

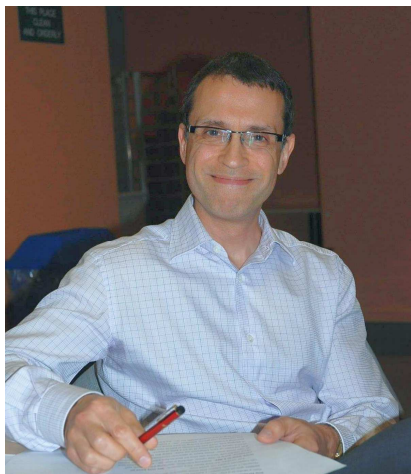
WELCOME TO TOASTMASTERS

Queen's Park



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Andrew Valinskas was elected President of Queen's Park Toastmasters in June at the regular elections held in early May. He is originally from Montreal and he works for the Federal Government.

Summer 2010 Newsletter

Summer- a great time for self-improvement!

The past few months have been eventful ones at Queen's Park Toastmasters. During this period, the Club hosted several new and returning guests, inducted three new members in June and witnessed several exciting speeches. These events bear proof of the rumour that we are quite possibly the best Toastmasters club in Toronto!

Last week, we introduced the new Club Executive for 2010-2011. Please see below for a few words from our new President and see page 4 for biographical information on the new Executive members.

Let's raise a toast to our new members and to a fresh outlook on public speaking !

Message from the President

"Let us strive to improve ourselves, for we cannot remain stationary; one either progresses or retrogrades." -- Mme. Du Deffand.

This is a poignant quote that is relevant at an individual and club level in Toastmasters. Every member in Toastmasters is here to improve some aspect of public speaking and leadership skills, whether he/she is a beginner or an advanced speaker. In support of the club's mission, as President, I will ensure Queen's Park Toastmasters continues to help its members. For the next year, with the help of my colleagues on the club executive, we will strive to enrich the experience of the club for our members with some new and exciting functions.

You might obtain the impression that Queen's Park is a very serious club. Nothing can be further from the truth! The program we have is vital to helping our members improve their public speaking skills, however laughter is an essential ingredient in this process.

"Humor and fun while developing my public speaking skills?" you may ask. Absolutely!

Recent Club Events



Ulrich Desouassi recently joined Queen's Park Toastmasters. On June 2 he gave his Icebreaker speech "8,000 miles away from home and still at home".

Some of the Toastmaster themes in recent weeks have included 'Vacations', 'Team building', 'Elections', 'Advertising', and 'Quotes'. On May 26, Chun Qiao added a twist to our usual table topics by reciting advertising slogans and asking our members to guess what product the slogan represented. On June 23, we had an interesting speech by Tina Goyal on subjectivity and multiple truths. We have also witnessed some compelling speeches by Adam Beiko on motivated thinking, Sadaf Arshad on financial planning, and Chun Qiao on 'never quitting'.

Earlier this year, our club won a "Talk-Up-Toastmasters" award from Toastmasters International, in recognition of adding at least five new members during the months of February and March.

May 19 marks the day that the annual 2010-2011 club elections for Queen's Park Toastmasters took place. We would like to thank everyone who ran, as well as those who voted for their peers. The formal induction ceremony took place on Wednesday, July 23 and was commemorated by presenting each new Executive member with a Toastmasters pin, designating their respective positions.

"Speech is power: speech is to persuade, to convert, to compel."

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Member Spotlight: Semira Fagbemi



Semira Fagbemi joined Queen's Park Toastmasters in April, 2010.

Semira is an energetic and fun-loving member of Queen's Park Toastmasters. She moved to Canada in 2001 from Benin, West Africa. She has been working as a Lending Development Manager at the Bank of Montreal during the past three years.

Semira has been an active and valuable member of Toastmasters since March 2010. She gave her "Ice Breaker" speech on April 14, in which she described her journey from West Africa to Canada, showcasing all the trials and tribulations of being away from her country of origin.

Semirath joined Toastmasters to give better speeches and gain a higher comfort level while speaking in large crowds. English is Semirath's 3rd language. On June 2, she gave a speech on the correlation between video games and violence.

Toastmaster Toast: Thomas D'Arcy McGee

Thomas D'Arcy McGee, was one of the most eloquent people in Canadian history. He was a man with many interests -- an historian and poet, the author of many books. He had a wide knowledge and vocabulary, and he took delight in exhibiting both.

Widely known as D'Arcy McGee, he was born on 13 April 1825, in Carlingford, Ireland. From his mother, the daughter of a Dublin bookseller, he learned the legends and lore of Ireland's heroic past, which later influenced his writing and political activity. At the age 17, McGee immigrated to the United States, where he found work as assistant editor of the *Boston Pilot*. A few years later he returned to Ireland, where he became politically active and his support for and his involvement in the Irish Confederation and Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848 resulted in a warrant for his arrest. McGee escaped the country by steamship and returned to the United States.

In the United States, McGee achieved prominence in Irish American circles and founded and edited the *New York Nation* and the *American Celt* (Boston). Early in his career, McGee was an Irish nationalist and hostile to Britain, however he later changed his views and became a persistent critic of the U.S., of American institutions, U.S. expansionist ambitions and of the American way of life.

McGee moved to Montreal, Quebec, in 1857, where he set up the publication of the *New Era* and worked energetically for continued Canadian devotion to the British Empire, seeing in imperialism the protection Canada needed from all American ills. In 1858, McGee was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada and he worked with John A. Macdonald and George-Étienne Cartier to promote Confederation. Although he lacked their political influence, he is described as "probably most eloquent father of Confederation." Historian Desmond Morton has described McGee as the "image-maker of confederation."

McGee had been promoting the idea of what he called a "new northern nation" for some years before the actual Confederation debates. In one of his speeches, made in 1860 he said: "I call it a northern nation, for such it must become, if all of us do our duty to the last . . . I see in the not remote distance one great nationality, bound, like the shield of Achilles, by the blue rim of ocean. I see it quartered into many communities, each disposing of its internal affairs, but all bound together by free institutions and free commerce." The idea of a Canadian nation and a Canadian nationality was new and D'Arcy McGee was its most poetic proponent.

McGee became the minister of agriculture, immigration, and statistics in the Conservative government which was formed in 1863. He retained that office in the "Great Coalition", and was a Canadian delegate to the Charlottetown and Quebec conferences of 1864. At Quebec, McGee introduced the resolution which called for a guarantee of the educational rights of religious minorities in the two Canadas.

McGee professed the belief that people should put aside their ethnic and religious differences. For that reason he came to bitterly oppose the Fenians and their violent brand of Irish nationalism. This may have been the cause of his assassination, just a few blocks from Parliament Hill in 1868.

On April 7, 1868, McGee participated in a parliamentary debate that went on past midnight. He walked to the doorstep of his Sparks St. apartment afterward and was shot in the back of the head by Irish nationalist, Patrick Whelan, as he turned the door key. McGee died immediately. He was given a state funeral in Ottawa and interred in a crypt at the Cimetière Notre-Dame-des-Neiges in Montreal.



"I call it a northern nation, for such as it must become if all of us do our duty to the last"

**- Darcy Magee,
promoting
Confederation in
1860.**

Meet our new Club Executive for 2010-2011:

Andrew Valinskas - President (pictured on page 1)

Andrew has been a member of Toastmasters for 10 years. In September '09 he moved to Toronto from Ottawa. He was a member of Sandy Hill Toastmasters and served as President of that club for one term. Andrew has completed the Competent Communicator manual, received his Competent Leader award and is currently working towards the Advanced Communicator, Bronze.

Adam Beiko - Vice President Education (top right)

Adam Beiko was born in June, 1963, in Tirana, Albania. He has been working as an IT Support Analyst at Rogers Centre & Blue Jays Baseball Club since August 2008. Adam joined the Queen's Park Toastmasters Club on October 1st 2009. His goal is to be DTM certified, and continue to work with Toastmasters for as long as he can.

Megha Kumar - Vice President Public Relations

Megha Kumar has a professional background in marketing & communications. She is a relatively new Toastmaster and her goal is to become an effective communicator and compelling public speaker.

Ken Fernandes - V.P. Membership

Ken is an experienced Toastmaster who joined Queen's Park Toastmasters in 2009. He has taken an increasingly active role in club activities and his enthusiasm is a great addition to the club.

Fern Wagner - Treasurer

Fern has been a member of Queen's Park Toastmasters since 1986. She has found it easy to socialize in this club so decided to stay. From being extremely introverted, she feels she is now better able to assert herself. Fern says, 'It's been a long time since I used to sit in a corner. If people did not come and talk to me then they did not get to know me at all. Now I approach other people members and new comers alike.'

Don McKellar - Secretary

Don has been a member of Queens Park Toastmasters since February 2009. Don works in operations with the Scotiabank Group. In 2009 he conducted the examination of the Club's financial records.

David Junop - Sergeant-at-arms (bottom right)

David has been a member of Queen's Park Toastmasters since early 2009. David is a highly capable speaker and an enthusiastic Toastmaster. He works in planning with Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

