

Annual Report: March 01, 2022 to February 28, 2023

With Covid restrictions lessened and vaccinations and boosters for our members we have been able to engage in a more active year. However without feeling able to yet offer speech reading classes it has been challenging to recruit new members. Our paid membership was 23 with our email list 34.

There were presentations at most of our monthly meetings with some social activities as well. In March 2022 Joyce Leung shared a workshop supplying us with exercises to improve and maintain balance. In April Jennifer Pass informed about the support group Elders Take Action and the resources that were available in the valley. With the introduction of Zoom we learnt about hearing dog guides from the Ontario Lions Foundation Dog Guides. Then in June international author and practitioner David Kaetz held a workshop on Listening With Your Whole Body. This was greatly appreciated and enjoyed so that we shared that through a news article in the “The Loop”. In September we held our AGM (required quorum correct) where it was noted that we were in excellent shape financially and required information to be filed with BC Societies. This brief meeting was followed by a presentation from Jennifer Frey with helpful information about tinnitus and also information about some valley programs offered for those suffering from this. During September and the start of October we negotiated with the Town of Comox to relocate to a different room in the same building that better suited our needs. With that move we installed another loop system to aid listening at our meetings. We coordinated that with a Zoom call from Tim Archer about loop systems at our October meeting. In November Amanda Windle from IDHH Centre shared various devices to assist the comfort and security of hard of hearing individuals. She also brought along the Phonak Rogers Sound Field System which greatly improves listening. We had applied to BC Accessibility for a grant to purchase this equipment, but regrettably didn’t meet their guidelines since the amount required $3,500 was too low. This is an area where we hope to find other funding since it would be most beneficial to the group. December was a fun social group luncheon. Also, that month ended with our record keeping of filing our Tax Return. In January Bowen Tang presented on cochlear implants which was especially interesting as a number of our members are hoping to have these installed. He also shared an app with us for presenting meetings with closed captioning – again a most useful tool for the group and something that we are now using at meetings. At our February meeting we learned from Chris Bates about the Comox Valley Senior Support group and the variety of services that they offer.

On February 25 we participated in a Senior’s Expo at Cumberland with a table, brochures and information for the public about CHHA-CV and our meetings and support.

Throughout the year there have been email connections with the group at large providing summaries of each presentation along with passing along news information about hard of hearing issues such as the proactive initiatives in the United States through pharmacy over the counter hearing aids to greatly reduce purchase costs.

Respectfully submitted by

Nina Goodman (President CHHA-CV)