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**NEWS
FROM**

**RETIRED CANADIAN GENERAL ELECTED PRESIDENT
OF TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL**

TOASTMASTERS

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA, CA – Chris Ford of Casselman, Ontario Canada, has been elected President of Toastmasters International. He is the top officer of the world's leading organization devoted to teaching skills in communication and leadership.

Mr. Ford was elected for a one-year term at the organization's 76th Annual International Convention, held August 15-18 in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

An active Toastmaster for over 25 years, Ford is a retired Canadian Forces brigadier-general. He is currently employed as the Director General of Alternative Dispute Resolution for the Canadian Department of National Defence, where he makes good use of the communication and leadership skills he has honed in Toastmasters.

He says most people underestimate their skills and potential for growth, but when armed with honesty and determination, there is no limit on the extent to which people can “shape” themselves. In Toastmasters, overcoming a fear of public speaking often leads to increased self-confidence, which in turn spur members on to face other challenges.

“Toastmasters International is full of people who have achieved results beyond their wildest dreams, and who are making a real difference in their world,” says Ford. “We help people gain the skills and confidence to be the best they can be in whatever they choose to do.” As a result, Ford’s theme for his term in office is “Toastmasters: Shaping Ourselves... Shaping Our World.”

Since its founding in 1924, Toastmasters International has taught more than four million men and women how to become better speakers and leaders. Headquartered in Rancho Santa Margarita, California, the nonprofit organization has approximately 225,000 members in 11,000 clubs in 90 countries. Most cities have several Toastmasters clubs that meet at different times and locations during the week.

For more information, visit www.toastmasters.org or contact sfrey@toastmasters.org.

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