



THE LOOP

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
British Columbia Chapter

Issue 34

Fall/Winter 2007

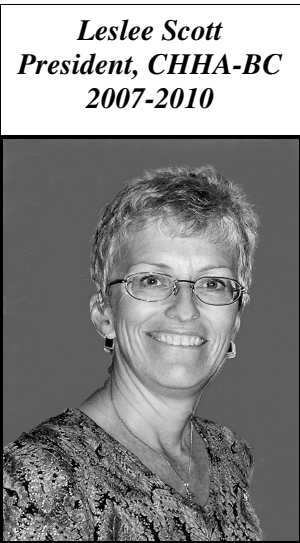
New President and Board and Discussion on Influencing our Communities

Leslee Scott, well-known for her work in B.C. and nationally, was elected as the new CHHA-BC President at the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, October 20.

Also elected to the Board are: Vice-President, Michael Currie, Vancouver; Treasurer, Janet Les, Chilliwack; Secretary, Terri Walker, Prince George; Past President, Laurie Renwick, Kamloops; Directors at Large, Marlene Witzke, Chilliwack; Dailaan Shaffer, Coquitlam; Monique Guterres, (Youth Representative), Vancouver.

A panel was held in the afternoon, led by Karen Taylor, Provincial Outreach Consultant with the B.C. School for the Deaf. On the panel were Michael Currie (Youth), Hugh Hetherington (North Shore Branch), Marlene Witzke (BC Chapter), and Janice McNamara (CHHA National Executive Director).

The panel discussed how CHHA can connect with the community. It was open to everyone in attendance, and this encouraged a wide range of ideas and opinions. (See p. 3.)



*Leslee Scott
President, CHHA-BC
2007-2010*

Photo: Jessie Ellis

CHHA Vancouver Branch

Following a year of inactivity, CHHA members met to hold the Annual General Meeting of CHHAVAN Branch.

Elected were President Marilyn Dahl, Vice-President Michael Currie, Secretary Ruth Warick, Treasurer Carol Suggit, Members at Large Lynda Hepworth and Catherine Kaulback.

Monthly meetings will be held usually every third Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in the gymnasium of the Vancouver Oral Centre for Deaf Children at 3575 Kaslo Street. This location features lots of free parking space, on street and in parking lot. Programs will feature events of importance to people with hearing loss and those who care about them. **Next meeting: November 17th.**



From left: Carol Suggit, Treasurer; Michael Currie, Vice-President; and Marilyn Dahl, President. (Missing is Ruth Warick, Secretary – see p.5 UNITED NATIONS.)

CHHAVAN retains its office in Brodie Hall, at the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 2125 West 7th Avenue. The office is not staffed. Information seekers should call members of the Executive at 604-733-3245 or 604-572-0314, or email chhavancouver@hotmail.com.

We look forward to working with the chapter and other Branches to further the work of CHHA with and for people who are hard of hearing.

Marilyn Dahl, President

FREE Web Design Program for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities

The Canadian Society for Social Development (CSSD) has spaces left in their Internet Business Development for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Web Design program for the **November 2007 term.**

This course is taught online and specifically designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

Tuition costs for this course are covered by the Human Resources and Social Development Canada, and funding is available for the course supplies in most areas.

For more information of this course offered by CSSD please visit their website at www.ibde.ca

A Special Issue of *The Loop* will be published in time for the CHHA-IFOH Congress, July 2 – 6, 2008.

Please send copy for both issues as early as you can.

COPY DEADLINES:

SPRING ISSUE January 25, 2008

SPECIAL ISSUE

March 28, 2008

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THE LOOP is distributed through CHAA-BC's Resource Centre to all B.C. members of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. For a large-print copy of *THE LOOP* please contact:

**CHHA-BC Resource Centre,
#102 – 9300 Nowell Street
Chilliwack, BC, V2P 4V7.
Phone: 1-866-888-2442
(local 604-795-9238)
Fax: 1-866-888-2443
(local 604-795-9628)**

Membership in CHHA includes:

- *THE LOOP* (Provincial publication)
 - *LISTENÉCOUTE* (National publication)
- CHHA Membership fee: \$25 p.a.

All donations towards publishing costs are greatly appreciated. A tax receipt will be issued for donations \$10 and over.

**Donations, Memorials, Bequests
to the HARD OF HEARING/
LATE DEAFENED FUND
an arm of CHHA-BC
assist CHHA in its activities
in this province**

Please send to the Vancouver Foundation, Suite 1200, 555 Hastings Street, Box 12132, Harbour Centre, Vancouver, BC, V6B 4N6. The Vancouver Foundation will issue receipts for all gifts.

Interest from capital is used in perpetuity for CHHA-BC Chapter. The capital remains intact.

From President Laurie



Laurie K. Renwick

We are now officially into fall and in Kamloops we have had cool, wet weather. On our last trip to the coast (September 22) there was snow in the Coq! For the record, I am not one of those souls (misguided in my opinion) who actually likes winter.

We (the Executive) held our summer meeting in June. After we finished our normal business, we spent considerable time planning the AGM and other activities of the day for October 20, and our theme, *A Community at Work*, proved to be strongly interesting.

This will be my last submission to *The Loop* as my term is up. I can't help but look back now over the entire three years and try to take stock of what I think we accomplished during this time.

Firstly, I suppose because of my banking background, I am most pleased about the financial affairs of CHHA-BC. When I took the position in 2004, we had just lost a significant amount of money, and if we were to continue unchecked we would now be bankrupt. I am happy to say that CHHA-BC is now in very strong financial condition.

In 2004 we were operating out of rather shabby premises; now we have attractive offices on Nowell Street, Chilliwack, with state of the art technology.

Our staffing, too, needed attention. We have always been fortunate to have a very solid core of volunteers, and I'm happy to see that continue; but now we have employees too - our resident techie, Stephanie Bryant, and our new office coordinator, Laurene McNaught.

CHHA-BC now has a website that I think is one of the best resources for hard of hearing information in the province.

I have seen CHHA-BC co-host a national conference and host a provincial conference, both of which were judged very successful by everyone there.

We charted our future plans for CHHA-BC with our "DreamWorks." We had an opportunity to lobby for the hard of hearing with our elected leaders through the Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues. We acquired a portable display booth for our Outreach Program. We continue to produce a timely, informative, and relevant newsletter - *The Loop*.

Now while all of this may have happened during my term, I certainly can't take the credit, because it has been very much a team effort.

We have a very active executive: Dailaan Shaffer, Terri Walker, Janet Les, Leslee Scott, Marlene Witzke, and our newest member Michael Currie. Active too are our staff, Stephanie and Laurene, and all of the volunteers at the Resource Centre. Jessie Ellis continues to be *The Loop*.

While everyone has contributed to making my three years memorable, I really have to single out the two ladies who "watched my back" throughout. Marlene and Stephanie, you will always hold a special place in my heart.

It is now time for me to step down and let someone else move CHHA-BC further along the path we have chosen to take.

Leslee Scott is of course very well known to everyone here and indeed throughout the hard of hearing community and she will, I know, keep CHHA-BC at the forefront of the hard of hearing community.

Best wishes to all.

Laurie K. Renwick
President, CHHA-BC

Remember Lauren? Winner of Frank Algar Scholarship?

We were interested to hear how winning the Frank Algar Scholarship has affected the life of Lauren Sherwood, and contacted her mother, Deb Sherwood, who wrote:

Lauren used the scholarship money towards tuition at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. She's embarking on her first year of studies there, taking a variety of courses to keep her options open.

She may eventually major in environmental studies or geography, but she's not certain and presently is just enjoying the range of courses Mount Allison has to offer. This term, she's taking Astronomy, Psychology, English, Environmental Studies, and Drama - very diverse!

She e-mailed her professors before classes began, then met with them, and they are all quite happy to wear an FM system, which the university purchased for her.

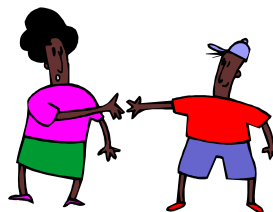
Several of her professors post their notes on the internet, and in two courses she has a student note-taker.

A laptop and printer for Lauren's use were provided by Assistive Technology British Columbia through Student Aid BC; also, funds were received from the Canada Access Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities Program.

Mount Allison also installed a strobe light in her dorm room for when the fire alarm sounds.

The support Lauren is receiving is tremendous, and we are all most thankful.

Deb Sherwood



REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

Karen Taylor, who moderated the panel on reaching out to our communities, mentioned some of the ways she connects with people in her work. They included student activities, consultations with people, resource libraries, and a lot of technology, such as video conferencing, video phone, Ipods; in fact, all technology that has connectivity.

She also encourages contests for children (with prizes), has a review committee, and engages in professional development to keep up with ever-changing ways of communicating.

She quoted Alfred Adler: "What makes a community? A like peer group to belong to."

A great many ideas were shared by those in attendance, many already being used in at least one place.

Here is a selection. Pick at least some for use by your CHHA Branch, or to use yourself.

- ◆ When you see someone wearing a hearing aid, approach the person; ask if they have any problems; try to help; and actively pursue it.
- ◆ Practice self-confidence and self-advocacy. This is public relations in action.
- ◆ Encourage hard of hearing people to get back into their community.
- ◆ Involve hearing people so they get a better understanding of what it's like to be hard of hearing.
- ◆ Strongly promote public accessibility everywhere.
- ◆ Build into branch programs initiatives to contact the community.
- ◆ Arrange to have a public service announcement on TV. It's free and it works.
- ◆ Promote accessibility in Court Rooms especially. It is essential there.
- ◆ Seek out anyone in your branch who might be willing to speak at another branch. The Resource Centre needs to build up a speakers list.
- ◆ Make opportunities to bridge the gap between hearing professionals, the hearing industry, and consumers.
- ◆ Use CHHA National's Hearing Awareness package as a means of introducing CHHA and hearing issues, especially when communicating with such as businesses, professionals, and service organisations.

(See P. 4)

HEARING LOSS SIMULATOR

by Larry Sivertson

If you have friends or family members who just don't understand what it's like to have hearing loss, you might want to direct them to the new hearing loss simulator on the Better Hearing Institute (BHI) site at www.betterhearing.org/sound/.

Chances are they'll be much more supportive once they understand how things sound to a person with hearing loss.

Featured on BHI's website, the tool, a hearing loss simulation site, presents 21 sound simulations of normal and reduced hearing that are paired with pictures that simulate normal and reduced vision.

Hearing loss simulation permits the family members to hear through their loved-one's ears. What a great way to facilitate communication, encouragement and acceptance of hearing solutions.

Larry Sivertson can be contacted at

email: lsivertson@juno.com, or

web site: www.hearinglossweb.com

(c) 2007 Hearing Loss Web

C.I. ADVOCATES

There are now over twenty Cochlear Awareness Network Advocates across Canada.

An Advocate is a buddy or support person to a new implantee. We also give talks to groups, put on displays at Wellness shows, visit seniors' centres, answer questions, or just talk to interested folks on the Cochlear Implant Forum on the web.

All Advocates have been trained to do this very satisfying volunteer work.

Anyone interested in contacting an Advocate can either ask at the Cochlear Implant clinic at St Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, or contact Sandra Vanderhoff, Cochlear Awareness Network,
Tel. Direct: (403) 613 4327,
Toll free: 1-866-296-8189,
e-mail: svandenhoff@cochlear.com.

She will put you in touch with an Advocate nearby.

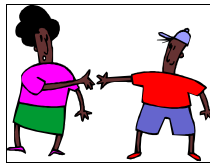
Carol Suggitt, CI Advocate



The CI Picnic was held July 14th, in Surrey. It was another big success. Bonds were formed and information was shared.

From P. 3

- ◆ C H H A National's website is being made more interactive. Encourage people, especially Young Adults, to use it.
- ◆ Send information to all other hearing related organisations.
- ◆ Connect with business communities.
- ◆ If you have a newsletter, give free copies to anyone who is interested.
- ◆ Send your newsletter electronically to as many people and organisations as possible.
- ◆ Give free branch memberships.
- ◆ Access CHHA National and/or CHHA-BC for some financial help, or advice when needed to implement an outreach program.
- ◆ Have more social activities at branch meetings. They want to do things together and talk together. Few want to listen to the Minutes or other business of the branch.
- ◆ Encourage communication between communities of hard of hearing and hearing people.
- ◆ Structure social activities to include people of all age groups, so they can learn from each other.
- ◆ Explore how to present programs differently to appeal to those who prefer to do things with family and personal friends. (See *The Fourth Turning*, by William Strauss and Neil Howe).
- ◆ Change recruitment methods; a personal approach might be better.
- ◆ Have branch web sites within the CHHA-BC web site.
- ◆ When applying for funding from service organisations, government, etc., stress it is for all the hard of hearing people of the community, not for the few in the branch.
- ◆ Look for activities which cost little, or nothing, such as workshops (well advertised), and Health Fairs and Wellness Shows



where there is good contact with attendees.

- ◆ Find groups that want speakers to talk about hearing loss, and, if possible, engage someone from the branch to go.
- ◆ Appoint someone from the branch to coordinate outreach activities.
- ◆ Access other people and branches for their knowledge and experience.
- ◆ Organise a leadership program for Young Adults where they can learn and socialise.
- ◆ Advocate with Social Services, or the Lions Club for a senior on a fixed income who cannot afford a hearing aid. They often help.
- ◆ Advocate for children in need of hearing assistance through Safeway, who has said they want community involvement through helping children.
- ◆ Borrow the display stand from the Resource Centre.
- ◆ Have a budget for outreach initiatives.
- ◆ Use the strengths of those in the branch. For example, someone who enjoys talking to people will likely be happy to go and speak to another community group about being hard of hearing.
- ◆ Give out free information. The North Shore Branch, in cooperation with Dr. Neil Bauman, and funded by the Kiwanis, produced a booklet to give out, *For Hard of Hearing People, What They Need*.
- ◆ Apply to the Knowledge Network to do an Awareness series on hearing loss.

In winding up, Janice McNamara, Executive Director, CHHA National, announced that a wonderful socialising activity is planned for after the CHHA/IFHOH Congress next July: a one-week Alaskan Cruise which will be completely accessible.

So save your pennies, and lets have a blast!

Jessie Ellis

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



*Jan-Peter Strömngren and Ruth Warick
of IFHOH in Geneva*

A remarkable achievement occurred on December 13 last year. The United Nations adopted resolution 61/106, the Convention on the Rights with Persons with Disabilities. But that was just the first step.

The second step occurred on March 30, 2007, when the bill was opened to signature by member states. To date, a record number of 117 countries have signed the groundbreaking bill designed to protect the rights of 650 million persons with disabilities worldwide.

The third step, for the Convention to be enacted, is ratification by at least 20 countries. As of October 1, 2007, seven countries have ratified the convention: **Croatia, Cuba, Gabon, Hungary, India, Jamaica and Panama.** More are expected to come on board by the end of the year.

Along with each step, the hard of hearing disability community has been involved. The International Federation



"A Global Community of Communication"
Sheraton Wall Centre, Vancouver, BC
July 2 – 6, 2008

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and
The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People
invite you to attend the

**International Congress
for persons with hearing loss.**

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR BOOKING YET?

Congress 2008 is designed for consumers and professionals. Plenary sessions, workshops and poster sessions will focus on all ranges of hearing loss from infancy and childhood to older adults. A specific youth forum will be tailored for youth and young adults. Presenters from around the world will share their knowledge, perspectives and research on the following five Congress themes:

- Global Challenges and Issues
- Quality of Life Issues for Persons with Hearing Loss
- Technology and Technical Advances
- Education and Employment Issues
- Early Childhood Intervention and Development Programs

For further information

Contact the CHHA National Office at 1-800-263-8068, or
e-mail congress2008@chha.ca, or visit
the Congress website at www.chha-ifhohcongress2008.com

Contact the Sheraton Wall Centre for accommodation enquiries at that
hotel: www.sheratonwallcentre.com

of Hard of Hearing Persons has been part of an international lobby through its membership on the International Disability Alliance (IDA). Other members of the alliance are Disabled Peoples' International, Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, Rehabilitation International, World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the Deafblind, and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

Recently, I attended a meeting of the IDA in Geneva with IFHOH President Jan-Peter Strömngren and his

assistant, Charlotta Göller. It was my first time at an IDA meeting and it was exciting and invigorating. The IDA is pressing forth to encourage disability organizations to lobby their governments for the ratification of the Convention. IFHOH will be connecting with CHHA to encourage such action in the interests of hard of hearing and deafened Canadians.

For an update on the status of the Convention, please go to <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/>

Ruth Warick
IFHOH General Secretary

Have Hearing Loss; Will Travel?

Have you wondered if travelling abroad is for you, now that you have a hearing loss?

A hearing disability does have its challenges when you're in a foreign country, but it should not stop your desire to explore and appreciate other lands and cultures.

Let me tell you why, and throw in a few pointers for your trip.

Travelling is a feast for the eyes. Wherever you go, you will see beautiful sights, unique cultural activities, stunning scenery, ancient historical sites and artifacts, diverse architecture, and different ways of doing everyday activities.

Now for a few pointers to make your trip more worthwhile:

- A travelling companion is a very good idea! Sharing memories with someone else makes one's trip even more special. He or she can help you if you are having difficulty hearing the travel agent. If you are considering a group tour, you may still wish to take along a companion with whom you can enjoy one-to-one conversations.
- Read as much as you can about your destination before you arrive (e.g., Internet and travel guides). You will then be much more familiar with the names, places, and events you will be seeing.
- An assistive listening device is a worthwhile investment, especially on tours. On my trip this summer, the tour guides had no qualms about wearing my ALD, and I was able to hear as well as anyone else!
- In places of interest, such as museums, look for the brochures and material that is available in English.
- Although most people in the tourist industry speak English, their accents may make them difficult to understand, especially if they speak quickly. Don't hesitate to ask questions that may require them to repeat themselves. In a tour group, for example, many of your fellow travellers will be grateful that you asked.

For our family, travelling has been a great "equalizer" in the sense that I have not been left out in any way because of my hearing loss.

Each trip has become a special gift that I tuck into my memory chest.

Now, enjoy your trip! When you get back, will you tell me all about it?

Flo Spratt, President, North Shore Branch

First published *Mountain Ear*, Sep.2007

TRANSPORTATION CODE OF PRACTICE

The Canadian Transportation Agency (Agency) has released The Code of Practice: Passenger Terminal Accessibility (Terminal Code); and The Guide to Passenger Terminal Accessibility (Terminal Guide).

The Terminal Code covers a broad range of terminals, rural and urban train stations, and Canada's airports. The Code covers the physical aspects of terminals, ground transportation, boarding devices, escort passes, passenger assistance, and facility and service awareness programs.

The Terminal Guide, is a reference tool to assist passenger terminal operators in implementing the new Terminal Code.

To obtain a copy of the Terminal Code and the Guide call 1-888-222-2592 (TTY:1-800-669-5575) or visit the Agency's Web site at www.cta.gc.ca

Young Adult Youth Group 2007 Review

In the beginning of 2007, the group was still invisible, but the group became more visible as the months went by.

Throughout those incredible changes, I had a dear friend named Michael Currie who helped me make this group more noticeable and popular within BC. He assisted me in many different ways such as approaching the hard-of-hearing young adults about the newly-founded group.

The group was starting to grow and is still growing. They are Melissa Eden from Kelowna; Curtis Les, Chilliwack; Tasha Cox, Vancouver; Monique Guterres, Vancouver; Crystal Martin, Campbell River; and Jean Booyans, Vancouver.

As the group became active, some of the young adults and I attended the CHHA-National 2007 Conference in Edmonton. At the conference, I was awarded the Young Adult Award for Outstanding Personal, Community and Professional Activities. Winning the award gave me the strength to make this group become more active and to start promoting in the post-secondary institutions, high schools, etc.

Since coming back from the conference, the CHHA-BC Young Adult Youth Group has completed its first monthly meeting which included creating posters, brochures, and a website for the group, planning promotion at post-secondary institutions and high-schools, planning activities for the group, and giving information about the upcoming CHHA-BC A.G.M.

This year has been remarkable and magical. I'm surprised how far the group has come and the members who decided to join. From this group, Monique Guterres became the first young adult representative to the CHHA-BC Chapter.

This group has come a long way and still has a long future ahead.

Sophie Paller, President

The Sun Always Rises

One of the challenges for a person who receives a cochlear implant is to try to explain to family and friends what it's like to hear with the implant ... even as the person struggles to understand this very new kind of sound.

Those of us with normal hearing can never really appreciate how it feels to live with hearing loss.

However, one of the most important ways we can be supportive is to be realistic in our expectations of the technology and how it works for the people who are using it.

A common expectation of a cochlear implant is that switching it on is like switching on a light ... one minute you're deaf and the next you can hear. Really, it's more like a sunrise.

For people who are struggling with hearing aids, it's like being in a dark room with only the light of a weak flashlight. They can see some things but miss others, sometimes stumbling over them, sometimes completely unaware that they are in the room.

For many when they are first implanted, it's like we've taken away the flashlight and they are completely in the dark. Even the familiar landmarks are gone.

It takes a great deal of courage to give up that little bit of light, and reassurance from family and friends is very important. No one wants to be alone in the dark.

Learning to use the cochlear implant is like waiting for the sun to rise. Gradually, the darkness becomes less dense and things around them begin to take shape ... not recognizable yet, but present.

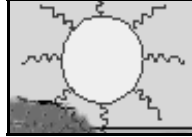
As the sky lightens, recognition comes.

Eventually, as the sun actually comes out, details can be seen, and clarity improves.

The sun doesn't rise at the same time for everyone but it always rises.

Cindy Gustin

From the *CI Newsletter*, June 2006



CHHA H.E.A.R. COQUITLAM

Celebrates 25 Years

An Open House was held at the Dogwood Pavilion, Coquitlam, in May to celebrate CHHA HEAR Branch's 25 years of helping hard of hearing people.

The group was formed in 1982 under the auspices of Marilyn Dahl, assisted by Audrey Buell, Betty MacGillivray, Ed Zuercher, and Harry Startin.

The honoured guest at the Open House was Dr. Neil Bauman of the Center for Hearing Loss Help, Pennsylvania, US. He is a well known and loved speaker who connects with people through humour and understanding.

Mayor Maxine Wilson, Coquitlam, brought congratulations to the HEAR Branch on serving the community so well, and the Dogwood presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Marilyn Dahl presented a bouquet of flowers to Betty MacGillivray in recognition of her loyalty and dedication to the Branch.

Guests examined the displays showing tinnitus, the cochlear implant, a new battery charger, seeing and hearing speech, assisted listening devices, Realtime captioning, youth information, and an antique hearing device.

Refreshments were provided by Safeway stores, and The Market Place.

DIABETES AND HEARING LOSS

by Neil Bauman, Ph.D.

If you have diabetes, you are twice as likely to develop hearing loss as you would be if you'd not had diabetes, according to Catherine Cowie, PhD, the director of the diabetes epidemiology program at the National Institutes of Health.

Hearing loss from diabetes affects all speech frequencies, but is more pronounced in the higher frequencies.

This increased hearing loss could be the result of either changes in the circulatory system resulting in less blood flow to the peripheral blood vessels (which includes the tiny arteries in the inner ear), or changes in the nervous system – typically death to some nerve endings (which also includes the hair cells [technically the auditory nerve endings] in the inner ear).

Therefore, if you have diabetes, it sure wouldn't hurt to have regular audiograms done every year or two so you can keep tabs on your hearing. If you are losing significant hearing, then you can get hearing aids BEFORE hearing loss sneaks up on you and negatively impacts your life.

For the full article and questions, you may contact Dr. Neil Bauman, at:

neil@hearinglosshelp.com

His website is:

www.hearinglosshelp.com

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**OF ALL THE ENEMIES
OF CREATIVITY,
SUCCESS IS BY FAR
THE MOST INSIDIOUS.**

Kevan van Herd

Conferences are Great!

It was my great pleasure to be a Victoria delegate at the 2007 CHHA National Conference in Edmonton. It is a lovely city, and West Edmonton Mall is something to behold. I couldn't believe how big it is. Our hotel was conveniently right in the mall.

I arrived Thursday afternoon, had a quick tour of the mall, and got ready for the Black and White Martini night. I don't drink martinis, but had a beer instead and enjoyed meeting old friends, as well as some of the younger people.

On Friday morning, Michael Kerr gave the opening address. He talked about using laughter and humorous incidents as a means of improving the workplace. He kept us in stitches of laughter, getting the crowd really into the mood for the rest of the weekend.

Following this, I attended an excellent workshop on fundraising, given by Tim Task. He made several key points including,

- * make sure to believe in your organization's ability to fund-raise,
- * make sure the public understands what you are fund-raising for, and
- * know why you need the money.

He talked about team effort, encouraging us to get together with other organizations for fund-raising.

After a light buffet lunch, I attended another very interesting workshop on solutions for telephone problems, given by Rick Walters. He is now retired from the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, but still loves to lecture on all the new gadgets available.

He showed so many things I could not keep track of them all. He said there were different solutions to different problems, and people should consult their audiologists. There is so much available that people should explore the web and compare prices and models.

In the final Friday workshop, Catherine Samson talked about humour in the workplace and how to be

positive, and drive your points home with your boss. If you are happy and positive, you'll succeed in the long run.

The day was completed with dinner at a revolving restaurant. This was extra, but well worth it for me as I thoroughly enjoyed myself with everyone at my table. We enjoyed watching the skyline go by, then, suddenly, it was 9 p.m. and time to go.

On Saturday morning after breakfast, we had our Town Hall meeting and the A.G.M. Not much of interest came out of this for me, but, again, I enjoyed talking to people.

After lunch in the mall, I attended a workshop on getting along with your hearing impaired children, and how to handle them. It really boils down to give and take. We were encouraged to really get to understand the children, their interests and needs.

The final workshop was given by Myrtle Barrett and Gail Hannan, entitled "Tunes Out." They talked about how to deal with your partner or spouse who is not hearing impaired, and how to get along better. The audience had many anecdotes to tell, and this workshop was amusing as well as informative.

After two days of workshops, it was time to relax and enjoy the banquet and the really good band that got everyone, including me, out onto the floor afterwards. We had a wonderful dinner and an evening of dancing and socializing.

I enjoyed Edmonton very, very much, and honestly felt that Cindy Gordon and her crew put a tremendous amount of work and effort into it. It was one of the nicest weekends I have had in a while.

I hope to see everyone again in 2008. **Vancouver IFOH-CHHA Congress – here I come!**

John Close, Vice-President,
CHHA, Victoria Branch
First published *Sea Sights and Sounds*,
Summer 07



Hear to Learn was another awesome family weekend held October 12-13 by the BC Parents' Branch of CHHA for families with hard of hearing children.

The weekend opened on the Friday, with a supper, which was provided, and hilarious entertainment presented by Max Fomitchev, an international mime artist.

Next day the Kidz and Teen *Konnection* programs, coordinated by Wendi Graves and Kelsie Grazier respectively, engaged the young folk with drumming and hula hoop workshops, spin-art, action games, a construction zone, a Show and Tell technology panel, and a speech reading workshop.

For the first time, a Preschool program, coordinated by Karen Jackson, was held to take care of the under-fives.

Meanwhile, parents attended informative workshops by:

- ◆ Idelle Beauchesne and Melanie Thomas, *Education and Hearing Loss: A Personal Journey*.
- ◆ Dr. Janet Jamieson, *Family Needs for Those with Hard of Hearing Children*.
- ◆ The Teen *Konnection* who presented a Show and Tell Technology Panel, featuring Tasha Cox and Curtis Les, and moderated by audiologist Dan Paccioretti.

The weekend, held at South Burnaby Secondary School, was attended by 120 people, representing 37 families, plus presenters and volunteers.