



The Fortarian

May 8th 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

May 8th, 2023

President Irene chaired the meeting, with no one attending online. Brian Walmark and Warren Philp of the Port Arthur Rotary Club were present. Honourary Rotarians Mark Breton and Diane Sillen were also in attendance. Guests included Irene's nephew Vincenzo and prospective Rotarian Nancy Patterson.

The assembled Rotarians sang the National anthem, led by Laura Craig, after which Therese Lim proposed a toast to the King of Canada.

Mary Anne Breton acknowledged that the meeting was being conducted on the traditional lands of the Indigenous people of this region and recognizing the Metis people and their contributions in the history of the area.

Presentation:

President Irene recognized visiting Rotarian Brian Walmark introduced the speaker, Philip Schaus, President and CEO of Corporations for Community Connections at Siemens Energy Canada. Mr. Schaus outlined a program by which obsolete Corporate computers are cleaned of sensitive data and re-purposed for charitable or educational end users. The program encourages employees of the participating corporation to assist in the preparation of the computers for their new end-users, allowing them to use their time and expertise to benefit others in the community. Mr. Schuss was in Thunder Bay as a result of a partnership with HIP (Honouring Indigenous People), an organization with Rotary roots, who had helped to determine the final destination of 75 computers donated within our Community. Further information can be found at: <https://rotary5580.org/Stories/donors-provide-laptops-to-indigenous-groups>

Mr. Schaus was accompanied by Yasmine Eltawdy (Corporations for Community Connections), who is assisting with the program.

President Irene thanked Philip and Brian for sharing the news of this program to our Club.

New Member Induction:

President Irene had the honour of inducting a new member to our Club, Aamin Kathiwala. Aamin was born and raised in western India before moving to Canada. She is currently the Fundraising and Volunteer Coordinator at Shelter House in Thunder Bay. Aamin was proposed by Mandi O'Connor. The Club members were all pleased to welcome Aamin to Fort William Rotary.

President Elect Glenn Craig -2024/25 Goals presentation:

President Elect Glenn Craig outlined his vision for the next Rotary year, around the theme of "Engage", specifically in terms of:

- Engagement with other Club Members
- Engagement with the recipients of our donations
- Engagement with the broader community, enhancing the image of Rotary in the community
- Engagement with the other Clubs

Glenn discussed the need for new members and planning for succession to ensure the long-term viability of the Club.

Some potential means of achieving this vision include social evenings/ events to provide opportunities for the Club members to engage with each other without the structure of a meeting.

Identifying business networking and volunteering/service opportunities as a means of engaging with the Community and developing new members.

Glenn solicited feedback from the Club, with the response being strongly supportive of working towards this vision.

Fines:

Finemaster Stephen Margarit extracted a significant amount of donations based on a seemingly endless number of criteria to pay a fine.

Announcements:

1.0 Sign-up sheets were circulated for:

- Pollinator Garden wildflower seeds
- The Harbour front Clean-up Environmental Initiative June 1, 2024

2.0 House Lottery Report:

At the time of the meeting, 15,386 tickets had been sold, past the “break-even” point. There were plans for a marketing shift to “re-boot” ticket sales. Within the week it was expected that we would be 80% sold-out. This is comparable to the sales in 2021, the previous “best year”, so things continue to be positive.

3.0 Allocations Report:

The Committee is revamping the Lottery Funds application form and identifying ways in which the process can be improved/upgraded.

4.0 RYLA:

The closing date to identify candidates has been extended. More applications have been received and some potential candidates have been identified.

5.0 “Changing the Gavel” Ceremony:

The traditional year-end dinner and ceremony will be held June 22, 2024 at the Slovak Legion. The menu will be similar to last year, prices are anticipated to be \$40/person. More information is to follow.

6.0 Next Meeting:

The speaker at the May 22, 2024 will be Dan Brown from the Nipigon Club, who will speak on the topic of an International Project he is engaged in, specifically a Medical clinic building in Kenya.

7.0 Rotary Series of Presentations:

The next presentation will be a Rd. Berger, a Lakehead University lecturer in Climate Change and the Environment. The event will take place in late June at Confederation College.

8.0 Air Cadets:

The Air Cadets have thanked the Club for its' on going support, which is very much appreciated. They will be submitting an application to Allocations for support in the upcoming Rotary year. Cadets will be making a presentation to the Club in the next few weeks. Also noted was that the Cadets will be running the "Paper shredding" fundraiser again this year for anyone wishing to securely dispose of obsolete documents.

Editor Brian

Scribe Dave

Photos N/A

Theme 2023-2024

