

CHHA
CANADIAN HARD OF
HEARING ASSOCIATION



AMEC
L'ASSOCIATION DES
MALENTENDANTS CANADIENS

**NORTH SHORE BRANCH
NEWSLETTER**

(((SPEAK)))

ISSUE #11 - AUGUST 1996

**1996 NATIONAL CONVENTION
CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING
ASSOCIATION - 30 MAY - 1 JUNE 1996**

VICTORIA, B.C.

Four members from the North Shore Branch attended the Convention. Three of whom attended the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association.

About 150 persons attended of whom 100 were members. The Convention opened with an evening wine and cheese reception where Erica met Dr. Norah Browne, who is the National Chair of the "To Hear Again Program". During 31 May the Plenary Session was held followed by workshops. On the morning of 1 June Chapters and Branches had a Poster Display, followed by the Annual General Meeting in the afternoon. Awards were presented at the Banquet on 31 May. Throughout the Convention there were many opportunities to meet and discuss issues with other members, renew old acquaintances and make new friends.

31MAY 1996

Welcome addresses were given by Ruth Warick, President and Bob Sochowski, President CHHA Victoria Branch.

THE PLENARY SESSION: "New Approaches in Aural Rehabilitation" was presented by Dr. Kathy Pichora-Puller, Assistant Professor, School of Audiology and Speech Sciences, U.B.C. She spoke of new approaches to aural rehabilitation needing to involve team members, including hard of hearing peers. Different kinds of solutions needed to be found, which included modifications of the physical and social environments. To date hearing aids and assistive listening devices have been dominant forms of treatment, but it is obvious to many hard of hearing people there are still many problems that persist in everyday life. Modifications to the physical environment in architectural and acoustical design, as well as modifications to the social environment involving teaching family members and public service employees to use conversational techniques must be part of our approach in the future.

In Australia and in some parts of Europe they are already using the Conversational Therapy. Equipment called HELAS HEARING SIMULATOR (Erber 1988), alters the voice of a hearing person as it is heard by a hard of hearing person. The demonstration process is carried out with a family member or partner and the clinician sitting in as the hard of hearing person. This demonstration has a dramatic effect on the hearing person who experiences, for the first time, what their voice sounds to a hard of hearing person and how tiring it can be requiring full concentration to comprehend all that is being said.

Some of the things that are missing for hard of hearing people are: "meeting the real world" - being fully part of and participating in the world around them. Mastering their voice techniques, and the need to bridge the gap between hard of hearing and hearing people. Computer technology is constantly advancing, perhaps soon towards "computer eyes" able to speech read - Science Fiction is a real mover!

Two simultaneous Workshops followed the Plenary session.

- a) Relationships Issues for Partners and Families.
- b) Chapter and Branch Issues

CHAPTER AND BRANCH ISSUES:

Fred Clark, First Vice President and Chair of the Chapter and Branch Committee presented this Workshop. He opened this workshop by asking Branch representatives "How do Branches feel about hearing people being on the Executive Committee? This item would be raised again at the Annual General Meeting. Fred Clark went on to inform those present that many Branches were having difficulties, one had disbanded and the Parksville Branch, while having many members, no one wished to be on the Executive Committee. They were considering disbanding.

Branch representatives from across Canada presented their reports, starting with Newfoundland. Erica gave our North Shore Branch report (AVAILABLE TO OUR MEMBERS ON REQUEST). Erica informed those present that the North Shore Branch had benefited from having a hearing person as Recording Secretary and that she supported the proposal to include hearing people as regular members. She asked Fred Clark what percentage of hearing members was being proposed? He told those present that 51% hard of hearing and 49% hearing was being proposed.

Note: See Highlights of the Annual General Meeting.

Following luncheon, two more simultaneous Workshops were held: a) New Technologies in Assistive Listening Devices (ALDS). b) Cochlear Implant Panel.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES:

This Workshop was presented by Monica Pozer, M.SC. Aud., who is employed by Island Acoustics and is also a part-time consultant at the island Deaf and hard of hearing Centre. Ms.Pozer spoke of, and highlighted some of the changes in technology during the last six years. These included a system that separates low and high pitched sounds and amplifies the weaker sound. In one system (Resound) a microchip automatically adjusts the low and high sounds 20 times per second to optimize understanding and hearing comfort. The microchip also contains your name, audiogram, prescription and date of fitting and can be reprogrammed if necessary.

Another system (PICS by Phonak) has a microchip which can either zoom in the hearing aids to pick up speech of just one person, or give a wide angle mode for, say, a concert.

These hearing computers have memory for three programs, each of which can be adjusted individually to a person's needs. Digital technology will sample sound at a very fast rate and divide it into speech and noise. A digital hearing aid was released four years ago in Europe and in April 1996 in Canada. Digital Widex in Denmark also have a Canadian manufacturing plant. Hearing aids will have Wide Dynamic Range (WDR) Compression, that is, digitally amplifying the soft sounds of consonants to make speech easier to understand. The cost is \$1,800 to \$2,400. For full and precise information on new technology, members should ask questions at their audiologist, or contact the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

An assistant with Ms. Pozer spoke of the hard of hearing to break away from isolation and aim to lead more active and fulfilled lives. To achieve this it is essential to find the appropriate equipment (hearing aid and listening device) to concur with one's hearing loss - to be conversant with one's hearing loss - to rate from 1 to 6 what one wants from the 'equipment' so that it can match one's home and lifestyle and finally the cost. She spoke of the need to improve hearing in background noise situations and outlined the use of a variety of devices in different circumstances, as well as their advantages and disadvantages.

Some of these ALDS include direct audio input into a boot on a hearing aid, a pocket talker or communicator, wireless methods such as induction loop, FM and infrared, compact infrared for small groups, T-coils, amplifiers for phones in headsets or battery operated phone amplifiers for travel. TTY can be desktop or portable in a regular handbag. With appropriate software, computers can be used as TTYs but a microchip is needed to slow down the computer.

As of October 1996 there will be a Voice-Over in British Columbia, so that the late deafened adults can reply in speech while receiving typed messages.

NOTE: Fred Clark, new President of CHHA, is proposing to use e-mail for communications with Branches. His e-mail address is: 102042,3356@compuserve.com

A number of businesses had displays ongoing throughout the Convention, as well as the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and Resound. One of our members asked Resound how long the aid would last and was told longer than an average hearing aid as it would not have to be manipulated, but they are costly! Companies were given the opportunity to make 15 minutes presentations during the afternoon.

A PANEL PRESENTATION BY PARENTS AND YOUTH:

Hosted by the Capital Regional District (CDR) Speech and Hearing Clinic and CDR School Districts. The topics were "Growing up Hard of Hearing" and "How to Make Communication Easier" This was a lively session with questions from participants to the panel. In the evening there was the banquet at which AWARDS were presented. During the banquet North Shore Branch members met with representatives from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario and Newfoundland. We were asked to send information on our Branch to Manitoba and Quebec.

BETTE MOULTON AWARD - presented to a Branch which contributes the most innovative idea, event or achievement.
1996 - CHHA Moncton Branch

MARILYN DAHL AWARD OF MERIT - recognizes a member of CHHA who has contributed outstanding service to the work of the Association at the national, chapter or branch level
1996 - Edna Albertson, Calgary Branch: CHHA

CHARLES LASZLO AWARD OF TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE - presented annually to the Branch that has provided exceptional access for its members through the use of modern technology.

1996 - CHHA Hamilton Branch

Erica won two prizes: An instant camera and a painting by Roy Henry Vickers.

1 JUNE 1996

During the morning there were two consecutive POSTER PRESENTATIONS. A total of 22 were on display. The North Shore Branch displayed posters and handed out flyers on the International Noise Awareness Day and on the Communication and Resource Training Workshop for Community Policing. We had flyers on these translated into French. We also handed out copies of our Mission Statement and Objectives and our brochure. We only came home with a couple of flyers! Great interest was shown in our display. We were pleased we had our new banner for this Poster Presentation.

CHHA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Members of the North Shore Branch who are interested may HAVE ON LOAN a copy of the 1995/96 CHHA ANNUAL REPORT. This includes the 1996 President's Report, the Vice President's Report, Treasurer's Report, Secretary's Report and ten Committee Reports and a Report from the CHHA Representative of the Canadian Labour Force Development Group (Disability Reference Group).

Highlights of the Annual General Meeting:

- to consider bi-annual Annual General Meetings
- the Government will decrease and phase out CHHA funding over the next three years. It will cut by 90%, 70% and then 50% based on 1995/96 core funding.

- important to give recognition to the International Youth Group. Need to bridge the gap with young people from other countries.

- it was put forward that a clause be inserted in the Bylaws to allow the election committee to consult with Provincial and Branch Presidents for the positions on the Board and to delete the position of Second Vice President.

- Marilyn Dahl, as Chairman of the CHHA bylaws Committee wrote a letter to Ruth Warick, CHHA President on 11 February 1996.

This letter had various recommendations including the main one of broadening CHHA's membership to include those with normal hearing. Investigation of older hard of hearing organizations in the International sphere showed that including hearing persons into their operating structure did not incur problems; rather they gained good workers. The CHHA Bylaws Committee suggested changes of opening up regular membership to all persons who support the objectives of CHHA and opening up positions on the Board and Branch Executive Committees, but maintaining that a certain majority percentage be hearing impaired.

During the Annual General Meeting (1996 Victoria) discussion was limited by time, but 14 persons spoke from the Floor on the issue. The vast majority were in favour of allowing hearing persons to be regular members; only 2 or 3 spoke against this proposal. Most speakers suggested that the percentage of hearing persons be considerably less than 49% as proposed - perhaps one-third of the membership. Also, that the position on the Board or Branch Executive Committees be limited to the Secretary and not President, but to have full voting rights.

The present CHHA Bylaws allow for a hearing family member, a guardian or authorized person acting on behalf of a hard of hearing child or adult to be a regular member. These last two items will be put to members at the next CHHA Annual general Meeting.

1996/1997 CHHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT/TREASURER

Fred Clark , Delta, B.C.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Lynn Wheadon, Calgary, ALTA

SECRETARY

Cindy Gordon, Edmonton ALTA

PAST PRESIDENT

Ruth Warick, Vancouver, B.C.

DIRECTORS

Ruth Bennington, Yellowknife, NWT

Paul Carter, St. John's NFLD

Ian Hamilton, St. John, NB

Vivian Hostetler, Cobalt, ONT

Pat Hughes, Fort Saskatchewan, ALTA

Cathy Irving, Halifax, NS

Charles Laszlo, Vancouver, B.C.

Joan Miller, Caledonia, ONT

Gladys Nielsen, Winnipeg, MAN

Bernard O'Callaghan, Winnipeg, MAN

Carole Theberge, Gatineau, QUE

Ruth Warick, Past President, will undertake the task of Editor of Listen Magazine.

submitted by Erica Barrett, President North Shore Branch, Lorna Calvert, Executive Committee Member and Jean Taylor, Recording Secretary.

26 July 1996.

**THE CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA CHAPTER
and the
Elks Family Hearing Resource Centre/
Infant Development Programmes of BC**

CONFERENCE

Friday and Saturday, November 1 and 2, 1996
The Best Western Inn, Tsawwassen

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

1:00 - 1:30pm Registration
1:30 - 1:43 Welcome and Greetings

1:45 - 3:00 **WORKSHOP 1**
Education For Hard of Hearing and
Deaf Children in B.C.

Workshop 1 describes current education practice for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children in the provincial School for the Deaf and in other schools throughout B.C.

Presenters:
John Anderson, Principal, Burnaby South Secondary and Provincial School for the Deaf

Chaired by Dana Brynelson, Provincial Advisor IDPBC

3:00-3:13 Break

3:15 - 4:30 **WORKSHOP 2**
Preparing Hard of Hearing Children for Future Employment

Workshop 2 examines the type of career development information that is needed in order for deaf and hard of hearing children to enter the work force with confidence as adults.

Presenter: Leslee Bruce, BA, BSW, M.Ed,
Private practice Career and Personal Counselor
to hard of hearing and Deaf persons.

Chaired by: Lloyd Dahl, President CHHA-BC

4:30 - 6:00 **WORKSHOP 3**
Parents Define the Issues

Workshop 3, a B.C. Health Ministry sponsored
project, seeks to identify stakeholder concerns
and priorities about the issues involved with
being hard of hearing.

Presenter: Dr. Marilyn Dahl, Executive Director
of WIDHH

Chaired by: Wendy Moore, Parents' Group
representative.

6:00 - 7:30 Dinner

7:30- 9:00 **WORKSHOP 4**

Everything You Wanted To Know About Being
Hard of Hearing But Were Afraid To Ask.

Workshop 4 hears from various hard of hearing
adults and youth about their experiences in
education and social life. Audience participation
is encouraged.

Presenters: Panel of Hard of Hearing Persons
Claaired by: Susan Lane, Director, EFHRC

9:00 p.m. Reception

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY

Send to: Registrar, '96 Conference
1460 Matthews Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1W9

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 1996

8:30-9:30 AM. Registration
9:30 -10:00 Welcome & Greetings

10:00 - 11:45 **WORKSHOP 5**

Workshop 5 discusses tinnitus: causes,
treatment, recent research; and types of hearing
loss with which tinnitus tends to be associated.

Presenter: Dr. Patrick Doyle, Professor Emeritus
of Otorhinolaryngology for UBC

Chaired by: Maria Gilsig, Vice-president,
CHHA-BC

WORKSHOP 6
(Board Rm, 2nd floor)
Parent Power Working Together

Workshop 6 will centre on preparing a Branch
for action on issues and priorities affecting hard
of hearing children.

Presenters: Wendy Moore and T.B.A.

Chaired by Fred Clark, President of the Canadian
Hard of Hearing Association.

11:45 - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 - 2:30 **WORKSHOP 7**
Managing Your Hearing Loss

Workshop 7 describes the project sponsored by
Health Canada - New Horizons: Partners in
Aging, and its goal to produce rehabilitation
services for hard of hearing people in their own
communities. Although geared to seniors,
others are encouraged to participate.

Presenter: Maggie Dodd, Instructor, CHHA-BC
 Managing Your Hearing Loss Project
 Chaired by: Lloyd Dahl, President, CHHA-BC

WORKSHOP 8

Parent Power Working Together,
 continued

Workshop 8 will finalize action for issues
 affecting children who are hard of hearing.

Presenters: Wendy Moore and T.B.A.
 Chaired by: Susan Lane, Director, EFHRC

2:30 - 3:00P.M Refreshments

3:00 - 5:00 **CHHA-BC**
Annual General Meeting

All people are welcome to stay for the AGM, the
 first such meeting as a registered B.C. Society.
 The new Constitution and Bylaws, along with
 regular reports, will be available at the meeting.
 During the sessions and the ACM, communica-
 tion will be assisted by the induction loop and
 infrared systems, computerized notetaking, and
 ASL interpreters.

If you plan to stay overnight at the Best Western
 Inn in Tsawwassen, PLEASE MAKE YOUR
 OWN RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY WITH
 THE INN.

Telephone: Toll free: 1-800-943-8221

Regular: (604) 943-8221 Fax: (604) 943-8299

Please mention that you are attending the
 CHHA-BC Conference

Rooms are \$85 per night.

Mail: THE BEST WESTERN
 TSAWWASSEN INN,
 1665-56TH STREET, DELTA, B.C.
 V4L 2B2.

Registration: \$50 both days, \$30 one day only.
 Students \$20.00 per day or \$30 both days
 Please specify for which day(s) you are register-
 ing: Both days ___ Friday only ___ Saturday
 only ___

Registration fees Include the cost of dinner on
 Friday, lunch on Saturday and refreshments
 during the Conference. Make cheques payable
 to: CHHA-BC, and send (by October 15, 1996)
 to: Registrar: '96 Conference, 1460 Matthews
 Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 1W9.

Early registration would be greatly appreciated.

CHHA - NORTH SHORE BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 26, 1996

7:00 PM

North Shore Disability Resource Centre
 3158 Mountain Highway
 North Vancouver, BC

PLEASE ATTEND



**COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS
 WRITE TO THE EDITOR**

UPPER SUITE - 240 WEST 5TH STREET
 NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C.
 V7M 1K1

INFORMATION ON THE BRANCH
 Phone (604) 986-1835 or 985-2822