

Minutes of Meeting Niagara Secular Humanist

April 12, 2011

Location: Unitarian Congregation of Niagara, 223 Church Street, St. Catharines

Present: Roy Blake, John Berry, Al Edwards, Don Stevenson, Vince Highcock, David Boise. Don Mook, Mark Andrews, John Novak, Brenda Gibson, Martin Gibson, Jon Stahl, Phil Curtis^[1]

1. John opened the meeting at 7:06. John read a brief version of Minutes of the March meeting. Roy read the Treasurer's Report.

2. The format of the meeting was as follows. We watched a video in which Dawkins interviewed a medical professional interested in "evolutionary medicine". After each segment, Roy stopped the video for a discussion period. Many topics were discussed including the legacy of evolution in the human body, the "imperfection" of the evolved body, cancer, human longevity. The MD referred frequently to George Williamson's Theory of Aging, the evolutionary value of pain, mental illness (example anxiety and panic attacks may have been useful at a time when people were often threatened by lions). Why do men die younger than women? Studies show that the ratio at age 20 is 300 men have died to every 100 women. Our bodies were not designed for good health but for reproduction. Natural Selection does not provide a "Guide for Life."

3. Newcomers were invited to tell the group a little about themselves. Mark Andrews and Don Mook did so.

4. John announced the time, location and subject of the next meeting and the meeting ended before 9 PM.

^[1] The small turnout may have been partly attributed to the National Leader's debate which took place at the same time. This was, of course, not anticipated at the time the meeting was scheduled.