

CHHA - BC Annual CONFERENCE

For Hard of Hearing adults, children and their parents...

November 3rd & 4th, 2000

Delta Airport Hotel - Richmond

Keynote speaker:

Dr. Daniel Ling - called "this generation's single most influential theorist and practitioner", Dr. Ling has authored over 200 articles and 7 books including his well-known *Foundations of Spoken Language for Hearing Impaired Children*.

Self-Esteem - Parent/Child workshop, Elks Family Resource Centre

Special Ed Review - BC Ministry of Education to answer your questions...

Drama:

Unheard Voices - Gael Hannan, Actress and CHHA Ontario President and Dalene Uveges, writer and actress demonstrate coping with a hearing loss through drama...

And more... Registration and children's program information enclosed

DON'T MISS IT!

Assistance Available to Attend the Conference

Financial assistance is being offered to help families attend this year's CHHA conference. This could include the conference registration fee, Kidz Konnection fee, accommodation and /or travel expenses. To apply, please **send a note** (fax, email or mailing address on right) including your name, hard of hearing child's name and age, address, assistance requested and why you would like to attend. Applications will be processed on a first-come basis but may offer partial reimbursement to facilitate assisting a greater number of families. Please apply ASAP so we can administer this fund effectively.

Our sincere appreciation to the Jeremy Chiao Foundation for providing the grant to assist families attend our conference.

Announcing our 3rd Annual General Meeting -

Friday, November 3, 2000 - 8:15 pm

Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel - Richmond

Board Members Needed:

See President's Message (page 2)

Call for nominations:

If you are willing to let your name stand for a position on the Board, or would like to nominate someone, please contact

Janet Les - CHHA-BC Parents' Branch

10150 Gillanders Road; Chilliwack, BC

PHONE (604)794-3772 or FAX (604)794-3960.

Email: janetles@canada.com

Candidates must provide a short bio, statement of commitment and be a member of CHHA-BC Parents' Branch.

GET INVOLVED - MEET NEW FRIENDS!

CHHA-B.C. Parents' Branch

Parents' meeting

Thursday,

Oct. 5 - 7:30 pm

Elks Family Hearing Resource Centre

15355 - 102A Avenue - Surrey

Family Swim Night

Last Friday of every month

6 pm to 10 pm

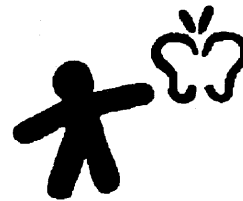
Surrey Leisure Centre

Fraser Hwy and 166th Street

For information,

call Kathy Manuel 582-8990

September 2000



Canadian

Hard of

Hearing

Association

B.C.

Parents'

Branch

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Web page:

www.CHHAparents.bc.ca

Membership: \$20 annual includes subscription to *Listen/Écouté* magazine and *The Loop* newsletter.

President's Message: *Angry? Happy? We want you!*

Almost 5 years ago I went to my first CHHA-BC Conference. It was a revelation to me that I could identify with so much of what was said and especially with so many who said it – eloquent hard of hearing adults and passionate, involved parents. I saw future possibilities for my "deaf" son that I had never fully imagined before.

The Parents Branch was created at that conference. Members of CHHA-BC broke the "hard of hearing only" rule to include parents of hard of hearing children within their ranks as those who can knowledgeably speak out and support the concerns of hard of hearing people in this province. B.C. remains the only province with a parents branch of CHHA, the premier advocacy group to the hard of hearing in Canada.



In a rousing conference session called "Parent Power", Marilyn Dahl, Dana Brynelsen and Susan Lane wowed us into committing to an affiliated Parents' Branch.

Ground work to create the branch had already been initiated by Wendy Moore, (who has staged the KIDZ KONNECTION the past few years) however she could not continue as planned as the new branch president. Volunteers were called for from the floor – unless an executive was formed on the spot there would be no branch. Fortunately, Ilona and Dan McQuillan, then from Kamloops, stepped up as "joint" presidents. Janet Les volunteered as secretary. Jane Miller, who had encouraged me to attend the conference, committed to the job of treasurer. And so, swept up by the moment, reasoning that "somebody had to do it", I put up my hand to be vice-president – I could be the Vancouver contact, hang out with Jane, meet new people and let off some steam. It'd be fun.

In that first year we met almost every two months and struggled with by-law documents to form a non-profit society, shared stories about our kids and eventually a vision of what the parents branch could be took form. And, it was fun. Dan and Ilona dedicated part of their family

visits to the Lower Mainland to host CHHA meetings. Janet spun out our first newsletter. Paul Miller provided legal assistance through the law office where he worked. Jane set up our first bank account – our first donations coming from CHHA-BC and CAEDHH. When the following AGM came along, Dan and Ilona wanted to step down. I agreed to be president simply because, again, "somebody had to do it." I had no particular skills, no obvious talents in that direction, I only had the confidence of being a "parent of a hard of hearing child" and therefore, like everyone else, was right for the job. I also recognized that I had a little surplus passion – anger, frustration gratitude – that could be put to some use.

Three terms later and it is time for a new somebody! Basically, if you are a parent of a hard of hearing child, you are eligible and totally qualified to be president OR... vice-president, treasurer, secretary, newsletter editor, etc. A little passion helps. (Janet says that "somebody with a little desk-top publishing wouldn't hurt either!") Bringing along a friend is also a great idea...

COME ON! Feel angry? - Good!

Got issues? - Oh Ya!

Feel frustrated, confused? - Excellent!

Happy? Everything great? WOW! We want you!

Grand (foster/god/step) parents? Fantastic! We need you.

Up north? Out east? - Let's go... take 'er away!

In order to be relevant we need to hear and support the concerns of all parents and children in the province. Nobody can do that as well as each of you. So, think about it. It's not a big deal. It's fun, it's worthwhile and... somebody's got to do it.

(OR, DO THEY? The other question is "Does the CHHA-BC Parents' Branch serve any real purpose to you, to parents of a hard of hearing child, to anyone out there?" Let us know if it is worthwhile to continue.)

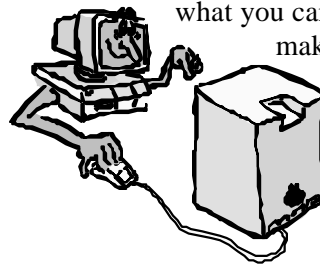
Donna Chisholm, Current (ly pooped) President

Fun "Firsts" - things I may never have gotten around to if it weren't for CHHA (in no particular order)

1. Spoke in public (now I'm used to it)
2. Used Email (now I can't live without it)
3. Faxed
4. Learned how to use a computer
5. Started using word processing (at least I'm legible now)
6. Wrote a letter to the government (liked that, very therapeutic...)

Biggest satisfaction? Having Dan Ling come to present at our upcoming conference, Nov. 3rd and 4th. Be there!

PS If you decide to sign up you will not be alone. Although some of us are ready to pass on our positions we will never quit the group—we have made too many treasured friends for that. Still, remember that you can make the positions anything you want them to be. You can do what you can, when you can. That is how we make our unique contribution. Every gesture, every idea or mark on paper is appreciated and considered significant within the group and, hopefully, to our members.





KIDZ KONNECTION 2000

Dear Parents of Hard of Hearing Children:

I attended the CHHA Parents' Branch meeting May 18 with Dr. Janet Jamieson, Associate Professor at UBC, who trains teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. She has also obtained a grant to research concerns with social issues in school for Hard of Hearing children.

It was discussed that in the early years we, as parents, are concerned with language and education issues for our H of H children and as they grow, the social and self-esteem issues become prevalent and sometimes surpass other concerns.

On that note, our annual conference, upcoming on November 3 & 4, was mentioned. The last 2 years Wendy Moore has put together the very successful Kidz Konnection, well-organized activities and speakers for children aged 7 to 15, that ran concurrently with the adult conference. The children cultivated friendships and realized there are other children like them out there.

My own 10 year old daughter greatly benefited from the Kidz Konnection since she was diagnosed only

at age 8 with a mild to moderate hearing loss and therefore felt very alone. She met and connected with 3 or 4 girls specifically that were the same age with similar hearing loss.

Most children that attend Kidz Konnection are mainstreamed in regular schools throughout the Lower Mainland and other parts of the province and this is the only time they get a chance to meet. With everyone's busy lives, even local families have a hard time making a point of getting together with other families with similar situations. That's why we need to continue the Kidz Konnection.

I'm urging all parents to help give a little of their time to make it happen again. It will take some planning, and it's too much for one person; Wendy can attest to that. She is unable to participate this year. A few of us have met and formed a small committee that have volunteered to do crafts and organize the kid's activities, as well as baby-sitting for the younger kids. We still need volun-

teers to help for 1 or 2 hours in one of the following time slots:

1. Friday afternoon
2. Friday evening
3. Saturday morning
4. Saturday afternoon

to help with:

1. Craft time
2. Friday night outing (good one for Dads to help)
3. Drive to swimming
4. Babysitting (we have toys and playpen provided)

Please contact:

For the 0 to 6 age group
 Teresa Kazemir at 552-2254

For the 7 to 18 age group
 Teresa Lonn at 533-9878
 Cathy Chow at 251-6989

We look forward to seeing you at the next Parents' Branch meeting on October 5.

*Sincerely, Kathy Manuel
- mother of 3 kids (2 H of H)*

What does the Itinerant Teacher do?

A recent survey by the BC Chapter of the Canadian Association of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, includes the following interesting stats:

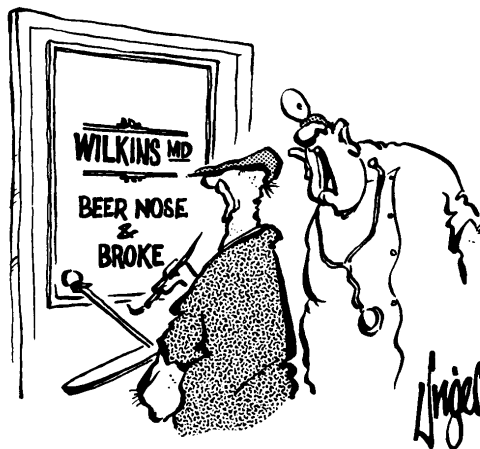
Typical B.C. Itinerant Teacher

- ✍ direct caseload - 18 students
- ✍ consultation caseload - 21 students
- ✍ number of schools - 10
- ✍ weekly time spent directly with students - 19.1 hours
- ✍ time spent preparing for student lessons - 7.1 hours (caseload ranges from 7 to 65)

Travel mode - car, boat, plane, kayak!

- 🚗 schools visited per day - 3
- 🚗 weekly time spent travelling - 6.5 hours
- 🚗 average distance travelled each week - 173.6 km. (ranging from 23 km. to 700 km.)

Source: CAEDHH-BC FORUM June 2000



I said "Ear, Nose and Throat!"

AG Bell Convention Report

By Leila Lolua

My daughter and I attended our second AG Bell convention in July, in Philadelphia. There were about 2,000 people in attendance, about half of them were parents. As expected, it was a wonderful opportunity for both of us. My nine year old hearing impaired daughter got a chance to connect with other children who were like her, and I got a chance to meet parents to share our experiences. Both of us learned new ideas. I always feel it's worth it, just to assure myself that we're on the right track, and inevitably, I pick up a few invaluable gems en route.

I sure wish that I had known about and been able to attend an AG Bell conference as a parent of a newly diagnosed infant. There is such a concentration of resources to guide parents, during those critical early years. It's worth saving and planning to attend, if at all possible. The next convention is in two years in St. Louis, Missouri, and then in LA in 2004.

Membership for parents is free for the first year. They provide lots of excellent information, and you will receive their their by-monthly magazine, *Volta Voices*. I encourage you to become members, if you aren't already.

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 3417 Volta Place, NW, Washington, DC, 20007; (202)337-5220 (Voice/TTY), (202) 337-8314 (fax), email agbell2@aol.com, web page www.agbell.org

Jill Bader, from 'Hear at Home' in Denver, Colorado was a colourful presenter. The following have been excerpted from her talk. It was aimed at parents with pre-school aged hearing impaired children, but some of her points are applicable to all age groups:

Some Rules of thumb:

The Yardstick--Your child hears best when you are within three feet or a yardstick from the microphone on their hearing aid.

Keep the Yardstick Level--It's easiest to new hearing aid users to hear sound that is not only close to them, but also on the same level as their hearing aid.

Radio Commentator--Parents must be like a radio commentator of their child's life. Just like a sports announcer on the radio describes every detail of a football game for the listening audience, parents should make short, interesting comments that describe what their child is doing or describe what is happening around the child.

The Cheap Hotel--When you go to a cheap hotel where the walls are paper thin, you can hear the people in the room next door. And, even though you can't hear the sounds or actual words very well, you still can tell whether they are fighting or making love or packing up to leave. How do we know this? Because of vocal cues, (loud/quiet, fast/slow, etc.) These are called suprasegmentals; pitch, duration, intensity, timing, and stress. Even profoundly deaf children can hear these vocal cues and derive mean-

ing from them. We know they can help someone understand meaning. Use the 'Cheap Hotel Strategy' to help your child understand the language we are using.

3-Ring Circus--For children who are hard of hearing, one sound to concentrate on is plenty. Trying to listen while the TV is blaring, the dishwasher is humming and the baby is crying is challenging for anyone, even with typical hearing. So, get rid of the 3-Ring Circus in our homes by controlling the background noise that is distracting and makes listening impossible.

Bore me to Death--Children not only learn by repetition, they love it!...That's what made Dr. Suess a millionaire!

Where you lead I will Follow--Parents should talk about what the child's attention is focussed on, rather than trying to shift attention to what interests the adult. The language adults are using with children has to match what the child is thinking.✿

Filling in those language gaps...

Hard of hearing children are often found to have little gaps in their language fluency.

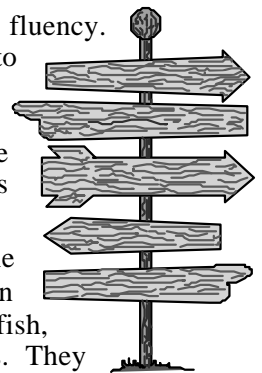
Partitives, the words we use to describe quantities or sets of thing (a flock of birds, a deck of cards, a tank of gas, etc.) are apparently some of the more colourful bits and pieces that can be lacking.

Partitives can provide some of the most graphic and amusing images in the English language: a "school" of fish, a "head" of lettuce, a "pride" of lions. They usefully describe amount in an exact fashion (a "dozen" eggs) or by interpretation (a "dash" of cinnamon, a "hint" of vermouth). They describe different containers (a "tube" of toothpaste or a "barrel" of monkeys), characteristics (a "swarm" of bees), and drama (a "murder" of crows). They stick in the language even when we forget what exactly they mean (a "bevy" of beauties?).

Two books that illustrate partitives (as well as homonyms, puns and other puzzling language parts) in a memorable and playful way for kids are: *"A Chocolate Moose for Dinner"* and *"When the King Rained"* by Fred Gwynne.

Some other partitives are: a loaf of bread, a slice of pie, a bunch of broccoli, a brood of hens, a litter of kittens, a bottle of milk, a carton of cereal, a bouquet of flowers, a bale of hay, a pinch of salt, a crop of wheat, a cob of corn a piece of cake, a piece of my mind!", a herd of cattle, a cluster of stars, a pack of wolves, a fleet of ships, a convoy of trucks... and so on.

Thanks to Saidie from Alabama for the recommendation...



\$1-Million Grant Timely Boost for Infant Screening

A \$1-million grant from Alberta Health and Wellness to the Canadian Network for Universal Newborn Hearing Screening at the University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine (UNHS) is called an important first step toward recognizing the importance of catching hearing loss early in life.

Canada's infant hearing loss screening resources have been a long-time source of frustration for the country's health professional. The grant finally gives long overdue attention to the necessity of recognizing hearing loss very early in life and to UNHS, which began its efforts in the late seventies.

Created by Dr. Joseph Dort, associate professor of surgery at the university, the goal of the UNHS is to establish a nationwide testing program that will detect hearing loss in newborn babies. "We are hoping to begin testing babies in the fall," Dr. Dort said. The pilot project will run over three years. "Our goal is to implement [the testing] on a wider scale and collect data to determine how cost effective and beneficial the project is."

Although many European countries and 24 American states have newborn screening programs, this Alberta-wide initiative is a first in Canada. The researchers will be developing and implementing the UNHS program in collaboration with regional health authorities across the province. This community-based program is designed to provide multiple contact points and broaden the access that families have to these services. It is also intended to reduce costs and save time in identifying children with hearing loss.

Currently, infant hearing screening is a hit-and-miss proposition. While some hearing impaired babies are lucky enough to be born in a hospital where hearing tests are performed just after birth, putting them on the road toward hearing and developing normal language skills, too many others are not. Selective screening is often the reason. Of the 35 independent programs currently offered in Canada, most target only newborns considered to be at high risk. These include premature babies, those born after difficult pregnancies, babies

weighing less than five pounds, or those with a family history of deafness. Yet, it has been proven that half the babies born with hearing loss are still not being identified.

That is why hearing-health professionals have been lobbying for systematic, universal screening. One such advocate is Dr. Andre Durieux-Smith, professor of audiology and vice dean for research at the University of Ottawa. She noted the progress being made in other parts of the world while suggesting it's time Canada followed suit. "In the United States, they have what's called the Joint Committee on Infant Hearing, which is multidisciplinary," said Dr. Durieux-Smith. "It includes pediatricians, otolaryngologists, audiologists, speech and language pathologists, educators and so forth. It would be nice to have a similar kind of structure here," she said.

"Children are paying a price," added the doctor. "We know hearing loss is a hidden handicap, and if you don't actively screen for it, you will only identify it when the child is not developing speech and language much later. That's why we're now moving towards universal hearing screening."

Indeed, it is widely agreed by experts that early detection of hearing loss promotes the development of speech and language, which is the foundation for future academic, vocational and psychosocial health. Scientific evidence suggests there's a use-it-or-lose-it impact, with the first six months of a baby's life being crucial. The brain is developing so rapidly during this time that if the auditory system is not stimulated, the neural tracks and neural clusters will not develop.

"We know through animal studies that there are changes in the central nervous system when there isn't adequate sensory input," explained Dr. Durieux-Smith. "So, it's absolutely critical to identify these children early and provide them with auditory input."

Keith Christopher, executive director of the Canadian Speech and Hearing Association, based in Ottawa: "If you can detect a hearing loss early, you can accommodate, so that these children will end up functioning virtually normally. If you miss it, then it's much more difficult to back

track and pick up what they have lost."

Christopher points out that up until the early 1980s, Canada used to be in the lead where early hearing loss screening was concerned. "But now we have the dubious distinction of being at the bottom of the pile," he lamented.

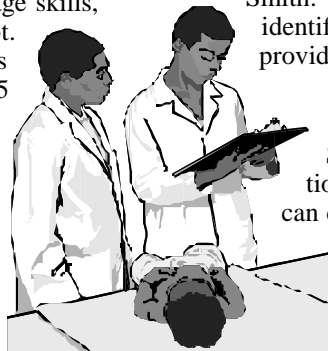
At that time, a Health Canada task force produced an information kit that was distributed across Canada to family physicians and pediatricians to alert them to the symptoms of hearing loss in children. "Essentially we haven't moved since," says Dr. Durieux-Smith. "Somehow, universal screening is no longer on the agenda of the federal or provincial governments. There has to be a cooperative effort between the provincial and federal groups."

If and when the governments and health professionals do begin working together, the technology will already be in place, according to Dr. Krista Riko, audiologist and director of the otologic function unit at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. "We have two electrophysiologic techniques that can be used to test babies of any age, from newborn on up," explained Dr. Riko. Otoacoustic emissions is has been used for screening more than anything in the recent past. The machine sends a sound down the ear canal into the inner ear into the hair cells, and if they're healthy, they bounce back and echo; that echo can then be measured.

The other technique that is used more diagnostically is called auditory brain stem response (ABR). This is a technique where EEG can be measured by pasting electrodes on the baby's head. "EEG does in fact change if you hear a particular kind of sound," Dr. Riko notes. A computer is used to analyze the changes in the baby's brainwaves and "those changes are enormous," Dr. Riko explains. "If there is a response to the sound, the computer will extract that response out of the background noise. So if the baby hears, we see a very characteristic change in the shape of the [brain] pattern."

So, the technology is there," Dr. Riko concludes. "Now, what we need is the infrastructure to go out there and do it."

Excerpted from Globe & Mail insert "Report on Hearing Loss", May 16, 2000 sponsored by The Hearing Foundation of Canada



Parent to Parent

by: Leila Lolua

A Great Product...

I have been impressed by a 'Dry & Store' unit that we recently purchased. At the AG Bell convention in July, I met the inventor of this product. He is a PhD Audiologist and speaking with him convinced me to try one.

Despite my initial skepticism, I paid \$150 US for the 'box'. After the first night using the 'Dry & Store' my nine year old declared that her hearing aids sounded louder. After a few more nights, she turned the volume down on both aids. (This has diminished the annoying feedback that we have all suffered as she had insisted on turning the volume up to 4 1/2...and would remove her hearing aids if we insisted that she turn the volume down!) To me, this is the best evidence of how well 'Dry & Store' works. The hearing aids are 3 1/2 years old, and to my daughter, they sound like new aids.

To use 'Dry & Store', you plug it in, place a dessicant in the drawer, pop open the battery door of the hearing aid, and put the hearing aid, ear mold and battery in the drawer, close the door and leave it overnight. 'Dry and Store' uses UV light to kill mold and bacteria on ear molds and hearing aids and removes moisture by circulating heated air for 6 - 8 hours. The manufacturer states that 'Dry & Store' also increases hearing aid battery life, and reduces ear itch.

The website, www.eartech.com, has a lot of good information if you are considering buying this product. 'Dry & Store' is usually advertised in Volta Voices, if you would like to see a picture.

My daughter now takes responsibility for putting her hearing aids in the 'Dry & Store' each night. No more searching for hearing aids in the morning, and no more having to heat the Dry Aid Kit dessicant anymore. It's easy, and we've had excellent results

A call to the manufacturer indicated the BC distributor for 'Dry and Store' is Island Hearing Services, which has offices on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. For a location near you, or to order from their head office, call 250-754-9233. The price is \$270.70 which includes taxes, and it is tax deductible. ...not cheap, but good value if the result is hearing aids that last longer and work better.

Editor's Note: If this product is something that would improve life for your family but not the budget, consider asking a local service club to purchase it for you.

Parent to Parent is a regular feature in our newsletter. Send in your story today!

Inspirational Email list...

An active member of CHHA, Patricia Hughes sends a daily inspirational message to a growing email list. She has received much positive feedback and would be delighted to include you on her list. To request this service, email her at: phughes@ualberta.ca

Pat is President of CHHA Edmonton, and Chair of Branches, Chapters, Membership Committee of CHHA National.

ROOM SERVICE

Room Service: "Morny. Ruin sorbees"

Hard of Hearing Guest: "Sorry, I thought I dialed room-service"

RS: "Rye..Ruin sorbees ..morny! Djewish to oder sunteen??"

Guest: "Uh..yes..I'd like some bacon and eggs"

RS: "Ow July den?"

G: "What??"

RS: "Ow July den?...pry,boy,pooch?"

G: "Oh, the eggs! How do I like them? Sorry, scrambled please."

RS: "Ow July dee bayhcem...crease?"

G: "Crisp will be fine"

RS: "Hokay. An San tos?"

G: "What?"

RS: "San tos. July San tos?"

G: "I don't think so"

RS: "No? Judo one toes??"

G: "I feel really bad about this, but I don't know what 'judo one toes' means."

RS: "Toes! toes!...why djew Don Juan toes? Ow bow singlish mopping we bother?"

G: "English muffin!! I've got it! You were saying 'Toast.' Fine. Yes, an English muffin will be fine."

RS: "We bother?"

G: "No..just put the bother on the side."

RS: "Wad?"

G: "I mean butter...just put it on the side."

RS: "Copy?"

G: "Sorry?"

RS: "Copy...tea...mill?"

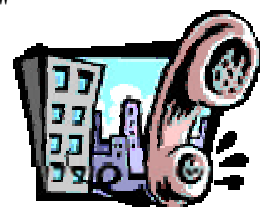
G: "Yes. Coffee please, and that's all."

RS: "One Minnie. Ass ruin torino fee, strangle ache, crease bay-chem, tossy singlish mopping we bother honey sigh, and copy....rye??"

G: "Whatever you say."

RS: "Tendjewberrymud"

G: "You're welcome."



Support for Parents

Last Fall I agreed to teach a Managing Hearing Loss Course for the newly-formed Bulkley Valley Branch in Northern BC. The course ran for two weekends from Friday evening to Sunday evening in the school district offices in Smithers. The 20 or so participants ranged from a young man in his early teens, a 16-year-old girl, various parents, caregivers, siblings and significant others, to the eldest, a man in his eighties. Special Ed teacher Michelle Sasvari was the person responsible for getting it all together. She felt that being able to improve speechreading skills and coping strategies would benefit everyone who has to communicate with a hard of hearing person. She herself will use an adapted version of the program with her students. In fact, several other Special Ed teachers from across the province have joined classes and are now also teaching the course to adults.

In many classes I've conducted around the province, I've had parents and grandparents of children with a hearing loss. They have told me that understanding about preventing glare and facing the speaker and all of the other things that make a better listening environment have gone a long way to better understanding in their family. By practicing speechreading, they have learned how to recognize when unfamiliar words are a problem and how to rephrase so it's easier to work out.

Parents who attend their local Branch meetings usually find someone to share a problem or success with. They tell me it really helps to discuss audiograms, hearing aids, assistive devices, and coping strategies with people who live it daily. They feel less reluctant to ask about some of the everyday problems they're hesitant to discuss with professionals. "I don't want to waste her time," is a statement one hears often from parents unsure of themselves when dealing with healthcare providers. Many times, kids won't even know there's a problem. But when they do, it's helpful for them to recognize that sometimes hard of hearing adults have experienced similar problems and that it can be worked out successfully.

If you're a parent who would be interested in joining one of our classes, please contact me for information about where and when there will be a class in your area. If you'd enjoy taking on the role of an instructor/facilitator, I'd be pleased to register you for our next training session in late fall. CHHAow for now, **Maggie**

Maggie Dodd is President of CHHA-BC.

Effective Telephone Communication

By Joseph W. Marin



One of the most frustrating things I deal with is trying to get someone with a severe or profound loss to be able to understand sufficiently on the telephone to carry on a conversation. And I'm usually trying to help them by phone! Even when a particular telephone amplifier has adequate volume, it often does not provide enough high frequency boost for word clarity and understanding.

Severe to Profound Loss: 85-100+ dB

With very severe to profound losses, it is mandatory to use hearing aids with T-switches for telephones and assistive listening devices so that you can use the amplification of your hearing aid(s), which presumably has been optimized for your particular loss. But here we run into a problem: Many T-coils are not electrically "matched" to your hearing aid amplifier, as is the hearing aid microphone circuit. You may have a \$0.50 T-coil circuit in your \$2000 aid! The result is that when you switch to the T-coil, the volume of transmitted sound and frequency response of the hearing aid may change significantly because of the mismatching, making the sound that you hear (now being brought in via the T-coil rather than the microphone) not as loud or clear as with the microphone circuit. You have, in effect, just put on a different hearing aid. And it's not as good as the other!

The answer is to have your T-coil changed to the "Power Coil" or other pre-amplified or more powerful t-coil circuits. The effect is to increase the volume and clarity in the same way the "mic" circuit in your aid does. These T-coil circuits are matched to the amplifier in the same way the microphone circuit is matched. You will now get the same volume and same frequency response from both circuits. So for very severe to profound losses, a good T-coil circuit is essential for communicating on the telephone or using assistive devices.

Moderate To Severe Loss: 60 To 85 dB

In many instances it is more comfortable and more effective to be able to use the telephone directly, without the use of a hearing aid. This is especially true if you have long or frequent telephone conversations. In this case, a good telephone amplifier is required. With mild to moderate losses, this is not a problem. Almost any amplifier on the market will usually suffice although some may be clearer for you than others. However there are many people with a moderate to severe loss who are marginal. They have been able to hear using an amplifier in the past but are now having problems. I hear from them by the scores, and get frustrated trying to get them the right product.

Three possibilities for moderate to severe losses : 1) Using a Double Amplified telephone; 2) Using a Pocketalker Amplifier with Telelink telephone attachment; 3) Using a telephone amplifier with a built-in graphic equalizer.

Remember however: Assistive devices are not like eyeglasses. You have to try out different devices. The reason for this, I believe, is that the cochlea is not the only thing determining how well, and what, you will hear -- there is also post-cochlear processing by the auditory nerve and brain. Very little if anything is known about the processing that goes on there. But I know from experience that two people with identical audiograms can differ greatly in how well they hear on the telephone and elsewhere. For this reason, one cannot predict which device will work best. Even someone as brilliant as I think I am.

Mr. Marinis, B.S., B.A., M.S., is president of General Technologies, a Sacramento area assistive listening device company. He has a severe bilateral hearing loss.



CHHA - B.C. Parents' Branch

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association



Membership is open to any individual or organization who supports our objectives. Annual membership fee is \$20. Donations are welcome and needed by CHHA - BC Parents = Branch.

Membership in the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association entitles you to vote on any CHHA matter, and to receive a subscription to LISTEN magazine, CHHA-BC's newsletter *The Loop* and the Parents = Branch newsletter.

NAME _____

Parent(s) Professional Other

MAILING ADDRESS _____

H of H Child(ren)

PHONE _____ FAX - if applicable _____

Name Birthdate

New Membership Renewal Donation \$ _____

Thank you! Your support benefits deaf and hard-of-hearing children in BC...

Payable to: CHHA - B.C. Parents = Branch - c/o 10150 Gillanders Road; Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4 - Phone: 604-794-3772

list address it to SHHH Parents@listbot.com. It's that easy!

CAEDHH-BC Conference: Valuing Diversity

Parents are welcome to attend the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Fee for parents is \$60 before October 10 (\$80 after). It will be held at Burnaby South Secondary & BC School for the Deaf - 5455 Rumble Street, Burnaby on October 20 and 21. Presenters include Carolyn Graves, Dr. Marietta Paterson, Karin Rennert, Howie Seago, and more...

For further information or a copy of the registration form, contact Janet at 604-794-3772

SHHH Parents' Listserv

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People (more or less, the US equivalent of CHHA) has a listserv for parents of hard of hearing kids. To subscribe, go to the SHHH website (<http://www.shhh.org>), scroll down the left side of the page to the box in which you enter your email address, and then click "Join List."

A listserv is an email tool that allows you to exchange information, ideas, and resources with other subscribers of the list. To send an email to subscribers of the

CHHA - BC Conference 2000

Nov. 3 - Registration 12:00 to 12:30 p.m.

12:30 Welcome

1:00 Where we have come from and where we are going - Dr. Daniel Ling

2:15 Getting the most out of current technology - Dr. Daniel Ling

3:15 Break

3:45 A Focus on Children - Dr. Daniel Ling

4:45 Break, Dinner

6:30 Drama: Unheard Voices - Gael Hannan, Dalene Uveges, Larry Green

8:15 Parents' Branch Annual General Meeting

Nov. 4 - Registration 8:00 to 8:30 a.m.

9:00 Promoting self-esteem and independence in HoH children - Lori Bell

11:00 Break

11:15 Special Education Review - BC Ministry of Education

12:15 Lunch

1:15 Acting with a Hearing Loss - Gael Hannan, Dalene Uveges

2:15 Break

2:30 CHHA-BC Annual General Meeting

Every parent of a hard of hearing child will benefit from attending this conference. Excellent presenters; meaningful, relevant topics; opportunity to talk to other parents, hard of hearing adults, and professionals... make this an event you don't want to miss.

*It's worth the effort - your family is
worth it!* Janet Les