

listening & speaking @ your library™

Diana Maliszewski



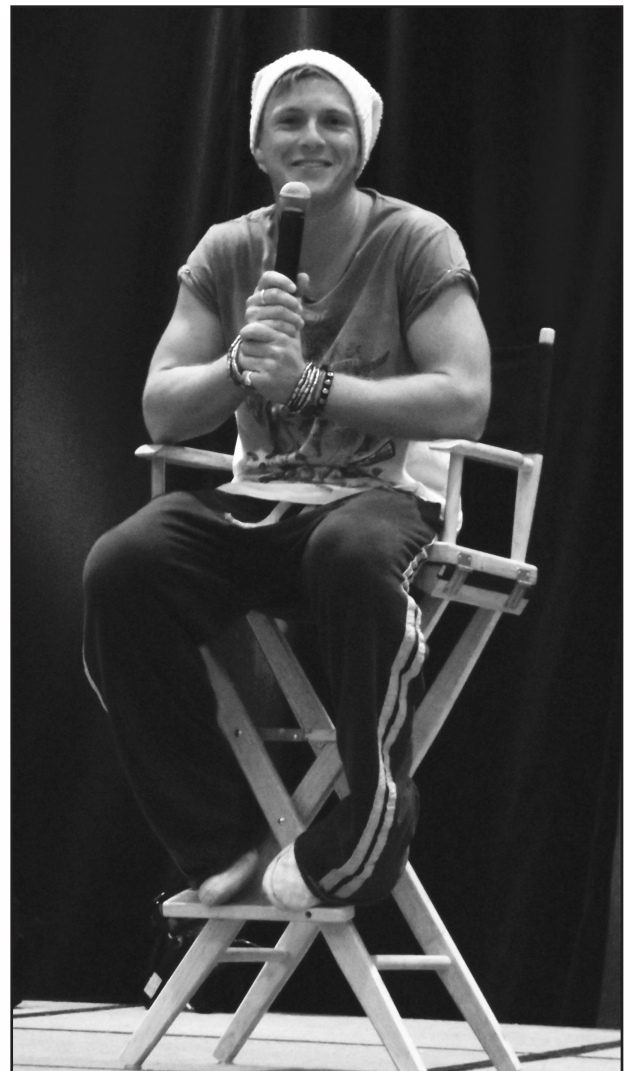
Three very different situations spurred me to reflect on the theme for this issue: my parish priest's homily at Mass one Sunday, a Q&A session at a Twilight convention I attended this past summer, and Wayne Hulley's presentation at the TDSB's "Believe It! Our Time Is Now" conference/rally.

I'm a Roman Catholic and I go to church every Sunday. For those of you unfamiliar with the way a Catholic Mass runs, about mid-way through the one-hour service, the priest gives a short talk based on the readings that occurred before. Each priest has his own speaking style. Like school library staff doing book talks, some are better at it than others. One of the best homilists we've ever had at my church was Father Chris Cauchi. His talks were focused and

simultaneously educational and entertaining. Fortunately for us, our current priests are decent speakers. In a recent homily our pastor talked about how difficult it is to truly listen with all of the internal and external distractions we face. How true!

Because of church, I skipped the third day of Twi-Tour (the cool name for one of the Twilight-themed conventions). It came to Toronto this past summer, and I attended with two of my friends from New Brunswick. The actors in attendance went on stage at various times during the three-day event to answer questions from the audience. The crowd favourite was probably Charlie Bewely, who plays Dimitri in the films. He had the stamina of a puppy (due to the energy drink he was chugging, he explained). Despite getting off-track easily ("What was the question again?" being a common refrain), his amusing, outrageous, irreverent banter had the group enthralled. I'm sure his British accent and physical appearance also had some influence.

The Toronto District School Board, my employer (*The Teaching Librarian* is just a volunteer gig!), gathered all their teachers together at the Air Canada Centre on September 1st for what was billed to be an inspirational and celebratory professional development opportunity. Many teachers left before the event had officially ended,



Charlie Bewely at Twi-Tour Toronto

Photo by: Leanne Ayer