



WEEKLY MEETING Minutes

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Paul Allen, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Sharon Pfeiffer, Dave Schulz, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe, Maria Araujo, Wayne Liebau, Rob Luchetta, Troy Killick, Denise Steele, Guest Speaker – Jim Steele

1. **Welcome!** It's warmer!

2. **Land Acknowledgement – Paul A**

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 – Sharon and All**

4. **4-WAY TEST – Sharon**

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 S**

Service happens in laughter and friendship.
Service happens in quiet conviction.
Service happens with firm intention.
Service happens in growing kinship
to all humanity in attention.
to Service Above Self

6. **Key Events**

Paul Harris. Everything is proceeding. Nature's Corner is catering. Our goal for numbers is 80. If you're thinking of coming, please register for June 4th. It's a fun as well as an important evening in honoring people in our club and in the community who practice Service Above Self in their everyday lives. One day we'll have an All Paul Harris club! Come and celebrate now!

Paul S. There's a meeting next Monday, the 12th. A few decisions have been made - \$60/team cost. June 21st is out date. Performance Toyota is our major sponsor at \$2500.

Frank. President's Changeover is now scheduled at Sons & Daughters' Winery on July 9th.

Lance. Canada Day is coming. Please sign up if you can help!

7. Today's Presentation –Paul S. introduced today's speaker, Jim Steele, intrepid Mt Kilimanjaro climber!

Jim's presentation. Climbing a mountain has both a personal and spiritual element. Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, stands alone at 19,330 feet, higher than the Matterhorn! At 60 my wife passed from Cancer, in six months, my father died and six months later. My mother. I felt abandoned, **I was floundering. What can I do to remember those lost? I decided to climb Kilimanjaro.**

I trained for 10 months. It was a 10-hour flight to Ethiopia and a further two hour flight to Kilimanjaro. We had 2 days to rest before the climb. During those two days, 4 kids in blue uniforms spoke to me – there was an orphanage next to the hotel. Proceeds from the hotel stays went to the orphanage. The kids melted my heart. I learned a lot from these kids. I have the power to be happy.

Climbers included 7 20–26-year-olds and me at 62. We started the climb; the guides carrying a lot of the weight on our 'adventure in the jungle rain forest.' We'd climbed 9800 ft. Day 2 we did 6 hours of hiking, left the rain forest and were now into scrub brush. We each carried a 15-pound backpack. Now, we're at 12,600 ft! The air is thinner, colder, harder. **Day 3 it's all rock now – The Bronco Wall- everyday it gets harder. We're heading to 15,000 feet** and it's now snowing! Can I do this? Lava Tower for lunch stop. We go down to 13,000 ft. where we can sleep a whole lot better. My feet and head were touching the tent sides! Our guide was Peter but the other guides called him Simba. A second lesson – respecting our elders has been lost. The practice needs revitalization!

I loved the guides! They often sang and spoke Swahili. We had 23 guides for 8 people! Porters would pack up, then pass us and have the camp set up when we'd arrive. Day 4 was steeper with more rocks. We couldn't eat p exhaustion and being higher too our appetite that day. (There's a photo of Kilimanjaro in the background)

The guides would take our oxygen levels and heart rates every night. 103 at Day 4. Oxygen level here was close to 100. It dropped every day. We tried to sleep after supper as we were hiking. There it was 90 and dropped every day. We'd try to sleep after supper – we'd be hiking in the night to be at top for 7 am. It was a star filled night and I was in awe of God. Once before in Hawaii I'd seen all the stars/ We prepped for the last 7 hours up to 19,031 ft – the hardest part with thinner air. My heart rate was off the charts. 15Centigrade. I lost the feelings in fingers and toes. I wanted to quit. I could barely breathe; my vision was cloudy (thinking it was dehydration.) I was worried but balance was OK and I could talk. I thought I was going to die. I saw the sun on the mountain top. You feel like the sun is below you!

At the very top, CONGRATS, YOU MADE IT! The glacier was 125' thick! There were tears in all our eyes, joy, exhaustion and relief. We were there for 20 minutes. You can't stay any longer. My guide held my arm.

I'm looking back to Kilimanjaro each day. It was quicker going down! It took 2 days. My eyesight came back. There's still tingling there. I lost the toenail on my big toe. **The effects of high altitude are significant!**

Find/make an opportunity to do something. **What mountain do you need to climb?**

Paul in Philistines: I press on, forget the behind and strain ahead. Don't let the past hold you back.

4 Lessons. Conquering fear: as a triathlete it was important to 'finish.' Don't let fear of NOT finishing hold you back.

Looking Back. \$8000 raised for Cancer. Relations with the Orphanage. Mountain perseverance - push on. Tanzanian Guides – keep climbing. In all things, God works for good of those who love him. Climbing because of grief – I found Denise. We're all climbing a mountain. We all need God's grace to carry us over the mountain.

Frank. When? **Jim.** 7 years ago @ 62.

Slow, slow. Polle, polle. 5 days to get up and get used to it.

Hugh. When is climbing season? **Jim.** I went in September. There is a rainier season. I'd never do it again.

23 guides and 8 climbers. Guides do it twice a month. \$1000 back then to the guiding company. We tipped them more than they got paid.

It was a life-changing experience. It moved me on. I have enormous respect for the Tanzanians.

What was the summit like? It was cold, a bit breezy. It can depend on the day as well.

Paul A. After you came down, did you do more?

Jim. We went into little town of Arushi. Stayed in a hotel.

Huge thank you to Jim for inspiring and amazing journey.

Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies

Sharon. Such a compelling story, Jim, thanks for sharing. One child has moved to Montreal – he's climbing his mountain. Obig city 0 I'm surviving it!

Lance. Fantastic series! 3 Canadian teams still in!

Maria. I felt that connection with Algonquin and can connect! We are going to New York City this weekend and I'm excited!

Paul A. I know people who have ventured out. Thanks for the pictures!

Ann. Have you done other climbs? **Jim.** No

Bob. Thanks for the inspiring story and personal impact.

Frank. I've never climbed a mountain. 20 days with Dad in Netherlands – he trained gunners after 25 runs. So not overseas at end.

Paul. We need reminders, a talk about what life offers!

Hugh. Thanks, Jim. My mind went to sharing with others. This would be a powerful sermon on a Sunday! If you're open to it, I'll get contact information!

Paul H. I liked what you said re after retirement, Jim.

Rob Luchetta. Thanks, Paul for inviting me today. Climbing a mountain is a great thing. Very heart felt!

Collins. Fascinating, inspiring, touching.

9. Meetings to come

May 14, Weekly Meeting, Guest Speaker, Kim Rossi, Kristen French Centre

May 21, Weekly Meeting, Guest Speaker, Eric Baldwin, Manager Land Planning, NPCA

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