

SPEAK)))

THE NORTH SHORE HARD OF HEARING BRANCH

May 1, 1995

Bulletin 3

NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday May 18, 1995 at 7:30 PM

As mentioned in last issue, we will be welcoming a new member, Mrs. Jean Taylor. She is highly experienced in hard of hearing issues and would share many common concerns with us and help us. She has been extensively involved with CHS, the Canadian Hearing Society. We do look forward to meet with her.

We meet at the North Shore Disability Resource Centre located at 3140 Mountain Highway in North Vancouver. This is close to the corner of Mountain Highway and Lynn Valley Road. The meeting room is equipped with a hearing loop system that will allow us to use our T-switch.

If you can make it, we will be glad to see there. If you need transportation, call Mrs. Erica Barrett or Mrs. Monica Craver. Maybe they are able to give you a lift.

Thursday June 15, 1995 at 7:30 PM

We are still trying to get the North Vancouver Fire Marshal to come to us to give a presentation on fire alarms and safety in various buildings for hard of hearing persons. The meeting will also be devoted to some business, particularly setting up plans for the September, October and November meeting dates. There will be no meeting in July and August.

Thursday Sept.21, 1995 at 7:30 PM

Read about this meeting in our next bulletin.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL 20 MEETING

Nine members came that evening. The Fire Marshal did not come and unfortunately we did not have his presentation. However this will be arranged for a future meeting, perhaps for June 15.

Lynn Valley Mall was chosen as the only site for manning display tables during May for the Hearing Awareness Month. Monica Craver will be making arrangements.

The identifying symbol, SPEAK))) , discussed at the meeting, was not endorsed for use by our branch, except for this bulletin. This was disappointing because the concept was for our Branch to be identified and recognized more easily than the acronyms NSHH or CHHA. We have removed references to this symbol from all materials prepared for the three municipalities and for the two North Shore News articles.

Lorna Calvert distributed a useful compilation of books in the North Shore public libraries of interest to the hard of hearing and their families.

"THE HEARING LOSS HANDBOOK"

This is one of the books listed in Lorna's compilation. Our Branch prompted the three public libraries last year to include it on their shelves. It covers such items as assistive listening devices, signs of hearing loss, simple ways to test your hearing, diagnosis and treatment of hearing problems, coping with hearing loss, and other issues. Well worth reading. It is published by Consumer Reports Books. This is what the back cover states:

Of all the widespread physical complaints, hearing impairment may be the most misunderstood.

- Our ability to hear acutely begins to decrease after age 10.
- Hearing loss can be exacerbated by common over-the-counter drugs.
- High-risk groups include not only the aging but also surfers, scuba divers, hunters, firearms users.
- Only one of four people who need hearing aids actually has one.

REVIEW OF VIBRATIONS, SPRING 1995 ISSUE

Some noteworthy items in CHS' Vibrations' latest issue are summarized below.

- A long feature article covered the winning of Miss America 1995 title by HEATHER WHITESTONE, who has only 5% hearing left in one ear, and is deaf in the other. She spent years of training and work to improve her communication skills, mainly lip and speech reading, visual cues, facial expressions and some ASL. It took her two years to pronounce her own name.
- BUYER BEWARE is a good piece on the recently advertised "\$24.95 Bionic Ear", "39.95 Whisper XL" and "\$29.95 Easy Listener SX 20" products. The point raised is that these products will not compensate for a sudden burst of noise as for example someone sneezing right beside the ear, or at the movies or theater, or any other similar activity where there is a potential sudden exposure to very high noise levels.
- IN THE LAND OF THE DEAF, a 1992 award-winning French documentary film depicts life as seen through the eyes of deaf people. The film is made for a hearing audience and has been shown recently at the Pacific Cinematheque.
- The Sault Ste. Marie Branch of the CHS acquired its first HEARING EAR DOG GUIDE trained at the Hearing Ear Dogs of Canada. The dog is able to alert hard of hearing people to the sounds of the ringing of a doorbell, a knock at the door, someone calling a name, a timer or alarm clock, the sound of smoke alarm ringing, etc. The Branch sponsored the dog and allocated it to a hard of hearing person
- ACCESS IS CATCHING ON: Among the several organizations such as travel agencies (Marlin Travel) and hotels in Ontario, one Vancouver hotel is mentioned as having a "Hotel Access Kit" consisting of a carrying case, a TTY and a signalling system which alerts patrons via flashing light and bed shaker of time to wake-up, telephone calls, knocking at the door and most important the sound of the fire alarm/smoke detector or any other unusual room noise. In Vancouver, it is the SUTTON PLACE at 845 Burrard Street. We have not verified if the hotel has the hotel access kit.

SPEAK))) RESOURCE PEOPLE

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