

WELCOME TO TOASTMASTERS

Queen's Park



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On February 9, 2011, we were pleased to welcome Ken Stowar, Station Manager of CIUT 89.5 FM, to the Club. At this meeting, Ken described his career in radio, and reflected on the importance of public speaking skills.

Winter 2011 Newsletter

Dita e mirë !

In January and February, our recruiting initiatives achieved modest success, as we added two new members during this period. Our regular meetings have been well attended, with eighteen to twenty-five attendees and we continue to host a number of guests at each meeting. There is a high level of interest and participation in Table Topics sessions. The quality of prepared speeches continues to improve, as our members devote considerable time and effort to their speech projects. A number of our more senior Club members are working diligently towards their Advanced Communicator level awards.

The Club has a solid group of Executives and other members who have gained experience in the Club's operations during the last two years. The benefit of this experience and the interest in the Toastmasters' program is very much in evidence at our meetings. We hope you will join us.

Guest Speaker – Ken Stowar

On February 9, 2011, we were pleased to welcome Ken Stowar to the Club. At this meeting, Ken described his career in radio, and reflected on the importance of public speaking skills. Ken is the current Station Manager and Program Director of CIUT, 89.5 FM, the community radio station, located in Hart House, the heart of social, cultural and recreational activities of University of Toronto's downtown campus.

During his presentation, this instrumental voice of CIUT public radio emphasized the key fundamental of becoming successful and having personal fulfillment in any endeavour is heavily relied on one's willingness to follow his or her passion. Ken also explained the reason why he once left a stable position in banking for uncharted terrain in the field of radio.

Ken was filled with insights and inspiration, as he candidly discussed the importance of radio with QPTM not only today, but also for the future, coupled with Internet medias, both spoken, broadcasted, and social-networking.

Recent Club Events



The winner of our club International Speech Contest, held on February 23rd, Ken Fernandes (right). Here he is pictured with the contest Chair, Leonard Legour (left).

In recent weeks our meeting themes have included "Problem Solving", "Human Nature", "Spirit of Adventure", "Diversions and Pastimes" and "Culture".

In the months of January and February, the Club admitted two new members, Kirk Moss and Mai Nguyen. Kirk works in the Education field and Mai is with the CIBC. Both Kirk and Mai recently gave their Icebreaker Speeches.

Our semi-annual Club contests were held on February 23rd. The winners of the International Speech contest was Ken Fernandes and the winner of the Evaluation Contest was David Girmay. Veteran public speaker, Geoff Smith, from Grosvenor Toastmasters Club, generously volunteered as the target speaker for the Evaluation Contest. We would like to thank our Club members who served as volunteers for this event, in addition to the contest organizers, including Chief Judge, our V.P. of Education, Don McKellar and the Contest Chair, Leonard Legour.

The contest winners will go on to represent our Club at the Area level contests, to be held on Friday, March 11, at the Toronto Public Library, 269 Gerrard St. East, southwest corner of Parliament Street and Gerrard Street. Registration is at 4:45 PM, with contest beginning at 5:20 PM. The cost is \$5. No R.S.V.P. required. Come out and cheer on the contestants representing our Club!



Mai Nguyen joined Queen's Park Toastmasters in January, 2011. She works for CIBC in the Technology area.

Member Spotlight: Mai Nguyen

Mai Nguyen joined Queen's Park Toastmasters in January 2011, in order to improve her public speaking skills. She had been attending our weekly Toastmaster's Club meetings as a guest since December 2010. Mai gave a very warm and animated Icebreaker speech on February 3rd.

Mai works at the CIBC in the Technology area. She looks forward to being an active member and to taking a hands-on role in various Club activities.

Mai is a passionate world traveler, having backpacked through South East Asia, in addition to Western Europe. Her hobbies and sports activities include playing tennis, dancing and snowboarding.

Toastmaster Toast: Agnes Macphail

Agnes Campbell Macphail, born March 24, 1890, was the first woman to be elected to the Canadian House of Commons, and one of the first two women elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

After attending the teachers college in Stratford, Ontario, Agnes Macphail taught school in the southwest of the Province. While working in Sharon, Macphail became active politically, joining the United Farmers of Ontario (UFO) and its women's organization, the United Farm Women of Ontario. After amendments to the Elections Act by the Conservative Party government in 1919 allowed women the right to run for parliament, Macphail ran and was elected to the House of Commons as a member of the Progressive Party of Canada for the Grey Southeast electoral riding in the 1921 federal election. She was the first woman Member of Parliament (MP) in Canada and was considered a radical. Despite her attacks on big business, the media, and her feminist ideology, her rural constituents continued to re-elect her to Parliament—four times. Macphail was re-elected in the 1925, 1926, and 1930 federal elections. She emerged as one of the best orators in the House of Commons.

As a radical member of the Progressive Party, Macphail joined the faction of the Party that later led to the formation of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF). She became the first president of the Ontario CCF in 1932. However, she left the CCF in 1934. By working to remove laws that treated women differently from men in such matters as citizenship and divorce, Agnes strove to enhance the position of women. "I desire that women have equal rights," she said. She once was confronted by a male heckler who yelled, "Don't you wish you were a man?" She retorted, "Yes, don't you?" In the 1935 federal election, Macphail was again elected, this time as a United Farmers of Ontario-Labour MP for the newly formed Grey-Bruce riding. She was allowed to use the party's name, even after it stopped being a political organization in 1934.

As prison populations burgeoned, Agnes intensified her efforts to end the inhumane treatment of criminals and the inordinately high recidivism rates that made beggars of inmates' wives and children. She was especially concerned that young offenders be treated apart from the adult population. Her courageous and well-orchestrated campaign led the Archambault Commission in 1936 that revealed gross defects in the country's penitentiaries, resulting in prison reform after World War II. Macphail's concern for women in the criminal justice system led her, in 1939, to found the Elizabeth Fry Society of Canada, named after British reformer Elizabeth Fry.

Macphail championed causes which included pensions for seniors and workers' rights. She was also the first Canadian woman delegate to the League of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, where she worked with the World Disarmament Committee. Although a pacifist, she voted for Canada to enter World War II.

In the 1943 provincial election, Macphail was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as a member of the Ontario CCF representing the suburban Toronto riding of York East. She was the first woman sworn in as an Ontario Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP). Although defeated in the 1945 provincial election, she was elected again in the 1948 election. Macphail was responsible for Ontario's first equal pay legislation, passed in 1951, but was unable to continue her efforts when she was defeated in elections later that year.

Macphail never married. She died February 13, 1954, aged 63, in Toronto, just before she was to have been offered an appointment to the Canadian Senate. She was buried in Priceville, Ontario.



"I owed it to my father that I was elected to Parliament in the first place, but I owed it to my mother that I stuck it out once I got there."

- Agnes MacPhail.

Upcoming Events

Division A , Area 3 International Speech and Speech Evaluation Contests :

Division A, Area 3 International Speech Contest and Speech Evaluation Contests will be held on Friday, March 11, at the Toronto Public Library, 269 Gerrard St. East, southwest corner of Parliament Street and Gerrard Street. Registration is at 4:45 PM, with contest beginning at 5:20 PM. The cost is \$5. No RSVP required. Come out and cheer on our contestants !



District 60 Appreciation Brunch :

Saturday, March 6th 10:00AM to 1:00 PM at the Airport Crown Plaza Hotel, 33 Carlson Court. Registration at 9:30 AM.

Queen`s Park Toastmasters Participation Contest :

Our in-house participation contest concludes on March 31st. The first place prize is a full weekend ticket to the District 60 Spring Conference. The second and third place prizes are tickets to the Saturday morning opening ceremony and International Speech Contest.



District 60 Spring Conference :

April 10th and 11th, 2011, at the Airport Crown Plaza Hotel, 33 Carlson Court
Theme: Discover "The Hero in You"

- Final registration deadline is April 5th.

