

# FORTARIAN

WEDNESDAY 24/09/2025 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



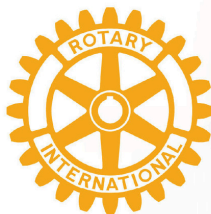
**Jodi Phillips**  
Club President



**Francesco Arezzo**  
RI President

01/04

Fort William  
**Rotary**  
Club



# LAST MEETING

President Jodi opened the meeting by comparing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action to the Four-Way Test which Rotarians use as a moral code to guide personal and business relationships.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Celina Reitberger, a member of Fort William First Nation. Celina practiced criminal law for twenty years, followed by fifteen years with Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services. In 2017, she was appointed to the Thunder Bay Police Services Board and became the first Indigenous Chair of the Board in 2018. She is now retired and enjoying her grandchildren.

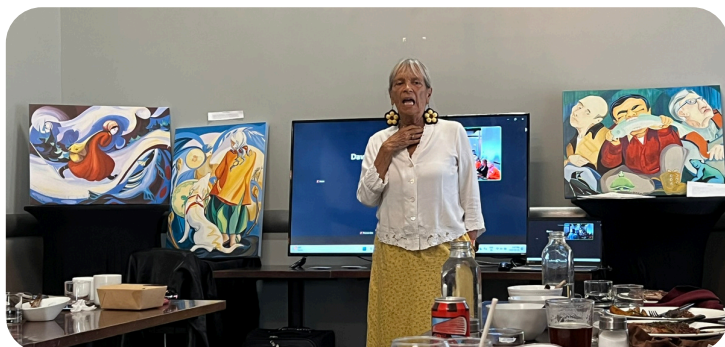
Celina spoke about her cousin, Virginia McCoy, who was born in Fort William. After graduating from university, Virginia lived and worked in Toronto but then moved to Cape Breton where she focused on her desire to become an artist. Virginia produced many paintings of Cape Breton but eventually moved on to telling her family history through her painting. Celina brought prints of some of the paintings and explained the stories behind them. One painting dealt with the appropriation of Fort William First Nation land by the Grand Trunk Railway in 1905. The land appropriation split the community with members moving to two different locations. The cemetery was dug up and all of the bones were put in a common grave. Virginia McCoy's paintings will be shown at an exhibit at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery as well as at an exhibition at the Thunder Bay Museum.

Mandi O'Connor, Chair of the Indigenous Initiatives Committee, suggested that one meeting a year be devoted to the topic of Truth and Reconciliation. This was the initial meeting.



## PRESIDENT-ELECT-ELECT

President Past President Glenn Craig announced that the President Elect-Elect for the 2027-2028 Rotary year will be Laura Craig.



## THIS WEEKS' SCRIBE:



Bev Knutson

# CLUB UPDATES

## Allocations

- Stephen Margarit reported that the Board has passed the recommended allocations distribution. To date, our Club has donated \$9 million to various charities.

## TB Rotary Environment Action Team

- Thunder Bay Rotary Environment Action Team is hosting a Rotary Spooky Green Hallowe'en fundraiser on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at Red Lion Smokehouse, 16 Cumberland St. South. The event runs from 6:30-11:00pm. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

## Santa Claus Parade

- This year's parade will occur November 15, 2025. The presenting sponsors will be the Canadian Tire stores, with a kick-off/launch planned at the Thunder Centre location. The organization of this Tri-Club event is well underway.

## Tri-Club Christmas Party

- The Tri-Club Christmas party, hosted by Port Arthur Rotary, will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at Bight Restaurant.

## Community Service

- The Mandi O'Connor is looking for volunteers to assist with Thanksgiving dinner at Shelter House. Preparation takes place on Saturday, October 12, 2025. Dinner will be served on Sunday. Twenty turkeys will be prepared. If you are interested, please contact Mandi.

## Air Cadets

- The 70 Elsie MacGill Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron is looking for a Rotarian who would be interested in sitting on a Merit Review Board. This person would take part in interviewing senior cadets as part of their promotion requirement to the next rank. For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Solade Nicol.

# NEW MEMBERS

Two new members were inducted to the Club. They are Kate Darling, sponsored by Stephen Margarit, and Rick Stempein, sponsored by Erle Wheatley.



**Next Meeting: Oct. 8**

**RYLA Students**  
@ GJCC



# Upcoming Events



SEPTEMBER  
**30**



**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

OCTOBER  
**7**

8:15 PM

**Air Cadets Change of Command Ceremony**

OCTOBER  
**8**

5:30 PM

**Club Meeting: RYLA @GJCC**

OCTOBER  
**13**



**Happy Thanksgiving**

OCTOBER  
**22**

5:30 PM | 6:15 PM

**Club Meeting: District Public Image**

OCTOBER  
**30**

6:30 PM - 11:00 PM

**Rotary Spooky Green Halloween**

OCTOBER  
**31**



**Happy Halloween**

NOVEMBER  
**12**

5:30 PM | 6:15 PM

**Club Meeting: Remembrance Day**

NOVEMBER  
**17**

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**Club Volunteering: RFDA**