



SOROPTIMIST®
Investing in Dreams

live
YOUR
dream
education & training awards for women®

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.

As we work to uplift women and girls, we acknowledge the ongoing crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and Girls, and the rainbow community. We continue to listen to Indigenous voices, honour their stories, and stand up for justice and change.



Connecting with Cindy



"December is the year's gentle whisper, reminding us that endings can be just as beautiful as beginnings."

I liked both of these inspirational messages so decided to include each of them!

Thanks to **Emily Simpson** for continuing the **Trivia Nights** at Howl at the Moon. There was a potential member enquiry from someone who attended one of these as well as our yard sale. Her name is **Paola Facca** and she enquired through of website so I emailed her and she was unable to attend our December meeting but may come to the January one.

Kim Trimble came to our November meeting and was very interested in joining but unfortunately had a conflict with our Christmas party date as well. Hope to see her in the new year!

Our website and Facebook page has been busy! We had 2 more enquiries from **Dawn Mitchell** (related to **Lee Ann**), who will attend our December meeting and **Rhonda LeClair**. I have reached out to Rhonda but have not received a response.

The **Gift Card Raffle** will be drawn at our Christmas party and all tickets have been sold! There was a wonderful turnout at the St. Stephen's church tea and **Chrissy** did an excellent job of selling some jewelry raising \$214! Thanks to everyone who attended and helped!

The **club meeting** is a dinner meeting on **Wednesday December 10th at 6:30 pm** in the **Tower Room at Waverley Park Towers. Doors open at 6 pm.** This is our Christmas meeting so no business to discuss! Time to socialize and enjoy. Brings some funds for the Penny Auction and 50/50 draw as well as the \$5 room fee. Guests are welcome but we ask that you limit it to 1 due to space issues. Hope to see you all there!

Lee Ann Nalezty attended the **Sharing Soroptimist Stories** November 28th put on by the WCR (Western Canada Region). They spoke about the Virtual Library for women in non traditional roles. She also participated in the **Voices Against Violence** webinar. Don't know if others attended but she said both were very interesting.

There has been a change in the date of the **ECR (Eastern Canada Region) Spring Conference** second evenings to **Monday May 4, 2026.** (The first evening is Thursday April 28, 2026).

"What is the spirit of Christmas? It's the feeling of home, even if it's only a memory that takes you there. It's the quiet places of the heart you return to year after year. It's the comfort of tradition in an ever-widening circle of friends and family."

Merry Christmas to all!

Your proud President, Cindy

Christmas Club Meeting



Our Dinner Buffet will be held at Waverly Park Towers (Tower Room) on **Wednesday December 10th**. Doors open 6:00 pm

Please let Karen B. or myself know if you will be in attendance and if you will be bringing a guest.

Thank you Cindy for bringing Beef on a Bun - more than generous.



Remember to bring an unwrapped item for our Penny Auction,

if you are able some cash



(Room Rental, Penny Auction, CAS etc.)

Looking forward to seeing you all again

Judy

Philanthropy Update

RAFFLE WRAP UP

Our Fall GIFT Card Raffle is nearing the finish line. The lucky winner will be announced at our Christmas Dinner meeting on December 10th. How fitting, to GIFT someone with \$500.00 in GIFT cards in the season of GIFT giving! Of course, the biggest GIFT of all is the one, we as Soroptimist, will experience when we present the cheque to the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre whose ongoing commitment to empower women goes hand in hand with our mandate. The GIFT that keeps on giving is the best GIFT of all!!

The second annual Gift Card Raffle has proven to be another successful campaign. All 830 tickets have been sold. In addition to our members selling tickets to family and friends as well as through social media, we had the added bonus of spending a lovely afternoon at the Current River Tea and Bake Sale on November 15th hosted by St. Stephen's Church. We were fortunate to sell 74 in the span of a few hours while simultaneously creating some P.R. for our club.

Many thanks to Chrissy, who once again joined us at the tea. She eloquently displayed a variety of jewellery items with flair and sparkle. People were drawn to the table, which resulted in \$214.00 dollars in sales all of which are going into club funds.

A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO EVERYONE INVOLVED FOR MAKING THE FALL GIFT CARD RAFFLE A GREAT SUCCESS

2026.....HERE WE COME.....

Things are in the works to potentially have a Persian Fundraiser in March in recognition of International Women's Day or in May to celebrate our clubs birthday month. Lorrie has spoken to her friend at Nucci's and Melanie has sent off a letter giving him an overview of who we are and what we are all about. We look forward to partnering with Nucci's and trying something new. We will keep you posted as things progress.



We are also looking into a potential fundraiser by collaborating with Brule Creek Farms. From what we have learned so far, there seems to be many positive take aways....the profit margins are 40% of sales....it's a local company/ farm to table....whatever items are sold they deliver directly to the customer. It seems like a FIELD we can have a lot of fun in by keeping our friends and family well nourished and raise money in the process. THE FARMER IN THE DELL or should I say, THE FARMER AND THE SOROPTIMIST. Who would have thunk?

Gratefully Submitted

Melanie and Kathleen
Co-Chairs of Philanthropy (formerly known as Fundraising)

Girls Transitioning



At our November club meeting it was decided to continue with our traditional donation to the independent youth cupboard instead of doing the Christmas Hamper program. As such, I contacted Danny Michaud from CAS and received the following list for the independent youth cupboard. If you are doing any shopping in the next few weeks and wish to donate, you can select from items that are in high need.

I will be collecting items at our December club meeting and then making arrangements for a delivery following. If you prefer to have my team of elves do the shopping for you, you can donate money (just bring it to the Christmas meeting) and we will gladly do the shopping.

Spaghetti sauce	Ketchup
Pasta	Mustard
Canned fruit	Box juices
Can milk	Granola bars
Peanut butter	Sugar
Coffee - instant	Floor
Can opener	Toilet paper
Beans	Paper towels
Chicken noodle soup	Kitchen towels
Mayo	Bathroom towels
Shampoo and conditioner	Laundry soap
Body wash-maybe bars of soap.	Make up and make up remover
Dish soap	Razors
Deodorants	Pots and pans - small size
Cutlery	Snacks
Gloves, hats, and mitts.	Salsa and tortilla chips
Mixed Nuts	Low carb snacks for Diabetics

Respectfully,

Melanie



Faith sings in the Silver Sound Choir supported by the 55 Plus Centre. Their choir (of 90 members) sang November 30th at St. Paul's United Church with Rodney Brown as a special guest and guest musicians. This enjoyable event was called "Gettin' in the Mood for Christmas" which was an hour long and certainly put Kathleen and Cindy in the mood!

Cindy

SIA Update

Our Clubs Are Amazing

Honoring Our Clubs for Advancing Women's Dreams

Soroptimist clubs have supported women's empowerment through access to education since 1972 through the *Live Your Dream Awards*. [Congratulations to the clubs](#) who participated in our cornerstone program in 2024-2025!



Eastern Canada Region (11) SI/Cambridge, ON SI/Grand Erie, ON SI/Guelph, ON SI/Haldimand-Norfolk, ON SI/Hamilton-Burlington, ON SI/Kawartha Lakes, ON SI/London, ON SI/Peterborough, ON **SI/Thunder Bay**, ON SI/Toronto, ON SI/York Region, ON

Western Canada Region (16) SI/Abbotsford-Mission, BC SI/Calgary, AB SI/Canada West Online SI/Central Alberta, AB SI/Chilliwack, BC SI/Courtenay, BC SI/Edmonton, AB SI/Langleys (The), BC SI/New West/Burnaby, BC SI/North & West Vancouver, BC SI/Saskatoon, SK SI/Surrey Delta, BC SI/Tri Cities (The), BC SI/Vancouver, BC

New Club, Big Impact: Celebrating the Success of Our Newest Clubs

Each new club adds fresh energy and vision to our organization, helping us expand our reach and create more opportunities for women and girls to achieve their dreams through our Dream Programs. Join us in celebrating their leadership and dedication by sending a congratulatory email!

SI/South Delta (Western Canada Region)- 8/1/2025 (sisouthdelta@soroptimist.net)

Sue Gordon, President

Together in Giving: How Clubs Support the Soroptimist Mission

Mark your calendars for February 18 from 8-9 p.m. (ET) for an engaging webinar about the measurable difference clubs are making, how generosity fuels our mission, and ideas to celebrate and grow your club's impact. Registration will open soon!

Empowering Girls in Kenya

The Soroptimist International Foundation recently teamed up with Willing Hearts International Society Canada and Canadian Soroptimists to deliver a leadership and mentoring training camp for girls at the Lugari Community Resource Centre, Kenya. Past SI and SIA President Sharon Fisher visited the camp and took part in activities with the girls. [Learn more.](#)

SIA's 49th Biennial Convention

Registration Opens Early 2026

We're busy planning an unforgettable convention in Incheon, South Korea. Save the date for July 22-25, 2026—a chance to create memories, connect with fellow members and enjoy global diversity. Registration opens in early 2026. Stay tuned for details! #SIAConv2026

<https://mailchi.mp/soroptimist.org/best-for-women-december-e-newsletter?e=ddeb5fd322>



Here's your monthly branding kit with tools and action opportunities to boost awareness of SIA initiatives with consistent and unified messages.

Please share information with your clubs to help spread the word about our mission and programs!

<https://blog.soroptimist.org/blog/proaction-newsletter-november-2025>

Our Brand Story Act Now To Amplify Our Life-Changing Work!

While Soroptimist has helped countless women and girls around the world live their dreams, we are still the world's best kept secret.

- Share unified messaging
- Present a consistent visual identity and conduct meaningful actions that support our mission
- Soroptimist can stand out. Our story can be known. Our brand can shine through!



<https://www.soroptimist.org/for-clubs-and-members/federation-information/recognition-and-branding-tools/index.html>



Technology Roadmap

We're making steady progress on two major initiatives—a centralized **Member Resource Library** and a more **robust marketing platform**—each designed to improve access to resources and deliver more personalized communications. To learn more about our approach and next steps, please visit our [full update on the blog](#).

Sharing Soroptimist Stories: Amplifying Indigenous Women's Voices Through the Virtual Career Library.

We are providing the YouTube link to [the recording](#). Please feel free to share it via email or social media. We would love for more people to see it. Hear Brianna Pope, Jessa Sky and Dr. Michelle Bomberry.

Voices Against Violence

For those who were unable to attend or would like to revisit the discussion, here is the **recording of the event**:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/3n1JjtCTwivGRfZzp3Os6Bp2vkJhAEz2y9yV4qIW4mX5pDP-ulKPAslldal4bXp.6Yh0_7B-ZiZRwRey

Passcode: cBr^dz4e

Social: Thank You Facebook Post

Thank your followers and supporters for their efforts in supporting your club empower women and girls!

Share



We gathered today, women strong and wise,
A tapestry woven of ages and ties.
Different journeys, yet hearts aligned,
A sisterhood formed with purpose in mind.

With welcoming smiles and spirits bright,
We stood together in shared delight.
Each woman offering time and grace,
A spark of hope in a waiting place.

To volunteer talents, big and small,
For girls and women who dare to stand tall.
To lift their dreams, to light their way,
To help them rise to a brighter day.

Across every culture, color, and creed,
We came as one to answer a need.
For change grows strong when hands unite,
And shadows fade in a collective light.

So here's to this circle, bold and true,
To every kind heart and all that we do.
For when women gather with passion and might,
The world leans forward, touched by our light.

Arlene M. Garrick



Submitted by Gov. Cheryl



*Merry
Christmas*

*Happy
New
Year!*