



The Fortarian

Jun 8, 2022

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

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Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

THE FORTARIAN

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President Dawn chaired the hybrid meeting. Mark Breton attended as a guest.

Joan Krisko played the National anthem.

Robert Moore proposed a toast to the Queen of Canada

Mary Ann Breton acknowledged that the meeting was being conducted on the traditional lands of the Indigenous people of this region.

Presentation:

Rotarian Stephen Margarit introduced the evening's speaker, Kimberly Kennedy representing Leadership Thunder Bay.

Leadership Thunder Bay is a leadership program based on addressing community issues. It is for emerging leaders from a cross-section of our Community, not just from the business world but also with a balanced participation that includes government and social service. The program is intended to help participants acquire both a broader understanding of the critical issues affecting the community and the leadership skills necessary to address them. It helps prepare participants for the challenges of leadership, develop new skills and become aware of the opportunities for leaders in the Community.

The program uses a "hands-on" approach, involving volunteering, visiting businesses and meeting with local politicians and indigenous partners, to build awareness. Community Action Projects allow the participants to create opportunities for citizens to work together to address specific needs in the Community. Some examples of the types of projects that Leadership Thunder Bay participants have assisted include: "I Have a Voice — A Youth Photo Voice Project (see: https://www.chroniclejournal.com/news/local/youth-speak-through-pictures/article_108e711c-0a09-11e7-b9f8-5f02a3291b01.html) and working with Age Friendly Thunder Bay on their "Snow Angels" project (see: <https://agefriendlythunderbay.ca/snow-angels>).

The program aims to help participants develop skills that can be applied to leadership roles. Kimberly reflected on a practical application of these learned skills during a canoeing outing in which changing conditions created a potentially dangerous situation that required decisive action to resolve. The Leadership Thunder Bay program had assisted Kimberly in developing skills in assessing the personality and character of her canoeing partner allowing her to use an approach which focused on addressing the critical issues required to get the situation under control while avoiding panic.

The program provides benefits to the individual participant, their employer and our Community. The participant learns leadership skills, knowledge of regional issues, and informed network of diverse colleagues and a refinement of personal values (among other benefits). The employer gains an employee with increased leadership skills, engagement with the Community (both employing engaged leaders and demonstrating a commitment to the community), and knowledge of local issues that can allow improved effectiveness and an understanding of diversity that can be applied to business. The Community gains a resource of committed leaders to serve as volunteers, potential individuals to serve as board member for organizations, a talented group that can be called upon to assist in the solution of Community issues and a group of well-informed citizens who are motivated to assume roles to the benefit of the Community.

Leadership Thunder Bay's "ask" for the evening was that Rotarians consider individuals or businesses within their network that might have candidates for the program to recommend Leadership Thunder Bay and refer them to the program. The program takes place over 10 months and typically includes initial meetings, a 2-day retreat, 8 learning days, a Community Action Project and the closing session/graduation. Tuition is \$2700.

President Dawn thanked Kimberly for the very informative presentation.

Fines:

K S Joseph acted as Fine master and was successful in extracting funds based on "Good news".

Reports:

House Lottery Report: Co-Chair Robert Moore reported that approximately 15,075 tickets had been sold to date. This would equate to a net amount available for distribution in the order of \$352K, assuming that the expenses continue to be on budget.

Announcements:

Passing of the Gavel Event: The Gavel Ceremony and Dinner will take place on Wednesday, June 29th in the Solarium at the Royal Canadian Slovak Legion, 801 Atlantic Avenue beginning at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m.

The Presidents Choice Buffet will be served at a cost of \$45.00 per person. The buffet is as follows:

Spareribs
Chicken
Past & Meatballs
Fried Rice, Stir Fried Vegetables
Perogies and Mashed Potatoes with Gravy
Salads (Tossed, Coleslaw and Potato)
Relish Tray
Dinner Buns & Butter
Assorted Baking

Tea & Coffee

Please RSVP for yourself and any guests to President Dawn by Monday, June 20th. Payment can be done by e-Transfer or a cheque given to Sante and would ask that you let Dawn know once you have paid.

George Jeffrey Children's Centre Fundraiser: Cindy Levanto-Kawahara reminded everyone of the "Summer BBQ Box" meat sale fundraiser currently underway in support of George Jeffrey Children's Centre. The last day to order is June 24, 2022. For additional information contact Cindy at: clevantokawahara@georgejeffrey.com

The Lighter Side: Cindy Levanto-Kawahara entertained the crowd with reflections on married life and diesel fitters

Meeting Adjourned.

May 25 2022 Meeting Update: During the meeting on May 25, 2022 groups that received contributions from the House Lottery made brief presentation outlining how the donations had been used within their organization. These included:

Sue Paskowski presented on behalf of the 70th Air Cadets

Gail Brescia, of St. Joseph's Care Group, brought one of the wheel chairs we funded and said she got such a good deal that she was able to purchase 8 instead of the 5 which we originally funded.

Albert Aiello, representing the Boys and Girls Club, thanked us for the continued support and reminded us we sponsored the "dunk tank" and the digital sign (on which Fort William Rotary can advertise).

Dawn Sebesta, on behalf of the Lakehead Festival of Music and the Arts, thanked us for all the bursaries Fort William Rotary provided.

Teri Hrkac, of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation, thanked us for all of our continued support and especially completing our commitment for the Our Hearts at Home campaign.

Erin Beagle, representing the Roots to Harvest organization, thanked us for the continued support. She updated us on their current status, having paid off the mortgage on their new building, and spoke of late Rotarian Bruce Nugent and the garden.

Cindy Levanto-Kawahara, extended thanks on behalf of the George Jeffrey Children's Foundation for all of the support received from Fort William Rotary in support of their services.



Jolene Kemp, representing the “Christmas Cheer” organization shared some of the “Christmas Cheer” story and thanked Fort William Rotary for their continued support.

Other presenters include representatives of “Our Kids Count”, the Salvation Army and the Navy League Lakehead Branch , each of whom outlined recent developments in their organizations and thanked Fort William Rotary for their support.

Editor Erle

Scribe Dave



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES