



## Sears-Halifax Toastmasters

### Club #1555

Sobey's Community Room,  
287 Lacewood Drive,  
Clayton Park, Halifax,  
Nova Scotia, Canada

Jan. 2020

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## President's Message



Fellow Toastmasters,

A very transformative year is upon us! We will finish up the legacy program and have all our members transition to the new technology-embracing Pathways program.

Sears-Halifax is highly positive, very motivating and a consistently successful club. We are lucky to have many members that have been around for well over a decade. That combination of

wisdom mixed with the fresh enthusiasm of newer members makes our club a truly special environment.

I am certainly honored to be entrusted with the role of President and be part of such a strong executive team. I have the utmost of confidence we will achieve our goals so long as we maintain a clear vision of success.

Toastmasters gives one the ability to really communicate a message. It is a skill anyone can learn. Our members put in the work and it shows.

We have members appearing on TV, handling town-hall situations, giving wedding toasts and roasts, doing live streams and more!

We are quite fortunate to have such a welcoming place for anyone to walk through our doors and achieve their speaking and leadership goals.

A special thank you to Sobey's for providing us to use their community room on a weekly basis. It is a beautiful venue in a great location.

Sincerely,

Shawn McIsaac - President  
Sears-Halifax Toastmasters

## Club News



**The District 45 Fall Workshop** was held November 2, 2019 in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Moncton, NB.

The keynote Speaker was Accredited Speaker, Joe Grondin, DTM! He provided two fantastic sessions overall and encouraged us to go “Beyond Toastmasters” with the skills we have learned!

Attending from our club was Shawn McIsaac, Karen Caldwell, Diana Gentile, Patricia LeDrew and Tracy Gatis.

### **Sears-Halifax received 3 awards!**

1. President's Distinguished Club Award
2. The Al Ferguson Memorial Award
  - a. Achieved 10 DCP points by April 30, 2019
  - b. Excellence in Leadership Award - (Combination of DCP points earned + club officer training) during the past 3 years.

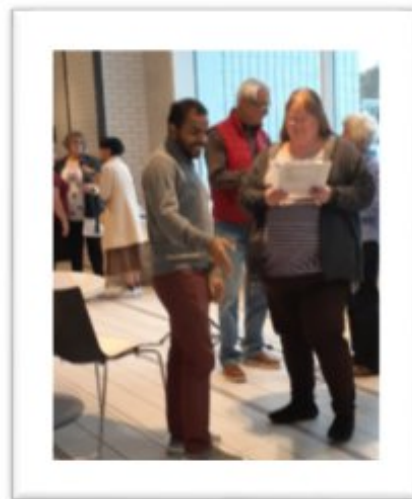




**A Toastmaster demonstration meeting** - Erin McMenemy from Dartmouth Toastmasters Club organized a Toastmaster public demonstration at the Halifax Shopping Centre in conjunction with several other Toastmasters Clubs; to provide PR for Nova Scotia Toastmaster clubs.

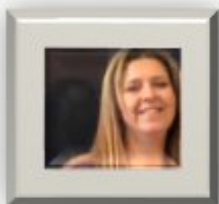
The public was able to witness a typical meeting. There was an information table; which was manned by volunteer Toastmasters. They were available to answer questions, provide Public Relations information on Toastmasters International and a full listing of all clubs in Nova Scotia. The event was held in the Food Court at the Halifax Shopping Centre on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. Everyone felt it was a great success that should be done annually!

Our club was well represented! Participants from the Sears Halifax Toastmasters Club were: Patricia LeDrew, Tracy Gatis, Shawn McIsaac, Karen Caldwell & Jim Hanifen.





**The Distinguished Toastmaster (DTM)** award is the highest achievement within Toastmasters International. The DTM recognizes a member of Toastmasters who has displayed a consistent superior level of achievement in both communication and leadership.



Distinguished Toastmasters are a rare breed. Less than 1% of all Toastmasters ever achieve that designation. Sears-Halifax has added *another* DTM to our list of achievers, Tracy Gatis! **Congratulations!!! We are proud of you!**



I completed my first Pathways level in November. The path I chose to follow is "Presentation Mastery". I had to complete three speeches and an evaluation. This is already much different from the "Toastmasters Legacy Program" which I completed the year before. The Legacy CC manual guided you speech by speech through how to improve specific aspects of your speaking skills (gestures, vocal variety, etc.). In contrast, the pathway that I am on does not address these specifics. The Legacy CC had no requirement to do an evaluation. That step, among others not directly related to speaking, was left to the leadership program.

There have always been conflicting viewpoints on how many speeches should be done before someone starts to evaluate. In our club, a rough rule of thumb seemed to be about a 1/2 dozen or so, but there were always dissenting voices saying that evaluations should be done as soon as possible. Pathways has opted for the latter - you do an evaluation after your Icebreaker! My own opinion on this is that it is asking too much of a new person to evaluate someone else when they are still learning the ropes themselves. Obviously some people will have no problem with it, however others will feel that this step is too high, too soon, and it will drive them away.



Pathways is a very different approach from the old system. Clearly the old system was not getting people through reliably enough, and something had to be done to improve matters. Pathways was the answer to this problem. Will it be a success? Only time will tell.



--

Robin Murray  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Canada

Presently, we Sears Halifax Toastmasters have 6 points towards our Distinguished Club Plan. Congratulations to all, this makes our club Distinguished already! Our goal is to achieve at least 9 of possible 10 points to reach President's Distinguished again this year. Keep up the great work of learning, listening and speaking .

## Another Amazing Engineer

**Henry Martyn Robert**



<b>Born</b>	May 2, 1837(1837-05-02) <u>Robertville, South Carolina</u>
<b>Died</b>	May 11, 1923(1923-05-11) (aged 86) <u>Hornell, New York</u>
<b>Service/branch</b>	<u>United States Army</u>
<b>Years of service</b>	1857-1901
<b>Rank</b>	<u>Brigadier General</u>
<b>Commands held</b>	<u>Chief of Engineers</u>
<b>Battles/wars</b>	<u>Pig War</u> , <u>American Civil War</u>
<b>Other work</b>	author of <i><u>Robert's Rules of Order</u></i>
photo and table from Wikipedia	

Leave it to an engineer to get things right. Back in 1863 at age 26, Henry Robert was chair of a meeting that reportedly lasted 14 hours and accomplished nothing because the assembly did not “behave itself”. Afterward he was determined to not let something like that happen again, so he tried to find guidance from existing

material on parliamentary procedure. He was not satisfied with what was available, so he prepared his own 16-page guide which he was not able to complete until 1874. However, he had difficulty getting it published because no publisher believed that a non-lawyer-engineer would be qualified to provide such guidance.

He finally had to take the financial risk himself and 4,000 copies were produced in 1876. As we say, the rest is history and critics suggested that a lawyer could not have produced such work because it would have become bound by existing rules and precedents.

Over the next 40 years Roberts' worked on fine tuning his rules and in 1915 published "*Robert's Rules of Order Revised*" which is the basis for today's versions.

His son, Henry Robert Junior and grandson, Henry Robert III carried on with the subsequent revisions. The latest is the 11<sup>th</sup> edition, "*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*", published September 2011.

There is also a second version of the "*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief*" available; which is a compressed version of the main book. These can be purchased at any bookstore.

Also, there is the "*Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance*" booklet by O. Garfield Jones. I have made fun of this book in my secretary speeches as it seems to be written in its original 1932 style although it is supposed to have been revised several times.

General/Engineer Robert once said, "When a better book comes along, get behind it." After doing the research for this article I am encouraged to order the official Robert's version.

Submitted by:

Ralph Smith, Secretary





### Annual Awards Night and Christmas Party

The 2017-2018 Awards Dinner for Club 1555 was held December 12, 2019, in conjunction with the Club Christmas Party, at 31 King's Wharf Place, Dartmouth.

Table Topics were led by Shawn McIsaac.

The following awards were presented for the 2018-2019 year:

- **Most Helpful Toastmaster** - Diana Gentile, CC
- **Most Improved Toastmaster** - Patrica LeDrew, TM
- **Best Table Topic Speaker** - Russell Wnuck, TM
- **Best Evaluator** - Susan Antoft, ACG/CL
- **Best Speaker** - Maggie-Jane Spray, CC
- **Toastmaster of the Year** - Shawn McIsaac, CC

The evening ended with a visit from Santa Claus. There were 16 members and 6 guests in attendance.

Attendees:

Susan Antoft, ACG/CL

TM Steffanie Avery, TM and guest - Michael ( Mike ) Vanni

Karen Caldwell, DTM

Tony Easton, CTM/CL

Tracy Gatis, DTM

Diana Gentile, CC

Jim Hanifen, TM

Jane Holden, DTM and guest - Norris Eddy

Shawn McIsaac, CC

Robin Murray, CC/ALB

Carol Rolfe-Higney, TM

Karina Sanford, TM and guest- Joan Robillard

Ralph Smith, ACS/CL and guest -Darlene MacLean

Maggie-Jane Spray, CC

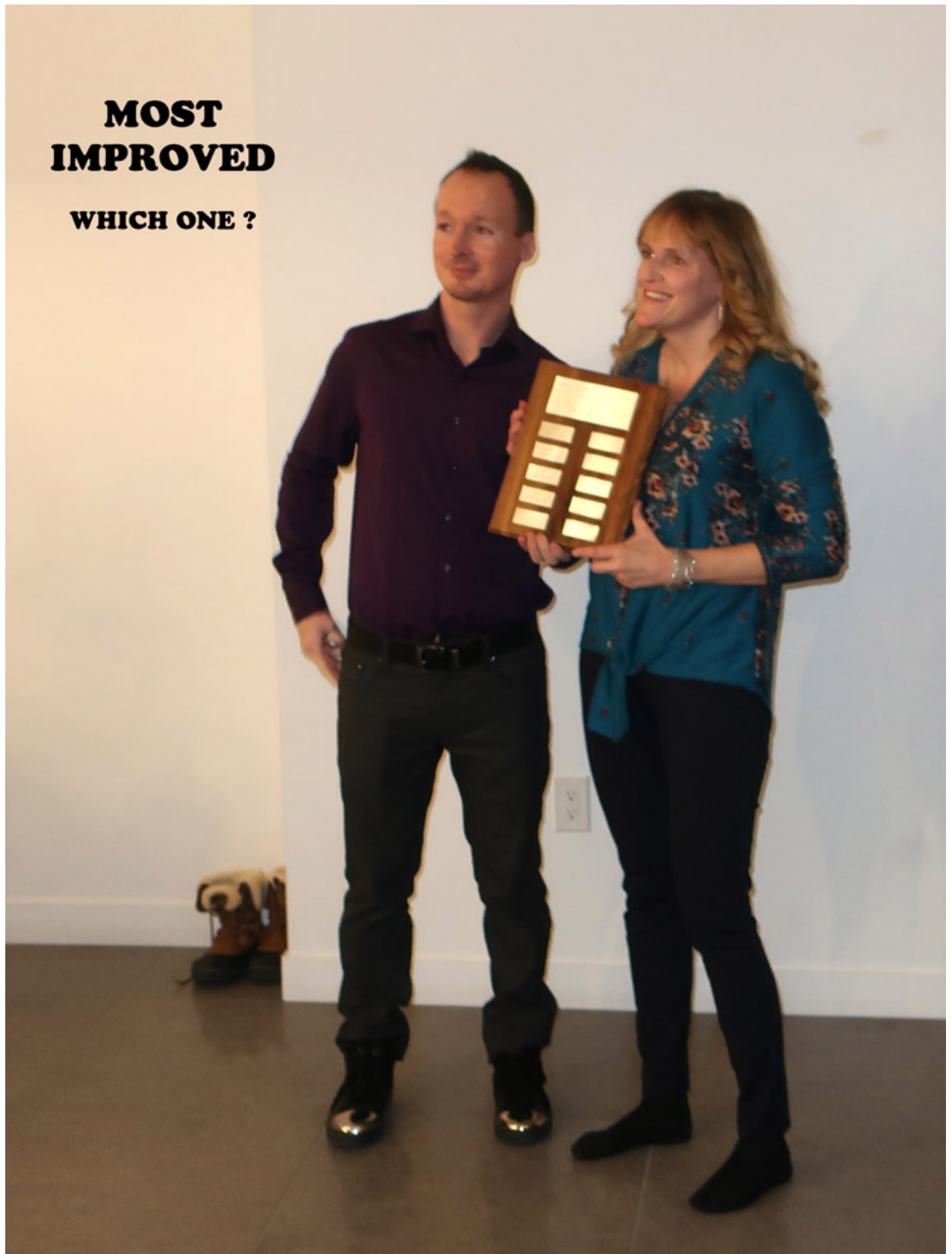
Leili Tabatabaie, TM and two guests- Shirin Tabatabaie, Ali Iranikhan

Colette Weare, TM

**A Special Thank you to Karina and Joan for the venue !!!**



**TOASTMASTER  
OF THE YEAR  
SHAWN McISAAC**















## **TABLE TOPICS**

**First time ever,  
lost for words !**







## **CLUB CALENDAR:**

**March 5th** we will hold our club contests. Three contests in one night: Table Topics, Humorous Speech and International Speech.

## **DISTRICT CALENDAR:**

### **February 2020 Events**

- 15th Division A TLI
- 20th Newsletter submissions Deadline

### **March 2020 Events**

- 7th Area 18 Speech Contests St. Vincent de Paul Paris Hall 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM ET
- 7th Area 1 Speech Contests Manulife
- 21st Area 9 Speech Contests - St. Mary University - Sobeys Bldg. - 4th Floor Unilever Room 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.
- 28th Area 21 Speech Contests

### **April 2020 Events**

- 4th Division E International Speech & Table Topics Contest. Université de Moncton Campus de Moncton, 18 Antonine-Maillet Ave, Moncton, NB E1A 3E9, Canada
- 18th Division G Contest Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Lebanon, NH
- 20th Newsletter submissions deadline
- 25th Division A Speech Contests 9:00 am – 1:00 PM. 129 Pleasant St. Concord, NH

### **May 2020 Events**

- 20th Newsletter submissions deadline
- 22nd - 24th District 45 Spring Conference, Crown Plaza, Moncton, NB

### **June 2020 Events**

- 13th Division E TLI, PEI Canada
- 20th Newsletter submissions deadline

## Club Officers 2019 - 2020

- **President** - CC Shawn McIsaac
- **Vice President - Education** Susan Antoft, ACG/AL
- **Vice President - Membership** Leile Tabatabaie, TM
- **Vice President - Public Relations** Colette Weare, TM
- **Treasurer** - Tony Easton, CC/CL
- **Secretary** - Ralph Smith, ACS/ALB
- **Sargent At Arms** - Karina Sanford, TM

