# Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay

***Mission: "Soroptimist is a global volunteer organization that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment.".***

***Vision: "Women and girls have the resources and opportunities to reach their full potential and live their dreams".***

*Soroptimist Thunder Bay Club Meeting* **Wednesday,**

**June 14 at 6;30 pm at Heritage Building**

**Pizza and salad**

**Judy will send information for Zoom attendance**

## *Connecting with Cindy*

Well we have survived another year and what a positive one it has been! We worked at the Women's Friendship Baseball games last August, had a successful yard sale, Maggie Chicoine spoke to us at a membership event, celebrated Christmas in person, enjoyed a membership Appreciation luncheon in February which was first class, awarded 2 Live Your Dream Awards on International Women's Day, held a DIBI (Dream It Be It) conference for CAS (Children's Aid Society - Girls Transitioning into Adulthood), sold tickets for a Gift Card raffle at the Home & Garden show, and then swung into the Two Bit Auction! Many of these events had not been done since COVID. Please read the reports from all 4 pillars to see how much we accomplished this year as I am sure I missed a few things

Items of interest:

- **Program reports**
- **Girls transitioning**
- **SIA Convention**
- **Agenda**

**Inside this Issue:**


- **Connecting with Cindy**
- **Minutes May 24**

Our Club did not win 5 awards at the ECR (Eastern Canada Region) Spring Conference for doing nothing! That reminds me, 6 of us went to the in person conference! I think we all deserve a rest this summer!

The Two Bit Auction (May 11th) was amazing and we did not lose our touch at being "a well-oiled machine"! Thanks to Fund Raising and everyone who made this happen!

Soroptimist of the Year was awarded to **Karen Borolin**! It was great that she was present at Conference to receive this award and we did a local presentation at the May meeting as well. Congratulations Karen!!!!

Normally the June meeting is in person with pizza being ordered and little business done as we were busy putting together Comfort Kits. This year, we helped stock the Cupboard for the Girls Transitioning into Adulthood. We are the recipient of the Champion of Children Award by CAS for "sparking" interest in the girls. They were also the recipient of our Lottery proceeds **and the DIBI event.**

Thanks to **Kathleen Rismondo** for discovering the June-Steeve Lendrum Family Resource Centre which we also donated monies to from our Lottery proceeds. Another well deserving organization for which we hope to help in the upcoming year.

We had several enquiries about potential members and it looks like **Charlene Hipfner** will be joining as of July 1st. Thank you Membership for following up on these leads.

**Chery Ball** will induct the new board at the June that basically has not changed except for **Lee Ann Nalezyty** taking over a chair of Public Awareness and there will be a new delegate which **Charlene Hipfner** has agreed to. I would like to take this moment to thank **all the board and our delegate Devona Crowe** who helped make my job easier! Special thanks to **Lorrie Haslam** who made this possible by stepping up to the role of Treasurer this year. She is doing a fantastic job!

ECR and WCR (Western Canada Region) jointly held 2 webinars dealing with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. I am not sure if anyone attended but I was unable to.

The SFC (**Soroptimist Foundation of Canada**) is celebrating their 60th Anniversary and ZOOM meeting has been scheduled for **June 11 at 7 pm**. All are welcome to attend and encouraged to wear red and white (their colours). We will hear from 2 of their grant recipients. Find out more at soroptimistfoundation.ca.

The **Yard Sale** has been scheduled for **September 23** so we have the summer to get ready.

Your **very proud** President, Cindy

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May 24th, 2023

CLE Heritage Building/Zoom at 6:30 pm.

**Attendees:** Kim Koivukoski, Rosa Martin, Faith Crichton, Judy Anderson, Judy Perrier, Barb Fraser, Joan Taddo, Linda Adams, Enid McKenzie, Marlene Crago, Karen Bortolin, Shirley Smith, Cindy Figus, Cheryl Ball, Lorrie Haslam, Devona Crowe, Kathleen Rismondo

**Guests:** Danielle Bobinski (June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre), Danny Michaud, Tracie Malcolm (Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society)

**Secretary:** Melanie Cates

## Meeting Notes

Presentation of cheque ($1450) to Danielle Bobinski (June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre) by Kathleen Rismondo and Shirley Smith from funds raised by the gift card draw. Danielle gave an overview of the resource centre and her role with the girls who live in the housing units. The centre has 24 units and accepts girls aged 16-24 who have a child/children, are pregnant or are trying to reunite with a child. They offer parenting classes, counselling for addictions, coping skills, and help with education attendance. Thunder Bay Housing holds the wait list for the units. Currently there is no wait list. Funds from the donation will be used for their community garden area and to develop a play area for children in the garden.

Presentation of cheque ($1875) to Tracie Malcolm and Danny Michaud (Thunder Bay Children's Aid Society) by Melanie Cates, Kathleen Rismondo and Shirley Smith from funds raised at the Two-Bit Auction. Tracie and Danny gave an overview of their roles with the girls transitioning to adulthood and invited a representative of our club to their annual general meeting to accept an award (Champion of Children Award) that we were nominated for.

Call to order and Land Acknowledgement @ 8:10

Minutes of April 12, 2023, club meeting. Shirley Smith moved that the minutes from April 12, 2023, be accepted as circulated. Seconded by Devona Crowe and carried.

**Treasurer's Report and budget**

Club fund income – bottle drive $81.60, and room rental from club meeting $75. Expenses- bank service charge of $4.00

No change to Olive Ede's fund or Garden fund.

Program funds – income $350 ticket pre-sales for Two-Bit Auction, $200 donation.

Expenses – advertising for Two-Bit Auction $45.19, wine for raffle $173.20, printing of Two-Bit Auction tickets $40.68, $250 for auction basket items. This fund is currently in the negative $2569.17.

Conference funds had an income of $38.50 from 50/50 at the April club meeting.

Lottery fund – income $1654.10 from gift card draw. Expenses - $27.35 for announcement of the winner in The Chronicle-Journal, $1450 cheque to June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre, and bank charges of $5.25

Lorrie also provided an overview of the income from the Two-Bit Auction. This was also circulated electronically.

**Delegate Report from Spring Conference** – Devona provided us with an overview of her attendance at the Spring conference. She very much enjoyed the conference and felt that it was informative and helped her to connect the pieces of the various components of the Soroptimist Organization. She reported that the conference was well organized and very professional. She noted that our club shares a true camaraderie, and she was proud of Cheryl and Karen for their role on the ECR Board. She also thanked Cindy for her mentorship and Judy Perrier and Linda Adams for including her in activities at conference.

**Correspondence** – circulated electronically inviting members to 2 upcoming webinars on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.
Cindy has received our club awards from ECR Spring Conference. We received the participation certificate for events in all 4 pillars, two second place awards for our Free the Girls Project with Eco-Superior and for the article in The Women's Magazine for the 100th Anniversary celebration, and a first-place award for our Sweet Dream Virtual Auction. We also won the Governor's award.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Declaration (Risk Management) Form for non-member gatherings (45 days in advance) under SIA Club/Member Forms. Cindy has asked SIA if this form is still required. Currently SIA President Stephanie indicates that it is still required for now. Melanie will submit the form prior to any events that have non-club members present. Pillar chairs are asked to alert Melanie of guests or events where non-club members will be attending.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

## MEMBERSHIP

Kim and Faith have been following up on potential members. A membership package has been mailed out to one of the contacts.

SI Policies & Procedures – there was a discussion about printing copies of the guidelines for pillar chairs if needed. Melanie will investigate the cost of printing. Judy Anderson will check with the CLE for printing costs. For Pillars that have co-chairs, one copy will be provided for them to share if they request a print version. Club members will get only an electronic copy.

Bylaws deferred (with Sharon Godwin) – no update. Sharon retires at the end of June and hopefully can continue work on the bylaw reviews.

Archives adhoc meeting is scheduled on June 12, 2023.

Soroptimist of the Year Award Presentation – Karen Bortolin was selected as our Soroptimist of the Year and was given a pin and a dozen yellow roses. Congratulations Karen.

**FUNDRAISING**

Yard Sale – September 23, 2023. They are still determining if the Cardinal Room will be available the day prior to set up.

Two-Bit Auction – a very successful event. Lots of positive comments from attendees. We had approximately 244 people in attendance. There were 42 tickets unsold of the 300 printed.

Thank you, notes/calls have been completed.

**PROGRAM**

Live Your Dream- the 3 previous winners who helped at the Two-Bit Auction were very happy to give back (Marlene Gammond, Aashvi Gupta, and Laurie Massaro)

The portal for the LYD awards opens on August 15, 2023.

Judy Perrier, Linda Adams, and Lorrie Haslam attended the one-hour LYD webinar and felt that it was an overview of basic information for the program.

Dream It, Be It – Devona has been working on the application for a grant from the Soroptimist Foundation of Canada. There are two categories of awards (one for girls up to 18 years of age and an accelerator program for girls over 18 years of age).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Thunder Bay Baseball Association has asked if our club wants to sell 50/50 tickets at the games in August. There are 3 games per day from August 8 – 13, 2023. We are also required to help with attendance admission. Half of our proceeds go to the Baseball Association. It was decided that we do not have enough people available to assist at this event. Melanie will contact Nick Melchiore and let him know we are unable to participate.

## NEW BUSINESS

SFC (Soroptimist Foundation of Canada) has their AGM virtually on June 11th at 7 pm. They are celebrating their 60th Anniversary. Donation cards and phone stickers were circulated for the members.

Cindy asked club members if we could consider sending a donation to SIA from our Olive Ede fund to support the Big Goal. More discussion is required and the committee for the Olive Ede Bequest would need to determine if this is possible.

Our club funds have a deficit and Cindy wonders if we should transfer some funds from the Olive Ede fund or Conference fund to clear the deficit and restore the fund. No decision has been made.

Lorrie Haslam moved that $225 be taken from conference funds to reimburse Linda Adams for her conference registration. It was seconded by Rosa Martin and carried.

**The next club meeting is June 14, 2023, and will be held in person. Location TBD. Pizza will be served.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM**

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## Membership Dues

Hi all!
Well, it's that time of the year once again! Same price as last year which is a bonus! ($190). If you need me to pick up your cheque, just email me at lorrietbsoropt@gmail.com or phone me at (807)-767-9219 and I will gladly drop by.
Thanks so much!
Lorrie H.

<2023SorotimistDuesInvoice.pdf>

You can e-transfer to cfigus@tbaytel.net as although Lorrie is Treasurer, the funds still go to club. This information is in the invoice.

Cindy

# Program Committee Report: 2022 – 2023

**Respectfully Submitted by Judy Perrier; Chair of Programs**

**On behalf of all the Chairs within Program**

It has been said, when asked what Soroptimist's do, you could say "in a nutshell" we raise money then give it away. Our programs and commitment are focused on reaching women and girls who have experienced obstacles and seeking to empower them through access to education and training and any other initiatives that will assist them in obtaining that empowerment.

## Live Your Dream Award

**Judy Perrier; Chair, Linda Adams, Devona Crowe and Lorrie Haslam**

We increased the size of the committee and with a few brainstorming meetings we increased the number of contacts and informed them of the LYDA. Our hard work did bring in six applications. One of the applicants did not qualify for the LYDA, but, was forwarded information on the Foundations Award. We did have two successful candidates who were deserving and met all the criteria.

***Aashvi Gupta; $2,000.00 2022/2023 Live Your Dream Award winner***

**Sarah Foglia; $1,500.00 2022/2023Live Your Dream Award winner**

## Beyond a Cash Award

**Judy Perrier, Linda Adams and Lorrie Haslam**

The idea to keep in touch and maintain a relationship with our LYDA winner 's has begun. The idea is to regularly keep in touch and being available if she requires any assistance. Nothing is promised but she has been encouraged to feel free in asking for assistance in areas of mentoring, job support, looking for services, unexpected family needs and help with her education needs.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| September | Card with a message of encouragement and good luck in the coming school year<br>Marlene and Laija | |
| October | Thanksgiving card & $50.00 gift card sent<br>Marlene | |
| December | Christmas Card & $100.00 gift card<br>Marlene | Christmas Card<br>Laija |
| January '23 | Birthday Card Laija | |
| March | Live Your Dream Awards Presentation. Aashvi Gupta & Sarah Fogolia | |
| April | Birthday Card & Bath & Body Giftcard (donated) Marlene | |
| May | Mother's Day Cards – Marlene, Laija, Aashvi & Sarah | |
| June | Graduation cards will be sent where warranted, pending. | |

## International Friendship Gardens

**Judy Anderson, Enid McKenzie and Maxine Tenander**

Memorial grove event for Olive Ede and Rose Frim at the Friendship Gardens - October 15, 2022; 11 am

### Dream It Be It

**Devona Crowe; Chair, Cheryl Ball, Marlene Crago, Faith Crichton, Kathleen Rismondo**

**Background**

DIBI was back and in full force in 2023. We partnered with the Children's Aid Society of Thunder Bay to deliver a workshop that was open to young women aged 15-18 years of age, who are receiving support from CAS. Twelve young women committed to attending and eight showed up.

Danny Michaud, CAS case worker and Soroptimist liaison, arranged for the event to take place at Carlito's Café. The café owner, Chris Talarico, provided a space for the event free of charge when we purchased food from the café.

Danny Michaud, CAS case worker for the young woman, was very pleased with the events of the day which took place at Carlito's Café on March 14, 2023, from 10-30 AM to 4:30 PM.

**Budget**

DIBI, 2023 had a budget of $1300. Approximately $800 of the budget was spent. The committee has asked for the budget to remain at $1300 for DIBI 2024 as plans are to involve more young women.

Grant requests have been sent to SIA for approximately $1700 and to Soroptimist foundation of Canada for $1000.

**The One-day DIBI Conference**

Speakers were:

1.Karen Shelley, Financial Counsellor, Thunder Bay Counselling Centre

2. Karen Lynn Evans, Business Counsellor, PARO

3. Paula Ribotto, Author, Business Owner, Yoga for Life

4. Dee Kruger Artist, and Business Owner, The Creative Gallery,

Karen Lynn Evans focused on finding one's passion and building a business around it. She also talked about how PARO can assist women (young and mature) in building a business plan and how PARO empowers women to achieve their goals. Did you know "PARO" is Latin for "I am ready"?

Dee Kruger artist and entrepreneur focussed on her personal experiences: finding her passion, developing it into a vision, maintaining it, and growing the vision to become The Creative Art Gallery. Her passion now makes over one million dollars per year and is expected to grow to $10 million over the next 5-10 years. She also spoke about how everyone needs to learn to overcome obstacles and to deal with stress.

Karen Shalley spoke of the importance of managing money soundly and consistently. She talked about how cell phone data and apps can lead to a lot of unnecessary money being spent. It was quite amazing how knowledgeable the young women were about frugal shopping tips and the need to save money.

Karen Ribboto led the attendees in some stretching and stress reducing activities. She also talked about knowing what will trigger your stress and learning to know when stress is approaching.

Soroptimist Presentations & Involvement

Soroptimists Kathleen Rismondo and Faith Crichton lead the attendees through activities that helped them identify personal strengths and career's suited to these.

Marlene Crago and Cheryl Ball greeted as the young women signed in, and Cheryl thanked all the guest speakers and presented them with a lovely plant in a pot that said "Girl Power."

Culminating Activities:

1. The DIBI committee completed a debrief process that allowed the committee to focus on: what went well, what would improve the event, the developing a focus for DIBI 2024, and the filing reports with SIA and ECR. The debrief activities included: each committee member completing a personal reflection of the planning process and implementation of the one-day workshop; an assessment of the evaluations that the young women who attended the workshop had completed; and a debrief meeting with Danny Michaud. All this input was collated to bring wisdom, and focus to DIBI 2024
2. A letter was sent to Dana Leader, Manager, CAS for her willingness to partner with Soroptimists, and as an appreciation of her decision to permit Danny Michaud to work with the Soroptimists and guide us in preparing a workshop that CAS fully supported.

## CAS Girls Transitioning to Adulthood Ad hoc Committee 2023

**Melanie Cates; Chair, Kathleen Rismondo, Faith Crichton, Linda Adams, Judy Perrier, Lorrie Haslam, Shirley Smith, Marlene Crago, Devona Crowe, and Lee Ann Nalezyty.**

The committee met once by Zoom in November to determine themes for the 2023 calendar year.

Q1 Pamper Yourself (items for the girls to feel special – bath bombs, bubble bath, nail polish, facial packs)

Q2 Food/Snacks and other essentials (e.g. toilet paper, Kleenex, cleaning supplies)

Q3 New or nearly new appliances (items from the yard sale and recipes to make a quick meal was discussed)

Q4 Winter essentials – mitts, scarves, hats, socks, lip balms

Drop off of items collected was done by various committee members as able. A process for determining the needs of the cupboard was developed. Melanie will contact our liaison Danny Michaud the month prior to drop off to see what items are required as share this with the club members via the monthly Newsletter.

A sign for the cupboards was discussed to promote SI's contributions to the girls transitioning to adulthood. This has not been finalized yet.

We have had a very successful year thus far with our club's donations to the food/supply cupboard. Danny Michaud shared some reactions from the girls after our donation of school supplies. "*I just got to put away all that stuff you folks donated, and I was beyond floored. The stuff was just what we needed, and we were able to fill up a good portion of our non food donations. A young lady went down there with her worker, she is starting college, and it was like Christmas shopping for her. She needed so much of what we found. This is what it is all about. She was all smiles when she left our building, and her worker was so happy for her. These things add up so from the bottom of my heart thank you, thank you, thank you. Two other girls also got school packages made up for them*".

Our December drop off of items included 50 handknit hats that Faith's sister donated. This allowed our club to focus on other needs that the girls have.

Food remains a high need for this group.

Club expenses for this year did not exceed the budgeted amount of $1000. An increase in budget will be requested for 2023-2024 to ensure that food needs for the cupboard are prioritized.

# Membership Annual Report: 2022-2023

Submitted by: Kim Koivukoski and Faith Crichton,

Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

The Committee has been busy this year. A major project of the fall Was a **Membership Event** held on November 8th, 2022. Much planning went into it and numerous meetings took place: October 16th, October 20th, October 21st, October 22nd, October 24th, October 25th, and October 26th.

Planning included: • Correspondence with speaker, **Maggie Chicoine** • Determining the venue (Heritage Room at the CLE) • Invitations sent to former members, present members friends and family • Poster developed to advertise on line, through the local radio station, face book, and our website • 60 invitations were sent out (on line) • 21 guests and 18 members were in attendance • Covid friendly venue and refreshments served

There was a positive response to the event and we were pleased with the turn out. From the written responses and contact numbers, we were able to touch base with participants after the event. S.I. Thunder Bay benefited from this successful event. Kim applied to and the committee received a $100 grant from ECR to help cover some costs of the event.

We were pleased that area politicians (MPP's and MP's) were made aware of the work the club does in the community and were willing to assist us to support women and girls. We will hopefully drop off information to their offices to increase our profile in the community.

Although this event occupied most of our thoughts and energy during the fall, we have continued to work diligently to recruit new members over the rest of this year. We have revised and developed packages for prospective members, and continue to add to a clearinghouse of contacts to draw on for future projects. Hand out business cards have been purchased for members to distribute. We are also refining procedures for the Membership Committee.

Four prospective members were invited to our April general meeting. One interested woman was going to join us on zoom, but was unable to do so, as she was teaching at the College that evening. The three in person women were enthusiastic and demonstrated keen interest in helping at the Two Bit Auction. One has decided to join the club and will be at the June general meeting. All interested ladies inquired about our club at the spring Garden Show raffle table.

Further to the interest of prospective members, two volunteered at the Two Bit Auction this month, and were impressed with the event and enjoyed their fellowship with other members there.

The Committee is hoping to do a Membership Event in 2024 as well as a Friends of Soroptimists Event in the fall. Included in this report are submissions by Archives, Sick and Visiting and Goodwill chairs.

## Archive Report May 2023

**1. Background** Most S.I. of Thunder Bay Archives are in a storage area rented from First Wesley United Church. Devona Crowe took over managing the archives for in 2022-23.

**2. Committee** An Archive CommiFee has been struck; it will have its iniIal meeIng in June 2023. Members of the commiFee are: • Linda Adams, • Judy Anderson, • Devona Crowe and, • Cindy Figus.

The committee's purpose is to:

- assess the suitability of the archive storage unit,
- review what items should be contained in the archives an
- other to be determined by the Archive Committee.

Respectfully submitted, Devona Crowe

## Sick and Visiting Report 2022 - 2023

Since COVID hasn't left yet; a few members have been affected. During regular monthly telephone conversations it was learned that other club members still have on going health issues. Some have even had their surgery postponed or cancelled. Others have made a residence change due to aging and health issues.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Smith

## Newsletter

A monthly newsletter was published from September to June. The club president provided an overview of the previous month's club actives. Minutes of the previous club meeting along with contributions from club members reporting on the activities of their respective programmes were included. In addition information from ECR and SIA was shared. The newsletter was also distributed to ECR governor, ECR webmaster and sister clubs.

Respectfully submitted, Lee-Ann Nalezyty

## International Friendship and Goodwill

International Friendship and Goodwill maintains correspondence with sister clubs in the United States, Japan, Scotland and Finland. A total of five clubs. WriFen correspondence was sent to all clubs in the fall of 2022 requesting information on their current president, club home address and social media information. The only information returned was from SI Wichita, USA and a Christmas card from Japan. The Wichita club shares their newsletter with SI Thunder Bay. Action will be taken this summer to obtain information from our sister clubs about their interest in remaining a sister club and perhaps seek out interest from other clubs to join SI Thunder Bay sister club.

Respectfully submitted, Lee-Ann Nalezyty

## KIVA

KIVA a micro-lending opportunity conInues to be maintained by one member. Since 2008, 149 loans have been made. From an iniIal donaIon of $472, SI members have been able to report that this donaIon generated a total of $4300 being lent with a repayment of $4100. Two loans were made in 2023 because the account had generated a repayment of $68. All loans conInue to support female driven groups who work to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. As of June 2023, $9 remains in the account.

Respectfully submitted, Lee-Ann Nalezyty

We would like to thank Judy Anderson, President Cindy, Shirley, Devona and Lee Ann for their committee dedication and to all those working with them over the past year to support their goals. Much appreciation to all club members whose participation and support contributed to the success of the Membership Committee accomplishments this year.

**On a celebratory note…..** On May 10th, Kim and Faith visited Enid to bring a card and flowers and best wishes from the club, to acknowledge her milestone birthday. (90!).

Our gratitude to all members,

Respectfully submitted, Kim Koivukoski & Faith Crichton Membership Committee Co-Chairs.

# PUBLIC AWARENESS REPORT: 2022- 2023

This is the final report for Public Awareness activities from September 2022 to June 2023

Members: Faith Crichton (Chair until December 2022, Judy Perrier (Website), Lee Ann Nalezyty (Newsletter) Melanie Cates (Interim Chair and FaceBook).

Media Sources:

The Chronicle-Journal (What to Do, Your Stories)
What's Happening with Fiona Gardiner
105.3 The Bay Radio
FaceBook
The Source
Soroptimist Website
Kiiji
TBnewswatch.com
Electronic Billboard CLE
Information Radio 90.5 FM

September 24, 2022, Yard Sale: Handouts for the Thunder Bay Market were printed from a template we had used previously. FaceBook and our Soroptimist website hosted information on the event.
We paid for an advertisement in the "What to Do" section of the Chronicle-Journal.
An ad was submitted to 105.3 The Bay who aired the event the week of September 16, 2022, in the time slot for "Your Thunder Bay". This advertising is free for non-profit organizations. The large electronic Billboard for the CLE also posted our yard sale info.

Girls Transitioning to Adulthood Program cheque presentation was published in the Chronicle-Journal on September 21, 2022. The $1,000 cheque was from funds raised at the Women's Friendship Baseball Games in August 50/50 draws. The notification was also posted to FaceBook.

October 15, 2022, A tree dedication at the Soroptimist International Friendship Gardens in memory of Olive Ede and Rose Frim was posted to FaceBook and our club website.

October 24, 2022, What's Happening with Fiona Gardiner advertised our membership drive event with guest speaker Maggie Chicone. Our FaceBook feed also advertised this event.

Other FaceBook posts:
CAS drop off of school items for Girls Transitioning to Adulthood program – October 6, 2022
October 11, 2022, International Day of the Girl
October 20, 2022, Domestic Violence Awareness Day
November 9, 2022, Soroptimist International SI Statement in Support of the Rights of Women and Girls
November 10, 2022, winner of our door prize from the membership drive was posted.
March 4, 2023, International Women's Day Tea Webinar advertisement for SIA event

March 8, 2023, International Women's Day message
March 8, 2023, Winners of our Live Your Dream Award
April 15, 2023, Winner of the $500 gift card draw
May 1-11, 2023, Advertising of the Two-Bit Auction

March 10, 2023, Your Stories in The Chronicle-Journal published our Live Your Dream Award winners.
April 25, 2022 – Announcement in The Chronicle-Journal (we paid $27.35) for gift card draw winner as per our lottery license agreement. The article we submitted to Your Stories was not published so we had to make a paid announcement.

Advertising used for the Two-Bit Auction was: The Source, TBnewswatch.com, Radio 105.3 The Bay, Kiiji, What's Happening with Fiona Gardiner, What to Do in the Chronicle-Journal, Face-Book, 90.5 FM Information Radio, and our website. Total advertising expenses for this event were $90.39 (FaceBook boost $45.20, What to Do $22.60, The Source $22.59). All other media sources were free.

May 8, 2023, Fiona Gardiner from What's Happening on Global TV interviewed Kathleen Ris-mondo (Co-Chair of Fundraising) for the Sweet Dreams Two-Bit Auction.

The Public Awareness Committee had a successful year of promoting events and club activities using a variety of media sources. We have recruited a new Chair for the 2023-2024 club year. Lee Ann Nalezyty will be start as Chair effective July 1, 2023. Thank you to the committee for their dedication and promotion of the Soroptimist's mission.

**Public Awareness Budget for 2023-2024**

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|---|---|
| Zoom Account | $200 |
| Website Domain | $200 |
| Canva Program | $25 |
| **Total** | **$425.00** |

The following come out of the event proceeds, but want to capture the costs, so we have an idea of what the advertising costs our club.

| | |
|---|---|
| FaceBook boosts for Two-Bit Auction | $100 |
| Advertising for Two-Bit Auction (The Source and What to Do CJ) | $45 – total $22.59 for the Source and $22.60 What to Do |
| Announcement for Gift Card Draw winner in CJ | $25 |
| Printing | $50 |
| **Total of event costs from proceeds** | **$200.00** |

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Cates Interim Chair Public Awareness

# FUNDRAISING ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

Respectfully Submitted

Shirley Smith and Kathleen Rismondo

Co-Chairs Fundraising

SEPTEMBER 2023 ....YARD SALE

The annual Yard Sale was held on September 24th from 8A.M.-1P.M. in the Cardinal Room on the CLE grounds. This was an ideal venue for the yard sale. Firstly, we were able to access the room the day before to organize and price the items. Secondly, because it's an indoor facility, we didn't have the worry of inclement weather. That said, we also had the option of displaying some of the bigger items outside on the grounds, essentially doubling our real estate. Thirdly, we got a lot of foot traffic from the Thunder Bay Country Market which was held during the same time frame as the yard sale. Lastly, the leftover items were put in storage on the CLE grounds until Teen Challenge were able to pick them up on the following Tuesday.

We were fortunate to deposit $1967.00 into Club Funds. The success of this event can be contributed to many factors:

1) The tremendous amount of goods collected and the variety of items clearly gave the consumer a lot of choices.

2) The advertising was second to none. People said they heard in on the radio and who couldn't miss the eye catching sign on the CLE grounds. Along with Facebook, our Website, "What To Do", and last but not least, word of mouth. The messaging certainly reached a lot of people.

3) Our on-site advertising was advantageous as well. Flyers were handed out to patrons of the Country Market by Judy's granddaughter and Rosa's students.

4) The weather held out which is always a BONUS.

5) Holding it in the Fall perhaps catches people at home, whereas in the Spring lots are likely heading to camp. The Fall also attracts university/college students who are setting up accommodations.

The Yard Sale was a happening place, buzzing with friendly people, smiling faces, satisfied customers AND a few inquiries as to what Soroptimists are all about. A great opportunity to raise funds and give ourselves some free P.R.. Of course, none of this would be possible without the collaborative and unwavering commitment of our members and, "Friends of Soroptimist", who continue to make a difference in the lives of young girls and women.

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DECEMBER 2022 .....SILENT AUCTION

As tradition would have it, our Christmas dinner wouldn't be complete without the Silent Auction organized by Shirley. Our members look forward to this annual event and are always very generous in their donations, as well as, purchasing tickets to potentially win a prize. Tickets were sold for $5.00 a sheet and we were fortunate to raise $180.00 for Club Funds and had lots of fun in the process.

FEBRUARY 2023....APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

The purpose of the luncheon was to have a casual gathering of membership to express our gratitude to everyone for their continuous support and generosity of our fundraising initiatives. We titled it, " FUN! FROLIC! FELLOWSHIP! AND FUNDRAISING!" The room was beautifully decorated by Chrissy, who created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. The well attended event was a lovely afternoon of smiling faces, warm hearts, laughter and last, but not least, a good ole gab session among friends.

The lunch started off with a toast. We raised our shot of Baileys to acknowledge the dedicated service Soroptimists provide in our community and around the world. We then enjoyed the lovely spread of fancy sandwiches, cheese/ crackers, pickles, fruit, spinach dip, dainties, tea/ coffee/ lemonade which was all donated and prepared by Shirley, Kathleen, Faith and Chrissy.

After lunch, a few fun activities were played and prizes to the winners were distributed. ''This was followed by our main event titled, "In Purse-Suit of the Hidden Gem". Thanks to Faith's friend, (Friends of Soroptimist), we were able to individually wrap 24 pieces of jewellery varying in price from $20.00-$200.00. Each piece was then put them inside a fancy purse, at which point members were given the opportunity to purchase a purse that was on display for $20.00 and potentially win a beautiful bracelet valued at $200.00. In addition, we also held a 50/50 draw. Combined with the purse money, we were able to raise $545.00 for Club Funds.

Congratulations to Devona who chose the purse that housed the Ruby Red Bracelet. As one member was quoted as saying, "I started to smile the moment I walked in and was still smiling when I left." Mission accomplished!

MARCH/ APRIL 2023....GIFT CARD RAFFLE

Our Gift Card Raffle was once again a sell out. The FIVE $100.00 gift cards were Metro/ Canadian Tire/Shell/ Walmart/LCBO. After expenses, we are able to donate $1,450.00 to the June-Steeve Lendrum Family Resource Centre. The centre operates a housing unit (24 apartments) for young single women who are pregnant or who have a child less than 6 years of age. They offer a variety of support services to the residents as they navigate their way through challenging times. A representative from the centre came by the booth and expressed how grateful they were to us for supporting their organization.

They also appreciated the exposure the event was giving their centre, like Soroptimist, a hidden gem. Partnering with this organization was a perfect fit, acknowledging our mandate of empowering women.

Prior to the Home and Garden Show, members eagerly sold a number of tickets to family, friends and neighbours. However, the majority of tickets were sold at the Home and Garden Show the weekend of March 31st-April 2nd. Thanks to Judy A. for securing us a BOOTH in a prime location FREE OF CHARGE. We had great exposure and lots of inquiries about our club, resulting in a new member! Kudos to everyone who volunteered a few hours out of their busy day and promoted our club with pride.

MAY 2023....TWO-BIT AUCTION

After a hiatus of 3 years due to Covid we were once again able to have an in-person Two-Bit Auction. The auction was held in the Heritage Building on the CLE grounds Thursday May 11th. The doors opened at 6:00 and bidding started at 7:00.

A total of 33 baskets generously donated by members and businesses were auctioned. Each basket, with the exception of one, was creatively assembled by our BASKETEER EXTRODINAIRE, Chrissy. The most popular basket again this year was, “Feeling Lucky,” (Lotto Tickets) which sold out within minutes. A close second, with a few tickets short of selling out were, “Spring Projects,” and “Honey Do List” ($250.00 Home Depot Gift Card/ PartyLite in each). The other baskets sold on average 575 of the potential 1000 bids available. Instead of an Attendance Door Prize, we had 14 Bonus Prizes ranging in price from $20 to $45. The Bonus Prizes were drawn after every third basket, using their previously purchased entry ticket number. In addition to the baskets, we also held a 50/50 Draw and a Wine Draw (12 bottles). Both were very lucrative. The Wine Draw brought in $750.00. The 50/50 brought in $906.00.

We welcomed our guests with a bag of chips at each place setting. At intermission they were treated to a cupcake along with tea and coffee. People were able to purchase pop, water, chips for a $1.00 throughout the evening at the canteen. A profit of $215.00 was realized.

The event was well attended by 244 people. When the doors opened, there were 106 tickets left to sell out of the initial 300 printed. Out of the remaining 106, 48 were sold at the door. This reflects favourably on our advertising campaign lead by the P.R. Committee. We had exposure through a variety of media with minimal cost; radio/ newspaper/T.V./ website/Facebook/ big neon sign on the CLE grounds/tbaynewswatch.

When all was said and done we were extremely pleased with the results. We grossed $8644.50. After expenses and money being distributed to Club/Club Giving/Program etc. we were able to donate $1,875.00 to CAS Girls Transitioning into Adulthood AND $1,875.00 to The Soroptimist Foundation of Canada.

Taking on an event of this magnitude requires many hands on deck. We could not host a Two-Bit Auction if we were to rely solely on our membership. We are grateful to all the, "EXTRAS" who helped make it a success. They have all been acknowledged with a thank you via snail mail, email or a phone call.

It was a busy fun-filled night. The most rewarding part of the evening is realizing the positive impact we will have on the lives of women. EMPOWERMENT is PRICELESS!

SEPTEMBER-JUNE 2022-2023.....IN-PERSON MEETINGS
At our in-person meetings,(which have not been every month) a 50/50 draw is organized by Shirley. Tickets are sold for $2.00 each or 3 for $5.00, with no limits on how many can be purchased. The more you buy the better your chances of winning the JACKPOT! With fewer in-person meetings this year the money from this fundraiser going into Club Funds has been minimal, however, every little bit counts. If we meet more frequently face to face, this tally will increase. For now, we are grateful for what we did collect.

JUNE 2021-INFINITY..... BOTTLE DRIVE
What was once a seed of an idea has blossomed into an on-going fundraiser. Dubbed, "Drinking for Charity," was launched in June 2021 with the intention of it coming to a close at the end of summer/ early September 2021. However, with the support of members along with their family and friends it continues to this day. As of May 2023 the collection and return of bottles and cans to be recycled has brought in $1,703.00. These profits are deposited into Club Funds. CHEERS to all involved.

Respectfully Submitted, Shirley Smith and Kathleen Rismondo

**June Steeve Lendrum** (funds from $500 gift card draw)- Danielle Bobinski was the representative who received the $1450 cheque from Shirley and Kathleen. For CAS (funds from Two-Bit Auction) Tracie Malcolm Manager for the Spring Program and Danny Michaud our liaison for CAS received the $1875 cheque from Shirley, Kathleen and Melanie.

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SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

*Soroptimist International-Eastern Canada Region*

**Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls: A Two Part Series from Eastern & Western Canada Regions of Soroptimist International**

May 23, 2023

Truth and Reconciliation is essential for us as a larger community to understand the tragic legacy of residential schools, missing children, the families left behind and the survivors of these institutions.

A large part of moving forward in reconciliation is also understanding the ongoing tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls - and what actions we can all take to reflect, learn, and advocate for change.

"Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls: A Two Part Series" is a joint initiative of Soroptimist International Western Canada Region and Soroptimist International Eastern Canada Region. Panelists will include family members, journalists, a national educator/Barack Obama appointee, and a Federal Commissioner to the National Inquiry.

Two webinars will take place on May 27th (Completed) and June 10th, respectively, and we invite our community to join the discussion to learn the personal and systemic impact and initiatives underway in Canada and the United States.

**Part Two: The Way Forward - June 10, 2023 2:00PM-3:15PM EST**
Presenters:
-Patricia Whitefoot - an elder of the Yakima Nation and an appointee of President Barack Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.
-Qajaq Robinson - human rights lawyer and Former Commissioner, National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
-Denise Pictou-Maloney, member of the National Family and Survivors Circle for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

Registration for this FREE event is available on Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.ca/.../murdered-and-missing...

**Girls Transitioning to Adulthood Program**

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Girls Transitioning to Adulthood Program will be shopping for cupboard items to use the remaining money we had dedicated to this initiative for this year ($270). Linda Adams and Devona Crowe will shop and deliver the items.

The focus for our June delivery is Food/Snacks and other essentials (e.g. toilet paper, Kleenex, cleaning supplies). If you have any items to donate please bring them to our club meeting in June or let Melanie know if pick up is required.

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## SIA's 48th Biennial Convention

It's never too early to start planning for our next convention! You are invited to join Soroptimists from around the globe as we gather for our first in-person convention since 2018! Watch this video and save the date for Bellevue, WA, USA, July 24-27, 2024.

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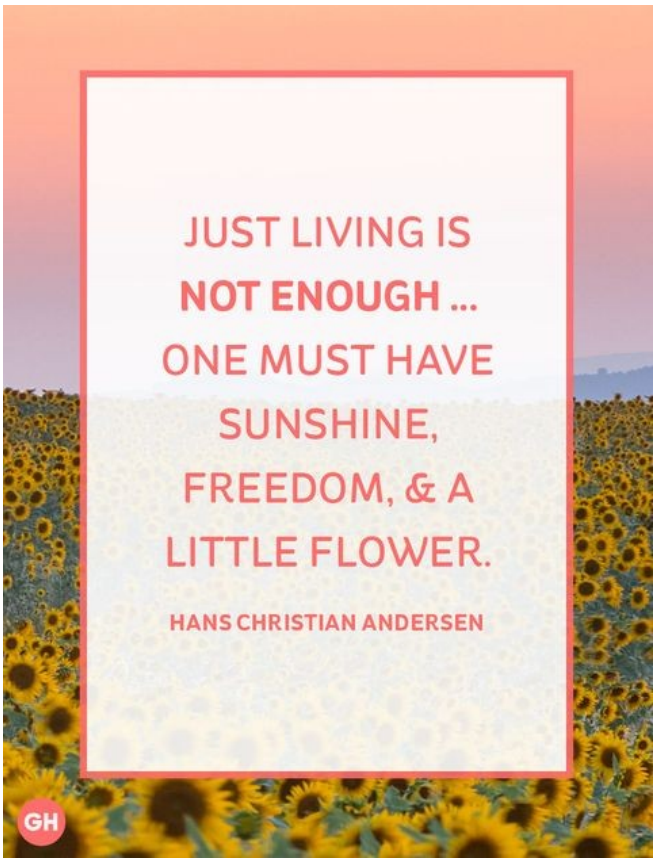
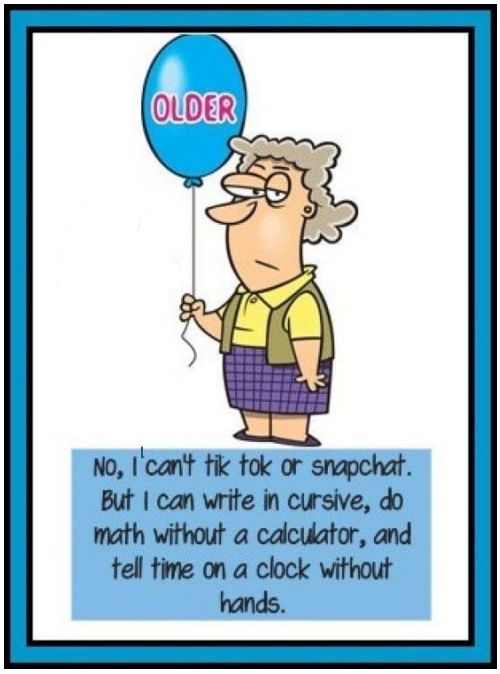



*Despite the forecast*

*Live like it is Summer*



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## DID YOU KNOW

For this article, I am going to take a walk back in time to the year 1953. Some members may not have been born; others were. Life was simpler back then.

What happened in 1953 you may wonder. Here are some of the major news stories: North Sea flood Netherlands; Queen Elizabeth II is crowned Queen; Korean War Ends; FBI rounds up communist leaders; First Polio Vaccine Developed; First color television sets go on sale; transistor radios start to appear for sale; First Corvette car goes on sale; and the First James Bond novel published. Also 1953 saw the growth of the "buy now pay later" mentality with car makers leading the way by allowing longer and longer periods to pay for your new car.

I found it interesting to learn that British physicist Francis Crick and American biologist James Watson discover the double-helix structure of human DNA gives way to modern molecular biology.

Also in 1953, another very special event happened. It may not have made the international, national, or even the local news. However, it was significant – the marriage of our long time Soroptimist member **Barb to Lorne Fraser on June 19, 1953**. Yes, they will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary on this special day! **CONGRATULATIONS BARB AND LORNE!**

I then wondered what happened **50 years ago, in 1973**. My research showed that the U.S. ended its involvement in the Vietnam War after the signing of the Paris Peace Accords. **Secretariat** becomes the first horse since Citation in 1948 to win the Triple Crown. The Supreme Court of the United States rules on **Roe v. Wade.** (We know what happened to this ruling recently.) **Billie Jean King** and Bobby Riggs competed in "The Battle of the Sexes" exhibition tennis match during September of 1973. 29 year old Billy Jean King who had already won 10 Grand Slam titles and was a pioneer in women's tennis, went up against 55-year-old Riggs, who was at one point considered the best tennis player in the world, and defeated him handily winning three sets 6-4, 6-3, and 6-3. The **World Trade Center** in New York becomes the tallest building in the world. No one would have predicted the events on 9/11!

1973 is an important year for me personally as I married my husband David on June 16th. I recall speaking with a couple at our wedding reception who had been married 5 years and I thought that was so long. Another memory I have is wondering how many years I would be married before we could afford a portable dishwasher! Needless to say, it seems like only yesterday, that I was a new wife, then a mother, a National Jaycette Vice President, a Tax collector, and Human Resources manager; all the while a daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, sister-in-law and friend. I would never have imagined the path my life has taken since the day I said "I do". I hope these happy recollections bring a smile to your face as you reflect about your life's journey!

Cheryl

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**SI Thunder Bay Club Meeting**

**Jun14th, 2023, Heritage Bldg. at 6:30 pm.**

**AGENDA**

**Inspiration/Grace** Judy Anderson

**Dinner (pizza)** Judy Anderson

Call to order Cindy

**Land Acknowledgement**

Soroptimist International of Thunder Bay would like to acknowledge that our gatherings take place on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation, Signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850.

We would also like to acknowledge the tumultuous history endured by the First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, the contribution these communities have made to the fabric of our society and the beauty they have added to our multi-cultured nation.

With this in mind we will do what we can to help Thunder Bay move forward with mutual trust, respect, reciprocity, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.

Minutes of the May 24, 2023 Melanie

Treasurer's Report and budget Lorrie

Correspondence Cindy

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

RFDA donation? (seeing we are not doing the Baseball) Cindy

**PUBLIC RELATIONS** **Melanie**

**MEMBERSHIP** **Kim and Faith**

Club Meetings for 2023-2024 Kim

Bylaws deferred (with Sharon Godwin) Cindy

Archives (meeting June 12th) Devona

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|---|---|
| **FUNDRAISING** | **Kathleen & Shirley** |
| Yard Sale – September 23, 2023 | Kathleen |
| **PROGRAM** | **Judy P** |
| Live Your Dream | Judy P. |
| Dream It, Be It | Devona |
| **OTHER BUSINESS** | |
| Delegate | Cindy |
| **NEW BUSINESS** | |
| Induction of new board member | Cheryl |
| Storage rental, Program deficit and Big Goal donation from Olive Ede monies Or conference | Cindy |
| ECR/WCR webinars on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women Link on ECR website | Cindy |
| Leadership Round Table June 22 & 23 6-9 $50US | Cindy |
| ECR Spring Conference 2024 needs a host club | Cindy |
| Induction of new member Charlene Hipfner | Cindy |

**Birthdays:**

Cindy Figus – June 6th

**Pledge for Eastern Canada Region**

We are Soroptimists committed to: the sincerity of friendship, the joy of achievement, the dignity of service, the integrity of profession, the love of country. We will put forth our best efforts to improve the lives of women and girls in local communities and throughout the world.