



# THE 1555'ER

Club #1555  
Sears-Halifax Toastmasters

**Winter 2016**

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## President's Message

It's been an exciting year so far for Sears-Halifax Toastmasters Club #1555. We successfully celebrated our 60th Anniversary with many of our Toastmaster colleagues, past members and friends on February 27th, 2016. This milestone demonstrated how dedicated our members are to our club and the Toastmasters International Program. We have watched our members grow and expand their knowledge of communication and leadership throughout the year.



Our club's success is measured by the achievements of our members, and we are on track to achieve the President's Distinguished Club Designation. We have just completed our annual "International Speech & Table Topic" contests with great success and enthusiasm.

Our mandate for the Sears-Halifax Toastmasters Club has always been to assist each member to improve their communication and leadership skills in a fun, friendly and safe environment. As a member you learn at your own pace – no one is pushing you along the way. Your mentors are here to assist you in your learning experience to help you achieve your goals. All you need to do is set your goals and ask for assistance when you need it and just go for it.

Let's make this the year – your year – to achieve your next level in Communication and Leadership!

Sincerely,

Karen Caldwell, DTM

President

Sears-Halifax Toastmasters Club # 1555

[karen.caldwell@eastlink.ca](mailto:karen.caldwell@eastlink.ca)

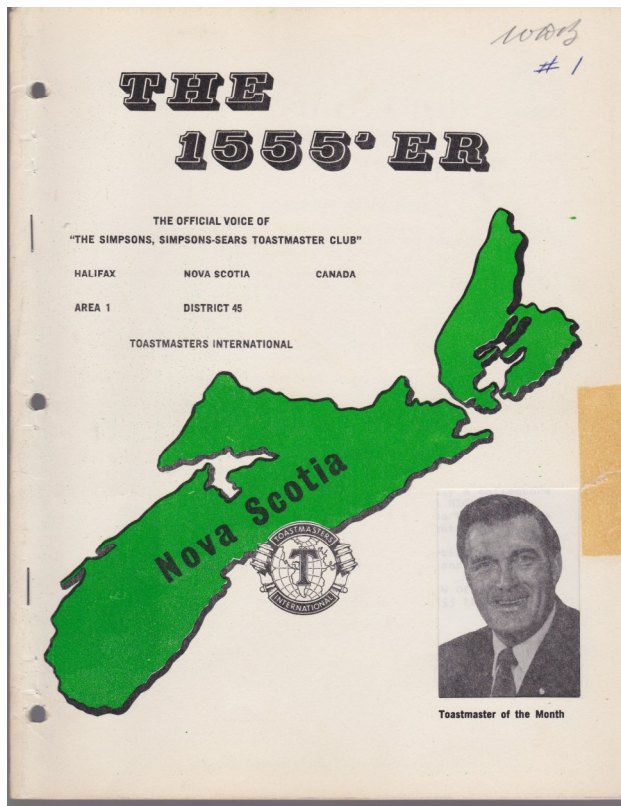
# Toast-it Notes Gives Way to the I555'ER

*Fellow Toastmaster;*

*It is a genuine pleasure to speak to you through this medium, our first issue of "THE I555' ER."*

**Bill Bevans, President - October 22nd, 1969**

In 1969, Toastmasters International was celebrating its 45th anniversary and asked all clubs to do something big to commemorate the milestone. The Simpsons, Simpsons-Sears Toastmasters Club decided to create a club bulletin. This bulletin was a gift to the members that highlighted the club activities, including educational and social events.



President Bill Bevans claimed their first newsletter was no "Pulitzer Prize", but in our opinion, that first issue was definitely one for the record books. At 22 pages, it is mammoth by today's standards.

Included in the first issue were a club history and a profile of the "Toastmaster of the Month". The first issue highlighted "Mr. Toastmaster", also known as Bill Chase. Bill was a veteran of World War II and was one of our longest standing members, a pillar of the club.

The inaugural issue is an interesting read to say the least. The word to describe it best is 'thorough'. It is jam-packed with interesting facts and information, such as a list of past presidents, a list of current members and members in attendance from the two Halifax Toastmistress Clubs during a joint meeting. Attendance and speech progress for every club member was noted in the back, if you are inclined to study the history further. Maybe it wasn't a Pulitzer, but it was a prize, for sure.

Published every two months, the I555' ER ran for several years, into the early 70's. Records of the newsletters are scarce. There is an issue from 1983 and mention of a resurgence of the newsletter in the 90's. In 2000's, the newsletter was revived and renamed using a nice play on words, 'Toast-it Notes'.

In creating a special history documentary for our 60th celebration, we uncovered club artifacts, including the original I555' ER newsletters. On March 10, 2016, a motion was passed to change the name of our beloved newsletter back to its original title. Enjoy the new and refreshed version of "The I555' ER"!

Mark Doyle, ACB & ALS

*"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards."*  
~ Søren Kierkegaard

## Highlights of 2015 Christmas Party

Here are some photos from the last Christmas party held at Rick Joseph's party room. The event was well attended by club members and their significant others.

Everyone had a merry time, and the height of the evening was Santa's entry to share the joy of the season with all.



***Tony Easton, Kamala Rangaswamy and Marilyn Easton kick-start the event***



***Cameron Ells stirs the room with a melody***



***Dave Gosline claims more Air miles than Santa***



***Sergeant Mark Doyle was promoted to Sheriff***



## Highlights of the 2016 Awards Night

The 2016 Awards night was held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 60 years after the club's founding date. The night was filled with glamour and pomp that only the Oscars matched. Club members were recognized for their contribution to the club and promotion of the club's values.



*From left to right: Zhou Hui (Birthday Girl), Mike McDonald, Erna Slingloff, Ralph Smith, Karen Caldwell, Dave Hubley, Mark Doyle, and Cameron Ells*



*Dave Hubley wins Best Table Topics*



*Erna Slingloff wins Best Evaluator*



***Mark Doyle wins Most Improved***



***Helpful Ralph Smith wins Most Helpful***



***Mark Doyle wins Best Speaker...He's flabbergasted!***



***Karen Caldwell wins Toastmaster of the Year***



## Life Event – Ben Worth is a Dad!

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On March 11<sup>th</sup>, Ben and Angela Worth, welcomed their first son, Hobbes Harrison Worth, into the world. They also just purchased their first home in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Welcome Hobbes.



## Toastmasters Education Program

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The education program is an important part of every Toastmaster's journey and is a critical aspect of every club meeting around the world. The Toastmasters Education Program is based on a proven curriculum that enables you to develop your communication and leadership skills one step at a time. The program is built on four guiding principles that have been in place since Toastmasters was founded in 1924:

- **Experiential Learning** – We learn by doing; by giving speeches and fulfilling leadership roles, we practice and improve.
- **Self-paced Program** – We learn best at our own pace and comfort level.
- **Peer Feedback** – Through honest and supportive peer evaluation, we grow and improve.
- **Mentoring** – Experienced members encourage, guide and support us in our goals and help us to achieve more than we thought possible.

The program comprises two tracks: Communication and Leadership. The two tracks are not mutually exclusive; you may participate in both at the same time, if you wish. You progress through each track by completing a series of manuals that contain projects and evaluation guides. There are many opportunities for awards and recognition along the way.

Members interested in building their public speaking and communication skills begin with *Competent Communication*.

### Competent Communication

The 10 speech projects in the *Competent Communication* manual help you develop your speaking skills one step at a time. When you finish all of the projects, you are eligible for the Competent Communicator award.

#### Advanced Communication Track

After receiving the Competent Communicator award, you can begin to develop more advanced speaking and communication skills through the *Advanced Communication Series* manuals. There are 15 manuals in all, each containing five speech projects. Many of the manuals are career-oriented. You choose the manuals you want to complete and the skills you want to learn.

Members interested in building their leadership skills begin with *Competent Leadership*.

### Competent Leadership

This is the core of the Leadership track. The *Competent Leadership* manual features 10 projects that you complete by serving in various club meeting roles. An evaluator will give you feedback on each project, helping you to improve. When you complete the manual, you are eligible for the Competent Leader award.

#### Advanced Leader Program

After earning the Competent Leadership award, you can further refine and develop more complex leadership skills by completing projects in manuals that are part of the Advanced Leader Program.

## **“So I’ve earned my CC; now what?”**

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Congratulations on having achieved the first major step in your Toastmasters career by earning your Competent Communicator designation! “So, now what?” you ask. You can look forward to completing speech projects in any of the 15 advanced manuals of the Advanced Communication track. You may also decide to increase your leadership skills by working on the Leadership designations, if you have not already started to do so. The choices are up to you.

One option you may wish to consider to supplement your Toastmasters experience is visiting an advanced toastmasters club, such as Toast of the Coast Toastmasters Club. Many members of Toast of the Coast have dual membership in two or more Toastmasters Clubs. All members have completed the Competent Communicator designation, which is a requirement for membership in an advanced club. Any Toastmaster is always welcome to visit Toast of the Coast, as often as they want.

At Toast of the Coast, all members offer support and encouragement to their fellow club members through a unique club feature – the roundtable evaluation. Each speaker has an assigned evaluator, just as they would in any other club. In addition, speakers receive feedback from every club member through the roundtable evaluation. The various points of view and perspectives of other members provide additional feedback and support to speakers.

Speech projects at the advanced level can be anywhere from 4 minutes to 40 minutes, or more. Toast of the Coast provides an opportunity to present these longer projects, which may be difficult to do at a home club meeting.

Toast of the Coast provides an opportunity for speakers to get outside their comfort zone and speak to a new audience. Members of Toast of the Coast offer a wealth of experience, resources and support. We all want to help each other achieve our communication and leadership goals.

### **Toast of the Coast Club Meeting Information**

When: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month  
(Year round – we do not take a summer break)  
9:00AM – 11:00AM

Where: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Board Room  
Steele Chevrolet,  
636 Portland Street, Dartmouth  
(Please do not park on the dealership parking lot)

Any Toastmaster is welcome to attend our meetings.

If you have any questions about Toast of the Coast or you would like to arrange to present a speech project, please feel free to contact me.

Jim Bendell, ACS, ALS  
[blackbird@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:blackbird@ns.sympatico.ca)



## Using easy-Speak

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Some of the challenges of being VP of Education are ensuring that meeting roles are filled and that members get credit for their participation in the Competent Leader and Competent Communicator education streams. The easy-Speak program makes the job much easier, and once members get the hang of it, it really gets a club meeting off to a smooth start.

Here are just a few features of the program that all members can use:

### **Manage the meeting on-line**

At any time up to the cut-off for on-line changes (12 hours suggested), a member can click on the meeting detail to say “yes” or “no”.

If she or he has a particular interest in the meeting, they can request email updates as other members accept/refuse roles. (Don't forget to go to the top of the column and click the Save button.)

### **Manage a 'queue' of requested speeches**

Members may book details of a speech ahead of time and request that it be scheduled in a future meeting. Speech details are shown automatically in the meeting agenda and in the personal record for the member. The queue of requested speeches is visible to all club members and to the VP of Education when preparing a meeting agenda.

A summary of speeches for each member and their progress towards their next designation (Competent Communicator, etc.) is presented as one of the eight club charts on the site. The last fifty speeches for the club are also shown with a link back to the meeting at which they were made. To learn how to book a speech for a future meeting, visit: <http://easy-speak.org/kb.php?mode=article&k=45>

### **Manage and track members' progress toward leadership awards**

The easy-Speak system allows the club VP of Education to record the date when a member completes each assignment and project leading to their Competent Leader and Advanced Leader awards. This information is also available to the member and their mentor.

If a member is assigned a meeting role that could be evaluated for their Competent Leader award, the member is provided with details and reminded by e-mail to bring their leadership manual to the meeting. For each meeting, a report is available to club officers showing potential Competent Leader roles, first-time roles and first-time visitors.

If the club uses easy-Speak for meeting management, information is collected automatically for meeting-based assignments. Competent leader tracking may also be enabled for clubs that chose not to use full meeting and data management through the site. To learn more about tracking leadership awards using easy-Speak, visit: <http://easy-speak.org/kb.php?mode=article&k=154>

Rick Joseph, DTM  
VP Education

## Our Executive Committee

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Karen Caldwell, DTM  
President  
[karen.caldwell@eastlink.ca](mailto:karen.caldwell@eastlink.ca)

Diana Gentile, TM  
Secretary  
[diana.gentile@dfsinnovascoti.ca](mailto:diana.gentile@dfsinnovascoti.ca)



Rick Joseph, DTM, CL  
VP Education  
[rjoseph42@gmail.com](mailto:rjoseph42@gmail.com)

Tony Easton, CC, CL  
Treasurer  
[tony@eastonia.ca](mailto:tony@eastonia.ca)



Ralph Smith, ACS, ALB  
VP Membership & Past President  
[rsmith@chebucto.ca](mailto:rsmith@chebucto.ca)

Mark Doyle, CC  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
[markdoyle2010@gmail.com](mailto:markdoyle2010@gmail.com)



Deji Adedeji, TM  
VP Public Relations  
[docdeji@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:docdeji@yahoo.co.uk)

**TOASTMASTERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

Sears-Halifax Toastmasters  
Employee Seminar Room  
Second Level, Sears  
Halifax Shopping Centre  
7001, Mumford Road, Halifax

Published by: Deji Adedeji, TM

Edited by: Elaine McMannus, CC