

FIRA Member Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2026

Welcome and Previous Business

- 1) Opening remarks of welcome, followed by acknowledgement of the many volunteers involved with improvements to the hall's acoustics were made by Jeff Vanderkuur. Several very positive comments from members were heard.
- 2) The minutes of the General Meeting of February 5, 2026 were approved by Cindy Woodrow, seconded by Dianne Kelly, with all members in support.
- 3) Peter Connelly spoke to and provided slides outlining the rationale, process and costs of the three projects behind the acoustic improvements.
 - * Replacement of light fixtures
 - * Painting of ceiling and ductwork
 - * Construction and installation of acoustic panels

There were a significant number of members involved in different capacities in all aspects of the process; from the concept, to the planning, to the design, to the construction, to the installation. However, a special shout out for:

Joe DiFrancesco

Mark Smith

Glen Evans/Cedar Winds Design ~ Build

Barb VanSteinburg

Brian Verburg

Of note:

The cost of volunteer craftsmanship versus factory purchase, which still would have required painting, electrical changes and installation, was far less!

The panels have made a significant difference to the hall's soundscape!

Financial Update

- 1) The financial audit for 2025 was completed and approved by Peter and Gail Connelly. Joe DiFrancesco will be responsible for 2026.
- 2) Peter Connelly shared that 2026 opened with \$34 000.00 in total funds with a current balance of \$35 000.00. After expenses, \$32 000.00 is expected for end of year.
- 3) An increase in membership, presently sitting at 146, is expected to increase once a request to current members is sent out to those wishing to participate in the fixed price propane program.

Fundraising

Macgregor Meats:

Graham Newton was pleased with sales to date with more expected by the June 21st deadline.

Pick up will be at FIRA on Thursday, June 25th at approximately 5:00 pm.

Pancake Breakfast:

The date is Saturday, August 15, 2026. Doug Harrison the lead for this event will be sending out an email requesting volunteers.

Pig Roast:

This special event is set for Saturday, October 24, 2026 following the Annual General Meeting.

Cindy Woodrow will be leading a committee. Special thanks to Donna and Mark Smith, and Wayne MacKenzie for taking on this event again.

Strawberry Social:

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 is the date; 34 women have signed up. Much appreciation for Dianne Kelly leading this fundraiser for Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

FIRA will be covering the cost of the food.

Activities

Fitness Groups:

Boxercise/Yoga with Sarah Morden will require more women (members and nonmembers) to sign up in order for the classes to proceed in July. A follow up email will go out.

Sue Harrison will review leading internet based classes come Fall.

Games:

Cindy Woodrow shared that Euchre, Cribbage and Mahjong continue to be popular.

Darts:

This will continue over the summer months with increased participation come September.

Please arrive a bit before 4:00 pm to organize teams.

Wednesday Ladies:

This weekly event continues to be very popular, offering a wide variety of craft classes. Even if a craft isn't scheduled it's a meeting place for conversation and coffee.

Social Events

Summer Happy Hours:

We are looking for hosts! The Thursdays scheduled are July 9th and 23rd; August 13th and 27th. from 4:00 to 6:00 pm.

All that is required of a host is your outdoor space, seating and a table. Members bring their own beverages and an appetizer to share.

Roy and Lynn Yake will be hosting July 23rd. An email will be going out from Lynn to encourage additional sign ups. It's a great opportunity to check out different views of the lake.

Sand Bay Happy Hour:

Cindy Woodrow will organize this for a date towards the end of August or beginning of September.

Special Events

Trivia Tuesday:

Graham Newton encouraged members to 'just show up' for the third, fun, non competitive event. The next one is on Tuesday, June 23rd from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. All you need to bring is a loonie and if you wish a snack for your table.

Corn Hole:

Kristin and Drew Bishop will again be the leads for this activity which is held on the parking lot at FIRA. A date in September will be determined

Harvest Lunch:

More information will be provided by Dianne Kelly come September. This gathering is open to any FIRA ladies.

Christmas Party:

The committee is Carrie, Cindy with Lynn as lead.

Saturday, December 5, 2026 is the date.

FIRA 1982 (the year the hall was constructed) will be the theme.

More information regarding format and food will be presented at October's AGM.

New Ideas:

Kelly Wabrik presented the idea of setting up for Tuesday Canoe Radio Bingo at the hall.

Members would attend having picked up their own sheets and dabbers. Thought was given to a Fall start up.

Jeff Vanderkuur provided information about an interactive smart device trivia game called Kahoots.

Further discussion will be required as to how and when to organize/schedule Trivia Tuesday, Tuesday Radio Bingo and Kahoots.

New Business

- 1) Bill Drummond encouraged members to complete Haliburton County's online survey called Wade In by Sunday, June 28, 2026. Information from this survey, wherein participants would supposedly remain anonymous, would help drive an affordability and governance structure study.
- 2) Peter Connelly shared that Budget will be doing an inspection of our heating system on Wednesday, July 8th, 20226.

3) Next Meetings:

*Executive Meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2026

*AGM Saturday, October 24, 2026

4) Elections for President and Supporting Directors will be held at the AGM. If anyone is interested in these positions please email firasecretary@gmail.com.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:40 pm was put forth by Joe DiFrancesco and seconded by Kristin Bishop.

*There were 5 board members and 22 general members in attendance.

Minutes taken by Lynn Yake on behalf of

Gail Connelly, FIRA Secretary