



Unite for Good

WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Frank Adamson, Collins Acheampong, Paul Allen, Angela Carter, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Philip Hanna, Ann Harrison, Annie Holtby, Paul Hewitt, Fred Leppard, Carolyn Mullin, Sharon Pfeifer, Dave Schulz, Paul Snack, Mike Taylor, Touti Gendre-Guittard, Lance Wiebe, Don Haber, Karen Rush, Mary Ann Mergl, Sarah, Kelly and Rod Bradbury, Costa DeDivitiis, Finn Everett, Walter Muller & Neil Chopp of the Rotary Club of Welland, and Guest Speaker Ryan Bradbury, 2023-24 Outgoing YE Student.

1. Welcome!

2. Land Acknowledgement – Phil Hanna

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

4. 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?

5.

Invocation- Paul A

Help us to bring our best efforts to what we can know.

To love our friends and family.

To treat our employees and fellow workers fairly.

To seek justice.

To help those in need. To be the best that we can be.

And to live by the 4 Way Test.

6. Updates, Correspondence, etc.

Purse Bingo. Mel wrapped it up. A record # of dollars - \$11,500 - \$10,500 for Pathstone and \$1000 covers the cost of the 'square.' Purse Bingo is a great event! Everyone has fun playing and club members help out.

December is coming. Joint Social (catered) at Wellspring. Thursday Dec. 4, 6 pm. BYOB. Sorting out the cost. Food provided.

Next week, the 19th – Breakfast at Crossley We're at 17 and can take 3 more. Interact Board excited about their presentation.

MaryAnn Mergl is with us representing the Ontario Senior Games which will be in Huntsville in February.

7. Introducing Ryan Bradbury, our Outbound Youth Exchange student from 2023-2024! New Author! My neighbour across the street went off to King's College University, Nova Scotia this fall. He's brought his roommate and new friend, Finn, home for the school break.

Ryan. I wrote a book with my buddy Chad and I'm here to share experiences from my exchange year 2023/24. I felt pushed forward to show what an exchange year can do. In late January, I called Chad. 'We have so many stories, we should put them in a book.' I learned PERSEVERENCE! I thought it would take 2 months. It took 6. We sent out requests to YE that year in Belgium mainly. Of the 100 sent out, 58 responses came back. From 8 pm – 2am, every night, I was working on it. I got many pictures. In Apsley, at the library, I got CONNECTION- worked 6 hours a day and people bought it!

The book made it to #1 in Travel! Leaps of faith led to Unforgettable Moments! Next steps- Yukon? Pelham Library. Kings College Library. Knowing what I know now with my Journalism studies, I'd do it differently. I wrote a journal during that time -I could make ANOTHER book.

Mel. Re your present program, is it what you thought it would be? **Ryan.** If I can talk to people and get THEM talking, the course is doing what I want. For this book, I formatted many times!

Thank you, Ryan, for your spirit and courage.

Sarah, Ryan's sister is our next outgoing student.

Happy Loonies

Sharon. So happy to have so many young people in the room. I was with Rotaract and went to Japan. **Ryan.** What an outlet that could go back so far!

Fred. Glad to see your presentation.

Mel. Women in Business Awards, Welland. My daughters were nominated for the Tourism and Leisure Award.

Neil. Thanks for being so welcoming. Congrats to Ryan – **Ryan.** Thanks for encouragement!

Walter. I'm with Neil. Thanks!

Rod Bradbury. I'm happy for Sarah making it into the program. Ryan – keep it on!

Kelly B . So proud of you! Thanks for the invitation!

Sarah B. Thanks for the opportunity. I feel very blessed! We've also had a great week with Ryan and his roommate home.

Frank. WE presented \$1000 to the Legion for our participation with them this coming Poppy Day. We also donate to the Legion for our guest speakers each week.

Don. I'm new here and I appreciate the welcome from everyone.

Dave. I'm happy for Ryan. He had mentioned he was writing a book and I thought what a great program!

Collins. I'm excited to hear your story! I always wanted to write!

Annie. Thank you, Ryan. My extra copy is going to my granddaughter in Japan where she spent a year in 2014 with Youth Exchange.

Hugh. I'm doing e transfer. I continue to thank Youth Exchange participants. I'll add Ryan to 'local authors.'

Paul A. Thanks for your courage. It's incredible to see. Thanks for doing this.

Ryan. Happy to hear!

Phil. Great presentation. Your book will end up in the Bahamas!

Mike. Layers of pride here! This club, as a whole, has embraced Youth Exchange. Watching a boy like Ryan end up end up encouraging his sister, Sarah, and her friend, Costas who will apply via St Catharines large club.

Tutie. Very inspiring.

Mary Ann Mergl. I'm a retired teacher from Crossley. I taught Ryan and missed him when I retired.

Carolyn. I'm a recovering journalist. I'm happy there's new life in Journalism. Everyone has a story.

Ann. Thank you, Ryan.

Paul H. My son is in second year = much easier this year.

Karen. Congrats! Looking forward to Kenya!

Paul S. Hopefully this book is a credit at school!

Frank. Flag is here. It'll fly for the 35th Anniversary!

Next Meetings

November 19. Breakfast at Crossley with Interact Board

November 26. Board Meeting Concession Downstairs MCC, Everyone welcome!

December 3. No Meeting

December 4. Holiday Event at Wellspring. Sign up

December 10. Dr. Henri Perez, Topic: Canadian Research on Dementia and Missing Persons

December 17. District Governor Visit. Aaron Carlson.

January 7. Planning Next Cornhole Fundraiser with Food4Kids.

8. Rotary Moment. Happy Loonies.

9. Meetings/Events to come

Board Meeting Oct 22nd - Concession First Floor. Everyone Welcome.

Regular Meeting Oct. 29th - Tutie's First Presentation

Regular Meeting Nov. 12th – Ryan Bradbury, 'A Life within a Year'