



# The Fortarian

June 24th 2020

Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Fort William)

## 2019/2020 Board of Directors

President: Stephen Margarit  
Treasurer: Boris Cham  
Secretary: Joan Krisko  
President Elect: Cynthia Judge  
Past President: Sante Sottile  
Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,  
RBC Royal Bank, Board Room  
1159 Alloy Drive , 6.30pm

## Website [www.fwrotary.ca](http://www.fwrotary.ca)

Directors: Steven Beaucage  
Glen Craig  
Robert Moore  
Steven MacDonald  
Dawn Sebesta  
Jill Zachary

## Allocations Committee Committee

Chair: Bob Hookham  
Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month,  
Weiler Maloney Nelson Board Room 12 noon.

## Rotary House Lottery Committee

Chair: Dave Knutson  
Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month,  
Weiler Maloney Nelson, 12 noon.

## Semi-monthly Dinner Meetings

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.  
Daytona's Restaurant  
965A, Cobalt Crescent,  
Thunder Bay, ON  
Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday.

## Mailing Address

Thunder Bay, ON  
PO Box 10061  
Canada P7B 6T6

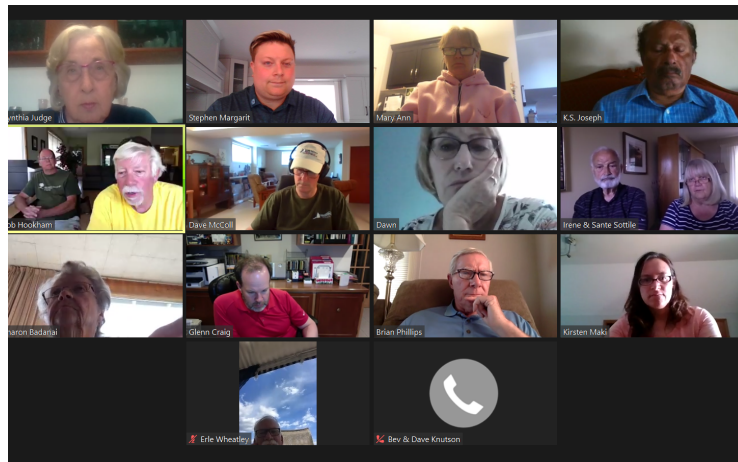
## Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

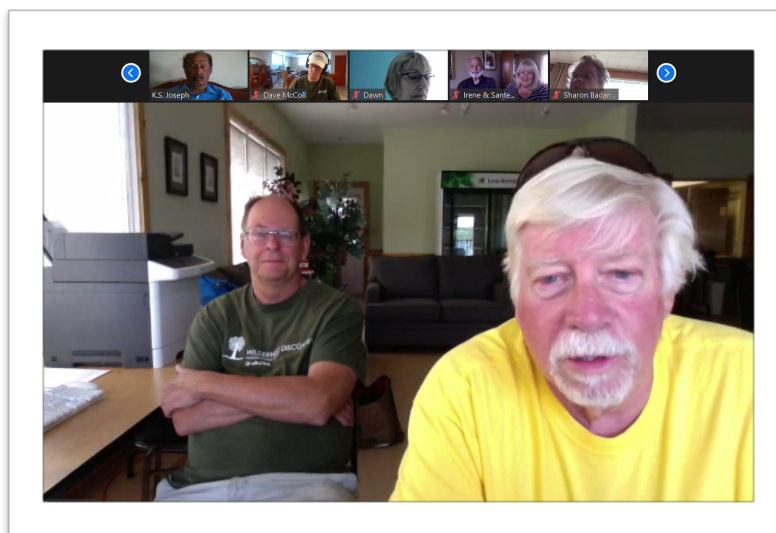
## Meeting of June 24th 2020

President Stephen Margarit called the ZOOM meeting to order from the Lottery House at 317 South Creek Street. There was a total of 14 participants signed in through ZOOM.

President Stephen played a YouTube version of O Canada. Glenn Craig invited Rotarians and guests to raise their glasses in a toast to Her Majesty the Queen.



Tonight's speaker was Bob Hookham. He was accompanied by incoming Assistant District Governor Dan Brown. Bob provided an update from on the Wilderness Discovery project from the Wilderness Discovery Centre. Bob said that the May and June bookings had to be cancelled due to COVID-19.



A lot of those who cancelled have already re-booked. Three families are coming out starting this Friday and the facility will remain pretty full beyond mid-July.

There was \$189,000 in the bank account at the beginning of the year. \$25,000 was received from Fort William Rotary and was used for the construction of a deck on Cabin 4. Utilities and standard payments have now been paid through to July 2021.

Framing has been finished in the staff quarters, plumbing has been roughed-in and electrical supplies have been ordered. White Pine Electric is providing assistance. Craig Sandberg has been busy cutting grass and trimming weeds. Dan Brown was busy yesterday, helping Bob's wife Linda with extensive cleaning to meet COVID-19 requirements.

A lot of groups that have been through have said how much the facility means to them. A phenomenal amount of work has been done to make everything fully accessible. The US Veterans group would like to come back once the CAN-US border opens up again. Other groups considering booking include the Canadian Armed Forces, OPP and the City Police. Groups that have already re-booked for another stay include Leadership Thunder Bay, Confederation College and Community Living Thunder Bay.

The exposure that Rotary gets through the Wilderness Discovery Centre is incredible. The District is encouraging a global grant for the main ramp down to the lake. This work is valued at about \$150,000. Doors and windows have been ordered for the new staff quarters. Bob is trying to keep reserve funds for future needs. HAGI has offered a new dock system, funded through their TV bingo funds, valued at about \$60,000. The new docks will be 8 feet by 64 feet, ending in a tee that is 12 feet by 40 feet, fully suitable for wheelchairs. Local installers will put the docks in each spring and take them out in the fall.

Bob said that Rotary can be very proud of what it has done to support the Wilderness Discovery project.

There was a question about how COVID-19 has affected Wilderness Discovery. Bob said that it has had a major impact on planning and sched-

uling, has affected some funding, resulted in some projects being scaled back and major additional cleaning efforts for disinfecting.

Bob thanked Fort William Rotary for their assistance and support and encouraged Rotarians to come out and visit. Cynthia Judge suggested that a Rotary meeting in August at Wilderness Discovery may be considered.

President Stephen thanked Bob for his presentation and for all of the work that he has put into the project. He also thanked Dan Brown for putting together the grant.

Dave Knutson provided an update on the House Lottery. He thanked Robert Moore for his work at successfully getting approval for online ticket sales last week. Dave also thanked those who had worked diligently on the fulfilment of orders including Joan Krisko, Dawn Sebesta, Diane Silen, Stephen Margarit, Irene Sotille, Mary Ann Breton, and Athena Kreiner. We are close to breaking even before our first Early Bird Draw of July 3. Ticket sales are currently at around 8,900. We will continue to monitor if and when we can re-start the open houses.

President Stephen thanked everyone who has been involved in the house lottery ticket sales.

President Stephen had the following announcements:

- A club satisfaction survey has been sent out and 70 percent of members have responded already
- Last Monday, at Shelter House, President Stephen, Mary Ann Breton, and Mandi O'Connor cooked up chili and served about 100 meals
- Last week was the passing of the gavel at the District level and also the District Awards:
  - Bob Hookham (and Linda!) received recognition for community service work
  - Fort William Rotary received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award in the District for public image
- We received notice on June 18 that we are now co-sponsors of the Rotaract Club, along with Port Arthur Rotary and Lakehead Rotary

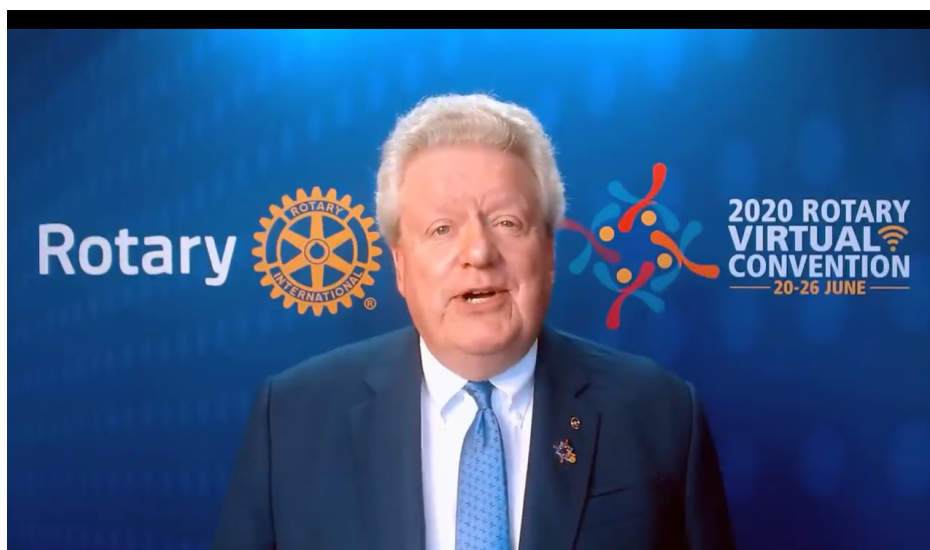
- Next week's meeting will be the changing of the gavel. Rotarians are encouraged to wear Rotary-themed clothing or have Rotary-related items visible in their ZOOM image

President Stephen noted that this was his last official meeting as President of the Fort William Rotary Club and said it had been a pleasure to serve as

President for the past Rotary year. It was a very interesting year with a number of changes and we were able to adapt well.

Brian Phillips provided two jokes for Lighter Side.

President Stephen played a video of Mark Daniel Maloney, who is the President-Elect and ultimately the President of Rotary International. Mr. Maloney spoke about how COVID-19 had resulted in the cancellation of the R.I. Convention in Honolulu. However, this has led to a very successful on-line convention. His primary emphasis is to Grow Rotary so that we can achieve more. He encouraged the formation of new clubs. He stated that Rotary allows us to connect in many ways to improve lives for others. We have done incredibly well in adapting to meet the challenges in a rapidly changing world. He said that now more than ever, Rotary Connects the World.



President Stephen noted that the Rotary International Convention sessions are available online through the R.I. Convention website. He will send links to Rotarians in an email.

President Stephen adjourned the meeting.

Editor – Brian

Scribe – Dave McColl

Photos – Irene

