

FORTARIAN

WEDNESDAY 11/03/2026

THUNDER BAY, CANADA

Meetings



2nd & 4th
Wednesdays



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



Daytona's Restaurant
965A Cobalt Crescent

2025-2026 Board of Directors

President:

Jodi Phillips

President-Elect:

Stephen Margarit

Past President:

Glenn Craig

Secretary:

Bev Knutson

Treasurer:

Dawn Sebesta

Directors:

Laura Craig

Laurie Etter

Bev Knutson

Dave Knutson

Nancy Patterson

Dawn Sebesta



Elaine Hansen

5580 District Governor



Jodi Phillips

Club President

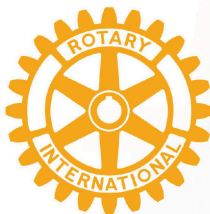


Francesco Arezzo

RI President

01/04

Fort William
Rotary
Club



Romy Marlo Ellis, founder of Crush coffee was our guest speaker. Romy is a successful entrepreneur with a passion for the empowerment of women. She founded Crush Coffee after identifying the under-representation of women in the coffee industry.

Romy noted that:

- In the coffee growing industry, women are less than 30% of the plantation owners/managers.
- in the coffee producing countries, women earn approximately 40% less than men
- some of the coffee producing countries have high rates of sexualized violence

Romy identified the under-representation of women as a “gap” in the coffee industry and decided to create a business that “is committed to employing and empowering women while providing women with a luxurious and feminine coffee experience.”

Further, she envisioned this business as being a “legacy business”, meaning a firm:

- aligned with her personal values
- something she loves doing
- profitable
- continues in one’s absence; “When you die it carries on”

With these goals in mind, Crush Coffee has engaged with women in the design and marketing of the coffee, which is purchased from plantations owned by a woman and which employs fair employment practices.

The company has fundraised to support a breast cancer patient in need of assistance.



They are exploring opportunities with a local group providing services to the community. That initiative contemplates providing safe employment training opportunities for disadvantaged women. Currently, the company has its’ beans roasted in Kitchener-Waterloo. If justified, roasting in the city could further expanding its’ Thunder Bay base.

Romy generously handed out some bagged coffee beans to fortunate coffee lovers and graciously answered questions from the club members. The coffee is currently available at Superstore in the specialty products area. Just look for the bright pink packaging with multi-coloured profiles of women’s heads.

Next Meeting: March 25

Partners Event Offsite: RFDA



ANNOUNCEMENTS

House Lottery

- The Lottery Licence has been approved.
- The planned launch of this year's House Lottery is April 8, 2026.
- The exterior siding is being installed, the interior painting is underway, and no concerns regarding completion timing are identified.
- The Sales sign-up sheet process will be outlined by e-mail

EVENTS

Celebrating Partnerships Evening

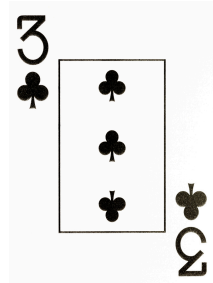
- The Celebrating Partnership event will take place Wednesday March 25 beginning at 5:15 p.m. at RFDA in The Gathering Hall. Please RSVP to Dawn Sebesta. This year's event will include a silent auction and other fundraising.

RYLA Fundraiser

- The Sleeping Giant pub "farewell" tour Saturday March 28, 2026 at 4:30 pm. Cost is \$20/person. All proceeds will be used in support of sending a student to RYLA this year. An e-mail announcement will follow to all Club members.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

A total of \$90 in tickets were sold, adding \$45 to the pot. The pot is now at \$225. Fhara's ticket was drawn but she unfortunately found no Queen of Hearts, instead a lowly 3 of Clubs.



Dave Knutson

THIS WEEKS' SCRIBE:

FW ROTARY HISTORY

Scholarship Programme

The Fort William Rotary Club Scholarship Programme was inaugurated in February 1947, when the directors, acting on a survey of the Rural Activities Committee, voted to provide two High School Entrance Scholarships of \$175 each to two boys from rural areas whose ability and need warranted this aid. The Youth Service Committee set up the plan and operated it for the Club until the year 1954, when there was no longer such need due to the establishment of a bus service from rural areas to city high schools. In 8 years, sixteen students from rural schools received the scholarships at a cost to the club of \$2,800.

In 1956, the directors accepted the recommendation of the Youth Service Committee to grant university & teachers' college scholarships to grade 13 students having at least an average of 66%, and wishing to proceed to university or teachers' college. Scholarships totalling \$4,500 have been given out under this plan for the 5 years between 1956-61.

FOUNDATION NEWS

Since 2013, The Rotary Foundation has invested more than \$230 million to support thousands of water, sanitation, and hygiene initiatives. Behind these numbers is Rotary's unique approach. Rather than offering one-time fixes, we train communities to manage systems for generations, moving beyond charity to lasting change...Indeed, water projects improve health, foster economic opportunity, and amplify education through increased school attendance, especially for girls who no longer spend hours fetching water. And they fight poverty. By giving to our Foundation and volunteering in water projects, you are part of this success. Everything we do opens an opportunity for someone, somewhere." Echoing Trustee Knaack, RI President, Francesco Arezzo calls on all Rotarians to "reflect on the freshwater systems that sustain your community and the role Rotary can play in protecting them..." because, "when we connect local action to a global vision, we strengthen Rotary's ability to make lasting change. Together, by extending our reach and working side by side, we truly Unite for Good." (Rotary Magazine, March 2026:1)

Upcoming Events



MARCH

16

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Volunteering:
RFDA

MARCH

25

5:30 PM

Offsite Meeting:
Partner's Event

MARCH

28

4:30 PM

Fundraiser:
SG Brewery Tour

APRIL

6

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Volunteering:
Shelter House

APRIL

8

5:30 PM | 6:15 PM

Club Meeting:
Katy Commisso - OBA

APRIL

20

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Volunteering:
RFDA

APRIL

22

5:30 PM | 6:15 PM

Club Meeting:
Clubrunner

APRIL

25

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Volunteering:
McIntyre River Clean-up

MAY

4

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Volunteering:
Shelter House