



The Fortarian

Sept 9th, 2020
Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Fort William)

2019/2020 Board of Directors

President: Cynthia Judge
Interim Secretary: Stephen Margarit
Assistant Secretary: Irene Sottile
Treasurer: Sante Sottile
President Elect: Dawn Sebesta
Past President: Stephen Margarit
Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,
RBC Royal Bank, Board Room
1159 Alloy Drive , 6.30pm

Website www.fwrotary.ca

Directors:
Irene Sottile
Robert Moore
Mary Ann Breton
Bev Knutson
Jodi Phillips
Jill Zachary

Allocations 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 Zoom Meetings

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday

Mailing Address

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Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

Meeting of Sept 9th, 2020

The meeting was a combined in-person/Zoom event that was held at the Victoria Inn. President Cynthia Judge welcomed everyone. There were no visiting Rotarians or guests. Robert Moore gave the toast to the Queen.

President Cynthia introduced the guest speaker, Deputy Chief of Police, Ryan Hughes. Ryan was born and raised in Sudbury. He attended York University and graduated in 1991. He worked for the Coast Guard for six years. He began his policing career in Thunder Bay but transferred to the York Regional Police. In 2003, he returned to Thunder Bay and worked his way up to his current position.

Deputy Chief Ryan spoke on the topic of human trafficking in Thunder Bay. It is a lucrative business controlled by gangs-many of them Toronto-based. Girls from the ages of 12 to 29 are targeted. Many of them are runaways or girls with low self-confidence. The girls are lured with promises of money, fame, and an easy lifestyle. A good-looking man, with lots of money, begins by dating the girl. After some time, the violence begins and the girl is isolated. She is told what to do and that if she does not comply, her family will be killed. There are two types of pimps who control the girls-the Romeo pimp who will threaten her and the gorilla pimp who will beat her.

The girls work in hotels, massage parlours, strip clubs, apartments, and vehicles. They charge \$100-\$150 an hour. They work twelve to twenty hours a day during which time they will deal with five to ten clients. The girls eat one meal a day, cannot call home, and have to meet a quota of customers served. They must work even if they are sick. Many of the girls are sexually abused. They are also moved from city to city quite often so that most of the women working here are not from Thunder Bay. The traffickers keep the girls' identification so they cannot flee. The girls do not feel anything and begin to dissociate. They withdraw from their family and their drug use increases.

The police provide courses and training in order to increase awareness and understanding of human trafficking, as it is an underreported crime. Police may get information regarding trafficking but cannot do anything about it. Girls do not want to testify and will state that their pimp is their boyfriend.

Since most human trafficking is multijurisdictional, the Thunder Bay Police have good connections with police services across Canada. The hotline number to report human trafficking is: 1-833-900-1010.

A new club member was inducted. He is Caesar Ogbemor. Caesar was born in Nigeria, is married, and is the father of two children. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Science and a Master's Degree in Business Administration (Marketing Management) from the University of Lagos. He is an International Business Development and Sales Professional with over fourteen years' work experience in the automotive and defense industries across various international organizations.

Caesar and his family moved to Canada in October 2018 and originally settled in Barrie. A year later they moved to Thunder Bay. Back in Nigeria, Caesar admired Rotary for their philanthropic work and envisioned himself becoming a Rotarian. We are very happy to welcome Caesar to our club!

There was no correspondence for the meeting. David Knutson reported on the House Lottery. One hundred and thirty-eight tickets were sold during this week. The last Early Bird draw was held on September 3.

President Cynthia talked about the Global Grant application that is being initiated by ADG Dan Brown. This grant money would be used to replace the long wheelchair ramp that goes to the beach at Wilderness Discovery Camp. This district grant must be applied for by the end of the year.

Mandi O'Connor did Lighter Side. Peace Day celebrations, on September 21, will be virtual this year. Fort William Rotary will be signing the City of Thunder Bay Anti-Racism and Inclusion Accord. The next meeting will be on September 23. It will be a combination in-person/Zoom event. The District Governor will be zooming into the meeting.

Editor – Erle

Scribe – Bev

