

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Guest Education Session by Joan Graham, Dec 7
- Contribute a non-perishable item in support of Halton Women's Place
- Christmas Party at The Wain's, this Friday at 7:30pm
- Last meeting: Dec 14
- First meeting back: Jan 11

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Find Your Voice

THE COMMUNICATION &
LEADERSHIP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2005

Helping Others Find Their Voice

The holiday season is upon us! And so begins the holiday rush for many of us: the shopping, cooking, gift buying, party-going, card-writing etc., And while I have a tendency to get lost in the momentum of it all, I am sure to remind myself (many times over) why I am doing all of this in the first place!

For me, the holidays are about coming together with family and friends, saying thank you to the people that make my life what it is... and acknowledging all of the good things that surround me. My parents would often say to me as a teenager, "Be thankful for what you have." It is only now as an adult, and a parent, I often

find myself thinking about how fortunate I really am in life. The holidays are a time to be thankful for what we have, and a time to be thankful for what we can give to others.

While we spend much of our Toastmaster year focusing on "Finding Our Voice" and realizing our own potential, it is just as important and maybe more, to think and act outside of our own interest. It is a nice time of year to make the extra effort and Help Others Find Their Voice in the community.

Whether it is making the extra time for an elderly grandparent or loved one, or making a food/clothing dona-

tion, your extra effort, no matter how small, can make the world of difference to another person's mental health and/or survival.

This holiday season Mansion Toastmasters will be making a collection of non-perishable goods for Halton Women's Place, a local shelter for women in need of urgent support for their families. Please bring your items to this week's meeting or to our Christmas party. Thank you for joining in on the effort to help our friends in the community **find their voice**.

Best Wishes for a safe and happy holiday season!
Sincerely,
Sara Rams
President

What's New at The Mansion

A warm welcome to our **Six New Members:** Val Clements, Inge Ho, Adam McInnis, Heather Calquhoun, Jim Flood and Sandy Raskopf. What a strong addition to our Mansion Club! Thank you for your spirit and active participation at such an early stage of your membership. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

Please see Darwin to have your photos taken for our website. Check out our new members at www.mansiontoastmasters.com

Our **ONLINE Schedule** is now up and running thanks to our VP Ed, David Cartwright. It can be accessed from the menu on the member's page of our website.

Join us at The Wain's for our annual **Mansion Christmas Party, this Friday December 9 @ 7:30pm...** Bring an appetizer and your good spirits and let's enjoy each others company! **Don't forget your non-perishable food item for Halton Women's Place!** Thank you Mike and Johanna, for opening up your home to your friends at The Mansion!

2005-2006 Education Program

December 7 - What it means to be a Toastmaster

Joan Graham, Friend of the Mansion

January 18 - How to Prepare for a Speech Contest

Mike Wain

January 25 - Mastermind Session

Val Clements

February 15 - The Art of Evaluation

TBD

March 15 - Mentoring

TBD

April 12 - Unraveling the Mystery of

Darwin Allen **Parliamentary Procedures**

May 17 - You are Funnier than You Think

Jenny Vickery

Presidents Distinguished Club in 05/06

Mansion Toastmasters Club received the highest club award in Toastmasters International for achieving 100% of its goals in the 2004/2005 Season. We are well on our way to repeating this success. Blanca Medina achieved her CTM in September. David Cartwright achieved his ATM B late summer. Thanks to everyone for your dedication to your education and leadership goals. Your success is our club's success!

Mentoring Program

Take advantage of our Mentor Program and get the most out of your Toastmaster experience. Mentors provide the necessary first steps for all of us to become Toastmasters – not just speakers. We are a club of individuals who share the Toastmaster spirit – of building long-term relationships through shared communication and leadership experiences. You just can't get that – by joining a speaking club.

To the mentee, a support structure is provided to assist in their development of communication and leadership skills. For the mentor, this role is often a "stretch goal". To work outside of their usual mode of operation/thinking and assist fellow club member(s) achieve their goal.

The role of mentor will be offered to individuals who have completed their CTM and who have expressed interest in mentoring a fellow Toastmaster.

Check out our website: from schedules to speaking resources, it is a great tool for the taking. Special thanks to our Webmaster, Ed Petrusis, who has done an extraordinary job creating and maintaining

www.mansiontoastmasters.com

Personal Notes

Congratulations to Dalia Petrulis who left for Switzerland Dec. 1, to pursue her dream of living and working in Europe! We will miss you!

So sad to see you go – Wendy Alexopoulos! Good luck with your endeavours at Sheridan! Congrats Wendy on all of your achievements at Toastmasters!

Congratulations to Granny Val Clements, grandmother of new baby Ethan, born November 12! Val's daughter Katie and new babe are doing well.

Wedding Bells for new member Heather Colquhoun, married on November 12! We are looking forward to having you as part of our membership!

Friends of The Mansion

New members may be wondering who they are and why we call them "Friends of the Mansion". They are Peter Crabtree and Anita Roth from the Trafalgar Club, Joan Graham from the Mighty Oaks Club, Hal Shaw from the First Oakville Club, and our own Val Clements, Mansion member and President of Mighty Oaks. These five senior

Toastmasters are the individuals who provided educational and organizational support for our founders when our club was chartered in April of 2000. Their ongoing support is very much appreciated and they will be given a VIP invitation to our end of year Charter Party.

*Join Friend of
The Mansion,
Joan Graham,
in, "What it
means to be a
Toastmaster,"
Wednesday,
Dec 7.*

Celebrating Five Years

Mansion is renowned for our Year-End Gala Events. And this year will be no exception.

April 9, 2006 marks our Five Year Anniversary as a Chartered Member of Toastmasters International. In honour of our success as one of the leading clubs in Area 7, we are proud to announce our Year End Charter Party will be held at Springer House on Friday June 2, 2006. Details to follow.

Ideas and Volunteers

If you wish to participate in the preparation of our Charter Party - to lead or participate on the committee please let us know. **Our first brainstorm meeting will be held Monday, January 30.**

Have something to say? Writing articles for our **Newsletter** or **Website** is a great opportunity for volunteers.

These are special opportunities for greater member participation. Get involved and get more out of your club!

Important Dates

Trophy Holders

Wednesday, January 11	First meeting of the New Toastmaster Year	Toastmaster of the Year	- Eugene Peters
Saturday, January 14	Officers Training	International Speech Contest	- Mark Coleman
Monday, January 30	Year End Charter Party Meeting	Evaluation Contest	- Darwin Allen
Wednesday, March 1	Mansion's International Speech & Evaluation Contest	Humorous Speaking Contest	- Adam McInnis
Wednesday, March 29	Mansion Hosts Area Contest - International Speech & Evaluation Contest	Table Topics Contest	- Mike Wain
April 9, 2006	5 Year Anniversary of The Mansion Charter	Debate Winner	- Darwin Allen
Friday, April 21	Division Contest - International and Evaluation Speech Contest	Tall Tales Contest	- Ken Barkman
Friday, May 5-7	District 60 Spring Conference		
May TBD	Tall Tales		
Friday, June 2	Year End Charter Party at Springer House - Mansion celebrates 5 Years!		

2005-2006 Mansion Executive

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Area Governor	Maija Thompson	905 403 9123	maijat@sympatico.ca

VP Public Relations OPEN

As of January 1st, the position of VP Public Relations will be open. Any members interested in filling this role please speak with Sara Rams for further details. A mini-election will be held January 11.

Thank you to Blanca Medina for all of your efforts in the role of VP Public Relations Fall 2005.