



November 27th, 2019

# The Fortarian

## Rotary Club of Thunder Bay, (Fort William)

### 2019/2020 Board of Directors

President: Stephen Margarit  
 Treasurer: Boris Cham  
 Secretary: Joan Krisko  
 President Elect: Cynthia Judge  
 Past President: Sante Sottile  
*Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,  
 George Jeffrey Children's Centre  
 Boardroom 200 Brock St E. , 6.30pm*

### Website [www.fwrotary.ca](http://www.fwrotary.ca)

Directors: Steven Beaucage  
 Glen Craig  
 Robert Moore  
 Steven MacDonald  
 Dawn Sebesta  
 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.*

### Weekly Dinner Meetings

*Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.  
 Airline Hotel and Conference Centre  
 698 W. Arthur St. Thunder Bay, ON*

### Mailing Address

Thunder Bay, ON  
 P.O. Box 10061  
 Canada P7B 6T6

Note: For July and August, meetings will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday only.

### Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

## November 27, 2019

Robert Moore was the Sergeant-at-Arms for the meeting. Dave McColl gave the toast to the Queen and Canada.

The guest speaker for the evening was Erica Sawula, an epidemiologist for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. Erica was speaking on the role of contact tracing in containing polio outbreaks.



Cynthia Judge, who introduced Erica, began by examining the five ways that Rotary’s work against polio helps fight other diseases. The five ways are: using the cold chain system that keeps vaccines cool; microplanning which allows health workers to “identify priority communities, address potential

barriers and develop a plan for a successful clinic;” surveillance which helps to detect new polio cases and their origins; emergency room centres in which volunteers, agencies, and government officials can work together; and contact tracing which was the topic of Erica’s presentation.

Cynthia then provided Erica’s biography. Erica received her Masters in Public Health from Lakehead University. She received additional training on outbreak investigation and management. In her role as an epidemiologist, she investigates both communicable and non-communicable diseases in the community through the collection and analysis of health data. Erica also educates and trains the community to prevent the transmission of communicable diseases.

Erica began by explaining that polio is a contagious, paralyzing and deadly infection that enters the body through the mouth and spreads through contact with the feces of an infected person, and less commonly, through droplets from a sneeze or cough. The poliovirus can infect the brain and spinal cord and can attack the nervous system. It mainly affects children under the age of five. There is no cure for polio. No cases of polio have originated in Canada since 1979.

Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan are still endemic. Since 1988, the number of cases of polio worldwide has been reduced by 99.9% because of the work done by Rotary along with its partners. Until polio is completely eradicated, every child is at risk.

The public health response to a polio outbreak is case isolation, and management of potential contacts. The identification and diagnosis of the individual with polio is closely monitored. The person is asked about their contacts and the things that they have done before their diagnosis. Contacts are people who have shared toilets with the infected individual. All contacts must put on a list, notified, and receive follow-up. There needs to be treatment and support for the contacts. They must be followed for a certain period of time. It is difficult to trace the public aspect of contact because it can be difficult for the infected individual to remember what they have done. Contact tracing was used in the Ebola outbreak in 2014. One way a person may fight against the spread of polio is to keep up to date with their vaccinations.

President Stephen thanked Erica for her presentation. He was also grateful that Rotary is recognized for the organization's fight against this disease.

Bob Hookham was the fine master for the evening. Anyone who did not have snow tires on their vehicle, had not signed up for the Christmas kettles, or not signed up for a Rotary Christmas party had to put a dollar in the pot.

President Stephen received a letter of thanks from the Hospital Foundation for the club's donation to the Our Hearts at Home Cardiovascular campaign.

Robert Moore needs for volunteers to man the Salvation Army Christmas kettles at the Superstore. He will be sending out an e-mail asking for assistance.

Irene Sottile discussed the Family Christmas party that is taking place in the Tiberio Room at the Airlane Hotel on Wednesday, December 18. The symposium begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. There will be clowns, a craft table, face painting, and a visit from Santa. Rodney Brown will provide the entertainment. The children's meal is \$8 for children, ages 3 to 5, and \$19 for children, ages 6-12. Adult tickets cost \$26. Please contact Dawn or Irene if you are interested in attending. Sharon Badanai was looking for volunteers to bring the Rotary Christmas Carol Sing posters to the various churches in Fort William. She also has some extra posters that can be distributed to various businesses.

Dawn Sebesta talked about the Carol Sing. It takes place at St. Paul's Anglican Church, located at 808 Ridgeway Street, on Sunday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. The Fort William Male Choir, the Thunder Bay Brass, as well as local musicians and performers will be playing. Donations will be accepted for the Christmas Cheer Fund.

Club members are invited to attend the Thunder Bay Rotary Christmas party, hosted by Port Arthur Rotary. The party will be taking place on Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. at the NV Night Club, located at 228 Red River Road. There will be a light meal

followed by a performance of Danny Johnson's Dueling Pianos. Please contact President Stephen if you are interested in attending.

On Monday, December 2, the Port Arthur Rotary Indigenous Initiatives Committee will be hosting a speaker, Wendy Landry, who will be presenting on Being Indigenous. The event will take place at the Prince Arthur Hotel beginning at 7:00 p.m. Club members along with interested family members are invited to attend.

Lakehead Rotary is hosting December Dreams, a craft fair, at the CLE Coliseum Building, located at 425 Northern Avenue. The event runs Saturday, December 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is a \$2 admission fee and no charge for children under the age of twelve. Proceeds from this event will go to the Dew Drop Inn, RFDA, Shelter House, and the MS Society-Thunder Bay. Lakehead Rotary is looking for volunteers to assist at the event. Please contact them if you are interested.

The speaker for the **December 4 Rotary meeting**, to be held at Daytona's, will be Arpad, the Romanian Rotary youth exchange student. FW Rotary will be cooking a Christmas meal at Shelter House on **Monday, December 9**. Preparations for the meal will begin at 3:30 p.m. The club requires a leader to head up this event. Please let President Stephen know if you are interested. The meeting is cancelled on **Wednesday, December 11**.

The trial period for changes in our Rotary meetings ends in December. President Stephen will be sending out a survey to get feedback from club members regarding these changes.

Robert Moore ran the 50/50 draw. Seventeen tickets had been sold. Dave Murray held the winning number but he did not draw the lucky red queen. He got her partner instead-the king of hearts. Better luck next time!

Editor – Erle

Scribe – Bev

Photo Irene

