



# The Fortarian

Oct 27th, 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](http://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**  
**October 27, 2021**

President Dawn chaired the hybrid meeting. There were no visiting Rotarians or guests (other than the speaker).

A recording of the National anthem was for the assembled “Zoom” participants and the group gathered at Daytona’s restaurant.

Sante Sottile proposed a toast to the Queen of Canada

President Dawn acknowledged that the meeting was being conducted on the traditional lands of the Indigenous people of this region.

Mary-Ann Breton introduced the evening’s speakers, Greg Chomut and A. J. Haapa from the “Wake the Giant” organization.



Wake the Giant is “a cultural awareness program aimed at creating a more welcoming and inclusive environment in Thunder Bay for indigenous people, youth and their communities”. It was created in 2019 in response to the tragic events of young students deaths in Thunder Bay. While the most visible component is the music festival focused on Indigenous artists, the program also works to assist businesses wishing to be welcoming places for Indigenous people. The festival was inspired, in part, by a desire of musicians to assist in working towards improving the situation in the city. 2021 has been a very successful year for the organization, with the music Festival being operated safely utilizing approaches developed in consultation with the Public Health authorities. Orientation tours for new students

have continued. In addition, other programs are held at Dennis F. Cromarty High School, including workshops with musicians, poets and other artists. There is an additional initiative to bring grade 7 and 8 students from the remote communities to provide an early introduction to life in Thunder Bay as a resident student.

Feedback received from students suggests that the programs provide an increased level of comfort in coming to the community and awareness that there are some people who care about their wellbeing and who want to help support them.

One other aspect of the program has been a program to engage with businesses in the city that wish to be identified with a welcoming decal at their entrance. The participating businesses undertake cultural awareness training. Originally anticipating 100 businesses to participate, the organization has now over 400 businesses involved. There is an online training application currently being developed to facilitate this training.

Wake the Giant is a charity that currently relies on grants and donations from public and private donor groups.

President Dawn thanked Greg and A. J. for the inspiring presentation.

House Lottery Report: Bob Hookham reported that the document necessary to transfer ownership of the prize house to the winner was expected to be completed by Friday October 29. The winner has already put the house on the market. The initial "30 day" Lottery report is being finalized for submission prior to November 12. Robert Moore and Boris Cham are working on this.

The contracts for the 2022 house and lot are expected to be ready for signature this week. Bob discussed some additional details related to the house.

Allocations Report: Sante Sottile indicated that the \$75,000 donation to Wilderness Discovery Camp was in progress as were a number of smaller donations. As usual, the timing of some less time critical donations will occur later in the year. These usually total in the order of \$30-40K.

There is expected to be a 2021 cheque presentation to Roots to Harvest made in November and the Air Cadets have indicated that they would like us to participate in a release relative to the 2020 donation made.

Announcements:

- The Christmas Parade has been cancelled for this year. Timing was too tight to allow us to solicit financial support from the business community to cover the costs associated with the event. There has been no negative feedback received to date.
- To date there has been no contact from the Salvation Army re: the Christmas Kettles campaign (perhaps due to COVID restrictions?)

Lighter side: Irene Sottile entertained the crowd with a blonde equestrian joke. Laughter was shared at the unexpected punch line.

**Editor Erle**

**Scribe Dave**

