

FORTARIAN

WEDNESDAY 12/11/2025

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:

Beverly Knutson

Treasurer:

Dawn Sebesta

Directors:

Laura Craig

Laurie Etter

Dave Knutson

Mandi O'Connor

Nancy Patterson

Dawn Sebesta



Elaine Hansen

5580 District Governor



Jodi Phillips

Club President

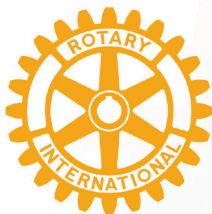


Francesco Arezzo

RI President

01/05

Fort William
Rotary
Club



LAST MEETING

President Jodi welcomed everyone to the Remembrance Day Ceremony. She then gave the command to the members of the 70 Elsie MacGill Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, lead by Commander Kim Treichler, to March on the Colours.

Sharon Badanai led the Club in the singing of the National Anthem. Dawn Sebesta gave the Toast to the King and Canada. The Land Acknowledgement was read by Mary Ann Breton.

President Jodi spoke about the honour, courage, and sacrifices made by those who served our country. Veterans had taken part in our past Remembrance Day ceremonies; however, that is not possible now because most of them have passed away. Our task to keep their memories alive. Sharon Badanai's son spoke at one of our ceremonies. He talked about how his time of service affected his life and that of his family. President Jodi thanked everyone for attending the ceremony.

The poem, "Forever Remembered," was read by Sharon Badanai. This was followed by the Last Post and a moment of silence. Stephen Margarit read the Act of Remembrance. A wreath was then laid by Jerry Williams and Laurie Etter, accompanied by the Air Cadets.



Our guest speaker, Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Darla Oja, was introduced by Dawn Sebesta. Darla came from a small Metis community in Saskatchewan. She spent thirty-one years in the armed forces. After retirement, she went to university and is currently in her third year of social work.

Lt. Col. Oja talked about service and leadership. Real leaders are quiet. They listen to others. Some people lead by example while others lead by purpose. A good leader helps to lift others up. They must find the balance between learning and teaching, tradition and progress.

We are all responsible for the next generation. Because of this, we need to provide encouragement and to empower young people. They need to feel freedom from fear. We also need to hold back barriers to their success.

Service shapes how we see the world. It never really ends but continues to change its form throughout the years.

Rotarians then offered their own personal reflections on Remembrance Day. The money raised would be donated to the poppy fund.

CLUB UPDATES

Community Service

- **RFDA:** The Club will be volunteering at RFDA at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025.

Fellowship

- Our Club acquired a banner from the Bangkok South Rotary Club, thanks to Erle Wheatley.

Carol Sing

- Our Carol Sing will take place on Sunday, December 14 at 7pm at St. Paul's Anglican. Dawn has posters if you would like one.

Santa 4 Way Test Essay Contest

- Laura Craig reported on the essay contest. Students in grades eleven and twelve are eligible to participate. They can write a 500 – 1000 word essay on any topic of their choice, as long as it relates to the 4-Way Test. The deadline for submission of essays is November 28. There are monetary prizes for the 3 top winners. They will then have a chance to compete at the District level.

Board Elections

- Stephen Margarit was pleased with the number of members who voted in the Board elections. Glenn Craig, Stephanie Paxton, and Beverly Knutson will be new directors beginning in the 2026-2027 Rotary year.



Next Meeting: Nov. 26

Jennifer McKeown
TB Art Gallery



THUNDER BAY
ART GALLERY

PARADE PREP

Dawn Sebesta provided an update on parade preparations. There is an increase in the number of floats this year. Leftover Hallowe'en candy, to be given out at the parade, can still be dropped off at the George Jeffrey Children's Centre.

Volunteers are required to assist with the bagging of popcorn at RFDA on Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested, please give your name to President Jodi. The popcorn and hot chocolate will be distributed at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium on Parade day. If you are volunteering there, please arrive for 9:00 a.m. Mary Ann Breton will be the on-site support. Decoration of the float will also take place on Friday evening at 5:00 p.m.

Barricade volunteers, under the leadership of Sante Sottile, should arrive at the Auditorium parking lot at 8:30 a.m. You can park at the baseball park. Sante has reflective vests for everyone.



THIS WEEKS' SCRIBE:



Bev Knutson

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rotarians Bob, Dawn, Jodi and Stephen represented our club at District Conference in Duluth. There was a decent turnout of Canadians from all 4 Canada Clubs and there were plenty of fun events and informative sessions on a wide arrange of topics like Public Image, Membership, History, Grants, etc.



The Award winners were announced at the District Conference. Fort William Rotary did quite well. The Awards that were won were:

Rotarian of the Year –

Stephen Margarit;

Distinguished Rotarian (Community Service)

– Irene Sottile;

Fundraising

(31-60 members);

Inter-Organizational Service; International

Service (31-60 members); & **Inter-Club Service.**



District 5580 Rotarian of the Year



Inter-Club Service



Inter-Organizational Service



International Service (31-60 Members)



Fundraising (31-60 Members)

Upcoming Events



NOVEMBER
15
10:00 AM
Rotary Santa Claus Parade

NOVEMBER
17
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Club Volunteering: RFDA

NOVEMBER
26
5:30 PM | 6:15 PM
Club Meeting: TB Art Gallery

DECEMBER
1
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Club Volunteering: Shelter House

DECEMBER
10
5:30PM
Club Meeting: Christmas Social

DECEMBER
13
6:00 PM @BIGHT
Rotary Tri-Club Christmas Party

DECEMBER
14
7:00 PM @ST. PAUL'S
FW Rotary Carol Sing

DECEMBER
15
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Club Volunteering: Shelter House

DECEMBER
25
Merry Christmas

The date card for December 25 is decorated with red and white snowflakes, a holly leaf with red berries, and a red and white Santa hat.