



The Fortarian April 10, 2024

Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Fort William)

2022/2023 Board of Directors

President: Irene Sottile
 Secretary: Stephen Margarit
 Assistant Secretary: Cindy Levanto
 Treasurer: Dawn Sebasta
 President Elect: Glenn Craig
 Past President: Fhara Pottinger
 Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,
 Zoom: 6.30pm

Website www.fwrotary.ca

Directors:
 Therese Lim
 Cindy Levanto
 Joseph Osei Ababio
 Dave Knutson
 Stephen Margarit
 Mary Ann Breton

Allocations Committee

Chair: Bob Hookham
 Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month,
 Zoom 12 noon.

Rotary House Lottery Committee

Chair: Dave Knutson
 Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month,
 Zoom 12 noon.

Semi-monthly Zoom Meetings

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
 Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday

Mailing Address

PO Box 10061
 Thunder Bay, ON
 Canada P7B 6T6

Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

THE FORTARIAN

April 10, 2024

The Fort William Rotary meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2024 was called to order by President Irene Sottile. The singing of O Canada was led by Laura Craig; the Toast to the King was proposed by Fhara Pottinger; and the Land Accord was read by Dawn Sebesta.

President Irene called on Mandi O'Connor to introduce our speaker, John Kelly, speaking on the topic of the proposed Dease Park Skateboard Project.

John, the father of two, has been the sales manager at Performance Kia for the past five years. He is also the chairman of the Thunder Bay Skateboard Coalition. He is a lifelong skateboarder and was part of the group that helped fundraise and design the very successful Marina Skateboard Plaza and had the privilege of cutting the ribbon with the mayor in November 2008. In 2020 he received the Mayor's Community Hero award. John told us that they now have a new project approved by city council (pending funding) at the former Dease Pool site on the corner of Dease and Vickers Streets. He is very proud to bring the same success to his childhood neighbourhood and would love to have as much community involvement as possible to make that happen.

John gave reasons why high-quality skateboard parks become valuable community assets. They are open to all (all ages, genders, races, etc.). Adults can participate WITH their children (rather than just coaching from the sidelines). The Dease Pool site is in an area where there are many young people needing activities nearby, and they can learn to take ownership of the property by helping to keep it in good condition. Now they need funding of a million dollars to complete this project.

Irene thanked John for his most interesting talk.

Therese Lim announced that we have two new Paul Harris Fellows thanks to the generosity of Dan Brown (a former ADG) who donated the points.

Therese inducted Laurie Etter, and Irene told Joseph Osei-Ababio that he will be formally inducted when he can attend a meeting in person.

Now our club is a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club.

Cindy Levanto gave a report on the House Lottery. The launch was on April 2nd, with the first remote at the 50/50 Store. April 12 is the first early bird draw. The FW Rotarians will be invited to preview the house prior to the first Open House. 10,600 tickets have been sold with a goal of 13,000 by Friday.

Bob Hookham is working with the joint committee for Country on the Bay to plan for this summer's festival and to make improvements.

Stephen Margarit has set Wednesday, April 17, at noon for the next Allocations meeting.

On behalf of the Environmental Committee, Craig Sandberg announced that on June 1st all three local Rotary clubs will participate in a clean-up at the Marina. There will be Rotary safety vests, and supplies will be provided by Eco-Superior. All rotarians and families are asked to participate.

Irene said that there are still tickets available at \$150, for the Port Arthur Rotary Gala at the Delta Hotel. All proceeds to go to the Art Gallery.

Irene announced that the Board had approved the donation of \$1,500 to a clinic in Bolivia.

Dawn Sebesta said that the RYLA committee is requesting students going into Grades 11 or 12 to apply before the end of April.

Mandi O'Connor announced that Shelter House has a new Executive Director, Brendan Carlin.

Stephen Margarit took care of fines with his usual aplomb, and Therese Lim finished the program with the story of an interesting cab ride.

Meeting adjourned by President Irene.

Editor Brian

Scribe Cynthia

Photos Irene

Theme 2023-2024

