



## **Where Have The Storytellers Gone? By Cleo Lamping, Pembroke Toastmasters**

Where, oh where have the storytellers gone, those wonderful people who could always tell a story about something real or imagined at the drop of a hat?

There was a time, before the printed word became so common, that storytelling was the only way to pass on our history. Storytellers would go from village to village holding audiences in their spell.

To replace storytellers we have books, indeed a wonderful thing but not necessarily a replacement for OUR stories, all those wonderful, sad, happy things that have happened to us in our lifetime.

Family gatherings love to hear these stories, children adore them, so why don't we tell more of them?

Have we lost our creative ability? I don't think so. We just don't think of it... until maybe a child asks, "What was it like in the old days?"

The olden days to a child usually means when you were a little boy or girl. Our stories may seem incredulous to today's high-tech child... incredulous but fascinating. And if we can actually remember some of our parents' stories, it becomes even more fascinating, but a litany of acts is not a story.

The good storyteller weaves words into a beautiful carpet, transports the listeners into a different world.

It's not too difficult to become a good storyteller. It just takes a little practice. We can even use the time-honoured opening, "Once upon a time" to take us into our creative journeys. Instead of the well-worn printed word at night, let your children "in" on your "olden days." A simple happening is a good start, working up to more and more events.

Make the most minor event colourful, draw word pictures, bring your audience, (sometimes just one wide-eyed little child) into an unknown world...one that only YOU can create.

At Pembroke and Area Toastmasters, a segment of the program is devoted to stories where one can create, then hone to a sharp edge, those wonderful flights of fancy or family facts that you and only you are capable of bringing forth.

Drop into Toastmasters and hear how we can help you answer that question, "What was it like in the olden days?"

Toastmasters meet every Tuesday evening at 7:15 pm in the Library at Bishop Smith Catholic High School. For further info, call 735-6477 or 649-2950.