



The Fortarian

October 11, 2023
 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

October 11th, 2023

President Irene called the meeting to order with eighteen people attending in person and two members attending via Zoom.

Laura Craig lead the club in the singing of O Canada; Glenn Craig proposed the Toast to the King and Mary Ann Breton read the Land Accord.

President Irene acknowledged the presence of our guests, Laurie Etter, daughter of Jerry Williams, and Mark Breton, Honourary Rotarian and son of Mary Ann Breton.

Dawn Sebesta introduced our speaker, Alina Cameron.

Alina was a Rotary Youth Exchange student in 1994-5 when she went to Fukushima, Japan, and she accords a lot of credit to this program for helping her to develop as a critical thinker, as an advocate. In influencing others and becoming a leader.

Today, having completed graduate studies in the faculty of medicine at the University of Manitoba, Alina is a dedicated epidemiologist. She is also a community leader and is serving as the President of the Ontario Autism Coalition.

As a mother of three, Alina understands firsthand the challenges and complexities that families face when dealing with a disability in Ontario. Her personal journey with her daughter Fiona, who is on the autism spectrum, has been a driving force behind her advocacy work. Alina has navigated the often challenging and fragmented landscape of autism services and support, and she is determined that no family faces the same obstacles alone.

In her role as the President of the Ontario Autism Coalition, Alina has emerged as a tireless advocate, leading the charge for reform and improvement in the Ontario Autism Program. She recognizes that early intervention is critical for children with autism, and she is committed to

addressing the program's delays, inequities, and challenges head-on. She believes that by sharing her experiences, gathering similar stories from the community, and actively engaging with policymakers, lasting change can be achieved.

Alina told us the Ontario Autism Coalition is run completely by volunteers, and that of the 70,000 children registered approximately 9,000 have core funding, after 5 years on the waiting list. As advocates the Ontario Autism Coalition members will convene a meeting on the Lawn of Queen's Park on October 16th, and on October 17th they will meet with MPPs to highlight the issues and present solutions.

President Irene thanked Alina Cameron for her most informative and thought-provoking presentation.



Irene read three thank you letters:-

- From the TBRHSF thanking our club for our \$100,000 donation to the Northern Cancer Fund.
- From Shelter House thanking us for the \$25,000 donation.
- From Christmas Cheer thanking us for the \$15,000 donation.

Therese Lim was fine master. Our two Zoom attendees passed, but the in-person attendees were all happy to report – and pay – for what they were thankful.

Therese reminded us that October 24th is World Polio Day and invited all club members to make a donation, in any amount of their own choosing, and then email Joan Krisko to let her know they donated. At the next meeting Therese said there will be a talk about the Foundation and a surprise.

The personal donations by members to Shelter Box have so far amounted to \$970. The Board will add a club donation to this extremely worthy international cause.

Bob Hookham reported that Country on the Bay is already making plans for next year's event. This will occur on July 19th to the 21st, and will be the biggest one yet!

Upcoming Events:

Monday, October 16, 2023 - Volunteer at RFDA at 6:30pm (let Stephen know if attending)

Monday, October 23, 2023 - Volunteer at Shelter House anytime after 4:30pm

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 - Remembrance Day Program at the Slovak Legion at 5:30pm.

Brian Phillips ended the evening with the Lighter Side, amusing all with a variety of “groaners”.

The club has just learned that K.S. Joseph has just undergone hip surgery. We are all wishing you the very best K.S. and look forward to seeing you soon.

President Irene Sottile adjourned the meeting.

Date	Place	Topic
October 2	Shelter House	Shelter House Dinner
October 11	Daytona's	Meeting: Alina Cameron (RYE)
October 16	RFDA	RFDA volunteering
October 25	Daytona's	Meeting: World Polio Day
November 6	Shelter House	Shelter House Dinner
November 8	Slovak Legion	Meeting: Remembrance Day
November 18	RFDA	RFDA Volunteering
November 22	CANCELLED	MEETING CANCELLED
November 29	Daytona's	FW Rotary Christmas Social
December 4	Shelter House	Shelter House Dinner
December 13	Daytona's	Meeting: TBD
December 16	TBD	Tri-Club Christmas Party
December 17	St. Paul's Anglican Church	Rotary Carol Sing
December 18	RFDA	RFDA volunteering
December 27	CANCELLED	MEETING CANCELLED
January 10	Daytona's	Meeting: TBD

Editor Brian

Scribe Cynthia

Photos Irene

Theme 2023-2024

