



On the Horizon

New Horizons Toastmasters Club Newsletter

July/August 2006

Year-end BBQ goes over big!

By Misa Ishizawa

June 17, 2006, was a hot, sunny day with temperatures reaching 34 degrees and a time to celebrate a New Horizons year. Members of the Toastmasters club gathered at "Casa de la Stetter" to have a year-end potluck BBQ party.

Club members, their families and friends and a special guest – then-division governor Kitty Lau -- attended. Some 30 people relaxed and enjoyed an evening of conversation and food, food, FOOD: Beef and veggie burgers; a Persian dish and a chicken dish; pasta, potato,



green and fruit salads; sushi, even, and lemon pie and chocolate and butter tarts and other pastry as well as Jell-O, watermelon and more...

Thanks to Josef Stetter for hosting the BBQ party in his backyard.

New executive for a new year

By Fred Jones, President

Welcome, Toastmasters, to a brand new year of speechmaking and leadership. The new executive, elected to office in June, took up its responsibilities July 1.

All executive members look forward to working with you to achieve your personal goals as well as the club goals we all share. We want to ensure that your Toastmasters experience is the best possible and that our club is, ultimately, successful. Working together, we expect another outstanding year in 'toast mastering'.

If you have any concerns, please contact any of the following:

Fred Jones, President
Michelle Wei, Vice-President of Education
Kitty Wan, Vice-President of Membership
Clarie Martin, Vice-President of Public Relations
Yassamin Gharai, Secretary
Lisa Depew, Treasurer
Maria Vinette, Sergeant-at-Arms
Stuart Segal, Immediate Past President

New Horizons Exclusive: Profile of Max Zive, Toastmaster

The ‘toast’ of Vietnam

By Clarie Martin

When visiting Southeast Asia these days, he may be the ‘toast’ of Vietnam, but at New Horizons we know him simply as Max Zive - Toastmaster; albeit, an accomplished one. He is a former club president and Area 36 Governor.

Max was long a competent leader and communicator before joining Toastmasters International a dozen years ago. So why did he bother and why does he remain?

To start, Max is philanthropic and to be philanthropic is to want to give something back to the world that has treated one well. Max gives back in time and energy and wholly enjoys the results of his labours, some of which include:

Asthma victims literally ‘breathing easier’ in Russia and Belarus because he took the initiative;

Hungry bellies in South Africa warmed by nutritional supplements that, but for him, would be wasted; and

Vietnamese citizens receiving prescription medicines they could ill-afford, if he were any less of a person.

Max, obviously, likes being a part of something that attends to people, likes being an associate and support to organizations that genuinely help people live and grow. That’s the hold that Toastmasters International has upon him. He gives what he can to it and he sees what it does for others.

“I enjoy most the advantages it gives to people who lack confidence,” he says, lacking none himself. Born in South Africa of Lithuanian and Latvian parents, his father a “minister of religion”, Max made up his mind years ago to find a good profession and do well in it. That profession was pharmacy.

Max could have worked in a drug store dispensing medicines, but he chose instead to work

in industry. He took a position as managing director of a large pharmaceutical concern in South Africa and turned its prospects around. Later, he started a new business in the “pharmaceutical, medical and safety field” with his brother. Eighteen years ago, during the apartheid era, he moved to Canada.

In Etobicoke, he became president of Genpharm Inc, a pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution company, which he founded, now a major Canadian generic drug manufacturer that employs more than 500 people. Max is a world traveller and has contacts and friends worldwide, essential to his ‘pharmaceutical philanthropy’, as we might call it.



Vietnam arrival: *Delighted Vietnamese Red Cross personnel meet philanthropic pharmacist Max Zive (second from left) and Canadian charity representatives at the airport – with bouquets.*

It all began about nine years ago with a prescription medicine (a salbutamol solution) for inhalation, used for bronchial asthma. Max was involved in “international business development” when he heard that Genpharm was about to destroy a lot of this solution because only seven months of shelf life remained. No buyer wanted supplies of such short duration. Otherwise, it was perfectly useful.

Max says he just couldn’t let this “lifesaving drug” go to waste so he decided to find someone who needed it. Max contacted Genpharm’s representative in Moscow and asked him to urgently contact some major hospitals and clinics in Russia and confirm whether they required this

medication. The Russian authorities responded that there was, indeed, a desperate need for the medication. After receiving confirmation from Russian authorities, he had the donation air-freighted to Russia and Belarus.

Max, for his part, worked day and night to ensure all paperwork was in order and transportation secured. The De Vilbiss Company assisted Max's effort with a donation of 40 aerosol machines capable of administering the emergency medication.

"I know a lot of people"

Getting the asthma medication and aerosol machines from Canada to the people who needed it took only three to four weeks, Max says. That meant the Russians and Belarussian had a good six months to use it.

"I know a lot of people," says Max modestly, in explanation of how he can turn someone else's problem to good use so quickly.

Later, when he heard from some of his contacts that a company was about to dispose of a 40-foot container of nutritional supplement for, essentially, cosmetic reasons, he went into action. He directed the liquid nutrients to South Africa. Then, South African hospitals received another 20-foot container thanks to Max's engineering and the company that made it available to him.

Max, an expert in pharmaceutical products and their manufacture, says he and the recipients of donated medicines -- mainly Christian charities and the Red Cross -- are "very concerned about quality issues." As a pharmaceutical consultant capable of inspecting and validating medical manufacturing facilities, Max is aware of the problem of liability.

Five years ago, some Vietnamese people drew Max's attention to the desperate need for and shortage of medicines in the poorer areas of Vietnam. Soon afterwards, the facilitating pharmacist arranged for a first shipment of prescription medicines -- anti-inflammatory, anti-malarial, anti-biotic drugs -- worth millions of dollars.

That one failed, he says, dejectedly, because the donating company, after retesting and re-labeling the product -- a legitimate practice -- failed to remove previous labels. The Vietnamese ministry of health refused to accept the product for distribution and subsequently destroyed it. Max decided to accept the setback as a lesson, to learn

not to take anything for granted, and to be, above all, more careful.

Later shipments, with Max's increased vigilance, passed examination and the ministry permitted Vietnamese clinics to distribute the much-needed drugs. Now an on-going program, the value of the medicinal donation to the Red Cross in Vietnam this year alone should exceed \$16 million.

The program got started "through my tenacity," Max fully admits. "Some thought I could never pull it off!"

Max has travelled to Vietnam four times in the interest of the program. When he arrives these days -- his work, his efforts so well recognized, so much appreciated -- there is considerable fanfare, almost ceremonial, complete with bouquets.

Max smiles at that. That was never his reason for spending the long hours, the late nights, on his "concept". He's so involved in the work that he feels as though "something is missing" if he doesn't continue it. "I rather enjoy it," he says, mildly surprised.



Curious Vietnam: Max has observed numerous medical clinics while visiting rural Vietnam dispensing 'free' medicines. On one occasion a group of monks generously posed for his camera.

Friends wonder why he doesn't just play golf!

Max does all the legwork, makes the numerous phone calls, and sends the countless e-mails because -- like Toastmasters -- the process helps people. It helps the individual. "You can be better," he concludes, meaning everyone can be better. "We can learn how to be better people."

Congratuatiions: All new New Horizons executives attended Training Sessions in July, the halfway mark to one of the ten points for the Club Success Plan. The other half is additional training early in 2007, normally in January. Our club's first executive meeting was held after the normal meeting on Wednesday, July 12. This intrepid executive, forced from the comforts of our meeting facility, completed its work on a picnic table at night in a park. Many mosquitoes attended. Meeting No. 2 occurs Aug. 23 – at a coffee shop.

For speakers of English: Le Vu, a recent addition to New Horizons, points out that the BBC has an excellent website to help those new to the English language or those seeking to improve what they already know. The site is located at "http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/radio/specials/1535_questionanswer/index.shtml

New Horizons Speech Workshop: Yollanda Zhang, our Division B Marketing Ambassador, arranged for two evenings in July and August to workshop speeches, a separate endeavour from our regular weekly meetings. Themed "How to Make a Great Table Topics Speech" (presentation by

Area Governor Josef Stetter), the workshops allowed a dozen club members or more to get together to make and discuss speeches and speech-making – large and small. Yollanda, who plans a further workshop in September, joined New Horizons Toastmasters Club recently after a year as a member of the King Street Speakers. She has completed the CTM program.

Humorously Speaking: New Horizons Toastmasters Club will hold a Humourous Speech Contest soon with the winner going forward to challenge the winners of other clubs. If you don't intend to speak, you can be a timer or judge or take on another role.

"The Sky's the Limit": The District 60 fall conference will be held at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls from November 3-6, 2006. For more information, you may contact Area Governor Josef Stetter or Conference Co-chairs Lori and Philip Lococo at 905-357-5902 or fall06conference.chairs@sympatico.ca.

"Believe in the Magic": The 2006 International Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. Aug. 23-26, 2006.

The Final Word

An executive to serve you!

Club President Fred Jones is a Competent Toastmaster, Competent Leader and Advanced Toastmaster Bronze. Fred has served as Sergeant-at-Arms and VP of Education for New Horizons Toastmasters Club.

VP of Education Michelle Wei has been a member of New Horizons Toastmasters since March 2006. As VP, Michelle looks forward to serving club members and welcomes any comments or suggestions.

VP of Membership Kitty Wan joined New Horizons Toastmasters in March 2006. Always open to new ideas, Kitty welcomes any member comments and suggestions that would help make her role successful.

VP of Public Relations Clarie Martin, a member of New Horizons Toastmasters since last November, welcomes your support. One of Clarie's duties is to produce and edit this *On the Horizon* newsletter.

Treasurer Lisa Depew, a New Horizons member since March 2006 and a Chartered Accountant, looks forward to bringing her work experience to the Treasurer's role. She recently completed her 'icebreaker'.

Secretary Yassamin Gharai has been a member of New Horizons Toastmasters since March, 2006, and has given a couple of speeches. She says she is eager to help the club achieve its goals and mission.

Sergeant-at-Arms Maria Vinette has been a member of New Horizons Toastmasters Club since April. "My goal is to become more involved with the club and complete as many speeches as possible," she says.

Immediate Past President Stuart Segal served as VP of Public Relations and became President of New Horizons Toastmasters. He was recently elected Division B Governor.

New Horizons Toastmasters Club meets every Wednesday 7:00-9:00 P.M. at Toronto's Edithville Community Centre (on Finch Avenue West, west of Yonge Street). Guests are welcome.