



WEEKLY MEETING Minutes
Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Collins Acheampong, Frank Adamson, Paul Allen, Debbie Blakelock, Angela Carter, Bob Eamer, Hugh Graham, Mel Groom, Don Haber, Ann Harrison, Paul Hewitt, Annie Holtby, Carolyn Mullin, Karen Rush, Dave Schulz, Dave Sherlock, Paul Snack, Lance Wiebe, Guest Speaker – Dave Sherlock, Classification Talk.

1. Welcome!

2. Land Acknowledgement – Debbie

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 Anthems– ALL

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?

Invocation.

Change is a beautiful reminder.

Rotary Moment

Reflection on The Book Lady. 1 free book – birth to age 5. In 2009, Rotary encouraged people to contribute. Dolly received a Paul Harris Fellow at the International District

Conference in Montreal. Rotary gets the word out. Her hope was that no one was left out.

6. Announcements.

Angela – Start Me Up Niagara!

Hugh. Charity Bingo. List: Licensing done. Bank accounts are set up. Document from OLG – contract taken care of. Verify if you still want to do online. Online doc came later re Accessibility- how to access others. Once you've done the training, Hugh and Sandy are doing next Saturday. Have Calendar of all available dates. \$300/hr. each! Debbie has ordered the shirts + extras. 6 men and 6 women. Debbie introduced us to Lily!

Belgium Wounded Warriors. Frank is heading to Belgium and wounded Warriors ride next week. He also noted BOCCE at Welland.

7. Presentation. No introduction needed for Dave Sherlock! We welcomed Guest/Resident Speaker Dave Sherlock, speaking to his Classification.

Dave. Once upon a time in Port Weller, Dave's grandfather taught him how to drive tractor...and put the same # of apples that Dave had on the wagon. St Catharines still had Kresge's and the Union Jack! When Dave was 10 years old, the family moved to Memorial Drive and City Hall. We had a unique barn – Silver Foxes raised there, Any bunk beds are probably still there! It was convenient to EL Crossley. **We had asparagus! Crossley had a great Band Program.** Trips! Disney World! Grey Cup Parade! It built self-esteem amongst Band Members! During high school. I got a job on the trains - in the galley, as a porter. Got paid and nowhere to spend it! It was an interesting job. One summer, **I saw the parade and married Andrea!**

I got a great management job and was happy.

I coordinated movie shoots with a production company. **I saw Liz Taylor and Carol Burnett. I was responsible for VIA Rail Station at White River/1914 Corp in Canadian Army.** Got a black bear in my sight, loaded him onto the passenger train. London 200. built a home for the bear there. **Winnie the Pooh was born in the White River.**

Christopher Robin was AA Milne's Father. I took Full Operators' Training in Manitoba. Learned how to ride train in 1996. Teddy Bear Express – earned switches! NOT a Road Engineer. **I was assigned train crews. I left VIA Rail after 20 years. Brae Link – 6 sites – I was assigned to one of them.** They wanted to get away from Larger Rail. St Catharines Transit was needed. University passes for Niagara College and Brock: traffic doubled! Good for Niagara College and Brock U - traffic doubled - good for St Catharines' travelers! We filled loads of buses collecting food. **Eddy Schack**, a kind, generous man heard about the food drive on the radio station and **came to the food collection.**

Gillian's Place was the recipient.

It was a great group I worked with. I decided to retire in 2018. I had worked with 180 employees. **Andrea and I bought a farm in Lincoln by a creek.** There's a picture of hay tracks that's still there. 3 horses rescued from Fort Erie Racetrack. **Andrea got a level 2 English jumping! Note the cross on the donkey's back. There's a tale that the donkey carried Christ.** Picture next of a potbellied pig spike!

Sons were great help on the farm. Lost 60% of workforce! I was taking piano from Royal Conservatory of Music. Changed to guitar! United Way - on board lately.

Vineland summer – green veggies for Food Bank!

Now? On board of Directors for the YMCA and the Pelham Historical Society

Great Presentation!

8. Happy thoughts.

No Time!

Next Meetings/Events

September 9. Weekly Meeting, Speaker, John Braithwaite, Niagara Hope Centre

September 16. Weekly Meeting Speaker, Don Haber, Classification Talk

September 23. Breakfast Meeting at Domenic's. Please Register

September 30. Board Meeting, MCC First Floor Concession, All Welcome