



WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, October 16, 2024

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Ann Harrison, Annie Holtby, Troy Killick, Crystal Lambkin, Paul Snack, Mike Taylor, Lance Wiebe, YE Maria Araujo , Guest and Interested in Joining Us Paul Hewitt, Madison Killick.

1. Welcome - **Collins** - I woke up this morning and found it was still dark outside. I'm still getting used to the rhythms. Welcome everyone and welcome Paul Hewitt who has moved his family to Fonthill – a blended family of 3+3 children. He's interested in becoming a member.

2. Land Acknowledgement – **Mike**

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. **Toast & National Anthem – Lance**

- a) To the King and Canada, To the Office of the President of United States, and To the President of Rotary International
- b) National Anthem

4. **4-WAY TEST – Lance**

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 – Mike**

I give thanks for the opportunity to be a Rotarian.
Rotarians dig wells from which we will never drink.
We vaccinate children we will never meet.
We restore eyesight for those we will never see.
We build housing we will never live in.
We educate children we will never know.
We plant trees we will never sit under.

We feed hungry people regardless of race or politics.

We know real happiness, which as Albert Schweitzer once said, can only be found by helping others.

For this opportunity, we give thanks...

Food Pick Up. Mike. The Crossley food donated came to 1300 lbs, 480 lbs more than last year! Ethan took pictures and sent to Carolyn.

Our **Board Meeting** next Wednesday is at Crossley. We'll meet in the main foyer – unfortunately they can't handle all of us this time – an experiment.

Purse Bingo. Mel has tickets. Needs another. Looking for water jugs for the table. We have 6 plastic and some glass. Need 22 total. Not available at MCC.

Auction Update. Hugh. The Warehouse will be at the old TD Bank courtesy of Rob Lucchetta and thanks to Paul Snack. Most clubs are doing well with their donations.

Guest Speaker today is Graham Segger, Annie introducing.

Graham Segger is a retired accountant now living with his wife in the Town of Pelham. He was partner at Deloitte where he worked for 35 years. He was based in Toronto most of his career but has also worked internationally. **While accounting and finance were his vocation, he is a life-long student of history, geography, and in more recent years, genealogy.**

Graham has written two books about the historical evolution of places he has lived. His most recent is **The Land at the Crest of the Hill: Clues to Niagara History from Upper Fonthill** which has sold 450 copies since publication one year ago. He also writes articles for a variety of history, genealogy, sailing and community publications and blogs. He also serves on 'not for profit boards' in Florida where he spends much of the winter.

In 2006, Graham was elected as a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (now CPA Ontario) in recognition of his career achievements and leadership contributions to the community and to the profession.

Presentation by Graham Segger: Pelham and Fonthill History.

Thanks for the introduction. I'll start with a photo of the Silo, found in some family album. I'm sharing my screen with a slide of Indigenous Predecessors. There is not a lot of evidence that people lived here. There was seasonal camping in the Brewerton era, 2500 years ago. There are other digs in the area. Look Out was left because of archeological items. Towns and villages appeared in the 1780 Colonial era, Simcoe codified the names that can be traced back to Lincolnshire, England. These were tiny 3 or 4 house communities. Ridgeville was founded in 1840. There was a tavern at the centre and everything was around it. There was an insurrection in 1838 – there was an attack on Montgomery's Tavern in Toronto and also at the Overholt Tavern in St John (now the Conservancy). St John was a premier business area with carding mills, tanneries, etc. 50 camped at Clare's Cycles.

In 1852, there was a subdivision plan for Fonthill. In 1932, a by-pass was put in – Highway 20. Dexter D'Everardi – 200 'leading' people came to homestead for 30 years. New Yorkers came to Foss Road. From 1862-1875, there was a map, an Atlas of Lincoln and Welland. Pelham has a page. Now we have 20 lots and 14 concessions!

Graham led us through the history of the area so time was chock a block full of interesting vignettes. I hadn't realised that we wouldn't be able to share the PPT and had become engrossed in his presentation. He did give a list of the readings and their origins which I'll attach here.

https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ui=2&ik=f3b8bdafe7&attid=0.1&permmsgid=msg-f:1812743204037743518&th=19282856f9ac539e&view=att&disp=inline&realattid=f_m26n02yw0&zw

The following comment came from our Dave Sherlock as to where to find the two books Graham has published. "There appeared to be high interest in Graham Segger's presentation this morning and I

heard a number of attendee Rotarians express interest in purchasing his historical books as the meeting was ending. Also, there wasn't time left for questions and answers and I know people had questions. The two books he brought to the meeting are available for sale at Shoppers Drug Mart in Fonthill. Titles are "**The Letters of Henry Giles**" and "**The Land at the Crest of the Hill**". graham.segger@gmail.com is his email address if anyone has any questions. Graham has confirmed he is fine with us posting his email address."

Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies – Not Enough Time

Board Meeting at EL Crossley. Unfortunately, we are limited in size for our first 'test' time there on October 23.