

# THE COMMUNICATOR

First Oakville Toastmasters #2245 Newsletter

October 12, 2006

## THE 2006-2007 EXECUTIVE

Éléonore Reinéry, President  
Jennifer Czerniak, Past President  
Katherine Ryell, VP of Education  
Gerry Bramm, VP of Membership  
Sammy Wahab, Treasurer  
Patricia Lore, Secretary  
John Fairbairn – Co-Sergeant at Arms  
Michael Walornyj – Co-Sergeant at Arms  
Art Jain, Co-VP of Public Relations  
Laura Baker, Co-VP of Public Relations

## A Message from your President

By *Éléonore*

Fellow toastmasters,

It is with great joy and humility that I present my remarks to the Newsletter. I am proud to have been bestowed with your vote of confidence to lead us through the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Oakville Toastmasters.

With the support of the members of the executive and the many voices of the current membership, and the valuable offer of help from Past Presidents, we shall do our absolute best. I trust that many things will be achieved as every First Oakville Toastmaster aims at exceeding expectations. To use a past president's quote: "Let's roll the bones!"

## Welcome New Members

A warm welcome goes out to our three new members of First Oakville Toastmasters:

- Wissam
- Bill
- Ariam

We look forward to getting to know you better and we are confident that you will find First Oakville Toastmasters a very supportive environment; one where you can reach your goals and make new friends along the way.

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*Don't forget, guests are always welcome to visit our Club!*

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## Putting it all Together

By Gerry

I recently attended a two-day conference in New York. It was a great opportunity to hear some top-notch speakers address issues related to demographic change and our aging population.

I couldn't help but wear my Toastmasters hat as I considered each speaker from the perspective of structure, content and delivery. Several speakers had great content but unfortunately they were overly reliant on their notes or power point slides. Others were accomplished in their delivery but were short on any real substance.

One speaker stood out among all the rest. His talk demonstrated the perfect blend of content, structure and delivery. He stood at the front of the stage and spoke without the aid of notes or power point slides. His material was jammed with useful information, he had terrific vocal variety, good use of gestures and a self-deprecating sense of humour. He had really "put it all together".

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*His talk demonstrated the perfect blend of content, structure and delivery.*

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As I work through the speeches in the manual I find it difficult to blend all of the individual skills together in one speech. I find myself concentrating on my eye contact but in the process I forget about my gestures. I try to work on my vocal variety but slip up on my timing.

My goal this year is to do a better job at combining all of the individual skills that I have been working on. This ability strikes me as the most demanding challenge that we face as Toastmasters. As we move forward into our new year, I wish all of you every success as you strive to obtain your own personal objectives. Oh yes...happy 50<sup>th</sup>!

## Taking Home the Jackpot

Interview with Matt by Laura

I had a chance to chat with Matt Wagner about his recent 50/50 win. Here's what he had to say:

### **How much money did you win?**

*\$750 – but my wife thinks I only won \$150. And, we split it, so she got \$75.*

### **What was your initial reaction when you saw the Joker?**

*I didn't see the Joker. I held it out to see the reaction from the crowd. I knew right away from what I heard that I had won.*

### **Have you spent the money yet?**

*As I mentioned, I gave my wife her share (\$75), I bought a round of drinks at the pub and the rest I am saving for Christmas gifts.*

### **What do you have to say to other Toastmasters about their odds of winning the 50/50 in the future?**

*I strongly encourage all Toastmasters to participate. The club won \$700, which is great for First Oakville Toastmasters. The 50/50 draw helps to keep our dues low and provides our club with extra wiggle room to fund special events.*

Congratulations Matt on your win! I can't think of a more deserving Toastmaster to take home all our money! And, fellow Toastmasters, don't forget to place your orders with our very own Santa Claus!

## Just say no

By Hal

I remember about 18 months into my first job, when I asked my boss what could I do that would fast-track me ahead of all the other clearly more talented individuals in my office. He replied, "Join toastmasters." "Just say no", the voice inside me said. I asked him to convince me, and I appealed to him to offer me some advice that would really be helpful, not just that "west coast fluff" and feel good stuff. I said, c'mon give me "the silver bullet". He stuck to his original message for a couple of weeks, so I finally figured I'd beat him at his own game, and joined a local chapter (or cult). From the beginning, I knew it wasn't for me. There were mostly older people, most without my extensive "university education" and it was clear I'd be through this program in a couple of months.

Of course the short story is that I struggled through one season, and then took almost ten years off before re-joining Toastmasters again, in 1993. Since then I've learned volumes about what I didn't know, learned so much about things that have helped me in my work, family and social endeavours, and been so proud to be associated with this worldwide organization that has meant so much to me personally. I have numerous friends who I've come to know at First Oakville and make more each year.

So in closing, if you've got all the friends, smarts, and support you can ever need, just say no to the next great suggestion or idea that comes your way. I almost did!

### Division L Contest Information

Don't miss out on your chance to see the Division L Table Topics and Humorous Speech Competition this weekend.

*Here are the details:*

Date: Saturday, October 14, 2006

Time: 9 – 11 a.m.

Where: St. Andrew's United Church  
5645 Morrison Street  
Niagara Falls

Directions: QEW to Niagara to 420 to The Falls, turn left at first lights, Stanley Ave, go down 2 lights, and turn left on Morrison Street. Free parking between Cemetery & Church. Please use Front Door.  
Cost: \$5

## Congratulations are in order

On October 2, 2006, three of First Oakville Toastmasters' finest participated in the Table Topics and Humorous Speech Contest at the Area level.

Congratulations to:

- Sharon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Table Topics Competition
- John S., 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Humorous Speech Contest (representing Mighty Oaks)
- Sara, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Humorous Speech Contest

This is a great accomplishment and demonstrates the calibre of Toastmasters that our club is producing.

### Take the Quiz

In Éléonore's opening remarks, she quotes a past President as saying "Let's roll the bones!"

Who spoke these famous words? Submit your guess via email to [vppublicrelations@firstoakvilletoastmasters.org](mailto:vppublicrelations@firstoakvilletoastmasters.org). And, look for the answer in the next Newsletter.

*Hint: The past President is an active member within our club!*

## Etiquette 101

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*Don't let our meetings get out of control! Ensure the lectern is manned at all times.*

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The lectern (not the podium, which is a raised platform) must be manned at all times. Otherwise, our meeting will be out of control with no one in charge.

If you are at the lectern and are expecting someone to take control of the meeting from you, wait patiently at the lectern for them arrive at the lectern and offer a handshake when they arrive. Do not walk away from the lectern to greet the person in passing.

## Robert is our friend

Parliamentary procedures are not meant to emote anxiety and fear at First Oakville Toastmasters. A regular dose of 'Robert is our friend' will be sure to help you understand and appreciate Robert's "Rules of Order."

Let's start at the very beginning!

### ***Why do we have parliamentary procedures?***

Democratic government is based absolutely upon the principle of majority rule. But majority rule requires that the minority abide by the will of the majority. And the willingness of the minority to abide by the will of the majority is, in turn, based upon the willingness of the majority to permit the minority to "have their say" before final action is taken.

The chief purpose of parliamentary procedure is to protect the rights of the minority. The majority can usually take care of itself. In a government controlled by public opinion, which we call a democracy, accepted rules of parliamentary procedure are not only of the highest importance for legislatures, they are the foundation of freedom in every meeting, large or small, throughout the nation.<sup>1</sup>

As you can see, parliamentary procedures are put in place to ensure that democracy lives. Every member of First Oakville Toastmasters is entitled to his/her opinion. The procedures help ensure that you are heard! So, don't be afraid to participate in our next business session – the floor is yours!

<sup>1</sup>Jones, O. Garfield. *Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance*, Penguin Books, 1971.



*General Henry M. Robert completed the most complete and important revision to the Rules of Order in 1915, eight years before his death.*

**Feedback/Comments/Story Ideas?**

**Email us at:**

[vppublicrelations@firstoakvilletostmasters.org](mailto:vppublicrelations@firstoakvilletostmasters.org)