

Dec. 8, 2011

Re: English-Speaking Union/HSBC Canadian National Public Speaking Competition
At Branksome Hall Girl's School, Toronto, Ontario
Friday, November 25, 2011. 4.00 – 8.30 pm

This is a qualifying competition for the International Public Speaking Competition in London, England (one competitor per country) put on by the English-Speaking Union in England. The winner of this Canadian competition will win the \$750 travel bursary to get there and back. November 25 was chosen to coincide with two other speaking competitions near this date in the Toronto area, to widen the net.

Report by Jim Allan, of the English-Speaking Union, Toronto-Hamilton Branch, who attended.

Location: Branksome Hall. Impressive girl's school. The school straddles Mount Pleasant Road. The competition was on the east side. The dinner was in the school cafeteria on the west side. Both sides are joined by a pedestrian overpass over Mount Pleasant.

Director: Chris George, of the Lower Canada College, Montreal, Quebec, English-Speaking Union, Canada.

Co-ordinator at Branksome Hall: Tracy Dalglish, of Branksome Hall.

Assistance: Some 20 girls from Branksome Hall, and a previous competition winner.

Financial Backing: HSBC, represented by Mary Abballe

Overall Impression, by Jim Allan: It was a gracious, friendly, impressive, prestigious, and efficient event.

Competitors: 27 male and female students. Ages 16 to 17, in full time education anywhere in Canada.

Judges: 24. Parents, chaperones, teachers, family friends, university debaters and former competitors in this competition.

Subject: Compulsory. "The Wisdom of Youth".

Format: Each competitor required to speak two times, timed for five minutes, plus or minus 45 seconds. They were allowed to refer to script notes, and the use of a lectern. After the two times, everyone but the tabulators walked over to the cafeteria for a self-serve dinner. Meanwhile tabulators determined who the top five were, so far.

Back in the assembly room the top five spoke for the third time before everyone. Prizes and awards were presented to the top three, the winner of which gets to go to England for Canada for the May 14 – 18, 2012 event, with the required subject: "The Head or the Heart".

Competitor Details: Per attached.

Appreciation:

Tremendous thanks to:

HSBC for making the whole competition possible.

Chris George for making it happen.

Branksome Hall for its wonderful hosting.

All the participants, who made the event so entertaining. No doubt each will benefit from their own experiences.

Jim Allan