



## **Don't Let The Fear Stop You**

**By Cleo Lamping**

It is once again, with pleasure that we announce the winners of Area International speech contest

– Dorothy Garlough (Arnprior Club) first; Kimberley O'Shaughnessy (Arnprior Club) second. And Fran Watson (Pembroke Club) third.

In the evaluation contest, Division, the winners were Lynne Zander (Arnprior Club) first, Dorothy Garlough (Arnprior Club) second., and Fran Watson (Pembroke Club) third.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I missed quite a few meetings, then when I was able to attend, I held back.

Why? Why not just go?

Well I suffered from the angst of walking into a room filled with new faces, people who joined while I was away.

The same kind of tension many people must suffer when they hear about Toastmasters, read about Toastmaster, would love to drop in on Toastmasters but can't... because of this feeling.

Well, all that was for naught. I walked into a roomful of smiling welcoming faces glad to see me.

Now I must point out one does not have to be an old-time member to receive this kind of warm welcome.

Every guest who drops in is treated with the same warmth and affection 'cause that's the way Toastmasters are.

We are glad to see you.

Soon after your introductions to members new and old you are taken up with the program which moves fast. There is no time to wonder "Is everyone looking at me?"

From the Sgt at Arms introduction of the president to the general evaluator who tells us how well the meeting ran and what could be improved, your interest is held.

You will not only be impressed by the quality of first time or senior member's speeches, you will enjoy the evaluation of all these speeches.

For a guest it may be just a speech, to an evaluator it is the opportunity to make a good speaker great by noting the good points and those things that could be improved, little things that as a guest, you might not think of but ponder on your way home.

This welcome to guests and members happens in thousands of Toastmaster Clubs all over the world.

So the next time you hear of Toastmasters, are interested but just a little shy? nervous? say to yourself, "this club wants me. I'm really welcome."

If I am speaking to you, remember we all feel that way at one time or another, so please drop in as our guest and feel the warmth.

The Pembroke & Area Club meets in the Library at Bishop Smith Catholic High School, 360 Carmody Street at 7:15 pm, Tuesdays. For further information call 735-3272 or 649-2950.