



# Canadian Hard of Hearing Association British Columbia Chapter

#216-9181 Main Street, Chilliwack, BC, V2P 4M9  
604-795-9238, 1-866-888-2442, info@chha-bc.org

## The Loop Newsletter

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## Message from the President

*A message from Dr. Marilyn Dahl, President of the CHHA—BC Chapter*

Decisions, decisions, and actions! That is how the board ended 2017 and began 2018.

At the Dec. 2017 meeting, Gael Hannan was welcomed as member-at-large, to complete the term of Kelsie Grazier who left the board in 2017. Thanks are extended to Kelsie for her service to CHHA-BC during her tenure. We approved the proposed new Bylaws, and sent it to the membership for review before the June 2, 2018 AGM, when it will be voted in to place. We decided to hold a public forum, preceding the 2018 AGM. The Gerontology Department will be partnering the event, at SFU Harbour Centre, and we are grateful for their support. Planning is in progress, and more information will follow soon. Please keep June 2nd free for this important afternoon event.

The Online Hearing Loss Mentoring Program, a pilot project sponsored by WorksafeBC, is now into year two. Our thanks to the four CHHA-BC members who serve as volunteer mentors. In May a second training workshop for new mentors, and refresher session for returning mentors will be held. A new poster is in distribution; we invite you to contact the Resource Centre, if you can volunteer to hand deliver posters to suitable places.

I attended a meeting of Barrier Free BC with Minister Shane Simpson, to reinforce the need for a Disability Access Act in B.C. In regard to other provincial government initiatives, the Provincial Government has indicated their intention to create poverty reduction initiatives, so it is important for us to promote hearing aid affordability with them.

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association invites you to participate in a free webinar on

### “Measuring Success on an Inclusive Canada”

The webinar will take place from 10am-11am PST on Wednesday, March 7, 2018.

Participants will have the opportunity to contribute recommendations to the Federal Government's proposed accessibility legislation.

For more information and to register, please visit:

<https://goo.gl/WQRTf>



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## Going West

*By Gael Hannan*

*Gael is a writer, humorist, hearing loss advocate, and volunteer on the CHHA-BC Board of Directors.*

I remember walking into my first meeting of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. It was in 1996 in Hamilton, Ontario and I was blown away by what I saw, heard and learned that night.

People – happy people! – were using all sorts of technical devices (headphones were BIG back then) – and there was the amazing miracle of real-time captioning. After 40-odd years of not knowing a single person with hearing loss, it's difficult to describe the epiphany I experienced in meeting people like me, who understood my issues almost more than I did. I was hooked and immediately became a member.

My involvement in the organization grew, from attending some local meetings, to becoming a board member and later president of the Ontario Chapter of CHHA, and then serving 10 years on the national Board of Directors.

Along the way, I started to write, present and perform on hearing loss issues. I've presented at many CHHA branches and chapters across the country, as well as in the United States and beyond.

Hearing loss became my passion and also a career, including writing a book *"The Way I Hear It: A Life with Hearing Loss"*.

A couple of years ago, I moved from Ontario with my husband Doug, aka the Hearing Husband, to Sidney, BC where Doug had grown up. However, my hearing loss life is not over.

I'm pleased to have joined the BC Chapter of CHHA, and become involved in several initiatives, one of which is becoming a regular contributor to this publication, the e-Loop. I'm still learning about the policies and practices that affect BC's hard of hearing and deaf people, but I'm excited about CHHA's mission of making British Columbia a more accessible and affordable place for people with hearing loss.



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## Branch Updates

- CHHA Abbotsford Branch now meets on a quarterly basis. The Branch would like to express its gratitude to Maggie Dodd for the donation of a number of assistive listening devices.
- North Shore Branch has established a \$1000 scholarship in memory of long-time member Carrell Hearn. A second \$1000 scholarship is also in the works with Capilano University. For more information on the Carrell Hearn Memorial Scholarship, which is being administered by CHHA National, please visit: <http://www.chha.ca/forms/en/>. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2018.
- The Board of the Vancouver Branch has recently developed a strategic plan which includes continuing to hold the annual September Walk2Hear event. They will also expand their outreach to young adults.
- Comox Branch recently hosted Gael Hannan as their guest speaker, to a large and attentive group.
- The CHHA BC Youth Peer Support Program hosted their first BC Buddies event of 2018 on February 17th. The event was “Fear Factor” themed and took place at the Children’s Hearing and Speech Centre of BC in Vancouver. The goal of the Buddies program is to connect students who are deaf and hard of hearing and build a sense of community. For more information, visit: <http://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp/bc-buddies/>.

*Connect with a local branch!*

<b>CHHA BC Youth Peer Support Program</b> Email: <a href="mailto:chhabcypsp@gmail.com">chhabcypsp@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp/">http://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp/</a>	<b>CHHA BC Parents’ Branch</b> Email: <a href="mailto:info@chhaparents.com">info@chhaparents.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.chhaparents.com/">http://www.chhaparents.com/</a>
<b>Abbotsford Branch</b> Email: <a href="mailto:abbotsfordretiree@gmail.com">abbotsfordretiree@gmail.com</a>	<b>Comox Valley Branch</b> Email: <a href="mailto:cvhardofhearing@gmail.com">cvhardofhearing@gmail.com</a>
<b>North Shore Branch</b> Email: <a href="mailto:chha_nsb@telus.net">chha_nsb@telus.net</a> Website: <a href="http://www.chha-nsb.com/">http://www.chha-nsb.com/</a>	<b>Vancouver Branch</b> Email: <a href="mailto:chhavancouver@gmail.com">chhavancouver@gmail.com</a>



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## Articles & Resources

### A HoH's Trip List: Hearing Essentials

by Gael Hannan (taken from Hearing Health Matters: The Better Hearing Consumer)

*"The Hearing Husband and I seem to get antsy if we're in one place for too long. Maybe we just get bored with too much togetherness and decide we need to 'see the family', hit the open road and climb a few hills. This means we're frequently packing and unpacking and packing again. You'd think we'd have nailed the list of things to go in the suitcase. You also might correctly guess that on each and every trip something 'important' gets left behind..."* **READ MORE:** <https://goo.gl/6sK3qx>

### How Can We Make Our Hearing Loss Less Invisible?

by Shari Eberts (taken from Living With Hearing Loss: A Hearing Loss Blog)

*"Hearing loss is invisible. It cannot be seen, especially if someone is trying to hide it, which many people with hearing loss still are. When I mention my hearing loss to others, many times, the person will reply, 'But, you don't look deaf.' This always makes me laugh (once I stop rolling my eyes in annoyance), because hearing loss does not look a certain way..."* **READ MORE:** <https://goo.gl/oTQWsi>

### Showing the Love for Our Hearing Technology

by Gael Hannan (taken from Hearing Health Matters: The Better Hearing Consumer)

*"We don't mean to be mean. Sure, there was a time when we may have hated our hearing aids because they were too loud, too big, too ugly – and we didn't really need them in the first place, right, but the family was nagging so much. And those cochlear implant sound processors! The bland color, the size, the way they guzzled battery power! But we're all over that now, aren't we? If so, why don't we always treat them with the necessary attention?..."* **READ MORE:** <https://goo.gl/CLJciC>

*"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."*

- Arthur Ashe