

FORTARIAN

WEDNESDAY 08/01/2025

THUNDER BAY, CANADA

Meetings



2nd & 4th
Wednesdays



Dinner - 5:30pm
Meeting - 6:15pm



Daytona's Restaurant
965A Cobalt Crescent

2024-2025 Board of Directors

President:

Glenn Craig

President-Elect:

Jodi Phillips

Past President:

Irene Sottile

Secretary:

Stephen Margarit

Treasurer:

Dawn Sebesta

Directors:

Laura Craig

Dave Knutson

Stephen Margarit

Mandi O'Connor

Joseph Osei Ababio

Dawn Sebesta



Kay Parries

5580 District Governor



Glenn Craig

Club President



Stephanie Urchick

RI President



LAST MEETING

8 January, 2025

This meeting took place at Our Kids Count on McKenzie Street. Jackie Knough, the Executive Director, welcomed everyone. She, then, introduced Margaret Hajdinjak, the Program Manager. Before, the presentation, we enjoyed a wonderful roast pork dinner that had been prepared onsite by a staff member.

Our Kids Count provides services at four locations throughout the city. Programs are offered in food security, counseling and support groups, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Roots of Empathy, licensed home childcare, short term emergency childcare, home visiting, and workshops.

In the area of food security, Our Kids Count provides community breakfasts and dinners as well as community kitchens for pre- and post- natal women and for children. There is also an emergency food cupboard that can be accessed once a week. Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board funds the food programs. The Regional Food Distribution Association provides the food.

The Roots of Empathy program helps to develop empathy in children and adults by having a mother and baby visit a school, once a month. Lessons in empathy are developed around this visit. One of the goals of this program is to break the cycle of violence and poor parenting.

Since 2022, Our Kids Count has become a licensed Home Care Child Agency, with funding provided by the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board. There are various homes throughout the city where childcare is provided. There are also two homes in Longlac.

Our Kids Count provides workshops determined by the needs of their clients. There are also community events such as Christmas dinner, food hampers, and camping. All of the programs provided by the agency are free. Core funding comes from the Public Health Agency of Canada, donations, and through fundraising.

Jackie then went on to discuss potential future plans for the organization. Afterwards, club members went on a tour of the building. President Glenn thanked Jackie and Margaret for hosting the Club for this meeting. He announced that former Club Member Robert Welter had passed away.



CLUB UPDATES

Correspondence

- Faye Peterson House sent a thank-you note for the donation of toys that were collected at the Tri-club Christmas party.
- The Festival of Music expressed their thanks for the generous donation from the Club.
- A card of thanks was received from a winner at the Music Festival.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIBE:



Bev Knutson

Next Meeting: Jan. 22

Linda Bruins
Evergreen: A United Neighbourhood



FW ROTARY CAROL SING

Another Fort William Rotary Carol Sing is in the books! Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Thunder Bay Christmas Cheer Fund in a festive way to the tune of \$1,405.35!

This annual event was started by Port Arthur Rotary in 1979, and in 1980 FW Rotarian and St. Paul's Parishioner Saville Shuttleworth brought the event to our club for a festive way to bring and support Christmas Cheer! Thanks to St. Paul's Anglican Church for once against hosting us!

A big THANK YOU to all the local talent who performed so well; Vibe Performing Arts Academy, Sounds of Superior Chorus, Fort William Male Choir and the individual talents. We also want to thank the 70 Thunder Bay Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron for their help with the donation collection.

This event wouldn't be possible without the help of many Rotarians, including the organizing committee of Dawn, Therese and Laura.



Upcoming Events



JAN
22
5:30 PM | 6:15 PM
Club Meeting:
Linda Bruins Evergreen

JAN
24
9:00 PM
ROTARACT:
Rock the Post

FEB
12
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Valentine's Dinner

FEB
23
Rotary Anniversary
Happy 120 Years!

FEB
26
5:30 PM | 6:15 PM
Club Meeting:
Hemophilia NWO

MARCH
12
5:30 PM | 6:15 PM
Club Meeting:
Topic TBD

MARCH
26
5:30 PM | 6:15 PM
Club Meeting:
Topic TBD

APRIL
9
5:30 PM | 6:15 PM
Club Meeting:
Topic TBD

APRIL
23
5:30 PM | 6:15 PM
Club Meeting:
Topic TBD