



ROTARY CLUB OF FONTHILL

WEEKLY MEETING AGENDA

October 6, 2021

Zoom Meeting

ZOOMING Dick Goode, Paul Snack, Frank Adamson, Dave Schulz, Ann Harrison, Hugh Graham, Andy Glavac, Toy Killick, Lance Wiebe, Bob Eamer, Mel Groom, Keith McConkey, Dolores Fabianno, Paul Allen, Carolyn Mullin, Annie Holtby.

1. **Welcome Guests. Dickson Goode.**

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. **Toast: Mel**

To the Queen and Canada, To the Office of the President of United States, and To the President of Rotary International

4. **4-WAY TEST: Andy**

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: Andy**

It is good to recognize how different we are in our talents, our dreams, our backgrounds, our occupations. In our differences we can move together toward a common goal. Bless us as we meet together. Thank You for our individuality and also for our common bond. Amen.

6. **President's Report/Correspondence/Announcements: Ann**

We had a motion that we're bringing forward for a vote.

Motion: To donate to the United Way for kids' backpacks.

Moved: Hugh Graham **Seconded:** Bob Eamer **Carried:** All

This is the fall division of granting asks received by mid-September.

District Conference October 21-23 On the 22nd, the Friday, there is a CleanUp project and Social. Project is on the Steve Bauer Train – behind Gail's to Rice Road. Social is at Peter Pipers for those double vaxxed. There's a separate room there and Peter is fine with even 8. There are a few more projects on other dates. October 17th is Bring Back the Bookies, a Project of EL Crossley and Tree Planting with Rotaract if the 22nd doesn't work for you.

Pedal for Polio. Great weather on Saturday. How did it go? Frank. Things went well. About 50 riders with barbeque at the end at the Lions Park in St David's. Thanks for the donations. You can still donate up till October 24.

Carolyn. Business Meeting next week. All month we're having an Economic and Community Development Focus.

Today's Presentation

Carolyn. Introduction of Dolores Fabiano

Dolores Fabiano was born and raised in Welland. She has been managing local Chambers of Commerce in Niagara since 1990. She has assisted hundreds of entrepreneurs in building their businesses and managing their growth. With 30 years of experience Dolores has provided guidance and support to young entrepreneurs, displaced workers setting up businesses and seasoned professionals. During this time she also taught Economics and Business Enterprise courses for the Tourism Development Post Graduate Program at Niagara College. Her passion and enthusiasm for her community are also demonstrated through her extensive community service.

She has served on the Board of Directors for the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, United Way, School Parent Council, Niagara South Coast Tourism Association, Venture Niagara, Niagara Falls Tourism association and the Niagara Children's Centre to name a few.

She has been a chaperone for "Dreams Take Flight" and an active member of the Board of Directors for Maplevue Charities. As Chair of the association's scholarship program, she coordinates and distributes 18 scholarships to students from 7 different high schools across South Niagara each year. Dolores has been a champion for all things Niagara.

Dolores Fabiano - Economic and Commercial Development.

The Chamber is an information sharing service. Niagara Falls, Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne are a team. They each still maintain their own chamber. Dolores reports to these 4 Chambers Boards/ Each is different. The directors of each understand subtle nuances. There is an MOU with NOTL, Grimsby and Thorold plus our 4. An Associate Program means that any business with membership in its home chamber can have a relationship with two others for \$75/year. Networking promotes learning opportunities. This partnership of chambers represents 3500 businesses. Continually evaluating need for the 'Road to Recovery.'

It's a hands-on approach. Lot of time and patience is needed. Our Year End Report showed we did more in 2020 than in 2019. For example, cross border issues, golf tournament, working with Brock and Grad students, money for working with students ready for work. On September 13, we had a golf tournament with 70 people. Hybrid events like today's. We'll see how it goes. YouTube channel, Podcast - having conversations we'd be having normally. 20 episodes were in first season. We just started second season. 7 of Niagara's mayors have been on. Junkin is on 1st next Thursday, the 14th. At the digital site, customers buy products. No cost for 6 months. After that, \$99/month fee which is deducted from the \$\$ coming in. Many businesses use it for gift giving for employers.

Retention is big, our #1 challenge. Niagara, Welland and Fonthill training program for employees. There was a loud and clear response. It's not all about money! Flexibility is the key. Looking at education and guiding businesses through this transformation.

Carolyn. We talked about staffing levels before. **Dolores.** We had 9 staff pre-pandemic. We've been operating with 2 ½ since. Initially just Dolores was working but not manageable. Members needed us more than ever. We could have forwarded emails and said 'figure it out'! Before the first lockdown, we had sense of where things were going. We'd phone and ask 'How are you doing? How long can you sustain yourself? Looking at every penny they spend. **Lance.** I have a question about development in the Niagara region. I'm concerned about some of the urban development and sprawl. **Dolores.** Tune into the Mayors' Series. There's some development in Port Colborne and Fort Erie too. I invite you to join the session next Thursday. **Dave.** A question about membership. If someone joins one chamber, do they belong to all? **Dolores.** Join Pelham but under the banner of South Niagara. Immigration helped before students in Tourism and Hospitality. Students have changed careers - they don't want shifts, etc. Employers say they want everyone back. They don't want people working from their homes. Flexibility is happening everywhere around us. Hotels weren't open to capacity because of staffing. A lot of rules were preventing people moving for jobs in provincial rules. **Ann.** There are lots of issues. It was interesting to hear there was trending before Covid. Thanks, Dolores, for sharing. In appreciation, we donate to the Pelham Library and it's in your name and our other speakers when we make our annual donation to the library.

7. Rotary Moment and Happy Loonies – Hugh

Rotary Moment. The Rotary Club of Fonthill will be receiving the Governor's Trophy. The award we won: The first year it was offered, it was the President's International Citation. The Presidential Citation was an award from the President of Rotary International NOT for the President's Citation. We won. There were 25 goals entered at RI. Last year you needed to have at least 13 won at the gold level. The Lighthouse Award is the next level. Bob and Nan Bruce noticed as they travelled around the District that there were a lot of lighthouses and noted Rotary had Lighthouses – Bob created the Lighthouse award where you had to win more than the Presidential Citation. The Governor's Trophy was in Rick Sterne's year for a club who did some project to promote peace. Now, 7, 8 yrs. later, the club also had to win the other 2 awards. This year we went above and beyond including attendance at Gala, District Conference, Pedal for Polio – 23 of the possible goals fulfilled. I will be at the Conference Saturday to officially receive it.

Keith. Anniversary is today.

Bob. Happy to be living in Fonthill and Canada.

Lance. Congrats to Frank for being in the Rotary Magazine.

Dolores. My daughter just got engaged and will marry next year.

Paul. We made the Rotary Triple Crown! Thanks, Hugh!

Andy. WE had a competition at work for fun. I had 19 ballots at the end and won an outdoor patio heater. We're donating it to the TV Auction!

Mel. Getting back to normal/ Back to my 3 hours volunteering at Wellspring every Wednesday.

Troy. Our Butterfly Way Project - we're getting 6 Monarchs. We saw them going into cocoons and out again and they came and sat on you. 5 or 6 Swallowtails are still to come out. They have to winter then – so they're at Killicks!

Frank. We'll be exchanging the award at the Conference.

Carolyn. Our 26th wedding Anniversary today. Happy that the first time I met Dolores was when Carolyn was covering the Town Meeting quite a while ago!

Annie. Went out to Ridgeway for a 1st Birthday party for Nathan, Peter's only grandbaby. Also I was rereading some minutes and noticed that instead of Pedal for Polio, I'd written Peddle for Polio. Wither people were kind or didn't notice! Made ME laugh.

Dave. Happy with the equipment at MCC for our Hybrid meetings.

Ann. Thanks everyone. Dave and Ann came Monday to check on the AV> Happy it's worked and we'll continue with the Hybrid meeting.

8. **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Birthdays in October include Mike Taylor (4th), Michael Jacques (5th), Dave Schulz (7th), and Ann Harrison (24th)

Anniversaries include Keith McConkey (6th), Carolyn Mullin (7th). All these are listed in Club Runner.

Maria joined the club in September of 2017

Next Meetings/Events:

October 2nd – Participate for Polio

TV Auction due date coming soon – have your donations listed on line by the end of next week.