



ROTARY CLUB OF FONTHILL

WEEKLY MEETING MINUTES

September 8th, 2021

Zoom Meeting

ZOOMING Ann Harrison, Mike Taylor, Paul Snack, Dave Schulz, Marcella Blanchard, Lance Wiebe, Paul Allen, Annie Holtby, Andy Glavac, Bob Eamer, Carolyn Mullin, Keith McConkey.

1. **Welcome** – Marcella **Blanchard** thanked the Creator and Mother Earth even with this crazy weather. 'Miigwech' to the water, the fish that reside in it, plants in water and on the earth, all our two legged friends, the 4 directions of the wind, brother sky and sister moon. 'Miigwech' for helping with Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation.

2. **Land Acknowledgement - Paul**

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: Paul**

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: Paul**

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: Annie**

O God, we come together as a human family, blessed to be alive, blessed to be on this and, blessed to have neighbours as diverse as your creation. You surround us with air we breathe, water we drink, all manner of living plants and animals that delight us and sustain us. Thank you, Creator, for all you provide. We take a moment in silence to ponder the blessings you give

us—of family, friends, places to call home, the food we eat, the web of life in which we with all creatures live, move, and have our being. Hear us as we give thanks...

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

Continue to keep Kevin in our thoughts. His dad is in Palliative Care.

7. Guest Speaker – Introduction by Ann–

Marcella Blanchard Born and raised in Welland, Marcella is a Youth Navigator with NPAAMB Urban Indigenous Youth Employment and Training. She is a Haudenosaunee woman, Upper Mohawk of Six Nations, Turtle Clan and Granddaughter of residential school survivor from “The Mush Hole” in Brantford.

Marcella Blanchard, Truth, Reconciliation and the Upcoming Orange Shirt Day

Thank you for inviting me to speak about Truth and Reconciliation. There are Two (2) parts – Truth AND Reconciliation. It's important to understand the Truth aspect. It's important to hear everyone's story, not just the survivors but also *their* families. It has affected Marcella. It was a big source of shame to Marcella's grandmother. She had to sell her rights of Indigenous status for 5 cents to marry who she wished. It was through the Indian Act that status was established – it is traced through the maternal bloodline.

The TRUTH part is really important. Lots of survivors are telling *their* truths. Nearly every child had to go to residential school – it was the law. It was cultural genocide on the most vulnerable through shame and abuse. Hair was cut off at the start and hair was very important – it was like sweet grass, soft and long. The children were always far away from their homes. The point of schools was to cut the children off from parents, families. It was comparable to concentration camps with no disrespect to our seniors. Our indigenous peoples have fought to keep our culture alive. The first school was from the 1850's. Orange Shirt Day is September 30th Acknowledging the somberness of September 30, we can participate in November 11th ceremonies. This year we're finally acknowledging that we're standing in solidarity with Indigenous peoples over the 'disconnect' between child and parent. DNA can change and is passed on. Education and understanding is needed. Marcella needs to know because her grandmother couldn't talk about it.

215 children were found in Kamloops. The search continued, 7000 found, search continues. What has the federal government followed up on since that initial discovery? **'Truth,' especially this year, should be the focus.**

Ann. What can we do as an organisation? To show we're working towards truth and reconciliation?

Marcella. Flags have been lowered for 215 days. It's important to think about what happened. The Sacred Garden at Willowbank would be a good place to visit.

Drums across Canada – wanting to have all the drums come together wherever they are in Canada. Taking Time and Have Space for the 30th. Celebration of Nations starts this weekend. Indigenous culture is all about feeling connected. As an aboriginal, I tell you that you are welcome.

Paul A. We went over to Six Nations and thought of our grandkids and buying them moccasins. How do I as a non-indigenous person be more culturally sensitive? Marcella. You are just by asking the question. It's also not disrespectful to wear moccasins. Paul. 'Miigwech'.

Paul S. I went online to YMCA of Niagara and they're raising fund for Indigenous people by selling Orange Shirts for \$30.

Ann. September 12th at 4 pm Drums are at Montebello Park because it's occurring across Canada.

Andy. Fully agree that it starts with education. I had the opportunity to go to 3 day pow wow ad learned so much.

Marcella. This year it's time to stop. There will probably be a fire at the Sacred Garden. 4 Medicines are planted there.

Ann. Thanks so much Marcella. We make a donation to Pelham Library and Literacy for all our speakers.

Resource to share with Club after this week's discussion:

<https://medicinewheel.education/pages/btoss>

Sources for Orange shirt that give back to the cause.

<https://turtlelodgetradingpost.ca/blogs/news/tltp-is-an-official-distributor-for-the-orange-shirt-society>

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

YWCA Niagara.

8. **Rotary Moment and Happy loonies – Paul**

Keith. Thanks to Marcella. You can never learn more than from someone's experience. Thankful for the structure too that 'back to school' brings.

Carolyn. Thankful our own children are great teachers. They introduced me to 'Indian Horse.' Younger generations! Tess trying to move to Guelph - had surgery yesterday.

Andy. Always interesting what you get from grass roots – Marcella's story from the granddaughter's perspective.

Lance. Presentation was sobering. We have a 7 day expedition booked in Haida Gwaii. Layla and Felix are moving on (Tennis). Our kids are coming for a week and a half from Vancouver Island.

Bob grew up with Mohawk culture due to my grandfather and the Akwasasnee.

Dave. Happy to tour around the province and visit friends! Good to know others step in and things get done – part of a large family.

Annie. Presentation was good for the heart. Hope we can have more.

Mike. It would be good to have an indigenous member in our club. I'd talked to Brian Kon about my grandfather who was an Indian Agent. Brian said thank you for sharing that and learning that there were some Indian agents who were good, caring people.

Ann, Marcella and Ann are both part of Leadership Niagara. I thought her speaking to us would align with our club goals. Kids come home from school with their insights (education makes a difference). Marcella's family is up ear Lindsay. My family is from that area so we probably took their land, etc.

Paul. I understand the simple things and the grass roots and have to avoid taking this lightly. More education is needed. Happy Zak is back at school.

Ann. Tonight at board meeting, we'll talk of return to Meridian Community Centre. Ann has been talking to them. Mel had asked about doing a grant.

9. **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

There are no birthdays, or anniversaries in September listed in Club Runner. **Maria** joined the club in September of **2017 - HER FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARY!!! WOOHOO!**

Next Meetings:

Reminder - September 15th - Multi Club Joint Meeting is an opportunity to hear what they're doing. There will be breakout rooms – **DIFFERENT ZOOM LINK**