



Sears-Halifax Club 1555 Halifax, Nova Scotia

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Sears-Halifax 2012-2013
Club Executive

Club President: Erna Slingluff
VP of Education: Ralph Smith
VP of Membership: Rick Joseph
VP of Public Relations: Craig Rupert
Treasurer: Tony Easton
Club Secretary: Karen Caldwell
Sergeant-at-Arms: Vacant
Past President: Rick Joseph

A Word From Our President

Erna Slingluff, ACB/CL

Dear Fellow Members, Happy New Year!

How's it going so far this year (2012-2013)?

So far this year we have achieved the following goals: two Competent Communicators, two Competent Leaders, one Advanced Leadership Bronze and a Triple Crown.

- Stephen Hall – CC, CL and ALB, all three of those accomplishments also awarded him a Triple Crown.

- Rick Joseph, received a CC award and Craig Rupert, received his CL award.

Congratulations to Stephen, Rick and Craig for reaching your goals. It is heart-warming to see you reach the goals you strived for. You have not only reached your own personal goals but you have helped the club reach some of its goals as well. We now have the leadership portion of our goals reached for 2012-2013. However, there are other goals we must attain in order to gain our Distinguished Club status.

We need two more Competent Communicators and two more Advanced Communicators. I know we have members who are working hard to reach these goals and I am very confident they can do it, however all members should be working towards goals they set out to achieve. One way to achieve goals is by attending meetings regularly, providing feedback to your fellow members and participating in club roles.

Another area we need to concentrate on is our membership growth. We need new members to keep our club interesting. We need new members to keep the fun in learning. We need new members to stimulate us, to not only learn from us but us to learn from them.

We will be hosting a membership campaign from February 1st to March 31st. Let's get together and spread the word about the benefits of Toastmasters and share our learning experience in public speaking with others. Let's make our club stronger! Let's get out there and campaign!

It was wonderful to see most of our club Executive members take part in the Toastmaster Learning Institute this past weekend, however we did miss the company of other club members. It was a wonderful communication connection. I encourage all members to plan on attending one of those training sessions sometime in the future. They truly are a wonderful learning experience and very beneficial to your growth in Toastmasters.

Our next big event coming up is the Spring International Speech Contest and the Table Topics Contest. This is an excellent opportunity for all to test our communication skills. Let's step outside our comfort zone and experience a new thrill!

Let's Participate!

Some examples where we can participate are: as a contest speaking participant, a judge, a counter, a timer, a supporter in the audience.

Again congratulations to all those who have reached their goals, don't stop there, keep growing.

For those who are still struggling, don't give up, keep chugging along. Remember the little engine that could.... I think I can, I think I can, I think I can.....Cheers!



Click Ribbon
for details



Our Executive

Craig Rupert, CC/CL



Erna Slingloff, ACB/CL

President, A/Sgt-at-Arms

Rick Joseph, DTM

Past President, VP of
Membership



Karen Caldwell, DTM

Secretary

Craig Rupert, CC/CL

VP of Public Relations



Tony Easton, CTM

Treasurer

Ralph Smith, ATM

VP of Education, A/Sgt-at-Arms



Getting to Toastmasters in the Republic of China

Dave Gorsline, ATMG

It is the middle September 2005; I have been in China for only three weeks. Before leaving Canada; I had promised myself I would join a Toastmasters club. It is Tuesday, schools over and it is time to leave. I had my school card with a map showing where the school was located, my city map and a copy of the Google map Mark had sent me, showing the area near the Toastmaster meeting.

Since my arriving in China, I had been taken to Wal-Mart (Wal-Mart); I knew where Ren Ren Le, (the local grocery store) was located. I was shown where the bank was located, twice. I even went to the corner of the school block and got my haircut, all by myself. Oh yes, a group Canadian teachers had gone to Damei Sha (a beach area) and Louhu (a five story market, which sells everything). There's no looking, just buy, buy high pressure sales from vendors who would say "Special price for you Mister, I like you."



I know the Chinese phrases, Hi hao (hello), Xie Xie (thank you) and bye bye; even you should be able to figure that one out. Time to go.

From the school, it is a short walk to the flyover on Nanhai Lu. Buses come every 5 minutes. Here is my bus, it is crowded, but I manage to get on. Yes, I am doing O.K. The female conductor comes, says something, I assume in Chinese. Previously, somebody else has always done this. I indicate the bus will turn left, with my hand.

She says something; I catch the word, Yuan, money. I hold out all my money she takes 3 Yuan. Not bad, \$.50 for a 7 mile bus ride. I hope this is the right bus? If it isn't, I have my map showing where the school is located. I mean really, how hard can this be? The 4 lane road changes to 6 lanes, the city's main drag Shennan Lu. "Yes, yes, I am clever, I am smart!"

We continue past Windows of the World; Splendid China; past my favourite building, Shenzhen City Hall. Further on I see the Shanghai Hotel and the Battery building (because of its unique top).

Shenzhen is less than 40 years old. When Doushea Ping pointed to the map and declared, "There shall be a city here." A few small fishing areas became China's first special economic zone and million of dollars poured in from around the world. As the city was planned, it was decreed that the top of every building or group of buildings would be different; a most helpful feature, believe me. The trip is going so well, I am the world traveler extraordinaire.

The bus comes to the turning point and I disembark and walk back to Shennan Lu. The meeting building is on the right hand side of the street, I must take the tunnel. Once on the correct side, I take out my Google map, it is still daylight, thankfully. Like the city map, everything is in "Chinese", just squiggly lines which are meaningless to me. I ask a couple; they seem unable to assist. I become very conscious of the fact that I am the only one who looks anything like me, people stare. In a group there is comfort, alone it is different. However, at this stage I have not had any small children look at me and run away crying. A look on their faces as if their parents' had told them I was evil or hoping they did not catch whatever strange disease I could be carrying. Ni hao (hello), a kind gentleman through his hand signals and a little English indicates across from that tall gold coloured building. Within a few minutes, I have assured myself I am in the correct location.

Supper is the next issue. With a fear of getting something I won't like, but wanting to be daring, I settle upon "My Done Low", you know it as MacDonald's. I am still ordering food by pictures in China.

Back to the hotel with a full stomach; doubt creeps back into my cranial cavity "Am I in the wrong place?" "Will anyone be here?" "Will anybody speak English?" Then I spot a man holding a Toastmasters Manual. I follow him into the elevator. I make certain we will get off on the same floor and I follow him down the hall to my first Toastmasters meeting in The People Republic of China. Success!

Membership Retention

Karen Caldwell, DTM

Retaining members in any club works on the basic principle that if your members are happy they will not be eager to leave. The best ways to keep your members happy and engaged is to talk to them about their goals and needs, then work to fulfill them.

1. Make sure that the club programming is scheduled three weeks in advance and distributed to each member regularly. People need time to prepare for their roles. If you are having trouble finding volunteers, don't be afraid to have your VP Education assign the roles.

2. Confirm with members that they will fill the role assigned. People often need reminders and encouragement. This is also helpful when a member has a conflict and can't fill an assigned role. You will be able to make alternate arrangements for the role.

3. Call members who have missed two or more meetings. Sometime just a phone call to tell the person that they are missed will bring them back to the meetings and keep them engaged. A member who stops attending meetings and isn't contacted will feel that they are not valued by the club.

4. Acknowledge accomplishments. Don't let the completion of an educational goal pass your club by. Make your members feel appreciated and valued.

5. Acknowledge Birthdays. This is a great opportunity to let your members know that they are appreciated.

6. Have a mentor/mentee program. Ask an experienced member to coach a new member and teach them the ropes. This is a great way to keep more experienced members involved and help newer members learn the program better.

7. Have a themed or alternate program meeting. Whether you do all Table Topics for one meeting, have a backwards meeting, or some special theme, it is a nice change of pace that keeps things fun and interesting.

8. Conduct presentations from the Better Speaker Series or Successful Club Series modules. These presentations will help members grow as leaders.

9. Evaluate to Motivate. It is the most critical component of the meeting. Be sure to present the evaluation in a positive and supportive manner, and above all, be sure to give no less than two points for improvement. An evaluation with no points for improvement is a disservice to the speaker and the audience alike.



Advice Corner

Never Lose Your Cell Phone Again!

Colette Robicheau, TM



Always running around looking for your phone? Do you have to search madly for your cell phone when it rings? Here are some tips to help you never lose your cell phone again.

-When you are out, always store your cell phone in the same pocket of your coat, purse or briefcase so that way it will be in the same place each time. It sounds simple but deciding on this designated place and sticking to it will save you time, frustration, panic and maybe even money. No one wants to bother with the expense of replacing your phone not to mention the issues associated with losing your phone's private information.

-As soon as you get home or to the office, place your phone in a cell phone holder so you will know where to grab it when it rings or when you are on the way out the door.

-Set up your cell phone holder by an outlet which you will always use to charge your phone. The outlet should be visible. Be careful when creating this docking station at home to make sure there is no chance of water reaching your phone. Many homes today have multiple users and the docking area to recharge is scattered around the kitchen. Don't forget that just a few drops of water can sometimes ruin a phone.

-Keep your phone in a case with a clip, so you can attach it to your pocket or your purse. This often forces you to keep it in the same place every time and you also are more likely to notice if it is not there.

-Have you ever lost your phone under the seat in the car? Keeping your phone on silent or vibrate is often a great idea for meetings and at lunch but this causes real havoc if you are trying to locate it. Remember to return your phone to normal mode as soon as possible.

-Make sure your phone is always well charged. If your phone goes dead you won't be able to call it. Having an additional charger in the car is a handy way to get the recharging you need and doesn't leave you stuck without communication on those long road trips.

-Always check for your cell phone when leaving a public area such as a restaurant or public washroom. And speaking of washrooms, many a cell phone has taken an unfortunate dip into the toilet bowl and the results of this voyage are nothing to write home about.



Following these tips will simplify your high-tech life. A little extra thought and planning can save you time later. Now you can actually run out the door without running around looking for your phone first.



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Pictures of "Our 2012 Christmas Party"

Craig Rupert, CC/CL

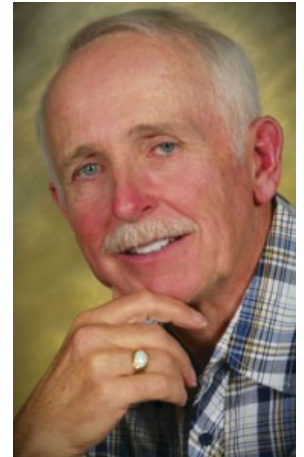


As the holiday season falls upon us once again, it's the perfect opportunity to gather for festive food, beverages and of course a visit from the jolly one himself, Dave...Santa showed up too. As we reflect back on the year so far, we look forward to a successful 2013 at Toastmasters

A Letter From A Friend

Craig Rupert, CC/CL

Recently, our club received an email from a gentleman who has benefited from Sears-Halifax Toastmasters, we would like to share it with you.



To: President

From:
Bruce Raine
bruce@bruceraine.com

Message:

I was a participant in the Speechcraft Course given by your club for Chartered Accountants in 1978. At the first 4 meetings I said nothing because I was terrified to speak to anyone never mind to a group of strangers. At the 8th meeting I was the chairman of the meeting and loved every minute. Soon after that course ended I obtained a part time job teaching at Mount Saint Vincent. The next year I taught full time at St. Mary's. The year after that I started teaching at California State University in Hayward, California (near San Francisco). That was my career for the next 25 years.

I didn't return to Toastmasters until 2011 after I retired. I now belong to 4 clubs in the Seattle area. I have given 75 speeches this year. I have written a book "Attitude Determines Destiny". I am extremely happy.

None of this would have been possible without your club giving that Speechcraft course back in 1978.

Thank You from the bottom of my heart.

Bruce Raine

If you would like to know more about me go to www.BruceRaine.com or search for me on YouTube. I mention your club in my speeches often. The Kindle version of my book will be free between December 16-20.

Whether Tortoise or Hare

Jane Holden, ACS, ALS, almost DTM

Eight years ago today I joined Sears-Halifax Toastmasters Club. I had found a club conveniently located in the mall. Like many visitors I was impressed by the advanced speakers. Feeling shy I didn't join right away. I visited three times in the spring of 2004 and then summer break interrupted my plans. Sidetracked by life it was January 2005 before I returned and joined. The journey continued to be slow but steady. At first I found the jargon confusing. Exactly what did it mean that one person called themselves a DTM, another a CC and yet another an ALB? How did some people get up and give such polished speeches without notes? Most interesting were the evaluations - wow, immediate feedback that was supportive with specific suggestions for improvements! After just over 5 months I gave my icebreaker speech. Tortoise Jane finally got to the starting line. By the end of my first year I had given 2 speeches. At the two year mark I had given 7 speeches and before our summer break that year I finished 10 speeches and could add the no longer mysterious CC or Competent Communicator after my name during introductions.

If anyone had suggested then that I would accomplish over 40 speeches and complete all the projects to earn 3 levels in the Leadership track, I would not have believed them. Foolishness! Achieving all of this is how one earns "DTM" (Distinguished Toastmaster) designation. One speech and one leadership project at a time Tortoise Jane waddled forward. Surprisingly, eight years later I seem to be crossing that 'finish line'. If you are newer in the club you will have your own journey. I hope you find other club members inspiring. Whether tortoise or hare, enjoy yourself as you steadily progress on your speaking journey.





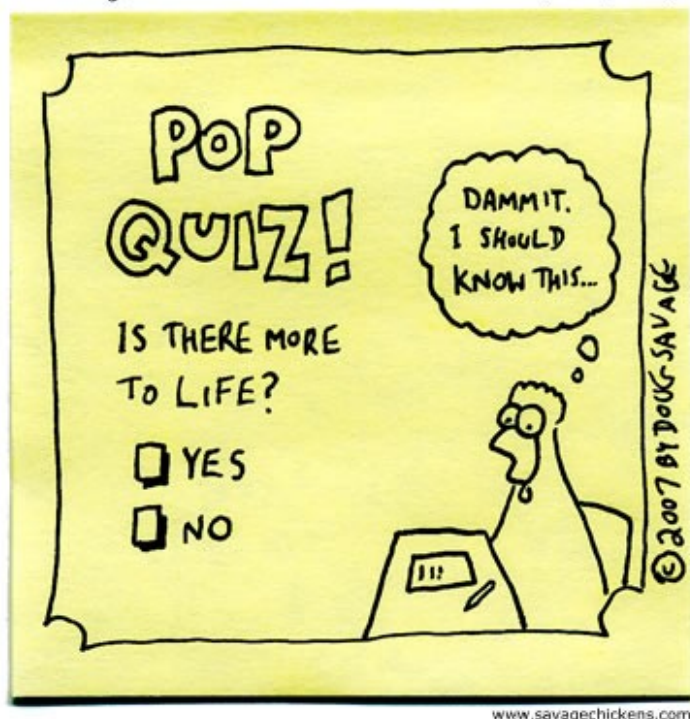
Smiles & Chuckles

Craig Rupert, CC/CL



Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

Warning: Date on calendar are closer than they appear

Better to understand a little, than misunderstand a lot.

It's always darkest before dawn, so if you're going to steal your neighbour's newspaper, that's the time to do it.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving isn't for you.

Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

Toastmasters Picture Puzzle

Craig Rupert, CC/CL

*Click on the picture below to solve the puzzle
(See how quick you can do it)*

