



December 6th, 2017

The Fortarian

Rotary Club of Thunder Bay, (Fort William)

2017/2018 Board of Directors

Website www.fwrotary.ca

President: Therese Lim

Directors: Jerry Williams

Treasurer: Boris Cham

Solade Nicol

Secretary: Joan Krisko

Dave McColl

President Elect: Sante Sottile

Dave Knutson

Past President: Bob Hookham

Sharon Badanai

Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,

Bruce Nugent

SJCG Hogarth Riverview Manor

Boardroom 300 Lillie St North, 6.30pm

Allocations Committee Committee

Rotary House Lottery Committee

Chair: Peter Stetsko

Chair: Dave Knutson

Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month,

Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month,

Weiler Maloney Nelson Board Room 12 noon.

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Weekly Dinner Meetings

Mailing Address

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

Thunder Bay, ON

Airlane Hotel and Conference Centre

P.O. Box 10061

698 W. Arthur St. Thunder Bay, ON

Canada P7B 6T6

Note: For July and August, meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday only.

Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

Meeting of December 6th, 2017

The Sergeant at Arms for the evening was Robert Moore. Guests at the meeting included Honourable Rotarian Erin Osesky (attending with her dad Ted) and the evening's "presenter".

Robert Moore proposed a toast to the Queen of Canada.

Rotarian Dave Murray introduced the evening's speaker, Thunder Bay author Jean E. Pendziwol. Ms. Pendziwol has written a number of books, primarily for children. She has deep roots in our community and City and embraces the region's culture, history and geography. She explained how she found inspiration from both these regional attributes and her family experiences. For example, her first children's book "No Dragons for Tea" was written to allay her daughter's anxiety following the disruption of a school fire drill. Using the scenario of a dragon's inadvertent sneeze starting a fire, she provided fire safety advice to children in an engaging and non-threatening manner. The success of this approach stimulated additional books on water safety, stranger safety and bullying. These have been popularly received. The quality of the work has resulted in some being selected as MacDonald's Restaurants Children's Meal "giveaways", promoting both safety and literacy.

As a young person, she spent time sailing Lake Superior with her family, culminating in a 14 month adventure; sailing to the Bahamas. The experience sailing the Lake and ocean inspired the book "Dawn Watch" about a child sailing Lake Superior with their Father. The book was illustrated by Nicolas Debon (whose work in this book was shortlisted for a Governor General's Award for Illustration).

Volunteering at Old Fort William inspired the book "The Red Sash" about a young boy living at the Fort around 1815/16. Ms. Pendziwol remarked that the life of women and children living in Canada in the early 1800's was a topic with limited resources or references.

Family history and a love of cross country skiing inspired "Marja's Skis", a story of perseverance and inner strength. The story is based on an ancestor, who, with her sister, was orphaned at an early age and adopted by the pioneer community in which they lived (Mokomon, north of Kakabeka Falls).

Similarly, the beauty of the transformation of scenery by the first heavy snowfall prompted "Once Upon a Northern Light", a poem that describes the natural activities occurring as a child sleeps and the snow falls. The book was highly acclaimed, being selected as a "book of the year" by a number of organizations and shortlisted for a number of other awards, including The Governor General's Literary Awards-Children's Literature- Text 2013.

Canoe trips to Quetico stimulated “Me and You and the Red Canoe”. Ms. Pendziwol had explained that, in many cases, she had not met the Illustrator’s of her books as this was coordinated by the Publisher and often the artists lived in other parts of the country. In the case of this book she had the opportunity to meet the illustrator, who goes only by the name “Phil”. She admired how “Phil” had captured the atmosphere of the Northwest, although he doesn’t live in the region.

Now that her children have left home, she has had more time to dedicate to writing. She has completed a novel “The Lighthouse Keeper’s Daughter” which has been translated into 11 languages and is sold in 13 countries around the world. Based on her life and experiences in the region, it is natural to see the inspiration of this book; the importance of family, sailing, outdoors adventure, the geography, observation and enjoyment of nature, the uniqueness and isolation of the coastal islands on which the lighthouses were located.



Answering questions, Ms. Pendziwol touched on the topics of community support for local writers, the collaborative attitude within the network of colleagues in the area, the hard work that goes into marketing the manuscripts and the serendipity that helps in establishing a foothold on the path to success.

President Therese thanked the Speaker for the thoughtful and inspiring presentation.

Brian Phillips was fine master, providing hints at idioms based on numerical concepts, with the sum of the numbers contained in the phrases totaling 96. While most of the club members had already “lost” during the first phase of this exercise, the Rotary significance of the “96” had everyone either “at sixes and sevens” or “behind the eight ball” until 96 was revealed as the number of new polio cases, 16 of which were “wild” virus caused, the balance vaccine related. While this might suggest fodder for anti-vaccine advocates, the actual vaccine caused number is a tiny fraction of the over 10 billion vaccine doses administered.

Announcements:

President Therese reviewed correspondence received by the Club, including letters of thanks from:

- Coleen Kennedy, recipient of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine bursary,
- The Community Clothing Assistance organization who had received a \$25,000 grant for critical roof repairs and
- Steve Adams and Glenn Craig, writing on behalf of the Hospital Foundation, thanking the Club for all of the Club’s donations, most recently the final payment towards the \$500,000 Exceptional Cancer Care campaign pledge.

President Therese thanked President Elect Sante Sottile for leading the meeting last week in her absence.

President Therese had attended the MS Society Christmas Event this past weekend, in response to their invitation, and was pleasantly surprised when the Club was recognized with a Plaque presented in gratitude for the Club’s support. A thank-you note was also received from Lakehead Rotarian Sandy Lychowyd (in her work role with the MS Society).

Cynthia Judge had filled the timeslots for the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle support at the Superstore.

Irene Sottile reminded everyone of the Rotary Children's Christmas Party December 20 at the Airline Hotel. The event is open to Rotarians and their families. For further information contact Irene at irenesottile@hotmail.com or (807)-767-3359.

Shelterhouse Christmas Dinner: the Christmas Dinner at Shelterhouse will occur December 11, 2017. Rotarian Andy Morrow is looking for assistance Sunday December 10 and potential potato peelers/preparation assistance is required between 4:00 and 5:00 pm Monday December 11. For further information please contact Solade Nicol at Solademina@hotmail.com

There will be no meeting next Wednesday as the Rotary Adult Christmas Party, will be held at the Best Western Plus Norwester Hotel & Conference Centre the following evening, December 14, 2017. There will be a symposium at 6:00 pm with dinner to follow at 6:30pm. There will be a cash bar. Tickets are available now - \$55 per attendee. Contact Dawn Sebesta for further information: dmsebesta@gmail.com

Other Events:

- Rotary Carol Sing at St Paul's Anglican Church Sunday December 17, 2017
- Satellite Club:
 - Assist at Shelterhouse December 11, 2017
 - Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDA)
- Rotary International Conference, Toronto 2018 –the early-bird rates are ending December 15, 2017 –see: <http://www.riconvention.org/en/toronto/register>

Lighterside: KS Joseph entertained us; recalling a congregation's enthusiasm for their Minister's call to dump alcoholic beverages in the local stream, followed by a joke about jumping to the wrong conclusions.

50/50: The lucky ticket holder was Heather Vita, with a pot over \$250. Unfortunately for her, the luck stopped when she drew the eight of Clubs. The pot will continue to grow....



The house committee hard at work



Diane with centerpieces she makes for sale.

Editor – Erle Wheatley

Photo's Irene Sottile Scribe – Dave Knutson

