

Come to our Spring Workshop...

## " Effective Encounters " with Cathy Camley

April 29, 2006 - 10 to 3pm

BC Family Hearing Resource Centre - Surrey

### Advocacy workshop for Parents plus Teen Konnection

To answer questions about education policies, program delivery, IEPs, managing your child's records, effective meetings, what to do when things go wrong...

**COST: \$15 for parents, free for teens**

Sponsored by BC Family Hearing Resource Centre and CHHA-BC Parents' Branch

Sorry, no childcare See brochure for additional information. . .

**Time to reserve your camp-site –**

**Hurry! APRIL 15 deadline !**

Annual family camping weekend - July 21 to 23, 2006

Monck Park Provincial Campsite - on Nicola Lake



*See page 6 for all the details... Registration form page 7*

## Provincial CHHA Conference

This year with sessions of special interest for young adults - age 17 +  
- more information next newsletter

September 29, 30, 2006 - location to come

Information: [chha-bc@telus.net](mailto:chha-bc@telus.net) or call 1-866-888-2442

## CHHA - BC Parents' Branch "FAMILY WEEKEND"

Parent sessions, Teen Konnection, Kidz Konnection

- ALL at the BC Provincial School for the Deaf - Burnaby South Secondary

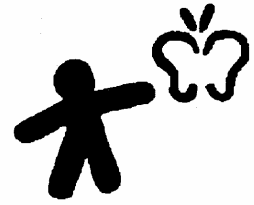
**October 20, 21 2006**

Early notice - More info in May and September newsletters

## EVENTS CALENDAR

April 29	Spring Workshop - BCFHRC
July 21 - 23	Family Camp - Monck Park at Nicola Lake, Merritt
August	Family picnic - hosted by Lonnn family
Sept 29, 30	CHHA-BC Conference
Oct 20, 21	Family Weekend - BC School for the Deaf

February 2006



**C**anadian

**H**ard of

**H**earing

**A**ssociation

**B.C.**

**Parents'**

**Branch**

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**Web page:**

[www.CHHAparents.bc.ca](http://www.CHHAparents.bc.ca)

**Membership:** \$30 annual  
includes subscription to  
*Listen/Écouté* magazine and  
*The Loop* newsletter

# Report from the Pres

How impressive it was to see many of you at HEAR Together, the 2nd Annual Family Weekend, last Fall at the Surrey YMCA. With over 100 participants - and still growing - it seems we've found a format that meets our needs: education and support for parents, and a community of interest for our hard of hearing children and teens.

**Dr. Jonathon Dawrant, a Calgary pediatrician, and Sandra Vandenhoff, an audiologist from Edmonton,** each spoke with heartfelt sincerity, sharing their wisdom learned from growing up with a hearing loss. I appreciated Jonathon's words of advice:

- Be cautious about constantly correcting your child. It reinforces *'I got that wrong, I got that wrong, I got that wrong'*. Don't reinforce insecurities typical of adolescence.
- About the value of his FM system: *'Things heard are not always trusted.'* Hearing with the assistance of his FM lets him trust that what he has heard is correct. *'An FM equals trust.'*
- *'Beware the Shrug Response'* or the *'Protection of Indifference.'* Be thoughtful about the reasoning process behind a child's choices. What's the message behind the shrug? Is the shrug *'I don't care'* or *is it self-deception?* Try and figure out if the 'like or dislike' is true, or is it because of the hearing impairment?
- *'Be strategic when considering career options.'* His career choice lets him work in a quiet environment, with more than one source to get information from: the child, and at least one parent. He spoke with the teens about things to think about for career choices, and actually had the youngsters in the Kids Konnection so enraptured that they sat quietly and listened while he told them about the babies he works with and showed them his infant-sized stethoscope.
- Develop one-on-one friendships to help develop self-esteem. *'I can be the kind of person that people want to be friends with.'* The quality of friends is more important than the quantity.

Sandra has considerable expertise about hearing aids and equipment, but it is her depth of understanding and empathy that makes her so remarkable. Everyone in the universe experiences pain, and Sandra infused her thoughts on the human condition with how **technology can help you grow and live more fully.**

- *'People should know better, but they don't. Until you accept this, you can't move on.'* Some people will accommodate you, and some people won't or can't. *'Learn to be firm but pleasant.'* It gets easier over time. *'Expect people to forget.'* Teach your child to say things like: *'If you forget to face me when you're speaking, or to wear the FM, or to speak more slowly... is it OK for me to wave my hand to remind you?'*
- Many people are not comfortable with technology. *'We have to make them comfortable.'*

- Focus on using FMs outside of the classroom. Using wireless Bluetooth technology, a SmartLink and an FM allows someone with a hearing aid to listen to their iPod walking around, plugged in with no wires. This will appeal to teenagers. High functioning adults with hearing loss know how to use technology.
- As parents, how many of us have discussed hearing loss with our child? *'Emphasize the permanence of this condition.'*

A recommended website to check out:  
<http://www.bulliestobuddies.com/>

**Rosalie Yaremko, an Auditory-Verbal Therapist,** discussed language development, and demonstrated a child's progress with language development following a cochlear implant. This information is especially useful to those with young children in those critical early years.

**The speakers were awesome. I appreciate all of them,** and wished that we had more time for questions. I wish they would move to BC!

This Fall, we're trying a **new venue for Family Weekend**, Burnaby South High School and BC School for the Deaf, centrally located in Burnaby. We need the extra space and the location is near Skytrain and the Victory residence for families who wish to stay overnight. Mark October 20th and 21st on your calendar for this not to be missed event.

Join us before then at our:

- Spring Workshop, April 29, at the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre.
- Family Camping Weekend in beautiful Monck Park, near Merritt, BC, July 21-23.

We had fabulous news in the form of \$19,000 cheque for our CHHA-BC Parents' Branch. These funds were directed to us as part of the \$500,000 fine the court ordered the BC Teachers Federation to pay following their job action. \$200,000 was allocated to the Special Education Partners Group, and as a member of that group, we received the funds. We would like all of the teachers who work with our children to know that we will use this money to further our goals of educating and supporting parents and children with hearing loss. This is huge for our group, and we truly are grateful.

Our core group is small, and the demands are great, so we are trying to hire a competent dynamo to help us. If you know of anyone who you think could fit in with our organization, please encourage them to apply for this position (see page 3).

Sincerely, Leila Lolua

## Jeremy Chiao Foundation appreciation

For many years families of children with hearing loss in B.C. have received assistance from the Jeremy Chiao Foundation in order to attend our events. Grants from the Foundation have paid for travel and accommodation expenses and registration fees.

This organization is now moving to Taiwan, as the Chiao family relocated there from Canada several years ago.

**You will be missed!** Our sincere appreciation goes to this remarkable family and their supporters for all their work on behalf of kids with hearing loss. **THANK YOU!**

Thanks also to donors of cash and services to Family Weekend 2006:

BC Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Provincial Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
Services for Family and Community Development  
Douglas College Interpretation Students  
ReMax Corney Les Realty  
Phonak Canada      Telus

## Having trouble with Bullying?

I attended a workshop by Barbara Coloroso, which was based on her new book "The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander." She is a wonderful speaker to see in person, but if you can't do that, her book is easy to find, and I also found the outline and handout from her lecture on her website ([www.kidsareworthit.com](http://www.kidsareworthit.com)). *Teresa Kazemir*

**Programs and services** for families with deaf or hard of hearing children (ages 5-19 ) who use sign language for all or part of their communication are available from:  
Services for Family and Community Development (SFCD) (Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) 4334 Victory Street, Burnaby, BC V5J 1R2  
Phone: 604-660-5507 Lower Mainland families  
604-775-4017 Outreach families  
[www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/psdhh/services\\_for.htm](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/psdhh/services_for.htm)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Parents Branch Camping Weekend

Monck Park, Merritt -- July 21, 22, 23 2006

By Hamish Plomme

I have a tendency to buy in, unquestioningly, to the very Twentieth Century belief: that change is a good thing. A change of clothes. A change of girlfriends. A change of jobs. A change of scenery.

So when, last August, the feedback came back from people who had attended the third annual CHHA Parents Branch Camping Weekend I believed that the consensus would be: "let's do something different next year!"

But exactly the opposite happened!

So....what is it that people like so much about the camping weekend? In part, I think, the weekend is a real escape. At the same time, the location, Monck Park, on Nicola Lake, near Merritt, isn't far away from anywhere in Southern B.C.: about an hour and a half from Kamloops, two hours from Kelowna, and three from most points in the Lower Mainland.

Monck Park is just beautiful. Sand beach. Grass field. Ponderosa pines scattered between sites. The view across the lake to the rolling semi-desert Douglas Lake Ranch.

On Camping Weekend, kids can pick their buddies, hearing or hard of hearing ... or adult. No one seems to be left out. Some bring bikes. Some

skateboards. People have brought ski boats or canoes.

Adults can follow their own noses too. It is okay to be a marathon swimmer or cyclist. It is okay to be a vegetable or a hermit. If you want to collect ideas which will help your child who is hard of hearing, there are plenty of sources. If you want to pass on knowledge which you have, there are lots of outlets. And really, if you just want to yak about anything under the sun - then you will be in the right place too. As the years pass, The Camping Weekend feels more and more like a family reunion - a family which, amazingly, gets along and which welcomes newcomers.

The weekend's traditional, almost mythical, itinerary is really fairly loose. We usually gather at one campsite for a potluck dinner as families arrive on Friday night. After supper there is a soccer game in which swarms of little people humiliate a small number of helpless adults.

On Saturday....is there really any agenda at all? Not really. Eventually everyone gets out of bed. Some eat breakfast. Most find their way to the beach. People reinvent the rules of bocce ball, (and all sorts of other games), try to keep cool, talk and relax. Some have been known to drive

off into the sunset and buy cream sodas at the Quilchena store.

On Saturday evenings there sometimes are campfires, birthdays, and games like scavenger hunts or egg tosses... On Sunday folks tend to take down their circus tents fairly early and head home.

Every year in January it seems strange to be promoting the camping weekend and encouraging people to sign up. Isn't camping still months away? Can't we leave that decision, like most decisions, until the last minute?

The problem is that the campsites have to be reserved at the earliest possible date. If we don't reserve the campsites - we basically don't have a camping weekend. So please: if you are interested, please fill out the application below, attach a cheque for \$50 (post dated to April 30 if you want) and get it off to me, Hamish Plommer. At the very worst, please let me know by April 15 that you are going to come, and then send a cheque very soon after.

The kids *just love* the camping weekend. They love, among other things, to be surrounded by people who have some understanding of what it is to be hard of hearing. And I promise: both parents and kids will have a really good time.

**Camping Registration form – PAGE 7 ! See you there ...**

# CHHA Teen Connection

Hey! Remember at the CHHA Family Weekend last October you said you wanted to keep in touch with each other? Well, we have planned two get togethers

## 1. **Saturday, March 4, 2006 2-4 pm - Ten pin bowling at:**

The Zone Bowling Centre  
50- 14200 Entertainment Boulevard, Richmond  
(604) 271-2695 www.zbowl.com  
(located at Riverport Sports and Entertainment complex across from Famous Players Silvercity)  
Cost: \$10.00 Please email before Feb. 25 to let us know if you are coming, so we will know how many lanes to reserve, and how much pizza to order (pizza courtesy CHHA-BC Parents Branch).

## 2. **Saturday, April 29 10am to 2 pm** at the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre 15220 – 92<sup>nd</sup> Avenue- Surrey, BC (604) 584-2827

CHHA – BC Parents' Branch is hosting a workshop for parents of hard of hearing children with Cathy Camley about "Becoming an Effective Advocate for Your Child." At the same time, the Teens can earn volunteer hours working together doing jobs to help out at the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre.

If you don't already know, this centre has a pre-school for deaf and hard of hearing kids. One of the jobs will be planting hanging baskets for the centre. It'll be fun, you'll be together and you can earn volunteer hours! (Don't forget your volunteer form from your school.) Also, lunch will be provided.

The plan is for the Teens to volunteer in the morning, and have free time to hang out in the afternoon. If you plan on coming, please let us know so we can organize the planters and the food. It will be great to see you!

That's all for now! We hope to be hearing from you soon!

Kelsie and Nicole Grazier  
Teen Connection Co-ordinators  
Email:

# Youth Exchange Program

By Amy Ho

Following is some information about the Youth Exchange Program. Rosalind learned about this youth program from an article in the CHHA- BC Parents' Branch newsletter a few years ago. She applied and got selected and spent a whole week at Ottawa back in 2004. She enjoyed it very much.

## **RECRUITING YOUNG CANADIANS WITH DISABILITIES**

The sixth annual Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability (ALA) Youth Exchange will be held in Ottawa at Carleton University from June 27th to July 3rd, 2006. The Youth Exchange is a celebration of the diversity of disability and Canadian culture. It exposes participants to a wide variety of active living opportunities, provides a cultural experience through interaction with people from across Canada, and inspires and enhances personal leadership qualities. Participants of the Exchange will have the opportunity to learn about community involvement and the advocacy process.

ALACD encourages young Canadians between the ages of 14 and 17 as of June 1st, 2006, to sign up before the March 1st, 2006 deadline. Space is limited and preference is given to those who have a disability. You can download the registration forms from the website at [www.ala.ca](http://www.ala.ca)

Delegates will interact with their peers from coast to coast, learn communication and advocacy skills and participate in events with an "active living" flavor. Activities during the 2005 Exchange included rock climbing, table tennis, drumming, yoga and tubing on the Rideau River. The 2005 Exchange was a huge success and garnered rave reviews from participants.

For more information on the 2006 Youth Exchange or the ALA, contact Nadia Smith at 1-800-771-0663, email at [nadia@ala.ca](mailto:nadia@ala.ca) or log on at [www.ala.ca](http://www.ala.ca)



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## **It's FREE!**

Get this newsletter in the mail – on time – rather than later from your child's teacher...

Call 604-794-3772 and leave your name and address or email [janetles@canada.com](mailto:janetles@canada.com)

Do it now! There's no catch!

Thank you to BC Children's Hospital for newsletter grant...

## Part-time Administration Position

BC Parents' Branch of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association is requesting applications for a contracted position of approximately 20 hours per month. Depending on applicant's experience, duties of this position include administration activities of the organization from your home office located in the Lower Mainland and attending meetings in Surrey, approximately 6 per year. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications.

### Required attributes or skills:

- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision under volunteer Board of Directors
- Computer skills including word processing, database, and email
- Excellent English communication skills
- Excellent Interpersonal skills
- Flexible, strong organizational & time management skills
- Willing to take on grant development

### Preferred but not required:

- Knowledge of hearing loss issues
- Writing, editing, publishing experience
- Event organization experience
- Experience in advocacy, public and media relations

Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Please submit résumé with written cover letter and salary expectations, to:

Hiring Committee  
CHHA – B.C. Parents' Branch  
10150 Gillanders Rd Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4  
Phone: 604-794-3772 Fax: 604-794-3960  
Email: [janetles@canada.com](mailto:janetles@canada.com)

## Hearing the call of teaching

The BC College of Teachers magazine *Connected is* distributed quarterly to more than 80,000 educators in British Columbia. The Fall 2005 edition featured Idelle Beauchesne, a first-year teacher with severe-to-profound hearing loss. "Hearing the call of teaching" describes Idelle's educational experiences and goals, concluding that she is "an example of what one can achieve with dedication, hard work and a passion to learn and succeed."



Idelle is grateful for an early role model teacher in Regina who also had a hearing loss and inspired her to overcome limitations and pursue excellence. She completed her education degree at the University of Northern BC and now teaches grade five at St. Mary's Catholic School in Prince George. Idelle says, "Because I read lips, the children have to raise their hands before speaking and look at me when they talk, which are all common courtesies that are expected of children in classrooms anyway. My kids have been very respectful about the fact that when it is my time to talk and teach a lesson, they are expected to be quiet and put up their hand before speaking. Again, while this is common classroom practice, it's rigidly enforced in my class so that I know what's going on." Her lip reading ability comes in handy during group work when she can quickly see whether students are "on task or not!"

Idelle's hearing dog Eddie accompanies her everywhere and is present under her desk but does not play a role in the classroom. Idelle has commenced her Master's degree at UBC for Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

## Listen ! I want to play too

L'AQEPA in non profit orgazination in Québec of 600 members that supports parents of deaf and hard of hearing children. L'AQEPA executive director, Daniel Péloquin asked that we share the following about their 23 minute promotional video, which we are happy to do...

This informative 23 minute closed-captioned English video contains a variety of simple and effective tools and techniques used to facilitate the integration of children living with deafness. The environments include a daycare/classroom, a gymnasium, a public swimming pool and a school cafeteria. Each section is designed to attract the attention of viewers enabling them:

- to better understand what it is like to live with deafness
- to understand the importance of integrating children
- to learn and use simple strategies that facilitate communication with deaf children

The "Listen! I want to play too" video is a must for anyone interested in learning more about the obstacles encountered due to this "invisible" handicap. Available through The Canadian Hearing Society's e-store at [www.chs.ca](http://www.chs.ca) for \$ 25 (plus taxes, shipping)

# Sounds of the Season

## Bear Wear Helps Kids to Hear

By Robin Irving

Each year, the Hotel Grand Pacific in downtown Victoria opens its doors to the Queen Alexandra Foundation's annual Bear Wear event. People come from all over to admire and bid on the well-dressed teddy bears on display. This year, funds raised at Bear Wear will go toward purchasing a specialized piece of equipment that will benefit kids on Vancouver Island challenged by hearing loss.



The Hearing Aid Analyzer is used to test that hearing aids worn by children and youth are working and fitted properly. The analyzer has a tiny microphone that is inserted in the ear. The child's hearing aid is then put in place and the audiologist can test the type and volume of sounds coming through the hearing aid. Especially for children and youth, it is important that hearing aids help them hear speech but not amplify extra sounds that could cause damage or discomfort. "Where previous equipment was less accurate and took over a half hour to test a child's hearing aid, this new Hearing Aid Analyzer will allow audiologists to complete a hearing aid test in under ten minutes," says Niki Timar, Senior Audiologist at the Victoria Health Unit. "That makes a big difference when you're working with kids."

This new equipment will be used by audiologists at both the Victoria Health Unit and the West Shore Health Unit (located at the West Shore Child, Youth and Family Centre). Nearly 150 children and youth in the South Island area will benefit from this equipment, kids just like Griffin Adams of Esquimalt. Griffin was only 17 months old when he had a near-fatal bout of streptococcal meningitis that resulted in profound hearing loss in one ear and progressive hearing loss in the other. Today, Griffin benefits from a customized hearing aid, and is an active 8-year old who loves chess and playing with his friends.

"Griffin's hearing aid is his connection to the world," says mom, Sue. "Without it, his ability to communicate with the non-signing majority of the world is gone. That his hearing aid is working properly is essential to his ability to function in school and in the hearing world in general."

Over the years, Griffin and his family have developed a strong relationship with the programs and services offered at the Queen Alexandra (QA) site in Victoria. After his illness, Griffin learned to walk again with the support of physiotherapists at the QA site. At the age of two, a teacher from the QA classroom for children with hearing losses began to assess and teach Griffin and his family how to communicate using sign language and specialized hearing equipment, and by learning to maximize the residual hearing Griffin had. Sue Adams is grateful. "I hardly know where to begin describing the invaluable service Griffin has received from the [staff] at the QA site ... Through the persistent work and patience of these professionals, and through Griffin's willingness to try hard, in conversation today, the majority of people wouldn't even notice that Griffin has hearing loss," she says.

The Queen Alexandra Foundation and the Hotel Grand Pacific are very pleased to be a part of helping make dreams come true for kids, like Griffin.

(Editor's note: We thought you would find it interesting that this event was held at the Hotel Grand Pacific in downtown Victoria between December 3-19 - people were asked to "come and admire the bears, make a bid on your favourite bear or make a donation, and help us help our Island's kids.")

## Living With Hearing Impairment ... a son's perspective

Hello, I am Justin Spratt, the elder son of Flo Spratt. I have been living with a hearing impaired mother for more than 17 years and I have learned many things that other people normally wouldn't.

I have learned to appreciate my hearing. I don't just take it for granted as many people do. I do everything I can to take care of my ears. Once I wore my mother's hearing aids to hear what it would sound like. After that experience I found it much easier to take the extra effort to repeat things for her. The amount of distortion that occurs in a hearing aid really struck me at that moment.

I have spent my summer in Whistler working on a demolition crew. I always wear ear protection when I am working with anything noisy, which is usually most of the ten hour shift. I would rather be looked down on for spending extra time putting ear plugs in than losing my hearing.

I also try not to listen to music at an uncomfortable volume. I know from experience that if you crank up the volume your ears will just adjust and the music will eventually sound like it did before you turned up the volume. In the end all that happens is that everything else sounds quieter.

Another thing I learned from living with my mother is to respect other people with hearing losses. While on the job a hearing impaired truck driver was loading a garbage bin onto his truck. The other workers on the site thought that he was trying to ignore their instructions until I pointed out that he was hearing impaired and could probably not hear them over the power tool/jack hammer noise. Immediately their attitude changed. I was a bit ticked off when he started to drive away with me hanging on to the bin while trying to fix part of the load.

While I would not be considered an expert in other disabilities, or even in hearing loss, I have learned a good deal about them. I learned that feeling sorry for people with disabilities will not help them with their condition. I have learned that a disability does not have to take away a person's livelihood.

I have been surprised on occasion when people try to sympathize with me over my mother's hearing loss. It has certainly not meant any loss to my livelihood. I have never woken up and said to myself "oh no, another day with a hearing impaired mother". It feels completely natural to repeat things, answer the phone, and "translate" for her from different accents. Sometimes I find myself surprised that other mothers can hear me the first time I say something. I find myself ready to repeat things only to be cut off by their responses rather than by a plea for repetition.

I believe that I have gained a lot from living with a hearing impaired mother. I will always try to help others understand what hearing impaired people go through. I always try to spread knowledge about how to better communicate with hearing impaired people and I plan to write an article in this newsletter about some of the tactics I use.

## 10 Commandments for Parents of Special Kids

1. Take one day at a time, and take that day positively. You don't have control over the future, over today, or over any other day, and neither does anyone else. Other people just think they do.
2. Never underestimate your child's potential. Allow him, encourage him, and expect him to develop to the best of his abilities.
3. Find and allow positive mentors: parents and professionals who can share with you their experience, advice, and support.
4. Provide and be involved with the most appropriate educational and learning environments for your child from infancy on.
5. Keep in mind the feelings and needs of your spouse and your other children. Remind them that this child does not get more of your love just because he gets more of your time.
6. Answer only to your conscience: then you'll be able to answer to your child. You need not justify your actions to your friends or the public.
7. Be honest with your feelings. You can't be a super-parent 24 hours a day. Allow yourself jealousy, anger, pity, frustration, and depression in small amounts whenever necessary.
8. Be kind to yourself. Don't focus continually on what needs to be done. Remember to look at what you have accomplished.
9. Stop and smell the roses. Take advantage of the fact that you have gained a special appreciation for the little miracles in life that others take for granted.
10. Keep and use a sense of humor. Cracking up with laughter can keep you from cracking up from stress.
11. There is no 11th, silly. (See the 10th).

This refrigerator door item thanks to the Children's Special Health Care Needs Mailing List, (CSHN-L)

### CHHA – BC Parents Branch Family and Friends – Camping Weekend 2006

Monck Park: on Nicola Lake, 20 km. from Merritt

**\$50 Total camping fee for 2 nights: Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22, 2006**

**It is really important that families register by April 15 at the latest!!!!**

Please send your registration to:

**Hamish Plommer**

#12 – 1697 Greenfield Avenue, Kamloops, B.C. V2B 4N5

Home: (250)554-9453 E-mail: [plommer@telus.net](mailto:plommer@telus.net)

**Cancellation Policy** - If you have to cancel and we are able to fill the site with another family, we will likely refund the total amount of your camping fees. If there is not another family to take your place, and we have to cancel the reservation altogether, you will likely receive a partial refund. If you cancel after July 13 you may not receive any refund.

*To register please fill in all of the spaces below.*

Names of all adult Campers \_\_\_\_\_

Names **and ages** of kids \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of vehicle you will bring \_\_\_\_\_ License plate Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the nights that you will be camping: Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$25 per night per family (\$50 for both nights) Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Cheque payable to Hamish Plommer)



# CHHA - B.C. Parents' Branch

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association



**Membership** is open to any individual or organization that supports our objectives. Annual membership fee is \$30. 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

Hard of Hearing Child(ren)

PHONE

Name

Birthdate

FAX - if applicable

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

## Children and Hearing Loss Prevention

*Presented by Gael Hannan at CHHA National conference*

Think about this shocking statistic: in 1998 almost 30% of young adults entering the workforce had some degree of hearing loss. Children with noise exposure experience some degree of hearing loss, which causes stress and psychosocial problems. Too much noise affects a child's ability to understand, to learn, to speak, read and do tasks.

what it might be like to have hearing loss, and what can be done to protect hearing. Students are told that they have a choice about whether or not they will lose their hearing. They learn this:  $D + D = D$  Decibel + Duration = Damage

Children do not understand the long-term effects of exposure to noise. To try and tackle this problem, a Grade 6 Hearing Awareness Program is being developed, sponsored by The Hearing Foundation in Ontario. The plan is to present the program to 3,000 (out of 4,000) schools by training facilitators and providing them with a backpack kit and easy to follow lesson plans. The materials will stay in each school, and each child receives a set of ear plugs. Information is also sent home to parents.

A ten minute video, featuring an animated kool character, 15 year old named Spike (who 12 year old boys want to be and who 12 year old girls want to be with!) who loves music. Spike wears ear plugs around his neck, and his watch is a sound meter. Spike interviews real band members. In the video Spike shrinks and tours through an ear on a skateboard.

Gael calls Grade 6 'the year before attitude.' Students learn about healthy living and injury prevention, but they don't talk about sight and hearing, and how to protect them. The goals of the Hearing Loss Prevention Program are to:

Facilitators bring a sound meter into the classroom, and managing classroom noise worksheets are used. The program has been tested by parents, teachers, audiologists and kids. This sound like a well thought out program. It will be interesting to see if this worthwhile program could become available throughout Canada.

1. Understand the role of hearing in connecting them to the world and people in it.
2. Understand sources that can cause noise-induced hearing loss.
3. Understand how to prevent hearing loss.

Key messages include: the importance of sound, how hearing works, how noise damages hearing,

### SHHH name change

Self Help for Hard of Hearing People, the American consumer group for hard of hearing folks, has changed its name to **Hearing Loss Association of America**. This organization has similar mandate for CHHA with an excellent web-site at [www.hearingloss.org](http://www.hearingloss.org)