



The Fortarian Jul 14th, 2021

Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Fort William)

2021/2022 Board of Directors

President: Dawn Sebesta
 Secretary: Stephen Margarit
 Assistant Secretary: Irene Sottile
 Treasurer: Erle Wheatley
 Assistant Treasurer: Sante Sottile
 President Elect: Fhara Pottinger
 Past President: Cynthia Judge
 Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,
 Zoom: 6.30pm

Website www.fwrotary.ca

Directors:
 Irene Sottile
 Robert Moore
 Sante Sottile
 Mary Ann Breton
 Bev Knutson
 Stephen Margarit

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

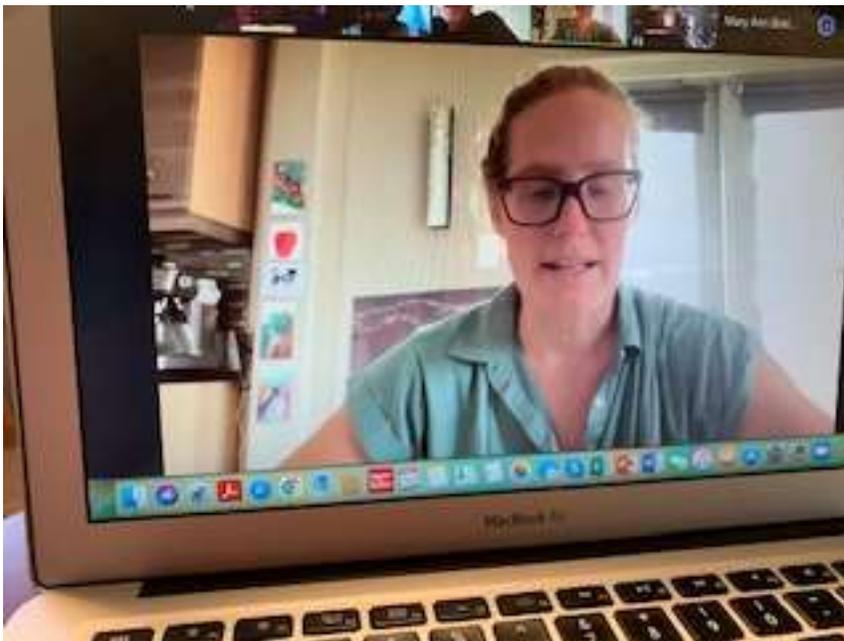
Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

The Fortarian July 14, 2021

President Dawn Sebesta welcomed everyone to the meeting. Joan Krisko played the National Anthem. Sante Sottile gave the toast to the Queen and Canada. Mary Ann Breton read the Land Acknowledgement.

Irene Sottile introduced the guest speaker, Erin Beagle, Executive Director of Roots to Harvest. Erin has been working in many different capacities with the organization since its inception in 2007. Erin provided an update on what the organization has been doing.



When the pandemic struck, Roots to Harvest was unable to carry on with its regular programming in the areas of employment, education, and outreach. During the pandemic, members at Roots to Harvest became aware that there were large gaps in food access for people with children. Seeing this, the organization mobilized nineteen different partners. This enabled the organization to serve meals to over 900 children and their families. Other vulnerable groups received assistance with food during the pandemic from Roots to Harvest. Seniors in subsidized housing and at the Dew Drop Inn received food through the Good Food program. Newcomers to Canada, especially refugees, received culturally appropriate food. People using the isolation shelters received food and snacks. Women who were clients of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Northwestern Ontario also received assistance.

In 2019, Roots to Harvest approached the Community Food Centres of Canada with the intent of joining the organization. There are Food Centres in fourteen communities across Canada. In 2020, Roots to Harvest signed an agreement with

the organization. Roots to Harvest will now be known as Roots Community Food Centre.

The objectives of Community Food Centres are to improve people's access to healthy food; to increase healthy food knowledge; to decrease social isolation; to give people opportunities to take action on things that affect their lives; and to empower people to become leaders and volunteers.

Roots to Harvest currently rents the Monty Parks Centre from Community Living Thunder Bay. Roots to Harvest would like to buy and renovate the building. Two million dollars needs to be raised in order to achieve this goal. There are organizations and partners who will assist with funding for this project. The new Centre will help more than 2,000 people. The Centre will also work with the Indigenous community to serve meals using wild food. Erin is hoping that Fort William Rotary will help to support this project.

Joan Krisko, Chair of the Rotary Foundation Committee, presented Mary Ann Breton with her first Paul Harris Fellow Pin. Congratulations, Mary Ann!



Bob Hookham gave the House Lottery report. Bid packages have gone out to contractors for the next house. There was no Allocation report as the committee did not meet in July.

President Dawn read thank you letters from Music Festival winners who received Fort William Rotary scholarships. If anyone is interested in hosting an international student, please contact Stephen Margarit.



Brian Phillips presented the Lighter Side.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

July 28: Patio chat at Kelsey's Roadhouse at 5:30 p.m. Contact Irene if you are interested in attending.

Aug. 11: President Dawn will outline her Rotary year.

Aug. 25: Patio chat

Editor Erle

Scribe Bev

