



# Toast it Notes

## Special Interest Dates:

- Club Officers Elections  
Thurs., May 3, 2007
- Division D  
International Speech  
& Table Topics Contest  
Sat., May 5, 2007
- \*\*\*\*\*
- District 45  
Spring 2007 Conference  
May 25-27, 2007  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
\*\*\*\*\*
- Club's last meeting  
until September  
June 7, 2007
- Club Summer Party  
June 14, 2007
- Division D Spring  
Leadership Institute  
Sat., June 16, 2007

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## Message from the President

**Where does the time go?** It has flown even faster lately with the many activities in our club, such as members participating in Club, Area and Division Contests, working towards their CCs and Triple Crown Awards, induction of new members, Club Officers Elections and with the preparations for the District 45 Spring Conference. WOW! We are a busy club and it shows – we have reached President Distinguished status already and the year is not over yet.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the best Toastmasters Club in the world – Thank you Sears-Halifax Toastmasters Club 1555. You are the best. Everyone has participated and contributed to keep our club strong and alive.

Thank you Club Executive Officers, you are the greatest. You have worked very hard throughout this year to ensure each member had a positive environment in order to grow, learn and achieve. I think we have the best website and the top newsletter in District 45, thanks to the work and leadership of Graeme Van Leer and Jane Holden.

Thanks to each club member, you contributed to this positive environment by keeping the club friendly and energetic. Each of you participated by carrying out

roles and responsibilities at the meetings and reaching the goals you set out to achieve. You ensured that the club was a fun place to learn. This is evident by the many new members we have welcomed this year. To each new member, thank you for joining our club and bringing your new ideas, talents and strengths with you.

Thank you to our Area Governor and club member, Karen Caldwell. You have contributed so much in the past year not only as a club member and Area Governor, but also as Chair of the Sponsorship and Public Relations Committees for the Spring Conference. You have been dedicated to all your roles and responsibilities and have achieved great success. Our club is proud of your leadership and guidance.

Again, thank you to all the members of Sears-Halifax Toastmasters Club. You have all worked very hard and it has been my pleasure to serve you as President. I am very proud to be a member of Sears-Halifax Toastmasters Club 1555. My sincere best wishes to all incoming Club Officers and I wish you all a very safe and happy summer.

Erna Slingluff, CTM-CL  
Club President 2006-2007



## Question!! Question!!

Often we hear this cry during the business sessions of our Toastmasters meetings and at other business sessions, where people are trying to conduct business in a democratic manner. Usually when we hear it, it is being used to try and end debate and move on to a vote on the issue at hand.

In her book, *The Guerrilla Guide To Robert's Rules*, Nancy Sylvester, a Professional Register Parliamentarian, states:

**“There is a serious misconception that all a person has to do is yell out “*Previous Question*” or “*Question*” and the debate on the motion must come to an immediate stop and a vote must be taken.”**

**“One person can tell all the rest of the group that they are finished discussing the motion, just because that person believes he has heard enough? It isn't logical and it's not accurate.”**

The call for “Question” from the floor is not proper. The call for the question is the responsibility of the chair.

### Putting the Question:

*When it appears that debate has been closed the chair may ask – “Are you ready for the question?” If no one then rises to claim the floor the chair proceeds to put the question – that is, he puts it to a vote after once more making clear the exact question the assembly is*

*called upon to decide. --- RRONR 10<sup>th</sup> Edition – Chapter II, Page 42, Lines 26 – 30.*

The proper procedure for bringing debate to a close is a motion calling for the Previous Question (or close debate). This motion is used to bring one or more pending motions to an immediate vote. The appropriate use of the motion occurs when members believe they have heard enough debate to know how to vote on a motion or when discussion becomes repetitive. The motion also might be used to close debate on a motion considered less important than the several agenda items remaining to discuss, especially if the meeting has been in progress for some time and there is a danger of losing a quorum.

The Previous Question is a subsidiary motion and requires a second, is not debatable, and requires a two-thirds vote for approval. The requirement for a two-thirds vote is necessary because the principle has been established in Parliamentary Procedure that a two-thirds vote is required to adopt any motion that:

- a) Suspends or modifies a rule of order previously adopted;
- b) Prevents the introduction of a question for consideration;

Or

- c) Closes, limits, or extends the limits of debate.

In other words, infringes on the rights of the assembly or an individual.

### Any Questions?

Richard Joseph, DTM

Polish your  
Parliamentary  
Procedure with  
Rick Joseph



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

## Conference Leadership

Fellow Toastmasters...wouldn't it be easy if we could arrive home at the end of the day and supper was prepared and waiting? The table is set, every fork, knife and spoon aligned just so. Imagine, there are flowers on the table, the food is hot, smells delicious and is ready to eat. All the details have been laid out for you. All you need to do is sit down and enjoy.

For our upcoming District 45 Toastmasters Conference, May 25 – 27, 2007 at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, my team and I will be setting your table. As part of my High Performance Leadership project, I invite you to get excited about, not only attending the conference, but about joining me and my team to deliver all of the logistics for the conference. As a team, our main goal is to provide optimum logistical support to the speakers, participants and organizers.

Logistics means having the right thing, at the right place, at the right time. We are going to ensure that any audio-visual equipment, signage and handouts are in place. We will also endeavor to have each meeting room set up properly.

The District Conference is promising to be jam-packed. There will be educational sessions, auctions, food, speech contests, a banquet, more food and a kitchen party with musicians and *more food*.

Our team will be weaving in and out and around each of the sessions to make sure everything is in place. Our vision is "logistics made easy." Our role at the conference will be to have fun and to problem-solve in a positive manner with a spirit of teamwork. We will be working closely with the Sergeant at Arms team, which is being led by ACB Ralph Smith, and we will receive feedback and direction from our fearless leader, DTM Rick Joseph.

If you want to meet new people, work with fellow Toastmasters, develop new skills, hone some of your existing skills, and have fun doing this – join the Logistics Committee and head to the District 45 Conference. We're looking forward to setting your table!

Jill Haverstock, CTM  
Logistics Committee  
Toastmasters International  
District 45 Spring Conference



District Theme for  
2006-2007 is

**O.N.E.**

- Ownership
- Nurturing
- Empowerment

Karen Caldwell, ATM-B, CL  
Area 18 Governor



**Toastmasters International  
District 45 Spring Conference**

**May 25-27, 2007**

**Holiday Inn Harbourview**

**Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**

<http://www.district45conference.com/>

**See you there!**



## District 45 Spring Conference

Saturday, May 26, 2007  
Education Day

### Keynote Workshop:

*Finding Leadership  
Everyday*



### Educational Programs:

- *Judging Workshop*
- *The Joy of Leadership*
- *An Inclusive Meeting*
- *It's all about Experience*
- *Using Evaluation to  
Develop Your Speeches*

Plus Speech Contests &  
much more!

## Weekly Club Awards March to April\*

### Best Table Topics:

Graeme Van Leer, TM  
Dave Hubley, ACB  
Denis Liboiron, TM  
Danny Walmsley, ACB  
Rick Joseph, DTM  
Salam Nahzat, TM  
Nick Stuijbergen, CTM  
Binoj Daivasahayam, TM

### Best Speaker:

Danny Walmsley, ACB  
Dave Hubley, ACB  
Jill Haverstock, CTM  
Salam Nahzat, TM  
Graeme Van Leer, TM  
Denis Liboiron, TM  
Stephen MacNeil, TM

### Best Evaluator:

Rick Joseph, DTM  
Karen Caldwell, ATM-B  
Erna Slingluff, CTM  
Jane Holden, CC  
Dave Osborne, ATM-S

### Most Enthusiastic:

Graeme Van Leer, TM  
Rick Joseph, DTM  
Danny Walmsley, ACB  
Tara Keel, TM  
Ralph Smith, ATM-B  
Dave Osborne, ATM-S

Listed in order starting March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Awards:

### Halfway Certificates for Competent Communicator during 2006

Denis Liboiron, February 2  
Jane Holden, Apr 12  
Sean Lall, May 18  
Scott Clarke, November 2  
Graeme Van Leer, November 9  
Cameron Deacoff, November 23

### Halfway Certificates for Competent Leadership

Cameron Deacoff, Feb. 29 2007  
Jane Holden, March 29 2007

### International Speech Contest Contestants:

Graeme Van Leer  
Dave Hubley  
Denis Liboiron

### Winners:

Dave Hubley – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Denis Liboiron – 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Table Topic Contest

#### Contestants:

Jane Holden  
Denis Liboiron  
Ralph Smith  
Dave Osborne

### Winners:

Dave Osborne – 1<sup>st</sup>  
Jane Holden – 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Get to Know our Members



**Denis Liboiron, TM**

Denis, our club's secretary for 2006-2007, is an electronics technician currently employed as an Infrastructure Coordinator in charge of projects and building maintenance in the Canadian Navy. He is also involved in the Safety and Environment committees at work.

He lives on Cowie Hill in Halifax and joined Toastmasters in February 2003 at the suggestion of his wife. Before he joined Toastmasters he had a hard time putting his thoughts into words and having it all sound logical. Toastmasters has helped him significantly with his impromptu speaking skills and he has found it easier to respond and sound intelligent. It has also given him a lot more self-confidence at work and helped to increase his performance evaluation scores with regards to communication.

Denis is one speech away from achieving Competent Communicator, and hopes that the month of May 2007 will see him achieve that milestone.



**Jim McMorran, DTM**

Jim, who has recently achieved the ultimate Distinguished Toastmaster designation, has been employed with the Staples Business Depot store in Truro as a Sales Associate in the office furniture department since November 2005. Previously, he was the Provincial Director of Programs for the Nova Scotia Provincial Council of Scouts Canada.

Jim resides in Stewiacke, Nova Scotia, a community of approximately 1500 people about 70 km north of Halifax. He moved there in 2004 and enjoys the rural environment where he has lots of room to make sure that his sheep dog, fondly referred to as his secretary, is kept in good trim.

He joined TI in 1995, a time in his life when he needed broader social contact to overcome a difficult period in his life. He feels that TI helped him develop greater self-confidence and more comfort in public speaking, which helped tremendously in his work with Scouts Canada. In his current employment, he uses the impromptu skills developed in Table Topics everyday.

Jim enjoys the Sears-Halifax club because of the friendly, encouraging, and non-judgmental support. He is also President of the Speakeasy Toastmasters Club in Truro.

Our club membership contains a diverse cross-section of Canadian and Nova Scotian culture.

We are very proud of our members and their achievements. In this and subsequent Newsletters, we will present short profiles of our members.

**Danny Walmsley, ACB**  
Vice President  
Membership



*Bring a friend or colleague to a meeting, a contest or the District 45 Spring Conference*

### Sears-Halifax Toastmasters

Meeting Time: Thursdays  
6:15-8:15 pm  
Retail Training Room at Sears  
in the Halifax Shopping Centre

Phone:  
902-433-0819

E-Mail:  
tm1555@chebucto.ns.ca

<http://toastmasters.chebucto.org>

### Support for the Sergeant

The Sergeant at Arms is the seventh position on the club executive and has the important responsibility to ensure the club infrastructure. What would the club do without a secure, warm, comfortable, economical and inviting place to meet?

As outgoing Sergeant at Arms, I would like to thank all the members for their support. You helped get the room ready prior to meeting time and welcomed guests, giving them sign-up forms and Toastmasters material.

For next year, I would like to mention a few things that are important in this role as “master host”, librarian, and order-keeper.

- A checklist, mental or written, ensures everything is ready.
- Consider appointing a “guest greeter”. Although this duty is shared with the V.P. of Membership, getting the room set up often does not allow enough time to attend to guests properly.
- Let’s use the video camera – a previous survey of members indicated interest in recording speeches.

Good luck to the next Sergeant at Arms who will bring innovative and fresh ideas to this very important role in Toastmasters.

Ralph Smith, ATM-B  
Sergeant at Arms / Librarian

### Public Relations Wrap-up

Our Club made progress on reaching Public Relations’ goals this year thanks to team efforts.

- Graeme Van Leer created and maintained a fantastic new website leading new members to our club and serving the membership in many ways.
- Building on Dennis Liboiron’s snappy design our newsletter came out 4 times this year. We have entered the District 45 Newsletter Competition.
- Outreach – we have plans to offer a Speech Crafters Program next year at St. Mary’s University.
- Public Service Notices in local papers and on radio stations have expanded community awareness of Toastmasters and brought new members to our club.

It has been my pleasure to serve as VP of Public Relations. I want to sincerely congratulate our members who contributed to our Public Relations activities this year. It was a pleasure to work with everyone.

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

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

**Watch for the next issue of “Toast it Notes” newsletter Fall 2007.**

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