

# FORTARIAN

WEDNESDAY 04/12/2024

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

The Club welcomed Michelle Gibson representing “Rowantree Collective”, an organization that was formed in support of post-secondary school aged young adults with autism or other exceptionalities. The organization is a privately funded not-for-profit with facilities at 280 Park Avenue here in Thunder Bay.

The Collective focuses on five program branches representing important aspects of daily living necessary for a meaningful life:

- Recreation and Entertainment (movie nights, board games, etc.)
- Health and Wellness (outdoor excursions, nutritional awareness, mental health strategies, etc.)
- Active Citizenship (working at the Dew Drop Inn, weekly news program, voting)
- Life Skills (Cooking, cleaning, etc.)
- Employment and Volunteerism (Dew Drop Inn delivery assistance, Both Hands Pizza work opportunity – baking, cooking/serving)

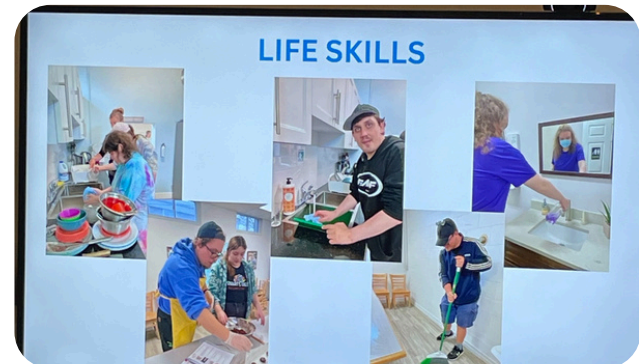
This programming aims to help their members achieve a life filled with dignity, pride and enjoyment.

Michelle and her husband Paul saw a need for people like their son Rowan, his longtime friend Noah and other neurodiverse young adults a continued opportunity to thrive as they transitioned out of the Secondary school system. They envisioned an inclusive and welcoming space that would foster friendship, belonging and a sense of community. The organizations vision is “To build a strong collective of neurodiverse members who have a sense of belonging in our community”.

Starting with 6 participants in 2022, the organization now has 37 members with 5 engaged at Both Hands Pizza.

The Collective operates on a fee for service basis. Currently government funding goes directly to families who decide which resources/service providers they feel would be most effective for their young adults.

For further information visit their [website](#) or [Facebook page](#).



# CLUB UPDATES

## House Lottery

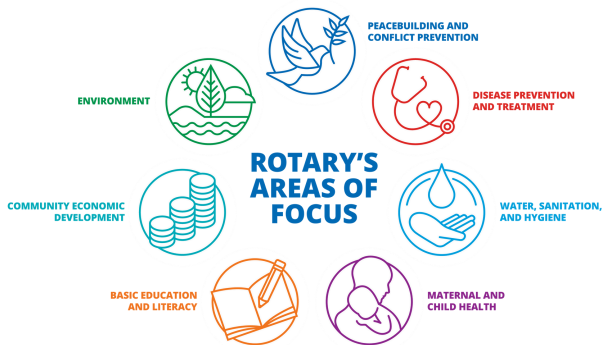
The budget for the 2025 Fort William Rotary house Lottery has been approved. Work is underway to submit the Lottery License application. The construction of the proposed prize home is underway, with the building closed in and the roof shingled.

## Foundation

November is Foundation month and members are reminded that to fund the good work that the Foundation supports requires donations from individuals. The funds are used in a number of areas of focus:

- Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention
- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Community Economic Development
- Environment

For further information, contact Therese Lim.



# PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

At our Club Christmas Social, the evening began with the presentation of two Paul Harris Fellows. Therese Lim, Chair of the Rotary Foundation Committee, awarded a Paul Harris +3 to Bob Hookham. Honorary Rotarian, Mark Breton, received his first Paul Harris Fellow.

**Congratulations to both!**

Therese stated that if any club member is interested in learning about their Foundation points, they might contact a Foundation Committee member. They are Joan Krisko, Dawn Sebesta, Mary Anne Breton, and Sharon Badanai.



**Next Meeting: Jan. 8**

**Our Kids  
Count  
Offsite Tour**



# CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Festive, fun, and filled with fellowship describe the Fort William Rotary Christmas party emceed by Stephen Margarit.

A Christmas party is not complete without enjoying a meal in the company of friends and family! A delicious array of appetizers was enjoyed by all!

Gift giving was the next activity on the list. Names were drawn from a basket. The person chosen could then take a gift off the table or steal one from someone else. There was lots of laughter and, yes, Laura Craig did end up with the polar bear!

## Announcements

Dawn Sebesta needs volunteers for the Rotary Carol Sing that is taking place on December 15 at St. Paul's Anglican Church. She is looking for a reader, greeters, and ushers. Please contact her if you are interested in any of these positions.

Volunteers are required at RFDA on Monday, December 9, to put together Christmas Hampers. Please contact Mandi O'Connor if you are interested in this opportunity.

## Upcoming Events

Volunteering at RFDA on Monday, December 9 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Tri-Club Christmas party will be taking place on Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Superior Inn. Tickets cost \$75.00. Gifts of toys are being collected that will be donated to Faye Peterson House. Please notify Dawn by December 7, if you are planning on attending.

The Rotary Carol Sing takes place on Sunday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Anglican Church, located at 808 Ridgeway Street East.

# TRI-CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Tri-Club Christmas Party! The food was delicious and caroling fun was had by all! Thanks to our club organizing committee for all their work!



# THIS WEEK'S SCRIBES:



Bev Knutson



Dave Knutson

# Upcoming Events



**JAN**  
**8**  
5:30 PM | 6:15 PM  
**Club Meeting:**  
**OKC Tour**

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

**FEB**  
**12**  
6:00 PM - 8:00 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**