



CHHA-BC Resource Centre
101-9300 Nowell Street
Chilliwack, BC V2P 4V7

The Loop Newsletter

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association-British Columbia Chapter

The World Café & AGM



The AGM started at 9:30 a.m. on May 11, 2013 by Deborah Scott with a welcome to all board members, staff, and visitors.

There was a Kick-off and brief history of CHHA-BC by Rodney George.

Deborah Scott explained how World Café works before the meeting divided into four groups to brainstorm over these two questions:

1. *What do you love most about this community?*
2. *What do you consider some of the most significant trends and events to shape the future of CHHA? Deborah asked the teams to focus on what matters, speak for yourself, contribute your thinking, doodle, and have fun!*

Deborah debriefed members and guests after the harvesting of the World Café discussions. The discussions were passionate, respectful, everyone felt that



Group1 with Table Host: Mark Schweinbenz

they were being heard. Many felt a great deal of trust, and were able to be personal sharing their stories. Contributions were key for each team and table host.

Table Host-Sharon Davis & Team's ideas and communication on question 1 were: Having the same disability; Sharing information, stories and experiences to help each other; Groups to relate to for support; Advocate for yourself and others; Support network and friendships; Role models and mentoring.

Table Host-Leslee Scott & Team's ideas and communication on question 1 were: The need for solutions from like-minded; Helps remove oneself from isolation; Develop strong leadership; Change with the times; Noise pollution; Learning new things; Public ideas (open); Relationship identity; Cause for organization & where it belongs and how it can stay successful; Opportunity for the young generation; Help each other with joy.

Continued on page 2

Featuring:

Diary of a Cochlear Implant *Looped Again!* by Flo Spratt ...page 6





It's all about Renewal. At the Town Hall meeting during the Edmonton CHHA National conference, the talk focused on renewing CHHA. A report from the CHHA Renewal Committee set the tone for the discussion. Lots of input from the floor explored all of the issues involved in discussing how did we get where we are now, and where do we go from here, to renew and grow the organization. Everyone agreed that change is needed.

Society has changed greatly, due in large part to the proliferation in use of social media technologies, and changed ways of communicating with one another.

A major point agreed on was that we need to operate in a more cohesive manner, as an organization, with one logo, one theme and working together on one major cause. We need better ongoing communication and sharing between all levels and branches of the organization. If you are interested in serving on a national committee to work on the renewal of the national organization, do email the Executive Director, Robert Corbeil, at rcorbeil@chha.ca and let him know.

I had just come from the CHHA-BC AGM and World Café, held two weeks prior to the Edmonton national conference, and was feeling quite motivated and buoyed up by what we had done at our meeting here in BC. We, too, had talked about renewal. It was exhilarating to experience the company of a dynamic and motivated group of CHHA'ers who were excited about their organization, find it important and want to make it work better than ever. "Yes", they said, "CHHA-BC has to change, and fit with the times in its methods of operating, its style of meetings and interacting with the public; its ways of getting the message out, to help others and to ensure our communication needs are met." To share in that experience, a summary of the World Café discussion is in this issue of the LOOP... so just read on!

This was an election year for CHHA-BC, and we are happy to have a full slate of officers, including some returning and some new members. Based on input from the World Café discussion, we will be soon meeting to develop a strategic plan for the Chapter. Before that happens, though, there is something else we need you to be involved in - **WALK2HEAR Vancouver 2013** will happen September 21, Saturday, again in Jericho Beach Park. Enroll now, collect pledges, join in raising awareness about hearing loss and hearing health. Walk with us there, or walk in your own neighbourhood...either way will work. It's the right thing to do!



Marilyn Dahl
President-CHHA-BC

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- Submissions are used according to available space and may be edited.
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- If you would like to receive future editions of The Loop via email, please contact the Resource Centre.

Donations, Memorials, Bequests to the Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened Fund assist CHHA-BC in its activities. Please send donations to the Vancouver Foundation Suite 1200-555 Hastings St. Box 12132, Harbour Centre Vancouver, BC V6B 4N6 The Vancouver Foundation will issue receipts for all gifts. Interest from the capital is used in perpetuity for CHHA-BC. The capital remains intact.

The World Café & AGM *continued from front page*

Table Host-Mark Schweinbenz & Team's ideas and communication for question 2 were: Passionate about more information; Wearing hearing aids with no shame; Social groups with sound advice; Coping skills; Unified Speech Reading; Have **CHHA** acronym as recognizable as **CNIB**.

Table Host-Marilyn Dahl & Team's ideas and communication for question 2 were: Branches need resource help to try out new things; Addressing multiculturalism; Hearing Loss increasing in youth; Social media over-load; Short information bulletins needed, not narratives; Monthly meetings not so popular anymore, Face book, and drop-ins groups preferred; Isolation decreasing due to technology; Accessing needs in the workplace; Outreach (Churches, Branches, Groups); Price of hearing aids; Need a united cause.

Deborah Scott asked all as a group what we thought would be the future and vision of

CHHA-BC and the answers/ideas were: **Everyone** is aware of CHHA; Membership Increases; Disability Tax Credit information and help; Future of Technology and individual training; Information on devices and training; Partnerships with Audiologists (post-care of devices), Speech Therapists, Teachers of the Deaf & Hard of Hearing; Public awareness, Speech Reading, Training early interventions, Hard of hearing communication issues, Advocating for hearing loss, Positivity- "The Fire in the Belly" returns, more communication, more active and lots of direction, Minimizing the idea of invisible hearing aids-aesthetic, Social Media: Face book, videos, website use of optimum keywords to promote CHHA-nation-wide, online classes and forums, Sense of belonging-decreased feeling of isolation, increased confidence, Excited about being part of a community and society-public events-opportunities and self-esteem.

New Elected Board Directors:

President - Marilyn Dahl

Vice-President - Rodney George

Secretary - Deborah Scott

Treasurer - Sharon Davis

*Members at Large - Kelsie Grazier
and Karen Matheson*



Ruth Warick; Chair of the Nominating Committee, introduces the new president; Marilyn Dahl.



Rodney George presented Leslee Scott with a gift recognizing her total of 14 years (1998-2013) with the BC Chapter Board, having served as Member at Large, Secretary, President, and Past-President.



Rodney George presented outgoing board member; Mark Schweinbenz, with a token of appreciation for his service.



Sharon Perry

It's not until we see the list of Outreach activities that we realize how many opportunities we have had to talk about CHHA.

Starting February 21st and ongoing, Maggie Dodd and Sharon Perry are helping the family of a resident in a local Residential Care facility. He has Parkinson's Disease and has a very weak voice that his family cannot hear.

On February 27th Stephanie Bryant and Sharon Perry attended the Sysco Food Systems Trade Show in Langley, BC.

On March 23rd we attended the Lions Club Senior Health Fair in Maple Ridge. On March 7th Maggie and Sharon Perry gave a presentation to the Nursing students at the University of the Fraser Valley. On

March 26th Stephanie and Sharon Perry attended a presentation by the Chilliwack Business Improvement on a new Loyalty program called iSwirl.

On April 12th Stephanie attended the Council of Service Providers meeting in Burnaby. On April 24th we had a display at the annual Disabilities Transition Fair at UFV. On April 27th & 28th Sharon Perry travelled to Kelowna to assist Leslee Scott with the Kelowna Health Show.

In May we hosted the CHHA Annual General Meeting. Stephanie attended the CHHA Convention in Edmonton. There will be information on the AGM Edmonton in this issue and the next newsletter in late fall.

On May 30th Stephanie Bryant and Sharon Perry

attended a presentation on Volunteer Training at the Area Support Unit at the University of the Fraser Valley.

June was a busy month with Sharon Davis and Sharon Perry travelling to President Marilyn's home in Vancouver for a meeting. On June 12th Maggie and Sharon Perry had an information table at the Annual

General Meeting for Senior Peer Counsellors from across BC. It was an all day event. On June 4th, Sharon Perry presented our **\$500.00** CHHA Chilliwack Bursary to a graduating student who is hard of hearing. On June 18th Maggie talked to a group of about 25 Residents at a Chilliwack Assisted Living Facility.

This week our volunteer, David, started on the project of contacting (by email) the hospitals, residential care facilities, assisted living facilities etc.

in BC. David has been working on the database for several months. We are introducing CHHA and describing the hospital kits that we offer. Those without email will be contacted by mail by our staff and volunteers. Several students would like to volunteer with us this summer.

Brochures and the display stand will be sent to Comox, BC for their Air Show in August. We will be at the Chilliwack Flight Fest Air Show on the same weekend. It's a great opportunity to distribute earplugs and talk about hearing loss.

Speech Reading Managing Hearing Loss classes are planned for September. Information will be found on our website or contact our office.

Sharon Perry, Administrator



Sharon & Stephanie-at the Sysco Food Trade Show

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Bursary – Margaret Davis Memorial

For over 10 years now, CHHA Chilliwack has offered a Bursary to a Graduating student. The amount varies between \$500.00 and \$700.00. The main criteria is that the student must be Hard of Hearing. For the past several years I have had the honour of presenting our Bursary at the annual Awards Ceremonies. The winner this year won a total of \$25,000.00 in awards, bursaries and scholarships.

His career goal is to become a family physician. He ended his appreciation letter with a quote from Albert Camus "Real generosity towards the future lies in giving to the present".

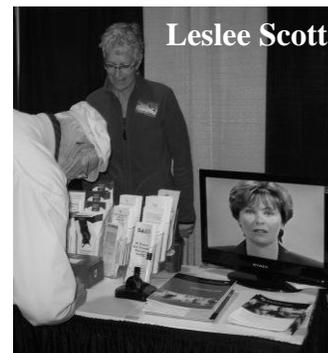
Sharon Perry

Kelowna Health Fair Submitted by Leslee Scott (Kelowna, BC)

On April 27-28, 2013 Sharon Perry from CHHA BC Resource Centre and I manned a booth at the Kelowna Health Fair as part of our outreach. The Health Fair is an annual event that is quite popular in Kelowna with people coming from Kamloops, Nelson, and other areas. Our booth was next to that of NexGen, an audiology clinic so it worked out well in both our favours. Many of the questions or comments were that of problems with hearing aids, communication issues, who is the “best” to see, and so on. We assisted as much as we could along with handing out our brochures, WIDHH technical aid catalogues (they sent us 100 to give away), and business cards for follow up contact.

We had a number of volunteers come to give us a break from our table throughout the two days: Mary, Susanne, Pauline & Paul, and Karen. We thank them gratefully for their participation. We had a draw for a door prize; a Sennheiser TV listening system, and a Kelowna resident won the draw. She was thrilled when I delivered it but asked that her name not be publicized.

It was a long two days of standing in somewhat chilly conditions but, I feel it was worthwhile. We hope to reach out to other communities in the new year and are in fact considering the Penticton Senior Health Fair next spring.



Part 1 - Town Hall and AGM of National Conference 2013 Submitted by Stephanie Bryant

Saturday, May 25, 2013 - A panel consisted of Robert Corbeil, Marilyn Dahl, Leon Mills, and Kim Scott. Leon Mills did a presentation and here are some of the points he made:

- We need to be open minded to do things differently
- Be supportive of the new initiative being proposed
- Become actively involved in working committees
- Promote cooperative model application at chapter and branch levels.
- Encourage us to be leaders, commit to ongoing training and encourage others to become involved with CHHA at all levels.

Some of the discussions that took place were as follows:

- If CHHA doesn't know what it wants to achieve and how to get there, does it matter which road is taken?
- Attitude amongst the membership has changed, there needs to be a more personal level.
- We need to come up with sound ideas, ie: In Sudbury, speech reading and looping projects.
- Funding is extremely important. • In Newfoundland, they provide \$4000 seed money for branches and they set aside \$10,000 for special projects. Speech reading is done in branch level.
- There is a disconnect between children and YAN. There is even a disconnect with the Parents' branches in Canada. • We need to promote Loop Systems across Canada ... we are not doing enough to promote the technologies that are available. • We need to promote more hearing technologies across Canada.
- Partnerships with other organizations may be important for CHHA ... some partnerships have started on the National level. • A lot of new hard of hearing individuals do not know about T-coils and looping. The fault of hearing clinics not offering T-coils and looping have rung true for many seasoned hard of hearing individuals. This awareness needs to be expressed. • Communications between hearing specialist (audiologist, hearing aid practitioner) and the client needs to be improved. In same way, communications between National, Chapters, Branches and Networks needs to be improved. • CHHA National informed us that only one issue of the Listen Magazine would happen this year. This is due to financial cutbacks from donations and government grants. • Discussions surrounding on what is CHHA about.
- Communication and Awareness is extremely important to promote CHHA, and what is being offered.
- The three A's is emphasized. *Advocacy, Accessibility, and Awareness.* There is a need to create the three frameworks in the administration of the three "A's."

In the awareness capacity, did you know that hearing loss is a number 1 disability in all of North America?

CHHA AGM-Some discussions included:

CHHA National received \$500,000 grant for next year or so to teach Speech reading trainers in six cities on Speech reading Standards which was developed by CHHA. There was discussion on online component for speech reading and that it is hoped that part of the funding would cover that cost.

- CHHA's financial statements looked healthy, there is a noticeable downward spiral on income and thus the office had to compensate the spiral with less spending.
- CHHA Transportation Committee participated within federal transportation network on issues and working-groups supporting safe and accessible travel. Canadian Transportation Agency monitors passenger complaints, issues, decisions and written or modified various codes of practice supporting the removal of undue obstacles within the network. One of the changes that Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities announced was that all inclusive airfare advertising (online, newspapers or on billboards where travel is originating in Canada) is now mandated with full pricing including taxes and fees.
- CHHA's vision statement is, "A Canadian Society that is respectful and fully accessible to people with hearing loss. • Its mission is "To empower all Canadians with hearing loss through four pillars of activities." They are; *education, public awareness, service and advocacy.*
 - **Education:** CHHA provides information that helps people with hearing loss to take responsibility for their own communication success, and to identify and overcome communication barriers in all areas of their lives.
 - **Public Awareness:** CHHA raises awareness of issues related to hearing and hearing loss through its website, publications, and fundraising and public relations campaigns, both on its own and through strategic partnerships with other organizations.
 - **Service:** CHHA offers programs that assist people with hearing loss to integrate effective communication strategies into their daily lives.
 - **Advocacy:** CHHA is the voice for people with hearing loss in Canada's public and private sectors to eliminate barriers and ensure effective accessible communication.
 - **Core Values:** As members of CHHA, we are committed to: Leadership in helping people live positively with hearing loss. • Integrity and transparency in our activities. • Respect for the diversity of people's individual communication choices.
 - Collaboration both within CHHA and with partner organizations. • The accountability and sustainability of our organization. • There was a motion, carried to increase in the regular membership dues, and changed the fee structures as follows:

Individual- from \$25 to \$30 Family – from \$40 to \$50
Lifetime – from \$300 to \$350 Students (with proof) - \$20
Corporations - \$70 to \$300 depending on income level
Non-profit organizations - \$120

Awards and Scholarships from CHHA National Office:

The awards and scholarships were given out throughout the evening. CHHA Vancouver Branch was awarded the National CHHA's Bette Moulton Award "for being a strong voice for the hard of hearing". The nomination states, in part, that "CHHA Van is a thriving, active Branch at a time when many branches are experiencing a decline. It is one of the healthiest Branches in the country. CHHAVAN was heavily involved in sponsoring the very successful Youth Leadership Retreat at the Edmonton Conference, including subsidizing nine B.C. youth to attend.

CHHAVAN will sponsor its third annual "WALK2HEAR Walkathon" this year.

Rosalind Ho, from Vancouver, BC was named President of Young Adult Network in Canada. More than that,

Rosalind won a national competition to be a delegate to the International Youth Rally, to be held in Portland in June. To do so she earned \$200 for CHHA National to qualify, and then earned coupons through 48 hours of volunteer work for CHHAVAN. Also, from BC, Jesse Kazemire won the Frank Algar Memorial Scholarship Award.

Please look forward to Part 2-AGM National Conference 2013 in the next Loop issue.



Walk2Hear Vancouver Walkathon...September 21, 2013

DIARY OF A COCHLEAR IMPLANT *Looped Again!* Submitted by Flo Spratt

Many of us who wear hearing aids know about the T-coil and its benefits, especially when it is used with the loop system. The T-coil, or telephone switch as it was originally called, uses a simple, yet extremely helpful, technology that enables a hearing aid wearer, who has a T-coil, to hear a speaker at a distance. The speaker uses a microphone connected to an amplifier and wire looped around the room. When you come to our meetings, you can enjoy hearing our speakers as if they are speaking right into your ears, without having to hear over noises that are made around you.

I was able to use this technology for many years, even with my analog hearing aids, when my hearing loss was at the severe level. A number of years ago, when we renovated our kitchen, we had a loop system placed in the ceiling of our kitchen so that I could listen to our favorite pastors and lecturers. However, by then my hearing loss was at the profound level, and I found it too difficult to understand the lectures that were fed into the system. By then, to understand anyone, I relied heavily on speech reading.

But that all changed after a couple of years with my implant. Recently, I attempted to listen to lectures again using our loop. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I could even understand speakers with accents or who spoke quickly.

My speech processor, the device that sits on my ear and is connected by magnet to my implant, picks up the speaker even when I walk outside the loop's perimeter. So, as I do my chores in and outside my house, I enjoy listening to a wide variety of speakers with relative ease. I am again reminded of the vast improvement in my hearing due to my cochlear implant.

The loop is a wonder tool for us with hearing loss. We at CHHA North Shore Branch often remind our members and friends how much this technology means to us. Recently I learned that there are some loop systems you can use in your home that are easy to install and/or are portable, so that you can take it with you to other homes where you plan to use a sound system (e.g., TV). Come and learn about this tool at our next Sound Advice meeting or call us to find out how you can obtain one for your home.

'Til next time,

Flo

P.S. If you enjoy watching YouTube, then this short clip explains the loop system very well:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?V=9BUR1ChKfw>

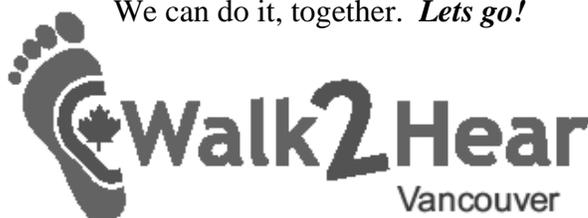


It is time to register for our Walk2Hear Vancouver Walkathon. Please go to www.chha.ca and click on the Vancouver walk site. Register under Vancouver Branch if you are walking in support of Vancouver Branch, or register under the BC CHAPTER, if you are from the rest of the province outside the Greater Vancouver area. If you wish to raise money for your own Branch, please contact the Chapter for permission to arrange this option. Be sure to read the "HOW to Register" directions as things are a bit different this year. Set up your personal pledge page and start getting support for your walk. This year, the funds raised by Chapter and Branch are going towards supporting hard of hearing Young Adults, to enable them to attend a Leadership Retreat at the time of the next National Conference. Our youth need to meet one another and to gain confidence and skills which will enable them to become our **LEADERS OF TOMORROW**. Help us reach our goal in raising **\$8,000** in Vancouver, and in the province at large.

We can do it, together. *Lets go!*

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
YOU CAN ALSO FORM A TEAM.**

Walk2Hear is a national fundraising event in support of over 3 million Canadians experiencing some form of hearing loss.



SATURDAY, SEPT. 21, 2013

Jericho Beach Park – East End
Registration: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

REGISTER NOW! 2, 5 OR 10 KM

Walk with us. Mobility accessible.
www.chha.ca/walk2hear • 1 866 888-2442

PRIZE DRAW FOR 2 ECONOMY CLASS RETURN TICKETS!

Anywhere Air Canada flies in North America



Yellow stripe along the back of vest.

Safety Vests

Made from a soft white mesh fabric.

The vests will be available to CHHA soon...

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