

# FORTARIAN

WEDNESDAY 25/03/2026 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*

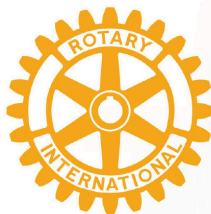


**Francesco Arezzo**

*RI President*

01/04

Fort William  
**Rotary**  
Club



# LAST MEETING

25 March, 2026

The Partnership Celebration, this evening, was held at RFDA. Stephen Margarit, President-Elect & Allocations Committee Chair, was the Master of Ceremonies.

President Jodi Phillips welcomed everyone and presented the opening remarks. The theme of the evening was gratitude and the celebration of partnerships. In working together, positive change is created in Thunder Bay.

In 2025, the House Lottery celebrated its 39th anniversary. During this time, the Club has donated over nine million dollars to community partners. Each dollar given has an effect on the community because the partners use the funds to turn them into real outcomes. President Jodi extended her thanks to all of the Rotarians who assisted in the Lottery and to all of the Community Partners.

The Awards were then given out. President-Elect Stephen read the name of the recipient and President Jodi presented the Award. Over \$584,000, in total, was donated this evening.

The recipients were:

- 70<sup>th</sup> Thunder Bay RC Air Cadet Squadron
- Boys' & Girls' Club
- Children's Aid Society
- Camp Quality
- Christmas Cheer Fund
- Conseil scolaire de DC des aurores boreales
- DEK Foundation
- Easter Seals
- Evergreen: A United Neighbourhood
- George Jeffrey Children's Foundation
- Hospice Northwest
- Lakehead District School Board Scholarship Fund
- Lakehead Festival of Music and the Arts
- Northern Nishnawbe Education Council
- Our Kids Count
- Regional Food Distribution Association (RFDAJ)
- Salvation Army
- Shelter House
- St. Joseph's Foundation
- Thunder Bay Catholic School Board
- Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation
- Wilderness Discovery Centre



After the presentations, President Jodi remarked that Fort William Rotary and the other two local clubs are looking for new members. More people provide more hands to do the work and keep the Rotary spirit alive in Thunder Bay. The Board is currently developing a Corporate Membership process. Please reach out, if you are interested in becoming a part of Rotary.

The Chair of the House Lottery Committee, Cindy Levanto, promoted the 40th House Lottery which will be launched on Friday, April 10 at 11:00 a.m. The ticket price remains the same this year. One ticket is \$100 and three tickets are \$250.

The winner of the travel blitz was Bob Hookham. The winners of the Silent Auction were also announced.



## Next Meeting: April 8

**Katy Commisso**  
Democracy & Law



# FW ROTARY HISTORY

Our Club is Rotary 236<sup>th</sup> Club having been formed in roughly 110 years ago. In 1916, Larry Routley, life insurance salesman in Port Arthur, while on a business trip to Toronto, attended a Rotary Club Luncheon. The meeting so impressed him that on his return he at once began to take steps to form a club in Fort William. Upon taking the matter up with Rotary Headquarters in Chicago he found that Fort William alone was not large enough to support a Rotary club and that a joint club, formed by obtaining members from both Fort William and Port Arthur, was the only answer at the time.

Calling upon representative men in both cities he was able to secure a list of 23 names and the inaugural meeting was held in the dining room of the Prince Arthur Hotel on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1916. The installing officers were Rotarians C. W. Oppel and W. C. McCarter of Duluth. The charter members were:

## Fort William

- A. C. Adams
- G. G. Elster
- W. F. Elliot
- J. A. Fife
- D. B. Fegles
- T. H. Gillespie
- R. B. Maybee
- M. K. Heap
- A. H. Knutson
- C. B. Neinaber
- E. G. Simpson
- J. K. Ockley
- Dr. C. C. McCullough

## Port Arthur

- Dr. R. W. Bucke
- W. O. Matthews
- A. S. McLean
- M. V. Rossie
- J. L. Routley
- W. Scott
- E. H. Teagle
- J. Whalen
- W. H. Russell
- Bruce Wallace

W. Matthews was elected president, C. Neinaber vice-president, J. Routley secretary-treasurer and R. Maybee sergeant-at-arms. The directors were W. Scott, G. Elster, J. Ockley, B. Wallace and A. Knutson.

## THIS WEEKS' SCRIBE:



Bev Knutson

# FOUNDATION NEWS

## Welcome to Week FOUR of RI's Month of W.A.S.H

The report this week is from Etelka Lehoczky on the activities of Rotarians in improving sanitation in schools located in underdeveloped parts of the world. According to Lehoczky's report, members of the Rotaract club visited schools which faced water shortages and relied on contaminated water, resulting in high levels of diarrhea, dysentery, and other illnesses. There were no modern toilets, and girls didn't have private spaces for menstrual hygiene. The lack of water affected every aspect of the students' lives. The wide-ranging impact of water access is highlighted on the United Nations' World Water Day, observed on 22 March. "Water bankruptcy is becoming a driver of fragility, displacement, and conflict," Tshilidzi Marwala, undersecretary-general of the UN, said in January. "Managing [water] fairly – ensuring that vulnerable communities are protected and that unavoidable losses are shared equitably – is now central to maintaining peace, stability, and social cohesion," Marwala said. More than 2 billion people around the globe lack clean, safe drinking water. Helping people gain access to clean water and sanitation is a top priority for Rotary, which includes the issue among its seven main causes. With a US\$57,000 Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation, members of the Rotaract clubs of Kumasi and Obuasi in Ghana brought clean water and sanitation facilities to eight schools in the Ashanti region. Their project installed around 80 microflush toilets and 10 urinals, constructed changing rooms for girls, and drilled borehole wells at two schools. Ghanaian Rotary and Rotaract clubs and Rotaract clubs in Turkey and the U.S. supported the initiative. It benefited more than 6,000 people.

Other recent Rotary projects in Mexico, Kenya, and the Dominican Republic highlight the far-reaching impact of water accessibility.

Source: <https://www.rotary.org/en/water-beyond-wells>

# Upcoming Events



MARCH

28

4:30 PM

**Fundraiser:**  
*SG Brewery Tour*

APRIL



5

**Happy Easter!**

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

10

11:00 AM

**40<sup>th</sup> FW Rotary**  
*House Lottery Launch*

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*