



# The Fortarian

Sept 13, 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](http://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  
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## Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

## THE FORTARIAN Sept 13, 2023

President Irene chaired the hybrid meeting, with no one attending online. Mary Lim (guest) and Mark Breton (Honourary Rotarian) were also in attendance.

The assembled Rotarians sang the National anthem, led by Laura Craig, after which Cynthia Judge 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:

Dawn Sebesta introduced the speakers for the evening, Lauren Biasiol, Amy Liao and Gwen Carrasco, Thunder Bay students who attended this summer's RYLA camp.



The young women expressed their gratitude to the Club for sponsorship and the opportunity of participating in the Leadership Camp.

The “Rylarians” shared:

- The highlights of their experience completing the program,
- Which of the “seven Habits of Highly Effective People” that they found most revealing,
- How they planned to use the information, experiences and techniques gained from participating in the program moving forward

Moving forward, a common plan for all three participants was to advocate for RYLA and its’ lessons in their interactions with the community, personal relationships and to demonstrate the positive outcomes by virtue of their actions in day-to-day life.

The presentation demonstrated the degree to which each was positively impacted by their experience and each of their comments addressed an increased level of confidence, the importance of trust, a willingness to admit their vulnerability as a step in building relationships and confidence, the important guidance of the 4-way test and a need to be accountable for their actions.

The presentation ended with a second expression of gratitude to the Club for the opportunity to participate in this positive program, with special thanks extended to Dawn Sebesta for her effort in transporting them to the pick-up point and her friendship and guidance as they embarked on this adventure.

Dawn Sebesta thanked the presenters on behalf of the Club for sharing their positive experiences.

Announcements:

President Irene mentioned that the weekend visit to Wilderness discovery Camp had been quite enjoyable, with a nice buffet dinner served to attendees.

Country on the Bay; The finalized figures have been received, with each participating club to receive approximately \$17000 from the proceeds for their efforts in running the bar tents.

Santa Claus Parade:

Gore Motors are returning as the prime sponsor again this year. The event will be the third Saturday in November (Nov. 18, 2023). Dawn Sebesta will be attending on organizing committee meeting September 14, 2023.

4-way Test Essay: the 4-way Test Essay contest committee is to meet soon. The RYLA attendees were asked to promote participation amongst their peers.

The Community food Drive event, organized by RFDA and the United Way, will take place September 21, 2023. Fort William Rotary Club volunteers will support the efforts at the Metro store on Arthur St (at James St) starting 10 am and continuing with two hour shifts to 4:00 pm.

RFDA: The Club's volunteer night will restart on September 23, 2023. Stephen Margarit will issue e-mail with details.

Shelter House Meal preparation: The Club's volunteers supporting this ongoing effort will restart, Stephen Margarit will provide details once the timing is finalized. In addition to the Monday commitment, Rotarian Mandi O'Connor is working in the kitchen every second Sunday. She indicated that there were some shortages in supplies and suggested that there was an opportunity for support from Rotary. While there is an ongoing commitment to the Shelter House from the Club, with the proximity of the homeless encampment, the demand for meals has increased dramatically.

If any club member is interested in additional service opportunities at these Sunday meals, please contact Mandi. Mandi also indicated that her commitment includes cooking 20 turkeys for thanksgiving dinner, October 9, 2023.

Battle of Britain Remembrance Ceremony September 16 at 12:30 pm adjacent to the airport terminal: The Air Cadet Squadron supported by the Fort William Club will be participating in this remembrance ceremony. Club members are invited to attend.

Rotary Peace Day Ceremony September 23, 2023 at 11:00 pm, Waverly Park Pagoda. All Club Members are invited to attend.

#### Reports:

Allocations: -It was reported that the Committee would be meeting shortly to finalize allocation of the remaining House Lottery proceeds.

House Lottery Committee: A House Lottery Committee meeting took place in early September, with key tasks being creating the new structure of sub-committees and selecting a house design and builder. A design and builder have selected and a recommendation has been made the Club's Board of Directors, who has concurred with the Committee's recommendation.

Lighterside: Fhara poked fun at her profession with a number of gentle but stereotypical "lawyer jokes" that brought laughter from her fellow Rotarians.

**Editor Erle**

**Scribe Dave**

**Photo Stephen**

*Theme 2023-2024*

