



THE LOOP

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
British Columbia Chapter

Issue 25

September 2004

Lynda Hepworth Writes 2004 National Conference

This was my first time at a National Conference, and overall I came away feeling I learned something.

The workshops, of course, are the main attraction, and I picked up useful information at each one I attended.

I enjoyed seeing a few other people from BC., including John Close from the Victoria Branch, Betty McGillvray from Burnaby (Hear Branch), Bill Adkins of Chilliwack, and Robert and Helen Wain from New Westminster.

The theme of this year's conference was "Hearing at Work – Success in Hearing at Work, Home and Play," and this was very evident by the type of workshops presented.

See
LYNDA HEPWORTH WRITES, p.3

CART on TV in the Yukon! Remote Captioning is a Growing Baby

At the end of June, Catherine Kottmeier was the remote captionist for a Council meeting held in Whitehorse, Yukon. The results were transmitted back to the Council Chambers and to the local TV station which broadcast it to local residents.

Whitehorse City Council believes it is the first council in all of Canada to have live captioning.

Kottmeier commented that the experience was "a challenge to behold."

Here's what she said:

It consisted of fast, incessant talking for two hours via a choppy speaker phone all the way from Whitehorse, Yukon.

I received a 30-page package from their staff in the morning to help me prepare, but with all the technical ironing out we performed throughout the day, I only had about an hour to pore over it.

I never did finish the task when we went on the air at 7:30 p.m. That package was in addition to the 600 entries I already had prepared over the weekend.

Hey, ask me about any street in Whitehorse!



Catherine Kottmeier

See TIRED TECHIE, p. 2



Daniel Clark

Daniel Clark recently celebrated his first birthday with a delicious ear of his

hometown Chilliwack corn.

His short life has involved more attention to ears than most kids.

Daniel was diagnosed at age 4 months with a severe hearing loss and started wearing hearing aids one month later.

See
HELP FOR DANIEL, p. 3

CHHA-BC Yearly Gathering (Yes, all of us!)

9 a.m., Saturday, November 13, 2004

At the Ramada Hotel, #1 Highway, Abbotsford.

Something Unique!

No Registration fee.

\$100 Travel Grant applies as before.

All Meals are Free.

Evening Function still being discussed.

See CHAA-BC Members Gather, p,2

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- *THE LOOP*
(Provincial publication)
- *LISTEN/ÉCOUTE*
(National publication)

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**Donations, Memorials, Bequests
to the
HARD OF HEARING/
LATE DEAFENED FUND
an arm of CHHA-BC Chapter**

should be sent 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 p. 1

CHHA-BC MEMBERS GATHER

What can we expect?

- Presenters.
- Branch members to speak.
- Future plans.
- Annual General Meeting.
- All New Executive.
- Farewell to President Maggie Dodd.
- And more ... come and see.

More information will arrive in a separate package, also Application Forms for nominations to the new Executive.

After the last issue of *The Loop* (See "About the Executive", p.8), there will be new faces presenting to stand for the Executive.

More new perspectives coming from new people on the Executive means a greater variety of services

for individual members.

Remember what you need to do: The Proposer and the Nominee both complete a simple form.

Send them in with a short biography of the Nominee.

The closing date for nominations is October 13, 2004 and applications will be dated as received.

If you have ever toyed with the idea of doing something on the Executive, NOW IS THE TIME.

Wouldn't it be exciting to have elections?

JE

From p. 1

Tired Techie

Roland, our techie, was so tired that as we waited for our cue, he lay on the floor and within one minute was snoring. The minutes ticked by, and I became more and more nervous.

It was really exciting.

Afterwards, the mayor was very complimentary, only saying speakers are going to have to watch their language, and the spelling needs to be improved. (He means typos, I think.)

I should tell you that I would like to issue a "speeding ticket" to all councillors for this Council Meeting..

Adding to the difficulty, the automatic cameras don't respond to the current speaker until two or three sentences have passed, then they linger on a person who has

finished speaking. I hear, but I don't see who is making and passing motions. I have no clue who said what until it's too late. Since then, I have practised and practised memorizing their voices via the one videotaped council meeting I have.

Pre-scripting is not possible with this court reporting software either, so when they read their numerous reports at what seems like break-neck speed, I struggle to keep up.

With the inferior audio feed and trying to decipher what those chopped up rapid-fire half words actually are, my response time is really slowed down.

More than ever I appreciate what it's like to be hard of hearing.

Catherine Kottmeier



Dr. Sam Trychin has a private practice, and lectures at The Behrend College, Penn-State, Erie. He is currently conducting programs for the hard of hearing and their families, as well as for professionals who provide services to the hard of hearing. Dr. Trychin is hard of hearing. Here are some highlights of Dr. Trychin's address:

Dr. Sam Trychin

Living and Working with a Hearing Loss

The first function of the three senses of taste, smell, and touch are to warn us of danger that is very close, whereas the first function of the two senses of sight and hearing are to warn us **in advance** of danger.

Not having one of those "in advance" senses functioning well means that the hard of hearing person will be in a greater state of anxiety - for example; not hearing the telephone, alarm clock, doorbell, kettle boiling, sirens, etc.

Life starts with belonging.

People need to belong, and not hearing causes us to feel we don't belong, hence we experience the

feelings of loneliness, or isolation

People need to feel they are accepted at work, and also with their friends or family.

Hard of hearing people often feel left out or marginalised, perhaps isolated. Some of these feelings are self-induced (i.e., it's not important), then a pattern develops and we don't bother. After all, it is less threatening or less embarrassing.

It hurts to be laughed at or worse, ignored, or when people are impatient with us. Or at work, when we are not promoted or not hired, or put next to a noisy machine because it doesn't matter

(can't hear it anyway).

Other places where we may feel marginalised are when traveling (hearing announcements), asking directions, shopping, banking, at medical or dental appointments.

We all need a safe place.

We also all need to:

- * be accepted
- * be supported
- * feel competent
- * feel cared for
- * have an influence on events
- * feel we are acceptable human beings.

Although having one person who is hard of hearing in a relationship is a problem for both, the responsibility for hearing is for the person who is actually hard of hearing.

In other words, don't expect someone else to "hear" for you, or explain to others for you. "One spinal cord should be only holding up one body".

Most importantly, hard of hearing people should not fake that they heard something, but should explain in a polite manner that they didn't get it.

See INFORM OTHER PEOPLE, p.4

From p. 1

HELP FOR DANIEL

Daniel receives services from the Infant Development Program and BC Family Hearing Resource Centre, and his parents, Teresa and Pat, are meeting other families and children with hearing loss through CHHA BC Parents' Branch.

Pat is a member of the RCMP and has received a transfer order for St. Paul, Alberta.

This upcoming move will put Daniel near his grandparents in Edmonton and the services and support for hard of hearing children available there.

Teresa has secured work as a

physiotherapist in the St. Paul Hospital.

Those of us who have met this keen and happy baby and his family are sad to see them leave B.C. We wish them much happiness and success in their new home.

Daniel is blessed with the most important ingredients to excel as a child with hearing loss - early diagnosis, early intensive language intervention, and an informed and proactive family.

We look forward to hearing from him in the future!

Janet Les



From p. 3

Inform Other People

For example, "I need you to speak directly to me," or "I really want to understand you, so could you please face me when we talk." Not "speak up stupid".

It can be stressful when family members don't seem to understand the needs of a hard of hearing person. Why don't they? Some reasons:

- * They don't believe there is a problem.
- * They don't know the problem is connected to hearing loss.
- * They don't believe there is anything that can be done.

Why don't hard of hearing people inform others of their needs?

Some reasons for that are:

- * They don't know how to deal with it effectively.
- * They don't believe they can get anyone to do what is required.
- * They don't believe their efforts will resolve the problem.
- * They don't believe it is socially acceptable or polite (i.e., "turn down the stereo so I can hear everyone").

Some ideas for solutions:

- * education, training
- * a basic attitude (no bad guys, unless proven otherwise)

* we have to keep reminding them, they are only human

People cling to myths or misunderstandings about the hard of hearing, and we need to make sure they understand the truth, such as:

- * hearing aids don't make it perfect.
- * lip or speech reading is helpful, but not the solution.

Some techniques used in workshops and training programs, or working with a family of a person who has a hearing loss are:

- * recognizing that it is a group problem .
- * effective role playing.
- * identifying faulty communication in a small group.
- * multiple sessions (and homework).
- * not too much information given out at a time.
- * focusing on solutions, not commiserations.

There are lots of worse things you could have. You can still have a wonderful life with a hearing loss.

 Dr. Trychin's joke. The best hard of hearing joke I have heard in a long time. Lynda Hepworth

A man with two hearing aids for a moderate hearing loss wakes up one morning and can't find one of his aids. He also notices that he has no hearing in one ear.
In a panic, he goes to his doctor and explains his problem.
The doctor checks the now deaf ear and says, "What is this in your ear? Why it looks like a suppository"
"Oh no!" says the man, "Now I know where I put my other hearing aid."

**Thank You,
Members and Friends**

Your continued support is what keeps CHHA-BC growing.

Our membership is now over 700, the largest of any province in the country.

Let's keep reaching out to more and more people affected by hearing loss and continue to advocate and lobby.

Maggie Dodd

Lipread-able Phones Could Help Millions

RNID, the largest British charity for people with hearing loss, is helping to test a new invention for deaf and hard of hearing people - a phone you can lipread, and the technology looks promising.

Synface, short for "Synthetic talking face", provides a computer-generated talking face that recreates the speaker's lip movements on a screen for the listener.

People should be able to use the system on mobiles and home phones within the next four to five years.

To see how the technology might look, visit <http://www.rnid.org.uk/synface>

Fwd: Larry Sivertson
lsivertson@juno.com, www.hearinglossweb.com

It Takes Time by Flo K. Sprat, President, North Shore Branch



Flo Spratt

Many of us are spending time in our gardens, and we all know that getting the results we want takes some work and lots of time, and we need to be patient and willing to give our plants what they need to really flourish.

Isn't that like many things in life?

Isn't that also like coping with a hearing loss?

To really "flourish" in life, we must give ourselves what we need, and be patient with ourselves.

What *do* we need, anyway, to cope with a hearing loss?

Let me name a few important ingredients.

We need energy to tackle the conversations, discussions, and

short dialogues that occur throughout the day. It is therefore so important that we stay within our boundaries, and that we get enough rest.

We need humour, or a light-hearted approach to our disability.

We need to be on guard for the destructive attitudes that crop up so easily. Pulling out the "weeds" of self-pity, fear of making a blunder, or anger at others for their insensitivity, is an ongoing task.

When these attitudes are dealt with, we have more room for humour and joy in life.

Most of all, we need patience - patience with ourselves and with others.

We aren't transformed overnight

into coping, joyful people, especially as we come to grips with our hearing loss. And

we can't expect our friends and close ones to suddenly be understanding and always able to meet our hearing needs.

I believe patience is a key ingredient to coping with one's hearing loss.

Just like gardening. Be patient. And do work at it!

From the *Mountain Ear*,
Issue 45, June 2004
Newsletter of the
North Shore Branch

□ □ □ □ □

Alternatives for the hearing impaired

Do you find that you require assistance in being able to hear in your everyday life? There are devices that can help! They work with or without a hearing aid! Examples of devices are:

Volume Amplified Telephones
Personal Listening Systems for watching TV
Flashing Light Alarm Clocks
Alerting Devices
and many more!

We also install large area listening systems

 **Hear Well Services Ltd**

Toll Free: 1-888-549-2092
www.hearwell.ca

Hear Well ♥ Live Well

CTA Code of Practice

Removing Communication Barriers
for Travellers with Disabilities

On June 3, 2004, the Canadian Transportation Agency introduced this Code of Practice to make it easier for persons with disabilities to travel.

The Code establishes communication practices that help to eliminate barriers in the federal transportation network, and applies to carriers and terminal operators under federal jurisdiction.

To assist transportation service providers in implementing the Code, a *Guide to Removing Communication Barriers for Travellers with Disabilities* has been prepared.

A copy of the Code and the Guide can be found on the Agency's internet site at:

www.cta.gc.ca/access/codes/index_e.html

Tiny Frogs

There once was a bunch of tiny frogs who arranged a competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower.

A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants, and the race began.

Not one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You heard statements such as: "Oh, WAY too difficult !"; "They will NEVER make it to the top!"; and "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

One by one, the tiny frogs began collapsing, except for those, who in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher.

The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult! No one will make it!"

More tiny frogs got tired and

gave up. But one continued higher and higher and higher.

At the end everyone else had given up climbing the tower, except for the one tiny frog who, after a big effort, was the only one who reached the top!

A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal?

It turned out that the winner was DEAF !!

Never listen to other people's tendencies to be negative or pessimistic, because they take your most wonderful dreams and wishes away from you, the ones you have in your heart.

Always be positive.

And BE DEAF when people tell you that you cannot fulfill your dreams!

Sarah Trotter



More on Captioning ...

Visual Voice Captions and Vision Office presents a demonstration of accessible streaming media on WorldEnable. The captioned video presentation uses the United Nation's webcast of a press conference of the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a comprehensive and integral convention to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities.

www.worldenable.net/rights/adhoc3meet.htm

On the left-hand side, click:

[Accessible Media Demonstration: 24 May 2004 UN Press conference with Ambassador Gallegos.](#)

(requires RealPlayer)

If you want to learn more about accessible streaming video and how it benefits your organizations, contact:

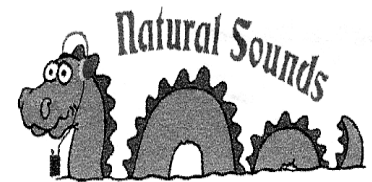
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An Invitation

TO THE

2005 CHHA

**National Conference
AGM and Trade Show**

ON

June 2 - 4, 2005

AT

**The Grand Okanagan
Lakefront Resort and
Conference Centre
Kelowna, B.C.**

*CHHA-BC and
CHHA-Kelowna*

invites

*CHHA members and
all interested persons
to attend.*

*From lakeside
to mountain peaks,
the entire Okanagan
is a year-round para-
dise!*





**Jennifer Gibson and
Dr. Cheryl Gibson**

Journey of Self Discovery

Dr. Gibson could not attend due to illness, but her daughter Jennifer spoke. Jennifer is actively involved with CHHA and is currently doing research to determine if having a hearing loss makes it more difficult to have an emotionally fulfilling and active life.

See the CHHA website, www.chha.ca/chha_index.htm

In left sidebar, click Gibson-Survey.

Jennifer spoke about keeping a personal journal. Research has shown that writing for about 20 minutes a day about a troubling issue helps release anger. Often, once the problem is down on paper, the solution will appear.

After doing this for some time, it is helpful to look back at what you have written. This will show just how far you have progressed or it may show a pattern of behaviour over time and help solve future similar situations.

It is important to date each entry and to tell the truth (after all, no-one should read it).

Try to write naturally.

It may be better to write the entry like a script; “talk” to the part of the body that is giving you pain or to the person that is causing a problem for you.

A very inspiring workshop.

Plan on starting a personal journal.

Teresa Webb, Au.D

Cochlear Implants for Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

1970's:

There were about 1,000 Cochlear Implants (CI) done between 1972 and the mid 80's.

1980's:

In the 1980's the 3M House cochlear implant received US Food and Drug Administration approval (single channel), and in Australia a multi-channel implant was developed.

1990's:

Processors were made smaller. New processor strategies developed. Recipients were younger. Hearing achieved was up to 90% in some people. In 1998, recipients were as young as 12 months old.

2003:

A Hi Resolution Bionic Ear System – the material used, shape of implant, and size all have improved. Sound processors – BTE cochlear implants are commonly used now. They are smaller, more flexible, better looking and simpler to adjust. They are also able to interface with other assistive hearing devices, such as the T-microphone, T-coils, etc.

The candidates for a C.I. are more extensive now, as in the past only someone who was totally deaf was considered, and it was only after they had learned to talk. Now candidates are 12 months old, and a hearing loss of 50% with hearing aids is common.

80% of C.I. recipients can use the telephone and they now enjoy music.

Some recipients have as much as 100% hearing from their implants.

The future?

Well, of course, younger recipients and people with less hearing loss.

Historically, it was been thought of as a “last resort”; this may not be the case in the future.

More people will get two C.I.'s, although it was acknowledged that in Canada there will be a question of who will pay for them. It will have to be shown just how a person could benefit from having two.

The ideal would be to restore normal hearing loss.

Anyone considering a C.I., should do the research first, but all cochlear implants work well.

It is a good idea to be matched up with someone that has a similar hearing loss and has already received one.

Don't wait for an implant in order to get the best possible device through new improvements. Go ahead and get it done now, as the pre-

THE VOICE OF ONE

by Dailaan Shaffer

That old worry dragon has been visiting me a lot the last few months. We all experience a drop in self-confidence when we're out of work and looking for a job. This worry dragon is the one that gnaws at me when I worry no one will want me because I have a hearing loss. You know the one I mean?

Last fall, I left my 'safe' job, where everyone knew I had a hearing loss and accommodated me quite well.

I moved to the lower mainland where the job market initially felt overwhelming. Would my hearing loss be considered too much of a liability for potential employers to hire me for responsible positions that made optimum use of the skill set I had developed?

My first steps were cautious, tentative. I investigated retraining. I took a job club course to update my resume writing skills (very beneficial, by the way), and I collected Employment Insurance - for only five weeks as it turned out.

Then I started a series of casual positions where I encountered some problems that challenged me to problem-solve in the workplace, and my self-confidence was restored in the process.

In my first position I explained that I couldn't do dictaphone transcription in their noisy office. They were OK with that. There was a backlog of hand-written assessments to type and, because I had worked in a similar office, I fit in like an old shoe.

So all I did was typing and a bit of filing. It certainly wasn't the

kind of challenge I was up for, but it was only temporary, after all.

My next position as the sole administrative assistant providing a variety of support functions to a program was a better fit for my skill-set. It was a quieter environment so I was even able to do dictaphone transcription (for three doctors with accents).

But my office set-up provided plenty of unwelcome action in the form of electromagnetic interference (or what Maggie Dodd calls AC hum).

Because I wanted to save wear and tear on my seven-year-old hearing aids, I initially kept my aids on the combination M/T switch so I could pick up the telephone without changing the setting. Not a good plan.

The office was small and the computer monitor and telephone were only eighteen inches apart at most. With my telecoil switch on, I picked up the hum whether I was on the telephone or not.

The hum was annoying and physically tiring, so I learned to keep my switch on M while not on the telephone.

However, whenever I had to use the M/T or the T switch I picked up hum not only from the computer but from two other sources as well.

With advice from my contact at WIDHH, I solved the problem of the hum from the fluorescent lighting by using a halogen lamp for a light source. I learned that fluorescent lighting acts as a



Dailaan Shaffer

Transformer, and halogen or incandescent lighting should be used instead to avoid getting the hum.

Even with the fluorescents off, I still had AC hum from a larger and somewhat ominous object.

The designers of the building had decided to install the main electrical panel for the whole building in our front office - about five feet behind my chair.

In an effort to make my work environment more comfortable, I consulted with Charles Laszlo, UBC engineering professor, inventor, and esteemed CHHA past president.

I'll share some of what I learned from Charles next time. Keep watching The Loop.

In the meantime, if any readers would like to share their experience and solutions with me, please feel free to contact me at dkschaffer@shaw.ca or (604) 944-2806.

Life is like golf - the score doesn't count at all unless you stick it out and finish at the 18th hole.

Kevan van Herd

Surge Protectors for CIs, HAs and ALDs A Closer Look

Miron Gazda raised a question through bhNEWS on warranties, for hearing aids specifically.

He said, "Surge protectors/UPS for computers/electronics usually come with a warranty/insurance to cover damage not 'prevented' by the surge protector.

There are some hard of hearing people that plug their hearing aids (HA's) directly into a headset jack on their PC's, with a direct auditory input (DAI) cord, or similar.

So, where HA's are connected with a DAI cord into a headset jack on a PC/Stereo, which is surge protected, and the HA's also get fried, would such 'insurance' also replace/repair the aids?"

In replying, Robert MacPherson gave some useful information on surge protectors.

The surge protector (SP) makers are off the hook insofar as "hearing electronics" are concerned. Specific language in the guarantee policies of major SP makers, APC and Tripp Lite, states that coverage is for only devices "directly connected" to the SP. That means plugged into the SP.

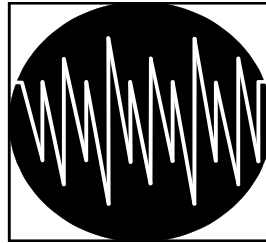
There is a scarcity of published information on the matter of surges and surge protectors in the scenario of electronic amplification for those with hearing loss; and thus, the following was hatched - an overview, as un-techie as possible.

Seemingly simple, this is an extremely complex scenario, with many variables and unknowns. It is based on the personal knowledge of this writer and specific research; references available upon request.

Question: What IS a surge?

Answer: A surge, or spike, is a transient voltage on a conductor (read power line, telephone line, cable TV) above the normal, and with magnitude can wreak horrible damage and destruction to modern electronics connected thereto. In the case of the typical residential electric outlets at 117 volts, surges/spikes may measure in the thousands!

Question: What causes a surge?



Answer: Largely, switching by the power company, and sharp load changes in the system. Some of the genesis is within one's home, such as the AC, etc. shutting on and off. But perhaps of greatest concern is that of lightning activity.

The 800 lb Gorilla!

Lightning can induce a surge in a strike miles away, conveniently brought to you by wires into your adobe hacienda, and raise all kinds of hell!

Question: What type of stuff may be damaged?

Answer: Except in the case of a direct lightning strike, most electricals lacking solid state electronics are safe. In today's world though, even some toasters are not immune (personal knowledge!) and almost everything else!

Interestingly, back in the dark ages of vacuum tubes in electronics, the devices were almost im-

mune to damage.

Question: What about these surge protectors? Are they all the same? Do they work? How long do they last?

Answer: (Some necessary techie stuff here...hang in !)

Inexpensive SPs utilize a device known as an MOV (metallic oxide varistor) to clamp the aberrant voltage to ground, and protect the equipment connected. These devices have a finite life, with effectiveness diminished over time.

The more expensive SPs employ more advanced circuitry, incorporating inductors and capacitors, with infinite life.

These devices should be selected for all expensive electronics when possible (cheap insurance).

SPs, aside from the disclaimer above, will protect in most cases. In the case of direct, or almost direct, lightning strike, say your prayers.

One thing to remember: surges may enter your life via the power line, the telephone line and the cable TV line.

The phone and the cable have what is called primary protection, at the point of entry to the dwelling. The power company provides not. Thus, it is the responsibility of the concerned user to provide secondary protection.

Question: How does all of this affect CI, HA and ALD users? What should we know?

See More Answers, p. 10

More Answers

Answer: HA electronics can be destroyed by surges as coupled from direct audio connections (DAI) to connected devices unprotected. Even with line surge protectors in place, this becomes only secondary protection for the expensive CI processor or HA.

Question: What then?

Answer: For maximum primary protection, I suggest that any DAI connection cord be equipped with isolation technology, as in an SP. The final line of defense, if you will. This need not be expensive. George DeVilbiss has designed and manufactures DAI cords employing a clamping circuitry that has been tested by Advanced Bionics.

In reply to query from a CI user, Advanced Bionics said, :

"We do recommend that if you are plugging in to the headphone jack on something that is plugged into the wall that there be a surge protector in the patch cord line. The reason for this is it is difficult to predict when a power surge could possibly occur, and it's impossible to know where that surge of power will go. Thus, it could be a potential risk, and we would like people to be aware of it and be protected."

You can purchase a surge protector patch cable from George DeVilbiss, PO box 984, Kent, CT, 06757, Tel: 860- 927-4065

Question: What about connecting to the headphone jacks on an airliner during storm activity?

Answer: This IS a big can of worms, with insufficient research to properly address the issue.

Cheryl Heppner said that she had been plugging her CI patch cord

into airplane audio jacks and enjoying the audio.

Current airline electronics technology, albeit not so perhaps 20 years ago, virtually eliminates any risk to HA electronics in the environment of an airliner in a lightning storm.

Finally, airborne or on terra-firma, with the uncertainties as they are in this matter, I would suggest the safe solution: Always connect your CI or HA with a cord equipped with a surge protector.

And in the midst of a lightning storm ... go read a book or engage in some other pleasurable activity.

From bhNEWS
Robert MacPherson

A comment from
Hugh Hetherington

I think a surge protector patch cable would only be necessary if the hearing aid, or cochlear implant was plugged into something connected to the AC power, or maybe the telephone by direct audio input. Not a common connection for most people.

Battery operated devices which are more common don't need this surge protection.

The most common cause of surges is lightning strikes, but it can happen from other causes in power lines.

I would never recommend connecting a hearing aid via DAI to an AC powered device anyway, especially during a thunderstorm.

□ □ □



CHHA-BC Chapter and Branches of the Okanagan will be co-hosting the annual CHHA National conference in Kelowna, June 2 – 4, 2005.

This Conference will be held at the Grand Okanagan on the waterfront. The theme is entitled "Natural Sounds" with a focus on wellness and lifestyle (see p. 6).

The National Conference is an opportunity for members, non-members, parents, youth, and professionals to get together for workshops on issues on living with hearing loss and to meet other people.

For many first time attendees, walking into a CHHA National conference for the first time and seeing a room full of hard of hearing people like themselves, can be overwhelming and exhilarating.

There will be workshops for hard of hearing adult consumers, parents of hard of hearing children (a first time event at a national level), and a 2nd annual youth forum for hard of hearing young adults.

For the first time as well, there will be day programs for children ages 1 – 17.

There will also be a large Trade Show of services and technology for this population, a Wine and Cheese Reception, a Gala Banquet and Awards night, the annual Annual General Meeting, and a Silent Auction.

We expect 200 to 250 delegates, but in such a beautiful venue, there may be many more.



We invite CHHA members, members of the hard of hearing community, and professionals who work with hard of hearing people to join us at *Natural Sounds*.

Register EARLY! Use this as an opportunity to have a holiday in the sunny Okanagan.

Bus transportation from the lower mainland may be arranged. Fund-raising is being sought to assist families and individuals to attend. Please contact the BC Chapter for more information.

Rooms have been blocked at the Grand Okanagan (1-800-465-4651; www.grandokanagan.com) and at the nearby Prestige Inn (240-860-7900; www.prestigeinn.com). There are other local inns nearby as well as campgrounds. Please check the website periodically for more information on these.

Conference Registration Rates

	to Oct.31 2004	Nov.1/04 to Feb.28/05	After Mar.1 2005
Adults (CHHA Members)	\$160	\$190	\$210
Adults (non-CHHA Members)	\$185	\$215	\$235
Adult Day Rate	\$80	\$80	\$80
Family Rate	\$300	\$350	\$400
Children (<5)	\$25	\$25	\$25
Children (6-12)	\$50	\$50	\$50
Students (13-18)	\$75	\$75	\$75
Students (19>)	\$100	\$100	\$100

▮ Registration for non-member includes a one-year membership to CHHA National.

▮ A family has been defined as a minimum of three people (one of which is over the age of 18 years and one child under the age of 18 years and all others, regardless of age, living in the same household at the same address).

Catherine Tudhope conducted a workshop aimed at helping people at the branch level establish and find funding for any program. She has worked for 12 years for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services in Calgary, and she is responsible for program development and sustainability.

Catherine Tudhope

FINDING FUNDING FOR BRANCHES

- * **Dare to dream:** visualize how your successful program will help people.
 - * Remember that **resources are everywhere** – make an inventory of who you know and their skills. (Conventions are a good place to meet people who can help you.)
 - * **Don't be afraid to ask** – they may say no now, but later on they may be able to help you
 - * **Network** with everyone. **Believe** in the ripple effect. **Research** thoroughly.
- To balance the budget, you must determine all the costs involved in your program.
- Finding funding can be time-consuming, and in some cases it may be necessary to get funding from several different sources; however, you should resist the urge to change your program to suit any funder's guidelines.
- All requests for funding should be done by a letter of proposal.
- Remember to report back to any funder, so they know their money is well-spent.**

When approaching any company for funding and/or to establish a program, make sure you state clearly the outline of your program.

It is also important to remember to plan for when the money runs out, i.e., future funding sources.

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Final Comment Attending a conference like this one is a very good way for a hard of hearing person to become knowledgeable about what is developing in the way of equipment, possibilities for better hearing, and meeting other people who have similar problems.

I would encourage anyone who can possible do so to try to get to the Kelowna Conference next year. You will come away with a much more positive attitude about hearing loss.

Lynda Hepworth

From the Branches

CHHA Branches usually go into recess over the summer months of July and August, yet there are always those individuals who are perpetually CHHA conscious.

Rosalie Bohn, Secretary of the Kelowna Branch, wrote about the activities of this dedicated group of people in Kelowna Branch:

“Our membership remains at 13 or 14 active members.

“We’ve had interesting speakers including the Manager of H & R Block, and Duane Gillies from the Hearing Aid Centre.

“Leslee Scott updated us on the plans for the 2005 CHHA National Conference to be held in Kelowna next June. Our Branch will have a busy year looking after all the small details.

“Our President, Eugene Psariow, attended the 2004 National Conference in Winnipeg.”

Things continue to happen at the **Chilliwack Branch.**

Ron Martin, Vice-President, presently Acting President, and regular volunteer at the Resource Centre has collected ear plugs ready to hand out at the Chilliwack Air Show.

He is now recruiting volunteers.

Further to the article in the June issue of The Loop, (*Your Group Needs Money?*, p.12) the **Chilliwack Branch** has received another grant and is purchasing twelve more infrared receivers and neckloops.

Laurie Renwick of Kelowna, interim Treasurer of CHHA-BC, who took Teacher Training in June, immediately began to hold Information Sessions.

Laurie tells of his initial presentations, and his plans for the future:

We (my wife Doris and I) have held two Information meetings so far – both with Rotary clubs, which I approached directly as I am a Rotarian.

There were 20 in attendance at the first meeting and 13 at the second.

We expect to conduct similar sessions with the remaining three Rotary Clubs before the end of October.

We are targeting Rotary first because we want them to fund a portable infrared system later this year.

We have developed three PowerPoint presentations – one generic, one aimed at seniors, and one targeted at law enforcement. We are waiting to try out the last two as we have yet to get on the agenda at the local RCMP Detachment Training Seminars, and at senior residences/groups.

Our PowerPoint presentation is essentially aimed at providing general knowledge about “the invisible disability,” as well as giving information about treatment and available technology.

Many branches take part in Health Fairs at their local malls, and **CHHA, North Shore Branch** was one of these.

Marion Ladkin took care of the organization and planning for the Health Fair at Park Royal mall, and she gathered up volunteers to be there to talk to the many interested people who stopped by the booth.

Exposure in a public place makes it easier for people to ask questions and/or pick up brochures.

CHHA booths in malls always bring increased interest in the local branches, and the North Shore Branch found there was increased attendance at the Sound Advice workshop the branch holds each month.

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CHHA-BC RESOURCE CENTRE

45774 Patten Avenue, Chilliwack, BC, V2P 1S1

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