

Toastmasters Weekly Newsletter – September 16, 2007

Welcome Back Toastmasters.....yes, that was the theme for this past week and this week's theme is Fall Fairs!

**Who was there?** – Renfrew had a marvelous turnout this week with two guests Jack Stekelenburg and Clare Solarzano. Members in attendance: George Hooper, Lynne Kobus, Chris Cobus, Ben MacMurchy, Joan Morgan, April Cappel, Fran Watson.

Jack came as a result of reading Lynne's articles over the past two years. He is an artisan who creates sculptures and paints and has his own shop. You will have to come and listen to his ice breaker to find out more about him. Clare was a guest brought in by Lynne, who had such a great time at our club that she is thinking of joining where she lives.

In Pembroke we had a surprise guest – James Krause, who joined us to say goodbye as he is moving. (It was great to see you James, we have missed you—remember to get signed up as soon as you get moved in and hopefully we'll see you at some contests in the near future.) Nigel Reynolds, Maria Williams, Cleo Lamping and Fran rounded out the crowd.

**What happened?** – Since it was the first meeting, roles had not been assigned, but were quickly filled by those in attendance with George taking on the Toast, April the Word, Lynne the Story and Chris the Educational Tip. Ben slipped easily into his former role of Timer and Joan did an excellent job as Quizmaster. George summed things up as our General Evaluator.

The word was eyes in Renfrew and the Best Table Topic was won by Joan. Ask her about her "hot tap". The Sparky award was shared by Joan and Lynne. Our guests took part in Table Topics and did an excellent job!

In Pembroke we had to compete with a fire alarm which went off in the middle of Nigel's talk, but the staff assured us we had nothing to worry about other than the loud ringing in our ears which seemed to go on forever. We hustled through our meeting as they advised that the alarm would be going off again.

We spent most of the evening practicing our impromptu speaking with our special activity and our Table Topics. Participants were encouraged to use the word "welcome" or "back" in their topic and James had us salivating as he talked about barbecuing baby back ribs. Cleo also tantalized our senses talking about Jello cubes shining in a tall crystal glass.

**What's new?** A new Toastmaster's season and new opportunities for speaking and leadership roles. Fran reminded everyone to bring their Competent Leadership Manual to every meeting and have someone evaluate them in the roles. This way every member should have completed their Competent Leader by the end of the year. We will be discussing this more fully at our "Club Success Plan" meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

Lynne had two articles published this past month. We're not sure what happened to the "real" titles and we will have to make sure to mention the title in BOLD print the next time we send an article in, but hopefully they will be read.

**What else?** There are a number of incentives being offered to individual members and to clubs for membership building. Each member is encouraged to speak to at least one person per month about coming to a Toastmasters meeting. The more visitors we have, the more people we can encourage to join.

It's strange, but the two most difficult things to talk to others about seem to be religion and Toastmasters. When we go to a good restaurant, we are anxious to tell people about our experience and if we go to a Senator's hockey game or a Blue Jay's baseball game, we want to tell everyone about what we saw. Why can't we do the same with Toastmasters? Why can't we tell people what we have learned, what we did, why we did it and how it has benefited us? Why can't we tell them how much more confident we are since we began attending? Why do we seem to be afraid to mention the word in polite company???

Over the next year member will have a chance to perform more leadership roles and present educational tips from the TI series of manuals.

**Contests:** The fall contests are Humorous Speech and Table Topics. If we have people who would like to compete, please let me know asap and the contest will be held in Pembroke on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Area 10 Contest will be held in Renfrew on Monday, October 15, 2007 with clubs from Arnprior, Deep River, Chalk River, Pembroke and possibly Inspiring Toastmasters.

The Division Contest will be held in Ottawa on Saturday, October 20, 2007 with all the Area winners participating.

The District Contest will be held in Mount Tremblant at the fall conference. Spaces are still available. Check the website ([www.toastmastersdistrict61.org](http://www.toastmastersdistrict61.org)) for more information.

**WEBPAGE:** [www.franwatson.ca/ToastmastersRenfrew.html](http://www.franwatson.ca/ToastmastersRenfrew.html) and [www.franwatson.ca/ToastmastersPembroke.html](http://www.franwatson.ca/ToastmastersPembroke.html) have both been updated with newsletters and newspaper articles. If you missed some of the articles in the paper, catch up here. I will continue to update at least monthly.

Well, that's all for now....another long email to be sure!

See you soon!!

Fran Watson, ATM-S, CL  
President