

Still time to reserve your camp-site!

Annual family camping weekend

July 21 to 23

Monck Park Provincial Campsite - on Nicola Lake

See page 3 for information...



Mark your Calendars for the CHHA Family Picnic

Where: Bo & Teresa, Nolan & Nathan Lonn

20058 Fernridge Crescent - Langley (22nd Avenue off 200th Street)

When: Saturday August 26, 2006 - 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Potluck Picnic Supper at 5:30 pm. Let Teresa know what you are bringing. The Lonns will provide hamburgers and hotdogs. Bring the whole family for games, food and fun! (Bring lawn chairs and extra clothes for the kids)

RSVP: Teresa Lonn by August 21 at 604-533-9878 or lonns@primus.ca

EDITOR: Unless you are on our email list THIS IS YOUR ONLY NOTICE! Don't miss this popular annual event – Good time guaranteed!

CHHA - BC Conference - Friday, September 29: 1:00 to 9:00pm

Saturday, September 30: 9:00am to 2:00pm

Radisson Hotel and Conference Centre - Richmond, BC

With special sessions for young adults (16 +)

Please urge your teen to attend... Also great topics for parents

Presenters include Dr. Jonathan Dawrant, counselor Larry Green, actress Gael Hannon, audiologist Grace Shyng and many more...

See web-site for info - www.chha-bc.org

or call the CHHA-BC Resource Centre at 1-866-888-2442

"2006 FAMILY WEEKEND"

Parent sessions, Teen Konnection, Kidz Konnection

EXCELLENT presenters and YOUTH programs

Burnaby South Secondary School (BCSD)

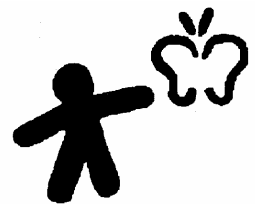
Friday eve. October 20, Saturday October 21

See page 4 for information



Registration form will be in September newsletter and on web-site... www.chhaparents.bc.ca

May 2006



Canadian

Hard of

Hearing

Association

B.C.

Parents'

Branch

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

President's message. . .

by Leila Lolua

As I'm writing this message, it's late on Mother's Day. Not much of what I've done today would make it on to a warm fuzzy mother's day card (except perhaps one of those cards that lists the million and one things mothers do). Mother's day commemorates the important work of being mothers. For those of us with children who have special needs, that work can be overwhelming at times, and so I think we merit special honour. It strikes me that being involved in the Parents' Branch deserves to be honoured, too. In April, the CHHA-BC Parents' Branch co-hosted a parent advocacy workshop given by Cathie Camley. I remarked to one of the fathers that it was wonderful to see so many dads attending. His response was simple: 'We're parents, too'. So true, so kudos to all of us.

Parents, including those from Kelowna, the Sunshine Coast and Vancouver Island, traveled to Surrey to learn about advocating to ensure that children receive the educational supports they need to learn successfully. The robust turnout at Parents' Branch workshops demonstrates a need for parent education, and a forum to share what we've learned with each other. Thanks to the organizers and the many parents who gave up a Saturday for making this day such a success. All parents appreciated the wonderful venue and co-sponsorship of the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre.

We've reached a notable milestone in the history of the CHHA-BC Parents' Branch. I'm delighted to report that Lisa Woogman has accepted an administrative services contract to assist with the running of our Branch. Lisa lives in Richmond, and has two children, one of whom has a hearing loss. Lisa will be taking on many of the duties to which Janet Les has devoted hundreds of hours. Janet is such a competent, productive, capable volunteer. She has kept our Branch organized, contributed enormously to our growth, and helped to raise our profile. Some of us had morbid dreads thinking about the possibility that Janet might one day leave us, so we welcome Lisa, and relax knowing that Janet will not have quite so much on her plate. Huge thanks to Janet for carrying us this far. She will continue to be an active member of our executive, in addition to being the treasurer for CHHA-BC. Way to go, Janet.

I hope that parents will continue the camping weekend tradition at Monck Park. So many good connections have been made at this venue. Later in August, please plan on attending the fun picnic in Langley, hosted by the Lonn family. If you have questions, these are great places to find contacts.

As President of the Parents' Branch, I've been invited to attend the Access Ability National Conference in Vancouver this August. The conference will bring together aca-

ademic researchers, policy makers, service providers, advocates and parents to take steps to 'Building a Better Future for Children and Youth with Special Needs' by identifying research priorities. You can find information about this conference at www.accessabilitycanada.ca. Please contact me if you have any ideas or thoughts that you would like me to share.

Our third annual Family Weekend will be held at the BC School for the Deaf/Burnaby South High School this year to accommodate our expanding numbers. Continuing with this growth theme, we have hired Kristen Fibich, an Early Childhood Educator, to coordinate the Kidz Konnection and Teen programs. This will free up Teresa Lonn to actually be able to attend a workshop after so many years of producing these events. From all of us with children who have benefited from your labour, Teresa, thank-you so much. Don't miss this weekend; it will be better than ever.

We all need to work to fulfill the UN Convention: 'Children with disabilities have a right to enjoy fun and decent lives.' Get involved!

Introducing our first Administrator

My name is Lisa Woogman and I am very excited to be taking on the administration job for the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – B.C. Parents' Branch.

My husband Dave and I live with our two children Noah(8) and Breanne(5) in Richmond. We first became involved in the Hard of Hearing community when our son Noah was diagnosed with bilateral sensorineural mild to moderate/severe hearing loss at age 3. The diagnosis came as a complete shock as Noah was talking and seemed to understand most of what we said. He was missing the high frequency speech sounds, but being a first child we really had nothing to compare to and so dismissed the signs of hearing loss as developmental. After the initial shock we began the process of acquiring hearing aids and speech therapy and we became involved with the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre. This became a lifeline for us and the start of the healing process. Noah now attends a private school with a dual curriculum where he is doing extremely well.

I am looking forward to being more involved in the community and helping the very dedicated board of the B.C. Parents' Branch with all administrative duties. I started with updating the contact list and have found that we have a large number of families whose mailing addresses are not current. If you have moved recently or are about to move please contact us so that you can continue to receive the CHHA newsletter and other important information.

I look forward to meeting many of our members and would love to hear from you. My email address is lwoogman@telus.net

Monck Park Camping Weekend Coming up Soon!



The annual CHHA Parents Branch Camping weekend is a go! The weekend is scheduled for Monck Park, on Nicola Lake, July 21, 22 and 23. Monck Park is about a half hour east of Merritt.

And, you know, those threats and other guilt-inducing strategies which I used in my article in the last newsletter really worked! Ten families signed up more or less on schedule. Interestingly, half of the families who have booked so far will be at the camping weekend for their first time.

But now hear this! We also took the extraordinary step of reserving two

extra spaces just in case there were families who would jump on board in May or June. So as this newsletter goes to press there are still two camping spaces up for grabs. So don't hold back. Give me, Hamish Plommer, the official camping registrar, a call (250-554-9616) or e-mail me (plommer@telus.net) to confirm the availability of a site.

Then you can send a cheque for \$50 (payable to Hamish Plommer) to me at: #12 – 1697 Greenfield Ave., Kamloops, B.C. V2B 4N5. The \$50 covers your camping fees for Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22. It is also necessary to send me the following information by snail-mail or e-mail.

(1) The names and ages of all of your family members, (2) the type and length of any vehicles or trailers that you'll bring, (3) your license plate number, (4) Your e-mail address, (5) your mailing address (if you don't have e-mail), (6) your phone number (if you don't have e-mail).

Monck Park is such a beautiful place! Very swimmable sandy beach. Great flattish area for soccer or Bocce. Half shade under majestic Ponderosa Pines. Camp fires. Barbeques! Great food! Great company! If you have an idea for an activity for the kids or for all of us, please let Hamish know.

See you there!

2006 Spring workshop on Advocacy by Cathie Camley

By Leila Lolua

Cathie Camley learned about parent advocacy by figuring out how to get the supports her special needs son needed in the school system. She is a capable facilitator who is well-versed on the BC School Act and the Special Education Services - A Manual of Policy, Procedures and Guidelines. You should be familiar with this manual because it sets out the 'rules of the game' for Special Education Services (see below - also linked on our web-site). Cathie noted that parents are expected to participate in their child's IEP, but they aren't given the guidelines.

The criteria to be eligible for services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students are being 'refreshed', but parents have not been involved in these discussions, which is a concern.

If your child has a hearing loss, and is designated as a student with special needs, they will require an Individual Education Plan (IEP) and a Case Manager who is assigned by the school principal. Cathie encourages parents to create a binder to organize documents such as psycho educational reports, Speech and Audiology reports, IEPs, report cards, Correspondence to and from the school, email records, phone logs and Ministry of Education Policies. This kind of organization will help arm parents with easy-

to-access information and knowledge about the 'rules' when advocating for their child.

Parents should understand how funding for services works. Low incidence special needs students - such as deaf and hard of hearing - are specifically funded, but the money goes to the school district, and is not attached to the child with the special needs. Each school district has formulas for allocating support services, and they should have policies, procedures and guidelines for accessing services. You should be able to ask for this information in your school district.

Cathie's written materials are practical and thorough. Her Education Advocacy Checklist includes questions such as 'I know the name of the Director of Special Education for the district', 'I know the five elements an IEP must contain by law' (learning outcomes, required adaptations, support services to be provided with names of all personnel who will be providing the services, time period for review of the IEP), and 'I am familiar with the SMART IEP model' (Specific, Measurable, Active, Realistic and relevant, Time Measured). Use your child's IEP as an accountability tool.

Cathie's tips for advocacy are thoughtful approaches to negotiating so that meetings are effective and conflicts are successfully resolved. Cathie offers multi-day workshops to share her knowledge and to train parents to be effective advocates. I would recommend her workshops for all parents, and especially those with younger children who are just starting their journey through the education system. Cathie can be reached through the Learning Disabilities Association, ldabctri@shaw.ca

B.C. Ministry of Education Links

Special Education Services

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/>

Special Education: Students who are deaf and hard of hearing

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/ppandg/planning_11.htm

Auditory training equipment

http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/ppandg/appc_ate.htm

Resource Guide for Classroom Teachers

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/specialed/hearimpair/toc.htm>

2006 Family Weekend - October 20 and 21

Plans are well underway for our annual Family Weekend in October! We looked for a more roomy venue and found the wonderful facilities at Burnaby South Secondary School/BC School for the Deaf. Friday night we plan to have a potluck and new this year - family entertainment! As well, we want to have plenty of time for families to get to know each other and compare notes...

Saturday's youth programs will be expanded this year into 3 groups: ages 5 to 9, 9 to 13, and 13 to 19. Mad Science will be back as well as new ideas with Kristen (see box.) We are recruiting sponsors for the conference so that cost to families will be minimal. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a time of education, inspiration, good fellowship, food and fun!

We have excellent speakers lined up already. You might start thinking about some questions to ask them!

Debby Waldman has a hard of hearing daughter and has researched hearing loss issues extensively to co-write a book, *"Your Child's Hearing Loss - What Parents Need to Know."* A humorous and upbeat presenter, Debby speaks and writes on a variety of parenting issues from Edmonton. Her topic for Family Weekend is *"Batteries, Battles & Balance: Raising a Hard of Hearing Child with Hope and Humour."*

Kristine Juck, audiologist and coordinator of cochlear implant services at BC Children's Hospital will speak on: *"Cochlear Implants - Your questions answered."* During

the same time slot, audiologist **Dan Paccioretti** will bring an update on hearing technology and answer audiology related questions from parents.

"Ask me! I grew up with a hearing loss..." Learn from a panel of adults including IDP advisor **Dana Brynelsen**, **Amandeep Loodu** and others... What works, what doesn't... observations and experiences...

**** NOTE** – Friday, October 20 is a province wide Pro-D allowing families some travel time...

Travel assistance through the Jeremy Chiao Foundation is no longer available so please look into sponsorship elsewhere if you require help with travel expenses. Conference fees may be waived for families who require financial support.

Accommodation is again available through Provincial Services (very near conference site) for a limited number of families - first come, first served.

WATCH FOR Family Weekend registration forms in our September newsletter or check our web-site. If you receive our newsletter from your child's teacher or audiologist, you may not receive this information on time. PLEASE CONTACT US (see page 1) and we will add your family to our mailing list - NO COST OR OBLIGATION!

We look forward to another great turnout for Family Weekend!

Kidz Konnection 2006

Hi there, my name is Kristen Fibich and I will be coordinating the upcoming Kidz Konnection for the fall conference. I have many years of teaching, tutoring and parenting experience and am really looking forward to working with your kids. This year we will offer some specific programs for the kids in two age groups, 5 – 9 and 9 – 13.

There will be several programs for all of the groups to enjoy as well as some other group time, which will be supervised and guided. This will include the popular recycled items construction zone in a 'home-base' area. We will be offering Mad Science again this year, which is a hands-on, fun and educational science project, which the kids will be able to take home. Another program we are excited about is called Process-Based Art, taught by an artist, Saffron Gurney, who has fine arts and education degrees, as well as many years of Montessori teaching experience. Saffron will look at the relationship of colour, geometry and pattern with the kids in some active stations. Other programs are currently being planned and will be in place for the fall. All of our instructors will be using sound field systems for their programs and instructed on ways to enhance a hard of hearing child's group experience. My aim is for your children to have fun in a visual, inclusive, and safe environment. I look forward to seeing you and your kids in the fall!



Family Weekend 2005

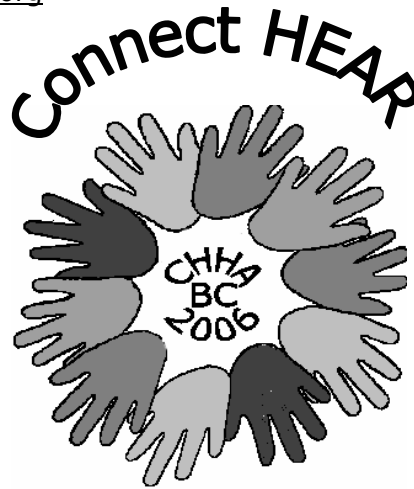
Audiologist Dan Paccioretti confers with parents Lisa and Bruce Carter. Participants say the opportunity to network with professionals and other parents is one of the most valuable aspects of Family Weekend. Another major reason for attending? "My kids wouldn't miss it for anything!"

ATTENTION PARENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS...

CHHA-BC is planning an excellent conference in Richmond this fall which will be of interest for parents and also include sessions especially for young adults (16+). NO CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS. Contact Janet Les for information or visit www.chha-bc.org

Friday,
September 29
1:00pm to 9:00pm

Saturday
September 30
9:00am to 2:00pm



Trade Show,
Annual General Meeting,
Networking...

GREAT Speakers!

**Radisson President Hotel,
Richmond, BC**
(near Vancouver Airport)

SPEAKERS - A sample...

Kate Chandler - POST SECONDARY EDUCATION: ISSUES OF ACCESS. *UBC student will address issues of access for students with hearing loss from a personal perspective*

Dr. Jonathan Dawrant - HEARING LOSS: FINDING ONE'S WAY - *Calgary pediatrician will share personal experiences and observations on mentoring and coping with hearing loss.*

Larry Green - MAKING FRIENDS WHEN YOU'RE HARD OF HEARING: WHAT NOBODY TELLS YOU. *Counselor Larry Green will share his observations and practice of coaching groups of hard of hearing young people on the micro-steps in forming and maintaining relationships.*

Gael Hannon - EAR RAGE *is a fun look at living with hearing loss and how to help others 'get' your hearing loss so that you can move on! Gael uses drama, skits, and humour to illustrate our lives of serious communication challenges.*

Grace Shyng - UPDATE ON NEW HEARING AID AND FM TECHNOLOGY - *Celebrating 12 years as WIDHH's audiologist, Grace knows hearing technology! Bring your questions!*

AND MANY MORE. . .

REGISTRATION

Please contact Janet Les or the CHHA-BC Resource Centre (below) for a Conference brochure and registration form. They will only be mailed to CHHA-BC members (in early July.) If you do not receive the LOOP, you are not a member and you will not receive the information!

COST

\$90 full registration (\$120 after Aug 31) \$50 for 1 day only.
\$50 full registration for full-time students - \$25 each day.
Registration fees include workshops, refreshment breaks, dinner on Friday, and lunch on Saturday.
Payment required in advance by cheque, Visa, or Mastercard.
CHHA-BC members may apply for \$100 for travel costs.

HOTEL

Rooms are \$105 plus taxes for single or double occupancy. To reserve call 1-800-333-3333 or email reservations@radissonvancouver.com
Identify yourself as a participant attending the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Conference to get this room rate. Rooms are being held for CHHA-BC **only until August 30** so please book early.
Free airport shuttle. Parking passes are available for all conference attendees.

INFORMATION: www.chha-bc.org or call 1-866-888-2442

Parent in the Support Team

As a parent, you are the head of the support team working to help your child get the best possible start in life. Securing the absolutely best care possible takes dedication, energy and determination. The task can be frustrating at times as you sort through information and options, but the victories along the way make it all worth while. Following are some suggestions to help prepare you for your role as a parent in the support team.

Trust your instincts

If you at any time question the advice given by the experts, or feel that you have received inadequate information, or observe that your child's hearing aids are no longer functioning as they were, or if you have any other concerns, seek help. You are the one that knows your child best.

Become informed

The more you learn about hearing impairment and the help available, the better you can be at securing the best possible care for your child. Learn about your child's rights and options and strive to understand the specifics of your child's hearing loss and the function of the available technology.

Expand the support team

A broad support team is a good base for your child's future. In addition to the professional group consisting of hearing healthcare professionals and teachers, you can find great support and resources through organisations, parent groups, publications, etc.

Take care of yourself

In addition to all of the typical demands of raising a child, the special needs of a hearing impaired child can sometimes overwhelm. Before "busy" turns to "stressed" it may be a good idea to take a look at how well you are taking care of yourself.

Take one step at a time

Patience and pacing will help make any task more manageable, so take things one day at a time, be realistic in your expectations and remember to celebrate the victories. No accomplishment is too small to be celebrated. But when things are tough, share your fears and feelings with family or friends. Their support and understanding can help you see problems or setbacks in a better light. And don't be afraid to ask for help when needed. But most important, whenever possible relax and have fun!

A happy parent is a wonderful gift for any child.



Adapted from "Parenting a Child with Hearing Loss."
www.widex.com/children

Room Service: "Morny. Ruin sorbees"

HoH Guest: "Sorry, I thought I dialled room-service"

Room Service: "Rye...Ruin sorbees...morny! Djewish to odor sun-teen?"

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

Room Service: "Ow July den?"

HoH Guest: "What?"

Room Service: "Ow July den?...pry, boy, pooch?"

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

Room Service: "Ow July dee bayhcem...crease?"

HoH Guest: "Crisp will be fine."

Room Service: "Hokay. An San tos?"

HoH Guest: "What?"

Room Service: "San tos. July San tos?"

HoH Guest: "I don't think so."

Room Service: "No? Judo one toes?"

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

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

HoH Guest: "English muffin!! I've got it! You were saying 'Toast.' Fine.

Yes, an English muffin will be fine."

Room Service: "We bother?"

HoH Guest: "No.. just put the bother on the side."

Room Service: "Wad?"

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

Room Service: "Copy?"

HoH Guest: "Sorry?"

Room Service: "Copy...tea...mill?"

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

Room Service: "One Minnie. Ass ruin torino fee, stragle ache, crease baychem, tossy singlish mopping webother honey sigh, and copy....rye?"

HoH Guest: "Whatever you say"

Room Service: "Tendjewberrymud"

HoH Guest: "You're welcome"



The happiest day of my life

By Timothy Page
March 6 English assignment

Hi my name is Tim. I am hard of hearing and I am going to tell you about the happiest day of my life. I was about eight years old when I started to have operations for my hearing. I didn't like the operations but it was worth it because after them I got my BAHA. BAHA stands for Bone Anchored Hearing Aid. With the BAHA I could hear things that I could never hear before. I started to discover new things. I could hear more things in class and started to learn more. Later on I got an F.M. which helped me to hear even better. Sometimes the teacher would go out of the room and I could still hear them.

About two years later I was at Cultus Lake in the water catching fish with my friend when he accidentally hit off my hearing aid and it fell into the water. I got very scared and told Michael. So Michael just waved his hand in the water and found it and give it to me. Then we ran up to our parents. We had to dry my hearing aid the best we could. Then we ran to the car and drove home to my dad. At home my dad fixed my hearing aid as best as he could. Then he gave it to me to try. It worked but it sounded a little different. So we sent it off to Edmonton to get fixed. While my BAHA was getting fixed they sent me a loner. I wore the loner for a couple of weeks and then I got my hearing aid back. My hearing aid worked as good as new. I was very happy that I had got my hearing aid back.

After all that I felt very fortunate that everything was normal. I went to school and did things that a kid should do. I was the happiest kid in the world. I had a hearing aid and a family and that was all I needed.

The end

Display available for loan...



CHHA-BC has a great display board which members can borrow for an exhibit. It can be shipped anywhere in B.C. - CHHA-BC covers the cost. Parents' Branch can provide brochures, handouts and extra copies of our newsletter for display at your local school, mall, health fair, etc. For further information, contact the CHHA Resource Centre at chha-bc@telus.net or call toll free 1-866-888-2442.

Free 6-Month Parent Membership

The Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (AG Bell) offers a free 6 month trial membership for parents. This includes 3 issues of the bi-monthly magazine, *Volta Voices*, an excellent resource for families. Visit the web-site at www.agbell.org to apply.

Professional Mothers speak out...

Lindsay Rodrigues, teacher, and mother of Jennifer (hearing) and Paco (deaf): "Jennifer was never allowed to get sick or get less than an "A" because so much of my energy went toward helping Paco. But I realize now that it is a total mistake to wrap yourself up in your child with hearing loss because you only make the 'handicapped' child more 'handicapped' and the 'typical' child less 'typical.'"

Judith Simser, Auditory-Verbal Therapist and mother of Scoot who has profound hearing loss: "I believe strongly that children's outcomes are determined by how much guidance and education is provided to the parents. Parents want to become involved. They really have a special, instinctive sense of caring for their child that no other person has. When we can empower parents, that's half the battle in developing listening and talking skills in a child."

Cristen Markos, audiologist, and mother of Olivia, cochlear implant user: "I'm careful about not pushing cochlear implants on people. I realize there are different options, and I have friends who sign and would not even imagine getting a cochlear implant. The hardest thing is when a family assumes that a cochlear implant is a cure by itself. It's sad to see kids who don't get support at home - they get the technology but not the follow-up."

Quotes from Volta Voices- March April 2006

Build-a-Bear Workshop

recently introduced a hearing aid as accessory for their stuffed animals. CEO Maxine Clark says, "Part of the Build-A-Bear Workshop experience is having the opportunity to make your stuffed animal unique; the hearing aid accessory gives our guests another great way to personalize their friend." The red and silver plush hearing aid can be purchased for \$3 on the web-site or at store locations. www.buildabear.ca



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Camping Weekend	July 21 to 23
Family Picnic	August 26
CHHA-BC Conference	September 29, 30
Family Weekend	October 20, 21



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

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

Education: From 2 Perspectives...

By Nicole Grazier

I attended the CHHA Parent's Branch Spring Workshop on Advocacy by Cathie Camley that was held at the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre in April. As I watched and listened to the concerned parents talk about their children and their school concerns, I was reminded of my husband Norm, and myself, not so long ago! Our 17 yr. old daughter Kelsie, has bilateral sensorineural hearing loss. We had the same fears and concerns when it was time for her to enter the public elementary and secondary school systems. We wondered how she would cope at school and whether her needs would be met by the classroom and hearing itinerant teachers.

I found the information in Cathie's workshop very helpful as parents must be informed to best help their children. We are our child's advocate. Even though I am

a parent of a HoH child, I am also a teacher, and was listening to Cathie's workshop from a teacher's point of view. I became a teacher in 2000, and I'm currently teaching grade 4. I can tell you honestly that as a classroom teacher of 27 students, including several with a variety of learning needs and IEP's, it is very frustrating to try and help each child individually. It has also been difficult at times getting them the help they need from the school's professionals. Now I know first hand how limited school resources are, and how little time teachers have to help students individually. I do the best I can with the time I have, but I still feel guilty that I'm not doing enough.

I suggest that parents communicate frequently with the teacher about their child's progress and difficulties, and advocate for their child for additional support. Also, I recommend that parents work with their



children and support their learning at home. Parents are a child's best teachers. I would also like to reassure you that there are many caring, effective teachers in our school systems and luckily, my daughter has had many throughout her elementary and secondary education. Additionally, I'm happy to report that my students benefited almost immediately as a result of the Teacher's Job Action in October with more Teaching Assistant time in the classroom, once a week reading and writing support for a small group, as well as books for the classroom. Good luck on your journey and keep in mind that teachers need your continued support so they can support your child.

