



2023 - 2024

A Year in Review

2023 - 2024 at a Glance...

There is no proper way to summarize a year of incredible service and fellowship. Thanks to every member who has come out to events, contributed their service, enjoyed the fellowship and embraced our Rotary family. I hope you will not be overwhelmed when you realize what an extraordinary year we've just about completed. Let's keep up the momentum as we move into 2024-25!



July 2023

- Be the Bridge - Outlaw Bridge event on July 1 at Grand Portage (Brian W and Matt V)
- COTB (3-day fundraiser at FWHP) Bob T and the many other Volunteers
- Fern's final presentation on her Thunder Bay Rotary experience as an exchange student from Thailand
- Fern's farewell dinner Marg, John, Shelley, (counsellor) David (host parents) and Matthew D and John S (Youth Exchange Officers)
- Club Meeting Foundation update and effort to raise funds with a small auction (Brenda)
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)

August 2023

- Fern departed on August 1
- RYLA presentations (Jayla Hygaard, Dawson Haack, Prisha Brar) at LU Senate Chambers (Jim M, Bob T)
- Golf tourney (Doug S)
- Bursary proposed and approved by board to allow support and access to new members who have financial hardship (Shelley C)
- DG Dave's visit (hosted at Crawford/Legge home)
- New members Cindy, Amy and Olivia (Shelley) inducted, DG Dave is our speaker
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)

September 2023

- Giant Food Drive – all service clubs plus others (leads Albert and Shelley)
- Guest Speakers: LRCA Ryan Mackett and Jessie McFadden
- Visit/tour to WDC (Dave S)
- Brian's belated farewell event at Red Lion (Jim Madder and Matt)
- Peace Day at Waverley Park (Kevin H music)
- Club Meeting Speaker: Jeremy Bryan (Rotary outbound international exchange alumnus) on Careers in Foreign Service
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)
- Waterfront Trail RCAT actively lobbying for support

October 2023

- Polio Day Pizza for Polio (Marg)
- Club Meeting Speaker: Gary Ferguson (Salvation Army) on Challenges of Recovery
- Nipigon polio plus event with Dan Brown
- Planning TV ads (Hector, Matt, Brent, Shelley and others)
- Info booth at St Ignatius and St Pats re inbound and outbound Exchange Students (Amy, John, Marg)
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)

November 2023

- Santa Claus parade (Jim M, Kevin and all volunteers)
- Club Meeting Speaker: Davis Viehbeck: Ont. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry on Conservation Officers role
- Allocations approved for Easter Seals, Grace Place, SA, DFC, Science Fair and Eleanor Drury Children's Theatre plus support for shipping supplies to Fort Severn (Judi T, Alyssa and Allocations team)
- New members: Matthew Hills (Shelley) and Jim McCullough (Bill E) Brenda spoke to Rotary Foundation
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)

December 2023

- SA Kettles (Bob T and Bill G)
- PA Rotary reps 2024 Tamarack Community Climate Transition Cohort – City of T Bay (Marg and John)
- Talking About the Tough Stuff (TATS): Darcy Fleury Mental Health in the TBPS and the community – a Canada Club and College partnership (Shelley, Irene, Sharon, Rob Z)
- Started taping tv ads – excellent results
- Xmas party at the club meeting (it was not a Silent Night) (Kevin Music)
- Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Port Arthur) Community Charity approved (Krysta, Doug, Chris B and rest of charity board)
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)



January 2024

- Karan Shah (shared intern) hired thanks to Jim Madder and Albert B
- New Year's Day Levee at Coral Bay – Brent joins as first member in new century (taped by Karan, hosted by Shelley and David and great help from Marg W)
- Gala planning in earnest (Amy and Albert co-chairs, Shelley and Brent, Karan Plus others week prior and night of plus Albert and Olivia co-emcees)
- Launch of 7 TV ads showcasing Rotarians and focussing on 7 areas of service and fellowship over 6 weeks. Thanks to Hector, Matt, and Dougall Media team
- John Andras HIP Y2Y (4 days that included visits to Rotary Clubs, FWFN, FWHP and the AG for a Community Info session. Beginning of a commitment to host the Y2Y event in 2026 (Shelley, Brian)
- Women in Rotary event at the AG with Tapestry Int'l Women's Network and Sisters for Canadian Black Community (Shelley)
- Launch of 52 weekly CJ articles (organized by Bill Everitt - written by Bill and his team)
- PHFs pinned over the next three months (Brenda Winter)
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)
- Discussions on by-law changes start

February 2024

- Taping of Roopa's show (Shaw Cable) with CC presidents (Shelley, Irene, Sharon)
- Museum exhibition planning starts in earnest (David L, Vonnie and Mark T with LU loaned photo kiosk)
- Centennial Interviews for CJ, Walleye (Shelley) Bill E on CBC radio
- Club Meeting Speaker: Dr Mark Henderson on Heart and Stroke Ass'n
- St James School back with new principal Casey Charles (allocation increased) (Art)
- Special donation of water to Fort Severn (Brian)
- Feb 13 meeting and Rotary swag fashion show/fellowship (Shelley)
- Rotary Radio Family Day a huge success (Matt Hector, Krysta and all the sellers especially Bill, Shelley Warren)
- Start planning the Rotary Centennial book (underwritten by Firedog (Shelley) and printed by Lowery's (Amy))
- TBSO concert fellowship event to replace Anniversary dinner
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)
- Allocations Speakers: (March of Dimes, Community Clothing, Adelaide Butterfly Garden, FSN, DFC, DDI, Hospice NW, United Way Thunder Bay.(Judi T, Alyssa Ryan and Allocations team))

March 2024

- Opening reception museum, TBay news interview (David and Shelley)
- Taped video ad for District re gala (Shelley)
- TATS Jon Thompson: Racism (Canada Club team and Rob Z)
- New members at Club St Patrick's day meeting and fellowship (Priscilla (Shelley) and Ian (David))
- Club meeting Speakers: Nefry Falla (Tapestry Int'l Women's Network) and Bolly and Bruno (2 Bs in the Bay)
- Paul Harris Fellow ceremony (Brenda)
- Gala auction fundraiser at Amethyst (Shelley and David)
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)
- Club meeting speaker: George Saarinen, Age Friendly Thunder Bay

April 2024

- Thunder Bay Rotary Environmental Action Committee (John S, Marg W and all Canada Clubs have members)
- Club Meeting Speaker: Thom Currie Magnus Theatre
- Olivia Kembel (non-Indigenous rep) and Haven Walton (Indigenous rep) were at HIP Y2Y in BC
- District Awards received for Hector Dougall (Vocational), Mark Tilbury (Club Service), Public Image (many thanks to Matt, Karissa, Bill E and many others), Highest new members (numbers and percentage).
- Gala (team mentioned above – plus Marg, John on décor and Shelley and Karan Silent Auction)
- Club meeting speakers: Thunder Bay Multicultural Ass'n (Nicole Croes, Taj Shah)
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)

May 2024

- Chamber Awards (nominated for NFP excellence but did not win) (Albert B)
- New members: Karan (Albert), Blessing (Priscilla) and George (Vonnie)
- Shelter Box speaker, Ally Buck
- Magnus Fellowship event: Liars at a Funeral (43 attend) (Shelley)
- Citizenship Awards (Marg lead and other presenters – also thx to Art)
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)
- Environmental Photo contest for wildflower gardens announced (Marg W)

June 2024

- Club Speaker Little Bea Sailing Dan Turk
- Waterfront trail cleanup (Warren) and planting indigenous plants with LRCA (Marg and John)
- Highway cleanup (Dave Silliman and volunteers)
- Big Plant Day at JTL SA (David and Paul D)
- TATS Dr Paul Berger: Climate Change (Canada Club)
- Blog post on membership accepted by RI
- New community member inducted LAUF (Learn and Uplift Foundation) Meena and Vijay (Brian)
- Dew Drop Inn (Dave S and Volunteers)

The 2023-2024 Board

A huge thank you to the Board for their outstanding service at monthly board meetings and throughout the year – unsung heroes all! I especially appreciate the behind the scenes work of our treasurer and secretary.

- **Matthew Diegel** Secretary
- **Kevin Holloway** Treasurer
- **Brian Walmark** Past President
- **Mark Tilbury** Club Service
- **Albert Brule** Community Service
- **Warren Philp** Club Trainer and Waterfront Trail RCAT lead
- **Marg Woods** Youth and International
- **Brenda Winter** (Foundation)
- **Matt Villella** Public Image and PE
- **Hector Dougall** Special Fundraising and PEN

Plus support from members as needed:

- **Jim Madder** Centennial Committee chair
- **Chris Bailey and Leslie Savitsky** (co-treasurers)
- **Jim Crooks** WTRCAT



Committees

There is no proper way to thank everyone (and I mean every one) who has volunteered to either take on a leadership role and/or participate on all these committees and projects. I do not believe there is anyone (save for a member who has been ill) who has not participated this year in one, or in most cases multiple activities. We are indeed people of action!

Allocations: Judi Turner (Lead) and Alyssa Ryan (support)

Membership: David Legge and Athena Kreiner (co-chairs) + Wellness team

Field of Greens: David Legge and Paul DeBaaker (co-chairs)

Environment: John Stephenson and Marg Woods

Youth: John Stephenson, Marg Woods, Amy Kembel, support from Art Warwick

Rotary Radio Days: Matt Villella, Krysta Logozzo Daniele, Hector Dougall + many others

Rotary TV Ads: Hector Dougall, Matt Villella, + others

International: Marg Woods with support from Roly Turner

4 Way Test: Reps Rod Morrison and Lesley Bell

Nominating Committee: Brian Walmark and Past Presidents

Bylaws: Matthew Diegel and Leslie Savitsky

Gala: Amy Kembel, Albert Brule (co-chairs) plus Brent Boyko, Shelley Crawford and Karan Shah

Centennial Book - A Century of Service: Shelley Crawford, Bill Everitt, Brent Boyko (ads) and Albert Brule

Foundation: Brenda Winter

Fellowship: Shelley Crawford

Adopt a Highway: Dave Silliman

Santa Claus Parade: Jim Madder + almost all the members

Dew Drop Inn: Dave Silliman supported by facility upgrade lead Bob Tomlinson + extra help in kitchen from Bill Green, Steve and Deb McAuley, and many others

Wilderness Discovery Centre: Board rep Dave Silliman and facility upgrade lead Bob Tomlinson

District Awards: Shelley Crawford, Matt Villella, Matthew Diegel and Marg Woods

Waterfront Trail: Warren Philp and Jim Crooks

Club Meeting Set Up: David Legge

Financial Transactions: Kevin Holloway and Bruce Nelson

RYLA: Jim Madder

HIP and Y2Y: Brian Walmark and Shelley Crawford

Shared Rotary/United Way Intern leads: Shelley Crawford and Albert Brule

Speakers: Shelley Crawford and Matt Villella

Public Image: Matt Villella lead (Website and Youtube), Karissa Kilby (Facebook), David Legge (newsletter and photography), Karan Shah (support, video and graphics), Shelley Crawford (news releases and interviews), Bill Everitt (CJ articles)

Centennial Committee: Jim Madder lead

Country on the Bay: Bob Tomlinson (lead) + many members and friends
Canada Club (President and Secretary)

Zoom host: Matt Villella

Thanks, one and all!

Shelley Crawford
President, 2023-2024

