

PRO EDGE TOAST *CRUMBS.....September 10*

We had a fabulous meeting this morning!

Thank you to Jamie for Chairing and to all the contestants and many thanks to our Chief Judge Haddy and his crew. Here's a summary ~

The Table Topics Contest question was, "Summer is often a time of journey. Tell us about one of your journeys, metaphorically or real, and what you learned". The contestants spoke in this order:

I, Cheryl, talked about my journey this summer with my eight-year old grandson when he visited Vancouver for the first time, flying alone for the first time and the special moments we shared on the beaches of White Rock and with close friends. My ongoing lesson is that life is a journey of connecting with and building the most important relationships in our lives ~ relationships with our family and close friends.

Karen took us on her journey to Europe some 20 years ago when she travelled with a group of her girlfriends to 10 countries in 25 days! Karen talked about going to Paris on a day trip and not learning until very late that evening that the next train out was 6:00 o'clock in the morning. She didn't have anything warm to wear that evening and to this day she knows to take a sweater with her, just in case. With her sweater Karen carries cash because she also learned on that trip that credit cards are not always welcomed. Karen expressed the overall experience of her summer journey as a metaphor for life ~ personal experiences with close friends and lessons learned.

Duncan rode a bicycle this summer from Vancouver to Whistler! He said he had to shift his thinking during the ride, telling himself "Yes, I can do this." He said it was a different kind of a journey for him and that it really pushed his limits. He learned that he is mentally strong and that he is physically stronger than he thought. Duncan described the ride as a "ladder of mountains" and that metaphorically this is how life is the ride is sometimes straight and smooth and we can coast, like riding through Squamish, and then it gets tougher and we're going up another hill persevering and learning through it all.

We had two fabulous Humorous Speech contestants. First

Duncan's speech was entitled "Granny". Very funny & what a great use of voices! The premise was Duncan's grandmother's return "home" to a high-tech world of FB, Instagram and LinkedIn some 50 years after going to heaven.

Duncan varied his voice to be himself, his daughter and his grandmother in a lovely conversation during his Granny's visit to his house to share her favourite roast beef & rice pudding dinner. Granny was impressed with Duncan and his daughter and pondered, "where did all this come from?" Duncan responded, "It came from you Granny. You always taught us to watch our P's and Q's and our please's and thank-you's." On her way back to heaven, Granny asked Duncan to take a selfie and told him to post it to her FB!

Michael was our second contestant and his speech was entitled "First Day at Work". Michael took us back to his early years of loving video games at the age of 12. A new game was coming to market and Michael didn't have the money to buy it and his normal hope of getting a new game for his birthday or Christmas was far off. It was summer and Michael and his cousin who was also 12 decided they could work to earn enough money to buy the new video game. They approached Michael's father who has a blueberry farm and Dad's immediate response was "I'm not babysitting". His second response was, "How much do you expect to earn?" Without having given any thought to salary, Michael responded "\$50 a day for each of us and we'll work 12 hours a day for four days and then we'll each have the \$200 we need". The father replied, "Okay I'll give you \$25 each per day". As Michael and his cousin quickly learned, that meant a lot of work. As often happens with young boys with a lot of energy and curiosity, one mishap led to another and Michael's first job only lasted about a day! I don't recall if Michael and his cousin actually got to buy the video game they so desperately wanted? What I do know is that Michael used voice variation very effectively and he had great movement on the stage and he had us laughing a lot!

Congratulations to our contest winners:
Table Topics ~ Duncan!
Humorous Speech ~ Michael!

Coffee? Although we had a smaller than usual attendance at our meeting this morning, more members than were present did pay their dues ~ in fact more than two-thirds has been collected! Great commitment. The winner of the pound of coffee is Ken Cowie. Please respond with your favourite brand and flavour, Ken, and we'll have it for you at next month's meeting.

What a wonderful meeting we had.