blossoms were blooming! Stanley Park was a real walk in the Park. We found someone to advise on a great place to eat just near the Park. Delicious.

A dream of BC and Vancouver and the Island covered that dream.

Many thanks to Angela for the journey. Many thanks to Mike too.

Question. When do you return to France? **Touti.** July 5. **Reply.** We'll miss you!

Our second presentation is Madeline Gerbracht from Habitat for Humanity, Niagara. Madeline takes care of Grant and Partnership Management. She builds partnerships and secures and maintains funding.

Madeline. You probably know Habitat for Humanity by the ReStores in Grimsby, Fonthill, St Catharines. I work in St Catharines. We build homes where we can access land. We have over 80 homes = affordable housing for 84 children. We build in partnership with the community. Homeowners pay the mortgage – no downpayment required for a 20 year mortgage. The homes are for those in need, and we have the qualifications for need in writing. Owners never pay a 'down payment.'

PHASE I We have 6 town homes in Welland and owners will move in on August 1. Each townhouse has 3 bedrooms and 1-2 bathrooms.

PHASE II We're breaking ground summer of 2026.

PHASE III Adams & Hoskins and back to Welland – another 5 units.

In St Catharines, we're doing a Build Day which provides team building before a project starts.

How can you help? Host a fundraiser! Donate to Habitat – we’re always looking for volunteers! Usually 930-noon is a great opportunity to help.

We’re also having a Women’s Build Day.

Ann. When we were redoing the kitchen, we gave the old one to Habitat and received a tax receipt for the value when they came to pick up!

Frank thanked Madeline for her informative presentation. Here’s the link for the PPT.

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/289/Documents/en-ca/00fa49fb-afe9-4e2f-9e3d-668c12cfc687/1/>

Youth Programs Page – Mike. Ryan is featured with a new book. Youth Page is coherent and more formal. We have a \$10,000 unexpected YE Expense. We’re trying to pay for that!

Happy Moments

Frank. I’m happy both Judy and Tina are being honoured with a Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Angela. It’s been a whirlwind week – now back to normal!

Carolyn. I’m in Vancouver for a week. For a conference.

Paul S. Zac is in Albania. He sends pictures out daily!

Paul A. Thanks, Madeline, for the great presentation. We were picking up trash in NF. It was fun and good to do!

Hugh. Our Church group provides lunch.

Paul H. Happy to be back!

Bob. We took a trip to Brockville to see family.

Mel. Thanks, Madeline, Touti! My father-in-law is now living at Royal Rose – all has worked out!

Ann. Wonderful presentation. We went to Canterbury Hills in Ancaster, Fri.-Sun. We had a grade 9 rep from Interact!

Mike. Great time in Jamestown. NY City is this weekend! Lily is confirmed as our incoming Belgium student for next year.

Karen. I got new golf clubs for significant birthday!

Collins. Thank you for the Paul Harris Fellow. I wasn’t sure it was for me!

Dave Sch. It’s fun to see Tina being nominated for a Paul Harris Fellow/ It’s her prize for putting up with all my Rotary time!

Don. I took the Smart Serve Course and was successful!

Hugh. Thanks to Touti and Madeline for their presentations. Two sets of the Books of Snure were presented to the Library.

Frank. There are 22 of us here today!

Next Meetings

May 13. Weekly Meeting, Speaker, Aubrey Foby of Broken Spokes

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 Honorees Evening

June 13. Cornhole Tournament

June 18. Pass the Torch Event at Sons and Daughters