



TOASTMASTERS – EPISODE II – RETURN OF JACK & JILL **By LYNNE KOBUS, RENFREW TOASTMASTERS**

(Based on a fictional conversation overheard outside Renfrew Victoria Hospital.)

If you remember from the last Toastmasters article, Jack and Jill had been injured after a tumble down the hill while they were fetching water. They were both admitted to hospital for treatment of their injuries. After their release, while waiting for a taxi outside the hospital, Jack and Jill had this conversation.

Jill: Gee Jack! That was an awful tumble. I guess we should have gone to a Toastmasters meeting instead of going up the hill for water.

Jack: Well Jill, you are certainly most welcome to attend three complimentary meetings.

Jill: But I'm very nervous about going.

Jack: There's no need to be nervous Jill. Everyone in the club is friendly and wants you to succeed.

Jill: But Jack, if I go to a meeting for the first time, could I just observe?

Jack: Of course, Jill. Tell Fran that you just want to watch and listen. But, I bet that once you are at a Toastmasters meeting, you will relax a bit and maybe want to tell the group how you enjoyed the meeting at the end.

Jill: Well ... if I went to three meetings and decided to join Toastmasters, what would I learn?

Jack: Jill, it's great! You learn to be more comfortable speaking in a group situation. But also you learn to listen effectively, how to put a speech together, techniques to keep an audience interested, and ways to do a constructive evaluation.

Jill: Toastmasters is sounding more interesting to me. It doesn't seem that I would have to be afraid. It certainly sounds more interesting, and safer, than going up the hill to fetch a pail of water.

Jack: Then you'll come to a meeting, Jill? You have nothing to lose except fear and trepidation. Trepidation (fearful uncertainty) – that's a good word, isn't it? At Toastmasters, you also improve your vocabulary. And your grammar.

Jill: Okay Jack, my trepidation and I will come to a Toastmasters meeting. When and where are meetings?

Jack: Meetings are on Mondays at 7p.m. at 236 Hall Avenue East. For more information, you can call Lynne at 432-7557 or Fran at 649-2950.

And at that moment, Jack and Jill's taxi arrived and they were off.