

Lament of a Potential Toastmaster

By Lynne Kobus, Renfrew Toastmasters



Roxanne is taking a shortcut through the park and she finds Ralph sitting on a bench with his head in his hands. Rover, the talking dog, is with him.

Roxanne: Ralph, what's wrong with you?

Ralph: (looks up at Roxanne, says nothing, and puts his head back in his hands)

Roxanne: Rover, what's with Ralph?

Rover: He's disappointed that he didn't go to Renfrew Toastmasters first meeting of the season on Monday, September 10.

Ralph: Oh, woe is me! I'm so depressed and it's my own fault. I've been planning to go to three free meetings and I chickened out. I want to take advantage of all that Toastmasters has to offer. Toastmasters can help me be a better communicator. If I learn to be a good speaker, presentations at work will be much easier. But I stayed home and gave Rover a bath.

Rover: I would have been happier if you were at Toastmasters.

Roxanne: Rover. I think we're all happier that you had a bath.

Rover: (glares at Roxanne and lets a low growl rumble in his throat)

Roxanne: Oh Rover! Get over it! Now you smell better. Ralph, don't feel bad. You can go to the meeting next Monday.

Rover: Yeah, Ralph. You go to that meeting. Or else you will probably decide to trim my nails. Take me for a walk and I'll show you where meetings are held at 236 Hall Avenue in the common room.

Roxanne: Rover, you can chase Ralph out of the house on Monday. The meeting is at 7 p.m. Make sure he's on time. He'll probably forget the phone numbers if he wants more information about Toastmasters, so remember them for him, will you? 613-649-2950 or 613-432-7557.

Ralph: Roxanne! I really hate it when you talk to the dog as if he's smarter than I am.

Rover: (under his breath and chuckling) I am smarter.