

Toastmasters Club hosts speech contest night

By **EVELYN ABERCROMBIE**
Halton Hills Toastmasters

Affectionately known by its members as "The Little Club in the Glen," Halton Hills Toastmasters convene for weekly oratory and fraternity at St. Alban's church hall in Glen Williams. This coming Monday, (Feb. 7), they will be one of the more than 12,500 community and business-based Toastmasters clubs around the world, as they host their annual Toastmasters International Speech Contest.

Considered one of the "best kept secrets" in any community, Toastmasters is a non-profit international organization of over 260,000 members. Using time-tested methods, Toastmasters teaches the speaking, listening, presentation and leadership skills needed for personal and business success. This is accomplished via a training program that is inexpensive.

The International Speech Contest gathers momentum as it progresses from winners at the club levels and moves on to compete at the higher levels of Area, Division and District contests. This finally culminates in the "World Champion of Public Speaking" competition held at the Toastmasters International Convention in August this year in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Judi Hopper, a five-year member of the Halton Hills club says, "Toastmasters helped me realize my personal power and influence. The program changed me from a knee-knocking speech mumbler



Glen Williams Club member Judi Hopper (left) received first place in the International Speech Club contest from Gail Inglis, Toastmasters Area Governor in 2010.

to a second-place winner at the division contest level. Everyone has something to gain from a Toastmasters membership!"

"Speech contests are a unique and exciting part of the Toastmasters program," says Pat Johnson, Toastmasters 2010-2011 International President. "These competitions challenge members to push beyond their clubs and fine-tune their skills. In a club, members are evaluated; in a contest, members are judged."

Halton Hills Toastmasters meets at St. Alban's Parish Hall in Glen Williams on Mondays from 7:30-9:30 p.m. To arrange for a club visit and/or attend this upcoming speech contest, click "To Contact us" to communicate with the VP of Membership.

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