

Sears-Halifax Club 1555 Halifax, Nova Scotia

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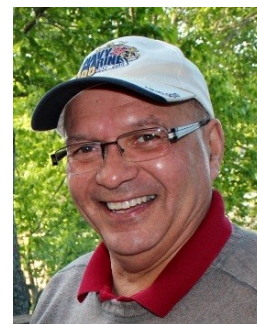


Sears-Halifax 2011-2012
Club Executive

Club President: Rick Joseph
VP of Education: Karen Caldwell
VP of Membership: Jane Holden
VP of Public Relations: Craig Rupert
Treasurer: Cindy Slade
Club Secretary: Ralph Smith
Sergeant-at-Arms: Norris Eddy
Past President: Graeme Van Leer

A Word From Our President

Rick Joseph, DTM



Our fall Toastmasters season has gotten off to a great start with each member identifying their goals and levels of participation they hope to achieve in the coming year. Looking at our proposed Distinguished Club Program, we are on track to having another successful year following last year's President's Distinguished award.

We had a great level of participation in our first "Humorous Speech" and "Evaluation" contests and I know that we put forward some serious contenders in the Area and Division contests.

The coming year promises to provide many opportunities for educational achievement and outreach to other clubs and the community.

As always, Toastmasters provides opportunities for personal growth in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere. Our club is committed to providing mentorship to new members and to any member who has the need and desire for guidance from experienced Toastmasters and proven leaders.

Over the coming year our Vice Presidents of Education and Membership, along with all members of the Executive, will be working with new members to ensure they have mentorship to guide them in achieving their goals.

With 55 years of experience under our belts, we will be working hard to ensure that Sears-Halifax remains a strong and vibrant entity in District 45.



Growing Beyond the Competent Communicator Designation

Cindy Slade, ACB, CL

Well, congratulations! You've worked your way steadily through the Competent Communication manual. You've presented a nervous version of your Ice Breaker Speech in order to introduce yourself to the members, who were all interested in learning about you. Having overcome that hurdle of presenting a project for the first time (remember those sweaty palms and racing heart?), you've gained the confidence to move forward and complete the remaining nine projects. Each one helped you to develop and use a new public speaking skill: body language, gestures, vocal variety, persuasive speaking, inspirational speaking, props and visual aids, speech organization and saying exactly what you mean.

Having finished these 10 projects and becoming a Competent Communicator (CC) is a big accomplishment! Unfortunately, some Toastmasters feel that they've learned all they need to know at this point and they decide not to continue into the advanced projects.

However, the advanced Toastmasters speech manuals are a fantastic resource for your further development as a public speaker! There are 15 manuals, on topics ranging from special occasion speeches to technical presentations. Each one has 5 speech projects on that specific topic, so the speaker learns to develop the skill gradually from the first to the last speech. By the end of the manual, you will have learned and refined a major area of public speaking. You will feel very confident in your ability to use it in future projects; whether it be other Toastmasters speeches, a presentation to a public committee or to your co-workers.

These advanced manuals are very interesting to work through because you can pick subjects that interest you specifically, such as; public relations, being an entertaining speaker, humorously speaking, interpersonal communications, etc. Of course, when you pick a topic that is personally relevant, you will be more motivated to work on the projects and learn how to use your new skills. Some of the manuals, such as Humorously Speaking and Storytelling, will provide you with the ability to make any other speaking assignment more interesting for your audience. These manuals teach you to how to better engage your audience, which is a crucial skill that will ensure better reception of any speaker's message.

Another plus of the advanced speaking program is receiving the advanced communicator designations that you will earn along the way. Each requires, as a minimum, the completion of 2 advanced manuals, being 10 speaking projects in total. Earning the Advanced Communicator Bronze, Silver and Gold designations is the inspiring reward of becoming an advanced speaker in the Toastmasters program.

So, why would anyone want to stop their learning at the CC stage? Yes, being a CC means that you are more confident and have learned a variety of important presentation skills. But, you will become an exponentially better speaker by continuing to develop your public speaking skills through the varied and interesting advanced speaking manuals available to you.

Life is a never-ending learning experience. So is being a member of Toastmasters!



From Table Topics to Speech

Jane Holden, ACB, ALS



Do you have fun creating speeches? Could speech writing be easier?

Yes & Yes! Here are a couple of tips to streamline your speech creation.

1. Brainstorm topics – keep a list of possible speech topics. This could be a 'To Do' list on your phone or other digital device. You could keep it in a draft email or a small notepad you carry with you.
2. Choose a topic and match to the next speech you want to give.
3. Ready – Set – Go! Consider this topic as a Table Topic (TT) you have just received & give a 2 minute speech out loud to yourself. REPEAT this step by taking a different angle on the topic. Pretend the same Table Topic is being done by 6 speakers and take on a different persona each time you do the TT. You could be a polished Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM) or a World Champion Speaker. You could be super enthusiastic one time and a persuasive salesperson another time.
4. Now polish the speech by taking the best of what you came up with doing your Table Topics. During the presentation "Talk It Out" at our 55th Anniversary event, we learned the benefits of creating a speech orally rather than by writing.

You'll have fun composing and you'll be speaking without notes. Just focus on your main points (2 or 3) and keep practicing giving the Table Topic without notes.

By doing this, you'll stretch your comfort zone and you'll boost your confidence. Will you find this method easier and more fun? Try it out and let the club know when you give a speech using this method.



2011 Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests

Craig Rupert, TM

Congratulations to our Club Humorous Speech and Evaluation Contests Winners! Erna Slingluff and Binoj Daivasahayam for 1st & 2nd respectively in the speech contest and Karen Caldwell and Christophe Lorenz for 1st & 2nd respectively in the evaluation contest. They moved onto the Area level where Erna placed first in the speech contest. Karen won first in the evaluation contest and Christophe placed second. At the Division level, Erna & Karen both placed second in their respective contests. Congratulations to all our contestants in this years contests.



*Rick Joseph, Erna Slingluff,
Binoj Daivasahayam, Cameron Ells*



*Cameron Ells, Karen Caldwell
Christophe Lorenz*



Area contest group photo

Speech Contests: *Why it all looks so easy*

Stephen Hall, DTM

Speech contests are a piece of cake, right? At least they may seem that way to an audience member. Can anyone run one? Could I run one, you might ask yourself? Of course you can, and with planning and preparation, it really does go smoothly. In fact, so smoothly that your contest will seem like a piece of cake to your audience members, right?

Ah, but there's a catch. You know there's always a catch, don't you? In this case it is "planning and preparation". Without planning and preparation, it may not ... no, it will not, go smoothly in anyone's eyes.

Contests at the club level have several advantages. First, you probably know most of the people. They are friends you can count on to help out in any role needed. Club contests require fewer functionaries than other levels in Toastmasters and are usually held in your normal meeting location. To put it in perspective, here is a comparison between the Sears-Halifax Club contest, fall 2011, and the Sonoran Division contest, fall of 2010. I had the privilege of Chairing both contests.

Role or activity	Club	Division
Judges	Minimum 3 + Chief + tie-breaker	Minimum 7 + Chief + tie breaker
Contestants	4 for humorous speech, 3 for evaluation	6 plus 6 alternates for each of 2 contests (24 total)
Contest Chair, Contest Manager, Toastmaster	1 person for all 3 roles	3 people if possible
Ballot collectors / Counters	2	4
Timers	2	2
Stop watches	1	2
Professional looking program	Nice to have - 25	Mandatory – 150
Food & drink	Not required	Provided at no cost to attendees
Flyers for upcoming contests and District events	Not needed	Mandatory – on a separate table
Sponsorship	Not needed	Required to offset cost of food
Venue	Club meeting location	Central location, free, holding up to 200 people
Dignitary list	Not needed	Mandatory – triple checked
Guest sign in table	Not needed	Mandatory
Greeters	Not needed	Mandatory – at sign in table
Photographer	Nice to have	Mandatory
Sgt at Arms	1	1 at each door, minimum 2

With all this planning and preparation, will the contest come off without a hitch? No. There will always be something that doesn't go according to plan, or that is totally unexpected - but Toastmasters are a friendly, helpful group. When you are the Contest Chair, expect the unexpected, be flexible, and above all, ensure that everyone has fun, including yourself. If that happens, your contest will be a rousing success.

Advice Corner



Don't Get Fooled -10 tips to avoid becoming a scam/fraud victim

Colette Robicheau, TM

We all like to think that we're too smart to get caught in a scam or be the subject of fraud. Unfortunately, thousands of people lose money to con artists every day. By educating yourself and following a few simple rules you can keep scams at bay.



Here are 10 tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe from fraud:

1. Never give out personal information on an **incoming** call. Shady call centers prey on people too willing to share personal details.
2. Don't let anyone **pressure** you into making a quick decision or purchase.
3. Shred or otherwise **destroy** all personal papers (ie: bills, invoices, bank statements) before putting them out for recycling.
4. **Don't carry** your social insurance card or birth certificate in your wallet. If you lose it or it's stolen, someone will have all they need to steal your identity.
5. Prizes are free. If you have to send a cheque to claim lottery winnings, report the organization.
6. Always get **three quotes** from three different companies before committing to home renovations.
7. Don't be afraid to be **rude** to someone who comes to your door or calls and is **pressuring** you to give money. Just close the door or hang up the phone.
8. If you're **not sure** about an organization who's asking you for money, go directly to the head office, the police or RCMP and ask questions.
9. If someone tries to scam you out of money, **report it!** According to the Better Business Bureau, most fraud attempts go unreported.
10. If something seems **too good to be true**, it probably is. Always keep a level head and think critically about unexpected windfalls or opportunities.



Fraud and scam artists are highly skilled and they make a living stealing your money. Follow these great tips from **The Rotary Club of Halifax's ABCs of Fraud Prevention Program** and you'll be well prepared to face fraud.



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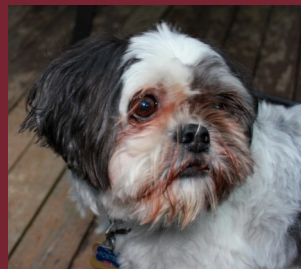
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Pictures from our 2010-2011 year end party

Craig Rupert, TM

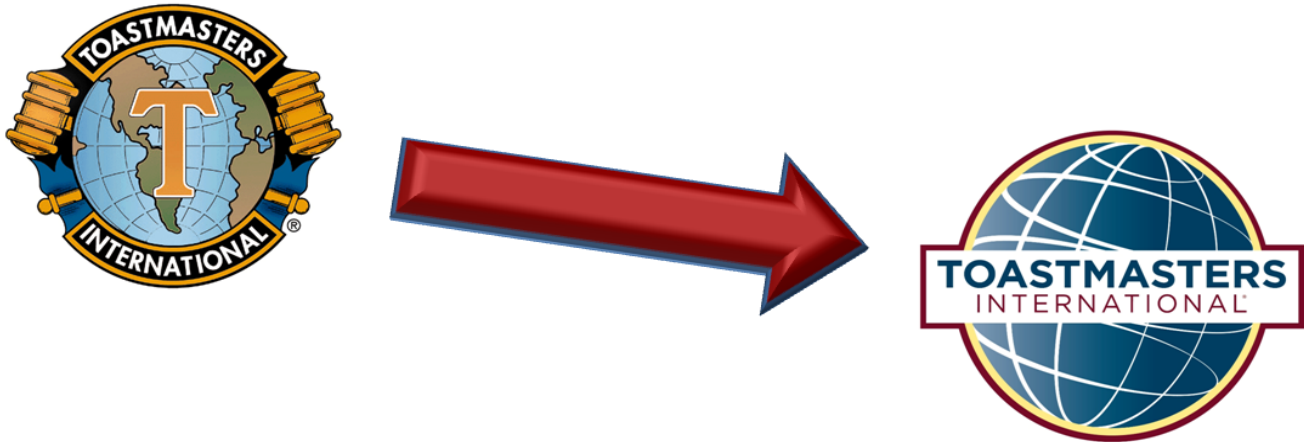


After a great year full of wonderful speeches, learning and many good times, it came time to close off the year with our annual year end BBQ & get together. As always, we enjoyed delicious food, refreshing drinks and a great round of table topics. We're now back in session and look forward to another great and successful year.

Toastmasters' New Look

Graeme Van Leer, CC

Webmaster – Sears-Halifax Toastmasters



Toastmasters International has long been known as an organization that helps people improve their public speaking skills. Over the years, Toastmasters clubs and districts have increasingly created websites, conference materials, meeting materials and other communications that displayed their individuality. In early 2008, it became clear that this customization had evolved to the point where the Toastmasters brand was suffering from a lack of consistent perception and recognition among members and prospective members.

A clear and consistent brand tells one story of an organization and to achieve this, a rebranding exercise was undertaken culminating in the launch of the brand new Toastmasters brand on August 17th 2011.

This is the first complete rebrand in Toastmasters history and as a result all materials are being redesigned to match the visual cues. Hopefully all of you will have noticed that the club website (www.searshalifaxtm.ca) launched with the new colours and branding on August 17th – I believe we were the first Club in District 45 to do so. We were fortunate in that our site was built on one of the recommended platforms and as such a lot of the new graphics and colours were readily available to implement in the refresh.

I think the new logo is modern and fresh and ready to take the organization forward to the foreseeable future. The new tagline 'Where Leaders are Made' is to be used as the enduring brand message across all levels of the organization and will reinforce the benefits of Toastmasters membership while creating unified awareness for members and prospective members alike.

As for the website, remember this is YOUR website and as such feedback is always welcome. Let me know what you like, what you don't and what you feel is missing. Remember the agenda is usually available online to review as is the future assignments sheet, so you can plan ahead.

Check out our site at www.searshalifaxtm.ca

Secretary's Dilemma

Ralph Smith, ACS/CL, Secretary

I would like the minutes to be entertaining and useful. The problem with the entertainment part is the rules. The "rules" are based on what General Henry M. Robert devised in 1876 and it appears that not much has changed since then. The Secretary is forbidden to use judgmental phrases like "heated debate" or "valuable comment" or include anything that might reflect the Secretary's opinion.

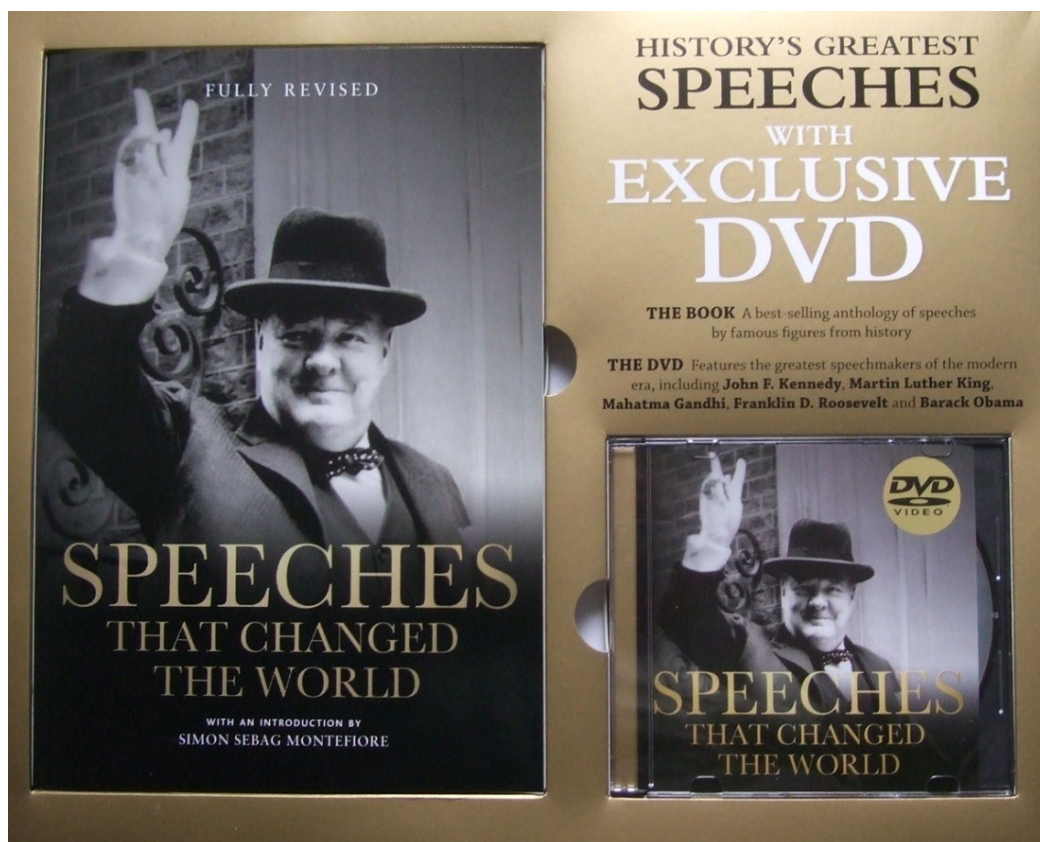
I recall that one of our enthusiastic former Secretaries, in his first reading, humorously paraphrased portions of the minutes and was corrected by the Parliamentarian. Also, I have noted instructions from many sources dictating that the minutes are supposed to be a record of what was done at the meeting, not what was said.

With all these rules it's hard to provide entertaining minutes!!

Therefore, if I cannot encourage members to read the minutes for their entertainment value, I will add some motivation with a rewarding contest. The contest will run from October 20 to the last meeting we have before the Holiday break. Along with the prestige and recognition of winning, there will be a prize of an exclusive DVD and book set containing history's greatest speeches.

The prize will be awarded to the member who finds the most errors and/or omissions. Some errors may be planted just in case the Secretary gets too proficient. Points will also be awarded for meaningful suggestions to improve the minutes.

Please enjoy this opportunity to enhance your memory and observation skills.



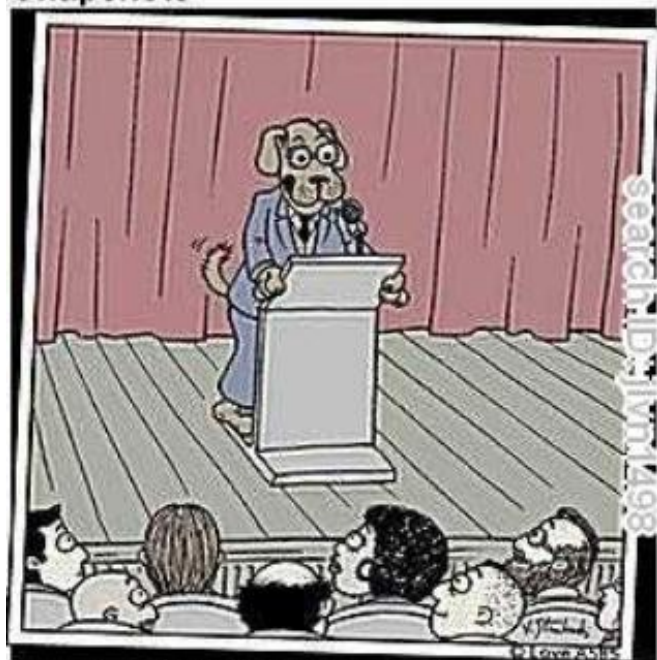


Smiles & Chuckles



"I'd like to welcome today's speaker, the author of *How To Overcome Your Fear of Public Speaking*. Unfortunately, he can't be with us today because he's still afraid of driving and flying."

Snapshots www.CartoonStock.com



"I must admit that I've come a long way since I first heard the word speak!..."

"The human brain starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public."

— **George Jessel**

"It usually takes more than three weeks to prepare a good impromptu speech."

— **Mark Twain**

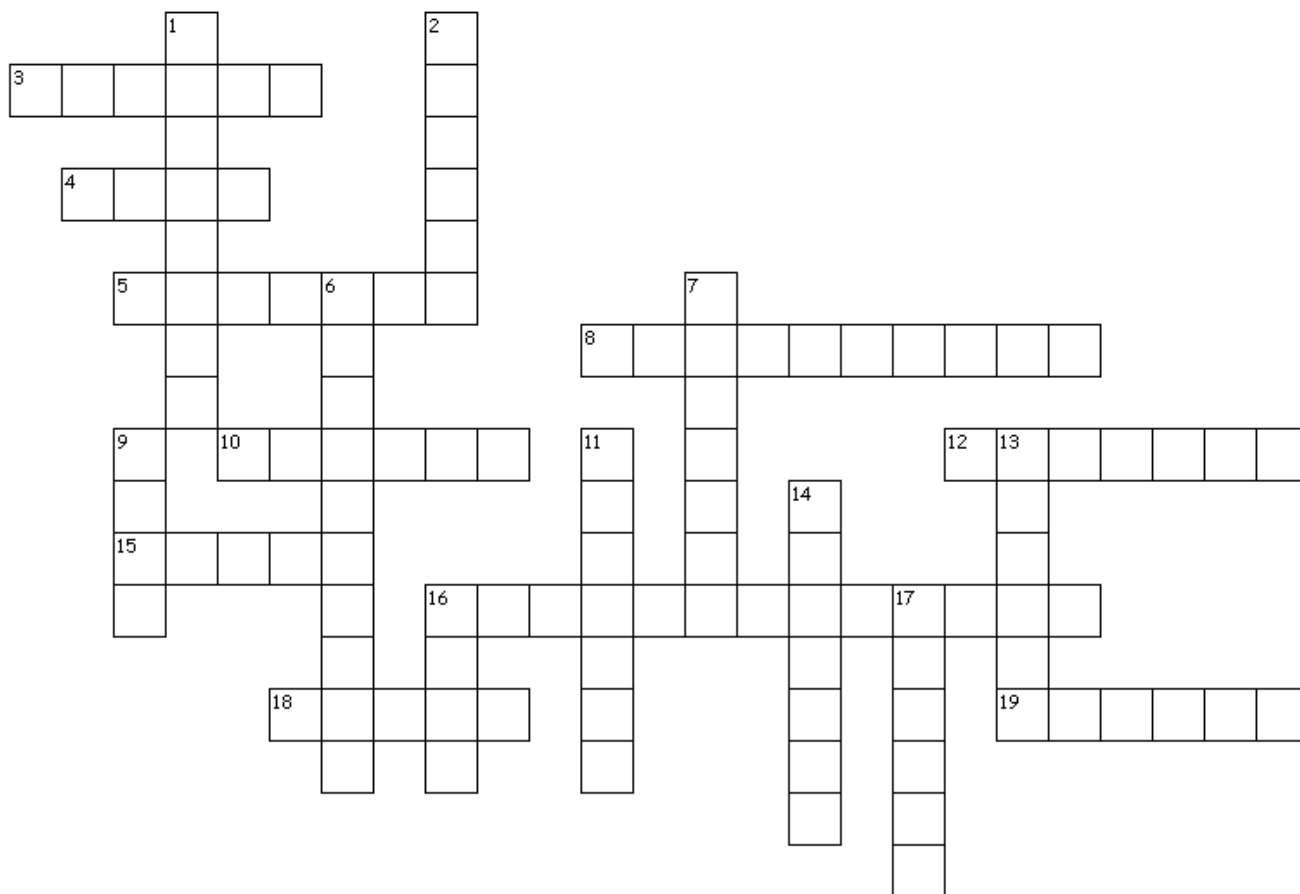
"Make sure you have finished speaking before your audience has finished listening."

— **Dorothy Sarnoff**

"Speak when you are angry—and you will make the best speech you'll ever regret."

— **Laurence J. Peter**

Toastmasters Crossword *by Lynne Fielder, TM*



Across

3. tool used to keep track of completed projects in CL manual
4. the main part of any speech
5. approval is sought weekly for these
8. the first speech you gave as a TM
10. the colour of an ah, um, oh tongue
12. inductees "swear" to keep this
15. always seem to be honoured
16. our highest TM ranking
18. this infraction will cost you a quarter

Down

1. dialogue used to connect two speakers
2. our watering hole
6. impromptu speaking at TM
7. not to be confused with a podium
9. a graphic depicting TM International
11. a form of body language
13. famous for his rules
14. always paired with a smile
16. paid biannually to TM
17. at the heart of each meeting

(Answers below)



Down
1. BRIDGING 2. JENNY'S 6. TABLETOPICS 7. LECTURN 9. LOGO
11. GESTURE 13. ROBERT 14. CHUCKLE 16. DUES 17. SPEECH

Across
3. MATRIX 4. BODY 5. MINUTES 8. ICEBREAKER 10. SILVER 12. PROMISE
15. GUESTS 16. DISTINGUISHED 18. FINES 19. TROPHY