

# Tisdale Kinette wins National Speaking Contest

By Danny Walton

Few people are comfortable speaking in front of a crowd, and speaking *effectively* is a big challenge for anybody who makes the attempt.

But one Tisdale Kinette, Jessica Steadman, was excited to bring her charisma under the national spotlight at Kin Canada's 2012 National Convention in Peterborough, Ontario between August 15 and 18.

There were three levels of qualifying before she made the eastbound trip to Ontario, where she defeated 11 other competitors to be declared the winner of Kin Canada's National Speaking Contest.

As a proud member, Steadman mentioned how Kin Canada helped her to develop her skills, "I've been a member of Kinettes for six years, and this is definitely something that Kinettes and Kinsmen were founded on; honing your public speaking skills," she told *The Recorder*.

"My speech was titled, 'Bananas', and it was a comparison between being in Kinsmen and Kinettes, and bananas," she shared. "It was definitely a unique topic."

Steadman was isolated during the competition, but from previous experience, she had a pretty clever strategy in choosing her topic, "I didn't get to see the other competitors because they keep you locked away in a small room, but most of the other topics were much more serious from what I understand. And that's why I picked bananas; I went and watched the competition last year because it was in Regina. Everyone had really serious topics, and you

could tell they were very difficult to speak about, like you know, personal tragedy and things like that."

Steadman then explained her journey before reaching the finals, "I took it on as a challenge this year, so I had to compete at my club level in Tisdale, and then I went to our zone competition and I won there. I [then] won at our district level competition in Kerrobert before they sent me to our national competition which was in Peterborough, Ontario."

"I was kind of winging it - I had no formal training at all," she said. "My husband listened to it a lot, and I practiced in my car while driving to and from work."

Although she's ready for more, Steadman must wait three years before Kin Canada will allow her to compete again, as she shared, "I can't [compete] for two years... you have to be off for two years before you can again," but, "I definitely will, I have to try and reclaim my title," she giggled.

And while her name has been etched onto a commemorative plaque, Steadman felt as though the real prize was her trip to Ontario, "I was there for four days; that's kind of the prize with going to this - when you win at the district level, the prize is going to the national conference. So they cover your travel accommodations and your registration for the national conference, which is what I attended, as well the public speaking," she explained.

Even though she's the nation speaking champion, Steadman is more grateful for the organization responsible, "I think it's quite an amazing thing that just by



**Kin Canada Past National President Dave Ronson delivers Tisdale Kinette Jessica Steadman with the Founding Members Public Speaking Award in Peterborough, Ontario. Photo submitted**

being a member of Kinettes, that I had this opportunity - and I think that's one of the great things about being in Kinettes, is that there is room for personal growth as well. Because we're well-known for helping our community; we do lots of

projects within our community, but I definitely appreciate the aspect of Kinettes and Kinsmen; that you can have personal growth, you can learn public speaking skills, you can learn how to run an effective meeting - those sorts of things I think

are key parts of being in our association," she shared. "I think it's an amazing club and you can get a lot of stuff from it - more than just what everybody kind of sees on the surface of what we do."

After her success in Au-

gust and with the municipal election coming up in October, Steadman's mother joked, "Oh look out - you're going to be the mayor of Tisdale before we know it!"

## Care of the Lawn in Fall

The summer season is evidently waning when there is a deep buildup of

supply store to have the assistance of trained and knowledgeable personnel. Commercially prepared lawn release

lawn has lots of weeds, then it is likely not a really healthy lawn as a healthy lawn can actually choke out weeds. If

design and gain the necessary skills to work in the floral industry. Each class you will design a floral design piece to