



Toast it Notes

Special Interest Dates:

- Sun., 24 September
Word on the Street
- Thurs., 28 September
Club Humorous Speech
& Evaluation Contest
- Sat., 7 October
Area Humorous Speech
& Evaluation Contest
- Sat., 21 October
Division D
Humorous Speech
& Evaluation Contest
- District 45
Fall 2006 Conference
November 3, 4, and 5
Freeport, Maine
- District 45
Spring 2007 Conference
May 25-27
Halifax, Nova Scotia

What's inside:

Educational Program	2
Word on the Street	3
Statistics & Dues	4
From Your Librarian	5
Parliamentary Procedure	5
Public Relations Update	6

Message from the President

Dear Fellow Members,

Thank you for electing me as your President for term 2006 – 2007. It is with great pleasure that I look forward to assisting you in reaching your goals.

As I promised, I will strive to carry out the mission of our club to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop and practice the communication and leadership skills, which foster self-confidence and personal growth.

The executive and I are eager to support and lead our club in continuing the success of past years.

If you have any questions about the club or Toastmasters International program please do not hesitate to ask either me or one of the executive.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Erna Slingsluff CTM-CL
President
Sears-Halifax Toastmasters

Message from Past President

It was a tremendous honour to serve you as President in 2005/06. We accomplished so much during this past year. The 50th anniversary of the Sears Club was certainly a highlight. Thank you again to everyone who contributed time and effort into making this a memorable event.

We continue to thrive and be one of the more successful clubs in the area with several members achieving milestones last year. Congratulations to our new CTM's, ATM's, and of course to our member who attained DTM status.

In recognition of Sears 1555 completing 9 out of a possible 10 goals in the Club Success Plan, we were awarded the President's Distinguished Club banner from TM International. Achieving this goal is significant to our club and each member who contributed to the club's success. Our overall success is truly a result of a team effort.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as President this past year. I look forward to working with Erna and the Executive Committee in 2006/07.

Respectfully,
Dave Hubley, CTM, CL



District Theme for
2006-2007 is

O.N.E.

- Ownership
- Nurturing
- Empowerment

Karen Caldwell, ATM-B, CL
Area 18 Governor



*Are you interested in
inviting a friend or
colleague to a
meeting? Contact
our Vice President
of Membership,
Danny Walmsley.*

New Toastmasters Educational Program

The educational program is the heart of a Toastmasters club. It is the means through which you develop your communication and leadership skills and achieve your goal of becoming a better communicator.

The Toastmasters educational program is divided into two tracks - a communication track and a leadership track. The tracks are not mutually exclusive and you may participate in both tracks at the same time if you wish. In this issue of the newsletter I'll explain the Communication Track. If you decide to follow the Communication track, you will learn and practice communication skills. The Competent Communication Manual is the first manual and contains 10 speech projects to help you develop basic communication skills and confidence. Once completed, you are awarded the Competent Communicator award and you can move onto the Advanced Communication Manuals. There are 15 of these manuals each containing 5 projects. Many of the manuals are career oriented, so you choose the manuals and skills you wish to develop.

Advanced Communicator Bronze is awarded when you have:

- Achieved Competent Communicator (or Competent Toastmaster under the old system)
- Completed **two** Advanced Communication manuals

Advanced Communicator Silver is awarded when you have:

- Achieved Advanced Communicator Bronze (or Able Toastmaster or Advanced Toastmaster Bronze under the old system)
- Completed **two additional** advanced communication manuals (not completed for any previous award)
- Conducted **any two** programs from The Better Speaker Series and/or The Successful Club Series

Advanced Communicator Gold is awarded when you have:

- Achieved Advanced Communicator Silver award (or Able Toastmaster Bronze or Advanced Toastmaster Silver under the old system)
- Completed **two additional** advanced communication manuals (not completed for any previous award)
- Conducted a Success / Leadership, Success / Communication or a Youth Leadership program
- Coached a new member with the first three speech projects

I hope this makes the new Communication awards clear. If you have any questions give me a call, email or check the Club Website.

Graeme Van Leer, TM
Vice President of Education

12th Annual Word on The Street (WOTS)

Sunday, September 24

11:00 AM to 5:00 pm at Pier 23, The Cunard Centre, Marginal Road in the south end of Halifax. Halifax is one of five Canadian cities, which annually celebrate reading and writing and highlight the importance of literacy in our lives. WOTS and all of the associated events are FREE. The other Canadian cities involved in WOTS are Toronto, Kitchener, Calgary, and Vancouver. In Halifax this event involves authors, publishers, retail book and magazine sellers, writers' federations, libraries, universities, Neptune Theatre, and Symphony Nova Scotia to name a few. Everyone with an interest in reading, writing, and literacy is involved. Halifax WOTS attracts about 40,000 people to this event each year.

WOTS is set up with about 50 stages where authors present 15 - 30 minute readings and take questions. In addition, author book signings take place throughout the day at various locations. The stages include Adult Reading, Kids Reading, and a Main Stage with a combination of spoken word presentations and entertainment.

Toastmasters from Division D are involved at the stages where the authors present their readings. **A Toastmaster introduces each author, thanks him or her at the end of their reading, and presents them with an honorarium.**

This event gives Toastmasters an opportunity get outside of their speaking comfort zone, learn how to use a microphone, meet and talk with the public, and share their skills with others. There were 15 members from 8 clubs who participated in the 2005 Word On The Street event.

Toastmasters have a booth at which we are able to talk to a steady stream of visitors and promote our organization and its programs. The response from the public has been very positive. Printed material is distributed to visitors as well.

Toastmasters will also be needed at the booth to talk with visitors and distribute Toastmasters' literature.

The material for the introductions is published in the WOTS Guide. You can rewrite the material in the Guide or talk to the authors before their readings and ask them how they would like to be introduced.

The benefits to Toastmasters of this kind of an event are enormous. Aside from the personal benefits to members who participate, our profile as an organization is certainly raised. The opportunity to talk to an audience of 40,000 visitors from across the Atlantic region will definitely help clubs to attract new members. Word On The Street also gives Toastmasters a chance to give something back to the community and help a very worthwhile cause with a direct link to our mandate as an organization. Our involvement in Word On The Street goes back a number of years and we look forward to being keen participants for many years to come.

The minimum time commitment is 1 hour (2 - 4 intros) or you can stay longer. If you are interested in participating in this very worthwhile event or would like more information please contact

**Jim Bendell,
Toastmasters WOTS Co-ordinator
E-mail: blackbird@ns.sympatico.ca
Telephone: 466-2972**



TM Joyce Glasner will be reading from her novel, *Pirates and Privateers*.

Congratulations Joyce!



A Few Words from Our Statistician

When I was asked to submit an article for the newsletter, it occurred to me that, while many of you may be aware that I am the club's unofficial statistician, you may not realize just what statistics we record and why.

There are many things to keep track of in the club. First, obviously, is membership; this means names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses, so we can keep the member list up to date. We also record educational achievements, meeting attendance, contest participation, new members, and so on. Some of these are for information for other levels in the organization, but many are used to determine the winners of our annual trophies.

Years ago, the executive sat around a table and went over the list of members and decided who might be most worthy of each award. While this usually ended up with a reasonable result, it was very subjective. So, a few years ago we undertook to create a system for making the selections easier, using statistics collected during the year. As a result, with one exception, the awards have become almost automatic.

The awards for Best Speaker, Best Evaluator and Best Table Topics Speaker are, obviously, based on the results in those categories from all the meetings throughout the year. The award for Toastmaster of the Year is a result of points earned for many other factors as well, including

attendance, educational achievements, service on the executive, speeches and other presentations, contest participation and new member sponsorship. The winner is the member who earns the most total points in the course of the year. The Most Improved Toastmaster award goes to the member who has the greatest increase in points from one year to the next. The final award, Most Helpful Toastmaster, however, is still decided in the old-fashioned way, by consensus.

Membership retention used to be a big thing in the organization, with awards presented at the District level to the club with the highest percentage of members renewing their memberships. While this award seems to have disappeared in favour of one for the most new members, we do still keep track of retention at the club level. You may be interested to learn that over the past few years our rate of retention has varied between 75% and 90%, but last April it was 97%, when we recorded 32 renewals out of 33 members!

DUES have to be submitted to Toastmasters International at the end of September. Please bring your cash (preferable) or check on September 7th. Receipts will be issued for those who require them.

Tony Easton, CTM, CL
Club Treasurer (and Statistician)



"Dues are due."

It would be appreciated if you could bring your dues of \$45.00 to the first meeting **September 7th**.

While cash is easier, you may write a cheque to Sears-Halifax Toastmasters.

A "Post-it"® from your librarian

The following books with useful tips are in the Toastmaster library:

- Making Successful Presentations - Terry Smith
- Involving Your Audience – Karen Lawson
- Using Stories and Humor – Joanna Slan
- Motivating Your Audience – Hanoch McCarty
- Parliamentary Procedure – Robert When You Preside – Lawson
- Roberts Rules – Robert
- How to Speak Like a Pro – Fletcher
- Steps to Storytelling – Brown, Schreiner
- You are the Message – Ailes

If you have books of interest to donate to the library, your gift will be acknowledged as "donated by"

We have VHS tapes that include:

- An official Toastmaster promotion tape (11 minutes)
- A 40th anniversary speech by world champion, Mark Brown.
- Local contests and meetings from about 10 years ago.

All this material is available from our meeting site for members to view and borrow.

Ralph Smith, ATM-B
Sergeant at Arms / Librarian

Why do we need Parliamentary Procedure?

Toastmasters gives us an opportunity to learn how to use parliamentary procedure both in our clubs and in other situations where people are gathered to conduct business and achieve objectives.

Doris P. Zimmerman in her book *Robert's Rules In Plain English*, states that: *"Parliamentary law is the basis of all constitutional governments. By protecting and practicing correct parliamentary procedure, we also protect our democratic institutions."*

Rules of parliamentary law are based on a regard for the rights:

- Of the majority,
- Of the minority, especially a strong minority – greater than one third,
- Of individual members,
- Of absentees, and
- Of all these together

All parliamentary procedure is built on the premise that there must be a balance between the rights of the organization as a whole, the rights of any sub-groups within the organization and the rights of the individual.

Having a basic understanding of parliamentary procedure can give an individual a greater appreciation of how business should be conducted.

Richard Joseph, DTM

Look for [The 10 basic principles of Parliamentary Law](#) in the Winter Issue of Toast it Notes.



"The more extensive a man's knowledge of what has been done, the greater his power of knowing what to do."
– Benjamin Disraeli



Knowledge of [Parliamentary Procedure](#) is like watching a hockey game with an understanding of the rules rather than watching without knowing the rules.

Sears-Halifax Toastmasters

Meeting Time: Thursdays
6:15-8:30 pm
Retail Training Room
Sears Store
Halifax Shopping Centre

Phone:
902-433-0819

E-Mail:
tm155@chebucto.ns.ca

Public Relations Update

There are 3 goals this year for Public Relations and we are making great progress on reaching them already thanks to team efforts.

Our Goals:

- Website update – Graeme has applied his skills and will unveil the new look Sept 7th
- Newsletter – continuing with Dennis Liboiron's snappy design you are now reading Volume 2, Issue 1
- Outreach – plan is to contact Sears Management and local Professors / Teachers at Universities, Colleges & Business Schools. This area is open for a volunteer or team who will get credit toward the Competent Leadership Manual by completing this campaign.

It is my pleasure to serve as VP of Public Relations this year. We will produce our newsletter "Toast it Notes" for Fall, Winter and Spring. Please send submissions to holden_jane@hotmail.com.

If you would like experience compiling a newsletter (and get Competent Leadership credit), you could volunteer to serve as Editor for Winter or Spring issue. It's not difficult; I'll coach you as needed.

Please feel free to make copies or send this by email to your colleagues and friends.

Jane Holden, TM
Newsletter Editor &
Vice President Public Relations
(902) 455-2220 ext. 1

The information in this newsletter is for the sole use of Toastmasters members for Toastmasters business only. It is not to be used for solicitation and distribution of non-Toastmasters materials or information.

Watch for our
Winter Newsletter
December 1, 2006