SOROPTIMIST®

Investing in Dreams

Summer just flew by for me and now it is time to start thinking Soroptimist once again!

Welcome to our new member Charlene Hipfner who is also our delegate! Unfortunately, Dulcy Pennicooke re-signed but indicated that she may rejoin if she returns to Thunder Bay.

July was busier as thanks to Devona and her committee we received a DIBI (Dream It Be It) grant from SIA (Soroptimist International of the Americas) of approximately $1,800.00.

Lorrie completed the financial statement for the year ended June 30, 2023 and Karen Bortolin has done the internal audit which will be reported on. Thanks to both for their time and commitment!

The Live Your Dream portal is open and Judy can report more on that.

Kim Koivukoski and Lee Ann Nalezyty attended the convention in Ireland so I am sure they have lots to report although I understand it rained every day!
The Yard Sale has been scheduled for September 23. Kathleen and Shirley will have more to say about this so read on.

The Leadership Academy is having a ZOOM meeting Monday Sept. 26 at 6:30 pm. You have to register through Eventbrite but there is no cost to the members. I would encourage everyone to do so.

The Dream Maker Award is due September 30th as this is presented at the Fall Area Meeting which is October 19th by ZOOM at 7 pm. This is an ECR (Eastern Canada Region) award which used to be called the Lifetime Achievement Award. If you would like more details or have a suggestion, please contact me.

There is a new SIA project called Visible and Vocal (speech presentations geared towards young girls) and they are looking for a club the test things out. There will be more to report at the meeting.

The Toronto club is hosting ECR Spring Conference April 24-26th 2024 so mark your calendars.

We always have lots to discuss at the first meeting as well as catching up with each other so please be patient and respectful at the meeting as it will be lengthy! I would encourage everyone to read the newsletter and other email items in advance to save time. It is always great to see and visit with each other once again!

Your very proud President, Cindy

Your Executive

President: Cindy

President Elect: Judy P

Treasurer: Lorrie

Secretary: Melanie

Program: Judy P

Fundraising: Kathleen & Shirley

Membership: Kim & Faith

Public Awareness: Lee-Ann

Welcome New Member Charlene Hipfner submitted by Devona

It is my pleasure to introduce Charlene Hipfner, our newest Soroptimist.

Charlene grew up in Ignace and as a young woman; she went to college in Thunder Bay. In the 80" she moved to the Windsor/Sarnia region and spent her time raising her daughters and volunteering for the Girl Guides of Canada. In 2019 she moved back to Thunder Bay bringing her parents along so that she could care for them. Along with elder care, Charlene now works full time from home for Marriott International Hotels.

Working from home can be isolating so Charlene was excited when she found Soroptimists of Thunder Bay. She sees her membership in Soroptimists as a way to connect with women who have a like-minded purpose and as an opportunity to make new friends.

In her first year as a Soroptimist, Charlene says she will be learning and growing. To this end, Charlene has agreed to be our club's delegate to the 2024 Eastern Canada Soroptimist Conference and as such will sit on our board for 2023-2024. She will certainly learn much being on the board.

Charlene's over-all goal in life and as a Soroptimist is to help girls and women to blossom into being the best they can be.

Welcome Charlene to the Soroptimists of Thunder Bay! We are blessed to have you with us.

President, Cindy Figus installing Charlene Hipfner as a Sproptimist

Girls Transitioning to Adulthood Cupboard needs at CAS submitted by Melanie

Housing items

Toilet paper
Deodorant
Can openers
Towels
Pots/pans/not to many hard to store
Plates
Bowls
Cutlery
School supplies-those expensive math calculators, pens, pencils, erasers, bags,
Art supplies-drawing
Tooth brushes and tooth paste
Bed sheets-twin
Air mattress
Shampoo/conditioner
Body wash

Food

Peanut butter-name brand
Spaghetti sauce
Mr noodle
Cookies-treats
Tuna-a little bit
Canned stew
Ketchup
Box pancakes just add water
Coffee
Crackers
Cookies
Name brand KD

DIBI submitted by Devona

The DIBI committee is committing to stay in contact with the young women who attended the March DIBI conference, by offering each attendee, a Soroptimist Yard Sale coupon in the amount of $35.00. The coupons were designed by the DIBI committee and supported by the Fundraising committee.

The coupons will be sent out in with a letter from the DIBI Committee via our CAS contact person, Danny Michaud who will distribute these to the young women.

Any coupons redeemed at the Yard Sale will be covered by DIBI funds.

AND SO IT BEGINS.....submitted by Kathleen and Shirley

Another year of fundraising!!!

Our first function, the annual YARD SALE, is just around the corner, Saturday SEPTEMBER 23rd in the Cardinal Room on the C.L.E. grounds from 8 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.

Spread the word to family and friends. Let me see them know that as they begin their fall cleaning, sorting, perching etc., we will gladly turn their, "not so treasured, treasures," into profit. This in turn, enables us to continue to support our various initiatives in the hopes of making a difference in the lives of the young girls and women we cross paths with.

Definitely a WIN, WIN for all involved! If anyone is in need of a pick up that can be arranged by calling SI Thunder Bay Moving and Storage. Hours of operation are 24/7.

As in previous years, we are hoping to set up on Friday the 22nd (depending on the availability of the room/ will keep you posted). As the old saying goes, "many hands make light work." With that in mind , Shirley and I are looking forward to seeing as many smiling faces as possible to lend a helping hand. If you could check your calendar and let Shirley or I know of your intentions that would be greatly appreciated.

We thank you in advance for your commitment to another year of fundraising. FUN FACT ....Money makes the world go around AND money also keeps SI Thunder Bay afloat.

Congratulations to Past President Cheryl and Past Treasurer Karen for accepting positions on the ECR Board

Soroptimist International (SI) Convention

The SI Convention takes place every four years. This year it was in Dublin Ireland from July 27th to 29th with the theme being “Challenge the Future”. Those three days were packed with speakers, work-shops, reports from all five federations, and opportunities to connect with old and new friends from around the Soroptimist world. There were 1500 attendees from many of the 120 countries that have Soroptimist clubs.

We had a good turnout from Canada, both Eastern and Western Canada regions. Several attempts were made to get everyone together for a photo, but always there were two or three missing.

One of the most outstand-ing of the keynote speakers was Mary Robinson, the first woman President of Ireland (1990 to 1997). She is the current chair of the Council of Elders, and spoke about the absolutely urgent need for women to take leadership on climate change, which dispropor-tionately affects women. She told us about Project Dandelion, “a new wom -en-led global climate justice campaign”. Check it out here: https:// www.projectdandelion.com/#1-letter

There were some changes announced. Until now, each SI President has selected a project to be funded through the annual December 10th President's Appeal which solicits donations from members and clubs worldwide. With the SI Presidency being two years, one president's chosen project is often just getting underway when the next president takes office. Projects have, of necessity, been relatively short-term. This has now changed with the establishment of the **Soroptimist International Foundation**, a registered charity that allows us to deliver short, medium, and long-term projects internationally for women and girls. There is no more President's Appeal; instead the SI President will lead the Foundation, raising awareness of projects and promoting fundraising through grants, member giving, and legacies.

Another change is to the SI logo/emblem.

If you want to learn more about this global organization you're part of, please spend some time on the SI website: https://www.soroptimistinternational.org/

SI Position Papers: https:// www.soroptimistinternational.org/members-area/si-statements/

Used with permission from Colleen Penrowley (Western Canada Region)

Friendship links submitted by Lee-Ann

While in Ireland I was able to connect with three Soroptimist clubs who may be willing to be Friendship Links with us. I will complete the necessary SIA forms required .

I also learned that our contact for the Friendship Link in Glasgow Scotland had passed away. I asked the club to continue with our link and as yet I have not heard from them.

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Leadership Opportunities/Training

Jennifer Oliver Nominations Chair, Eastern Canada Region, 2023 is searching for Regional Board members for our next biennium (2024-2026) under Cheryl Ball's leadership as Governor. Please consider a position for Governor-Elect, Secretary, Chairs for Fundraising and Public Awareness. These are great learning opportunities. Contact Jennifer, Cheryl or Aline Chan with questions or suggestions. Please send any nominations to Jennifer as Chair. The positions will be voted on at our upcoming Spring Conference: •

SFC SOROPTIMIST FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Annual General Meeting Saturday, November 4, 2023 2pm – 4:30 pm

Our club selects a voting delegate for this meeting. Please consider being a delegate.

A general invitation will be sent to the clubs after the delegate forms are received. All Soroptimist members, in addition to the Voting Representatives are welcome and encouraged to attend the SFC Annual Mtg.

Understanding Leadership as Belonging and Empowering

September 25, 2023 6:15pm Virtual via Zoom

SIA Eastern Canada Region with Governor Gertrud Hocke

Registration via Eventbrite https://www.eventbrite.com/e/710371609607?aff=oddtdtcreator

No later than September 22, 2023

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL THUNDER BAY RECEIVES THE CHAMPION OF GIRLS AWARD

SUBMITTED BY MELANIE CATES AND FAITH CRICHTON FOR SOROPTIMIST THUNDER BAY

Soroptimist International (SI) Thunder Bay was the honoured recipient of the "Champion of Girls Award" from The Children's Aid Society of Thunder Bay (CAS). This award was given to the club for its work with the Girls Transitioning to Adulthood Program. SI Thunder Bay has been partnering with CAS for a year and a half. The club has been stocking the shelves of the cupboards with items the girls rely on for nutrition, personal care/hygiene, school supplies, and warmth (mitts, scarves, hats, and socks). The impact on the girls who are transitioning to adulthood has been inspiring for both the club members and girls. We are also grateful for the five 2023 achievement awards presented by Soroptimist International Eastern Canada Region.

SI Thunder Bay facilitated the "Dream It, Be It" (DIBI) Soroptimist signature program in collaboration with CAS. There were 8 participants ranging in age from 14- 18 for this engaging one-day workshop held during the March break. The workshop focused on health/wellness, career mentoring, and delivering financial advice for the girls.

SI Thunder Bay participates in Soroptimist International of the America's Big Goal of empowering 500,000 women and girls by 2031. Locally we do this by providing education bursaries to women who are the major financial support for their family and are pursuing post-secondary education. Our Live Your Dream Program is an annual initiative. The portal for applications opens on August 15, 2023. Check out our website www.tbaysoroptimist.com to learn how to access the portal.

On a global level we have supported vulnerable women in the Ukraine, the earthquake relief fund for Turkey, provided reusable menstrual products for females in Africa, and most recently, our position statement on the reversal of Roe vs Wade in the US. Our support of KIVA (a micro-lending program) is an integral part of our global commitment.

SI Thunder Bay has been a part of this community for 74 years. The influence made on girls and women locally through support of various programs is extensive. SI Thunder Bay has supported women through programs such as The Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre, Faye Peterson House, The Elizabeth Fry Society, Precious Bundles, June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre, Adult and Teen Challenge, Elevate Thunder Bay, Isthmus (Blessings in a Backpack), Urban Abbey, and Superior Points Harm Reduction Initiative.

The accolades and awards we receive are appreciated but the real winners are the girls and women we empower.

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BEST FOR WOMEN
Get Involved!
Help make dreams come true for women and girls.
visit www.tbaysoroptimist.com