



for families with hard of hearing children

Friday, October 20 – 5pm to 9pm

Saturday, October 21 – 9am to 3pm

New Location!

**GREAT Programs this year!!!**

**Burnaby South Secondary School**

5455 Rumble Street; Burnaby, BC

Information and registration Brochure enclosed

ALSO on web-site... [www.chhaparents.bc.ca](http://www.chhaparents.bc.ca)

Early registration appreciated! Deadline is October 15

**A.G.M. Announcement:**

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - BC Parents' Branch 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday, October 21, 2005 - 1:00 pm at Burnaby South Secondary School, Burnaby, BC.

**Call for nominations:**

If you would like to let your name stand for a position on the Board, or would like to nominate someone, please call President Leila Lolua at 604-433-2702 or Email: [leilalolua@telus.net](mailto:leilalolua@telus.net)

**Upcoming:** (read on for additional information...)

Sept 13 – Family Weekend planning session at BCFHRC...

All welcome, call Janet for details

September 29, 30 – CHHA-BC conference in Richmond

October 20 – CAEDHH conference - Eaglequest Golf Center

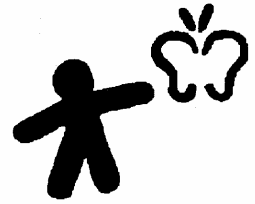
October 20, 21 – Family Weekend at Burnaby South Sec. School

May – Spring Workshop – date and location TBA

July – Family camp – Monck Park at Nicola lake

August – Annual picnic hosted by Lonn family

September 2006



**C**anadian

**H**ard of

**H**earing

**A**ssociation

**B.C.**

**Parents'**  
**Branch**

**Mailing Address:**

c/o Janet Les, Editor  
10150 Gillanders Rd.  
Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4

Phone: 604-794-3772

Fax: 604-794-3960

**Email:**

[janetles@canada.com](mailto:janetles@canada.com)

**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

by Leila Lolua

You know the summer is over when school and Parents' Branch kicks into high gear. What a stunning summer we've enjoyed, including another successful camping weekend at Monck Park, and the annual Lonn Family picnic. I was sad to miss both of these events this year as my family usually regularly attends both of these fun gatherings, yet I am heartened to learn that new families joined some of the regulars. We know these functions meet a need that families have to connect with others who have a child with a hearing loss. Cheers to all of you who participated, and thanks to our faithful volunteer organizers.

In August, I attended a national research conference called Access>Ability. Hosted by the BC government, this conference brought together researchers, policy makers, service providers and BC parents of children with special needs, with the goal of trying to improve the lives of children and youth with special needs and their families. It was a remarkable gathering, and I was impressed by the passion of the delegates from various sectors about children with special needs. The conference was thoughtfully planned to support informed evidence-based decisions, practice and policy and to integrate the best scientific evidence with clinical expertise and patient values. It really was a genuine attempt to strategically approach the creation of evidence and to bridge the disconnect between researchers and policy-makers.

The opening plenary featured three articulate parents of children with special needs. Their words set the tone for the conference, and though their children did not have a hearing loss, the experience they shared could have been any one of us. Do these thoughts resonate with you?

- 'The most significant support I've ever experienced is through our families.'
- 'Our efforts on behalf of our children and families are life-long. Professionals are in for the sprint, families are in for the marathon.'
- 'We live in a world where you feel like a minority—other families with the same experience lessen the isolation.'

The parents also spoke about family quality of life. How are we equipping families with knowledge, skills, strength and capacity to cope with children and youth with special needs? How do we ensure that families 'know what they need to know?' How do we reach isolated families or families who do not have the resources/language/education? The issues identified for children and youth with special needs are certainly issues for children and youth with hearing loss, and their families.

The information sharing and dialogue between the researchers and users of the research was revealing. Knowledge transfer is an area where much work can be done, to disseminate information and research in plain language to all users. Bringing many parties together brought diverse perspectives to identify research questions that must be addressed and to determine strategies and mechanisms to advance research priorities for children and youth with special needs.

I'd like to thank Monty Hardy, from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Provincial Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, for ensuring that the Parents' Branch was invited to participate in this conference. If we didn't have our Parents' Branch, we would lose the opportunity to voice our needs and wishes.

Lots of events coming up that should interest all of us. The CHHA-BC conference will be held in Richmond in September. Check out the program to see the fabulous line-up of speakers. If you have an older teen, encourage them to attend, or just sign them up to experience being part of a group that is relevant to them and their needs. The Parents' Branch is hosting our third annual Family Weekend in October. We've planned an awesome program, in a new venue with a lot more space. Come with your family and enjoy.

**We seriously need some new energy to help our Parents' Branch.** The position of secretary is waiting for you, as Teresa Kazemir will be taking a break to focus on other work. Her contributions have been many, and we all owe her many thanks. So, now is the time to come forward. Please call me if you are interested.

Looking forward to reconnecting with many of you soon,

Leila

## CHHA-BC Conference

### September 29 & 30

Radisson Hotel - Richmond, BC

**Parents are invited to attend all or some of the sessions and there are also sessions specifically for young adults (16+) - no children's programs, however.**

**For information and a registration form visit [www.chha-bc.org](http://www.chha-bc.org) or contact Janet Les (see page 1).**

FAMILY WEEKEND 2006  
**TEEN KONNECTION**

**Friday night, October 20**

Potluck supper and entertainment by deaf entertainer Max-i-mime.

**Saturday morning, October 21**

"Getting to know Me!"

Interactive workshop with counselor Larry Green who works with youth who have a hearing loss. This workshop will help you, a Hard of Hearing Teen, understand yourself better and your actions around others.

Through discussions and activities such as art or journaling, you will discover your own self-image, learn the importance of having a positive image of yourself, and develop strategies to interact positively with others.

**Saturday afternoon, October 21**

"Technology Update"

Demonstration and questions answered with Rick Waters of Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Bring your own equipment to show if you like.

"Ask me! I grew up with hearing loss" Panel of adults - bring your questions!

**WHERE:** Burnaby South Secondary School

**WHEN:** October 20, 21

**COST:** \$20 - includes meals and snacks

**WHO:** Hard of hearing teens and teens who have siblings or parents with hearing loss

**PRE-REGISTER:** By October 15 please!

Form enclosed or at [www.chhaparents.bc.ca](http://www.chhaparents.bc.ca)

**HEY KIDS!**

Have we got a FUN weekend planned for YOU!



Friday, October 20 we're having a potluck supper and THEN, the famous deaf mime artist MAX-I-MIME will put on a show for you and your family.

On Saturday, October 21, the morning will feature Mad Science and process based art with a talented artist. Following an awesome family lunch, in the afternoon you can practice Karate with Kevin Doerksen from Personal Best Martial Arts and take part in a Magic show with the young up and coming magician Cameron Fisk also know as Mac Backwards.

All this at Burnaby South Secondary School for Family Weekend 2006! DON'T MISS IT!

Registration form enclosed or see web-site at [www.chhaparents.bc.ca](http://www.chhaparents.bc.ca)

**Board members needed!**

**Requirements:** Have a child with hearing loss, attend about 6 evening meetings in Surrey per year, have access to email. **WHY?**

**10 good reasons to join CHHA-BC Parents' Branch Board:**

1. You will meet the nicest people ever!
2. You learn new skills - lifelong learning is good for all
3. You get meaningful emails - not just SPAM
4. You will be the first to know what CHHA Parents Branch is planning

5. You help decide what CHHA Parents' Branch does
6. Cathy Chow's cookies
7. You share and learn from other parents who are going through the same successes and struggles as you are
8. Kids of advocates become better advocates themselves
9. You learn about new people and gadgets in the world of hearing loss
10. Volunteer work looks good on your resume

**FOR INFORMATION CALL LEILA AT 433-2702 or email [leilalolua@telus.net](mailto:leilalolua@telus.net)**

# Sun Fun & Games

## CCHA Parents Camping Weekend 2006

By Ken Mulligan

It's hard to believe that the CHHA camping weekend has come and gone for another year but the memories of another fun weekend won't fade away soon.

The weekend began in the heat of Friday afternoon as we arrived at Monck Park anticipating the good times ahead. Our first surprise as we drove through the gate was the newly constructed gatehouse and park entrance. The park staff was very well organized and waiting for us with campsites already assigned so we drove off to check out our weekend home. The sites for the CHHA group were in the new section all grouped together, making it easy to find the other members of our group.

After setting up our tent trailer we set out to see who was here from our group. Hart and Will Plommer were among the first familiar faces we encountered and soon we were renewing acquaintances with old friends and welcoming new campers to our weekend. It was great to see new families coming to the campout, as we need to keep this annual event alive as some families drop out as their kids grow into teens that would rather stay home.

It was soon decided that the potluck dinner would be at our site as it was a huge double site with lots of room to sit, cook and eat. As people arrived with good food in hand it was soon obvious we were in for another great evening. After consuming too much food (but it was so good!), many of the group wandered down to the lake for the annual soccer game. The participants played into the darkness until the automatic sprinklers kicked in and the parks staff kicked them out. The final score was lost somewhere in the darkness but both sides will claim victory!



Saturday dawned with the Merritt sun beating down, promising a hot day. All of the campers headed down to the beach for a day of swimming, sun bathing, volleyball and whatever activity the body could stand in the intense heat.

As evening approached Hamish warned everyone that he had something planned for after dinner and that attendance was mandatory! We all gathered at the beach and watched as the kids participated in games that Hamish had carefully

planned and prepared for. Sand Castle building, rock skipping, human pyramid, scavenger hunt and relay race were the events of the evening. All the kids, including big kids Colin Scott and Alan Franey had an awesome time. Prizes were awarded for all the contestants. Thanks Hamish for a fun evening for everyone.

Sunday morning meant time to pack up the tents, hook up the trailers and head home. I think everyone had a great time and are looking forward to next year.

Hamish Plommer has informed me that he can no longer be the camping coordinator so we are looking for volunteers to take on this role next year. **Hamish has put in a lot of hard work and effort to make this event a great weekend for 4 years now. He deserves a huge thank you from everyone for doing a super job.**

I look forward to seeing everyone next year and if you have never been to this weekend I encourage you to make it part of your summer.

## MUMS

MUMS is an international Parent-to-Parent organization for parents or care providers of a child with any disability, rare disorder, chromosomal abnormality or health condition. MUMS' mission is to provide support in the form of a networking system that matches parents with other parents whose children have the same or similar condition. Through a database of over 20,000 families from 54 countries, covering over 3400 disorders, very rare syndromes or undiagnosed conditions can be matched as well as multiple disabilities. Parents can exchange valuable medical information as well as the names of doctors, clinics and medical resources or research programs.

MUMS was started by a woman named Julie Gordon whose daughter was born in 1973 with severe Cerebral Palsy. Julie felt very alone and started a support group with a few other Moms and it has developed into 20,000 families over 54 countries.

Two mothers' testimonials about MUMS:

"Julie, thank you for all the time and effort you put into MUMS. Although we may never meet, your network has touched my heart more than you know. Each newsletter brings tears and smiles to me. Thank you! Our children have so much to teach us, if only we would take more time to stop and listen! May MUMS always be there for our families. (Charge syndrome, cleft lip & palate, asymmetrical hearing loss, G-tube) Rebecca Anderson, Edmonds, WA."

"Thank you so much for your wonderful newsletter and matching service. I've received a lot of letters and made many friends. Ashley now has photos of friends that "look like me"! It has been a real blessing. You have the sincere gratitude of our entire family. (Hemifacial Microsomia) Vanessa Mathison, Lubbock, TX."

For more information about MUMS or to find your match please go to [www.netnet.net/mums/](http://www.netnet.net/mums/)

# 5 Things to Teach your Deaf or Hard of Hearing Child

by Paula Rosenthal

Hearing loss may make your child's journey of education and eventual employment bumpier than most, but it doesn't mean your child cannot reach the same goals as a child with normal hearing. Below, are some of the lessons I'm teaching my hearing impaired preschooler. These are the same lessons my parents taught me, for **I was also a hearing impaired child.**

**1. Teach your child to educate.** Give your child the words to explain her disability in age appropriate language. From the time I could talk, I told other children that I needed hearing aids to hear better just like people needed glasses to see better. Hearing aids no longer seemed so foreign and children found it easier to accept me as I was.

**2. Teach your child to advocate.** Your child should understand that it is her responsibility to ensure that her needs are met. Teach her how to ask a teacher for assistance. She should learn to tell the teacher as well as her peers that it is necessary to get her attention first and to face her when speaking. As your child grows up, you won't always be there. Help her establish early independence so that when she needs to speak for herself she will have the experience and confidence to do so.

**3. Teach your child to focus.** Children and adults alike pick up conversational clues from visual cues such as facial expressions and body gestures. Teach your child to face the speaker and be attentive. Focusing is an important and necessary skill for the hard of hearing child and one that will reap great rewards.

**4. Teach your child the power of humor.** Humor is a wonderful tool for deaf and hard of hear-

ing children. Growing up, I experienced many embarrassing and difficult situations because of my disability. But I usually managed to find the humor in them. By laughing at myself I was able to turn uncomfortable situations around, putting others at ease and earning respect from my peers.

**5. Teach your child that no one is perfect.** While many people don't have physical disabilities or problems that you can see, their lives are far from perfect. Realizing this, I've never felt sorry for myself and I've always been open about my disability. It may not be easy, but your child has everything to gain by telling people that she's deaf or hard of hearing when they first meet. People are much more understanding and patient when they know you have trouble hearing. By exhibiting this kind of self-confidence, it also sets the tone for how people will view and react to your child.

While being a hearing impaired child is not always easy, it is important for parents to teach their child skills and coping strategies and instill self-confidence at a young age. By doing so, the roads of education, employment and relationships will be a lot smoother.

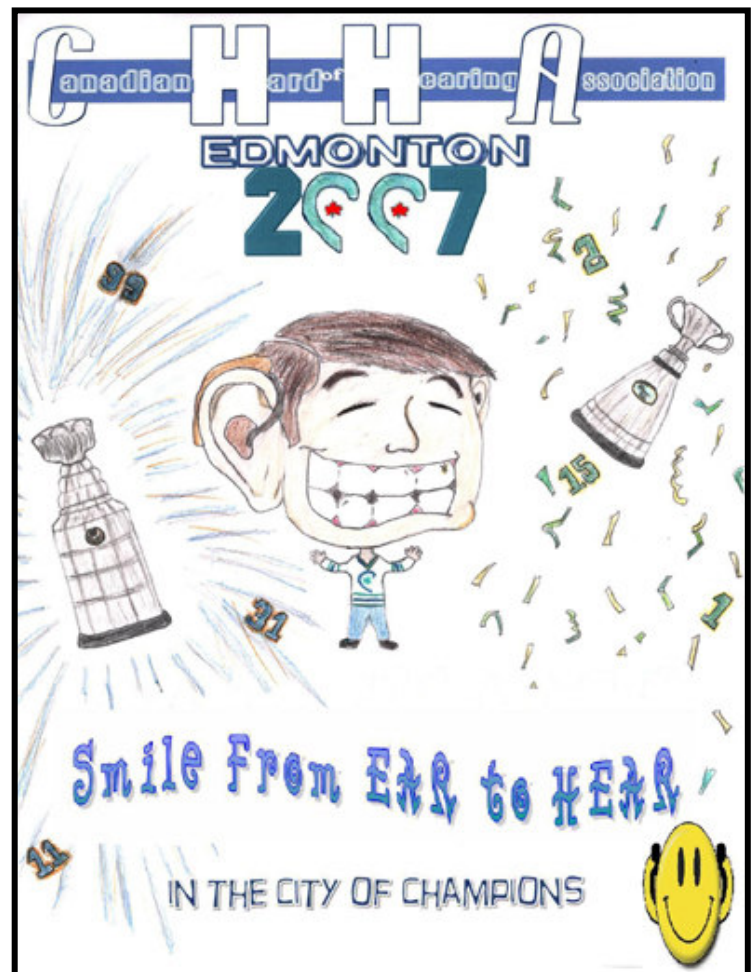
## Advance Notice! CHHA National



Several of our families have been to National CHHA conferences and recommend this event. Next year, the National conference is within reach for many of us - Edmonton, Alberta!

You might like to start saving to attend a CHHA conference at the Fantasyland Hotel in the fabulous West Edmonton Mall!

**May 24-27, 2007**



The following essay by B.C. student Victoria LeBlanc won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Gallaudet National Essay and Art Contest for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students. Over 200 students entered the contest in response to the question: "What will I do when I'm 30 years old? How am I preparing for it today?"

### **Congratulations Victoria!**

Victoria spent the summer as Program Supervisor for Deaf Youth Today BC and looks forward to attending Gallaudet University in Washington, DC



## **THURSDAY'S CHILD**

When I was nine, I wanted to be an officer of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and to save people from danger - just like Dudley Do-Right! The next year when I was ten - thanks to the Planeteers and their elusive superhero, Captain Planet - I wanted to be an Environmentalist and to save the Earth from the evils of pollution!

Now, when I was eleven, what did I want to be? Well, I found out not too long ago. One of my teachers from elementary school approached me and gave me an old worksheet I did for her; attached to this worksheet was a very, very nerdy photo of me. I laughed at the over-sized glasses I wore in the photo and then I began to read. The worksheet asked questions about my favourite foods, movies, television shows and the like, and I smiled at each and every one of my answers until I got to, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The answer that my eleven-year old self had written left me baffled, and probably always will, for I had scribbled on the accompanying blank space: "PET LAWYER." As the years went on, the list of occupations grew and so did my uncertainty about the future.

Naturally, it is clear now that I don't want to become a Policewoman, an Environmentalist or a Pet Lawyer. What I want to do... I don't know. What I should do... I don't know. I am young so I have years to decide.

The best thing I can do is live now, live beautifully, live with joy - and learn from my mistakes. What I learn in this part of my life will greatly influence the choices that I will face ten years from now. I am preparing for my future by developing my character, personality and social skills through meditation and experience. I have chosen to do this through the sport of fencing.

For me, there is no better way to meditate than donning a jacket, mask and taking my sword in hand to face an opponent. It is a sport of wit, strategy and honour. Through fencing, one learns to show respect. It is required before every fencing bout that both fencers salute each other with their weapons; this is a way of saying, if you will, "May the best fencer win." Once I have my face concealed behind a mask, my weapon in hand and ready to begin a bout, nothing else exists but me and my opponent. My deafness only serves to further intensify this experience and my occupation with out-witting and

out-maneuvering my opponent. I am not distracted by outside noises, the beeping of scoring lights or the sounds coming from other fencers. The only thing I am aware of is the thumping of my own feet, the striking of steel upon steel.

This is where I battle my own personal demons, expend my anger, and cleanse my spirit of any personal woes. Whether I go down (which, unfortunately, is pretty often) in a spectacular defeat or win a well-fenced match, I come out a better person and ready to take on the challenges that my life presents to me.

One of my challenges has been keeping a positive image of myself and learning how to see things in a different way. For example, when I was in Girl Guides, my troop and I went camping one weekend. For Saturday's activities, we were split into groups and we visited several activity stations throughout the day. At the end of the day, my group arrived at a station with a literary theme. This was where I first learned the nursery rhyme, *Monday's Child*:

*Monday's child is fair of face,  
Tuesday's child is full of grace,  
Wednesday's child is full of woe,  
Thursday's child has far to go.  
Friday's child is loving and giving,  
Saturday's child works hard for a living,  
But the child born on the Sabbath Day,  
Is bonny and blithe, and good and gay.*

Upon finding out that I was born on a Thursday, I was disappointed. "Far to go," what is that supposed to mean? To my childish mind, the notion of having "far to go" was negative; I thought that it meant I would have to wander far before attaining any of my goals or dreams of gaining success and status as a strong role model for the Deaf. Now that I am older and somewhat wiser, I have discovered that perception is the deciding factor in whether one will conquer or fail. I now see this and this I believe: I have far to go - not before I succeed but - I have far to go to encompass the breadth of what I will achieve.

My final answer is: I don't know what I will be doing when I am thirty, but this I *do* know: I am a Thursday's Child and I will be looking back on my life without any regret; and more importantly, I will be greeting the future with a salute and I will continue to dream.

# VIDEOPHONES for deaf and Hard of hearing children in B.C.

Family Network for Deaf Children has received a financial grant to provide videophones to deaf children throughout British Columbia.

The videophone sits on top of a TV screen. You connect to another person with a videophone and you see each other on the screen, and are able to sign and have a very smooth, clear conversation. This means signing deaf/hh children will be able to have access to a “phone” conversation using sign language with friends and family (that also have a videophone). The wonderful thing about this technology is that because the conversations are connected through the internet, there are no long distance charges or any special fees to use this technology. Canada is expected to have Video Relay Service (similar to the Telus Message Relay Service) within the next couple of years.

This technology is not the same as a webcam. The only people that can contact you are those who you give your “number” to. In other words, it is like a telephone. It is not a camera that allows you to connect with online chat groups.

If you would like to request a videophone, the criteria will be as follows:

## Technology criteria that you must have:

- High-speed cable internet (Telus or Shaw)
- Router (plug in or wireless) – with a bit more Ethernet cable to attach router and TV
- TV close to the internet connection - this TV will be used for the videophone. TV needs AV jack in back.

## Family criteria:

- Your deaf/hh child must reside in B.C. and attend a B.C. School (public or private)
- Your deaf/hh child uses sign language for his/her communication
- Your deaf/hh child must be between the ages of 5 to 17 (4 ½ year olds entering kindergarten in Sept 06 will be accepted)
- Priority will be given to signing deaf/hh children in Outreach areas first.
- Lower Mainland signing deaf/hh children will be next priority.
- The family will be willing to make a commitment to sign languages classes or Buddy “visits” via videophone for a limited time (ie. 6 sessions).
- Parents will ensure that videophone is in a public area in the house
- Parents will educate themselves and their deaf child about videophone manners and use
- Only one videophone per deaf child.
- Videophones are for home use only.

Please note: the technology is such that it may require professional set up and troubleshooting. We ask that you be patient with us as we go through this process for the first time.

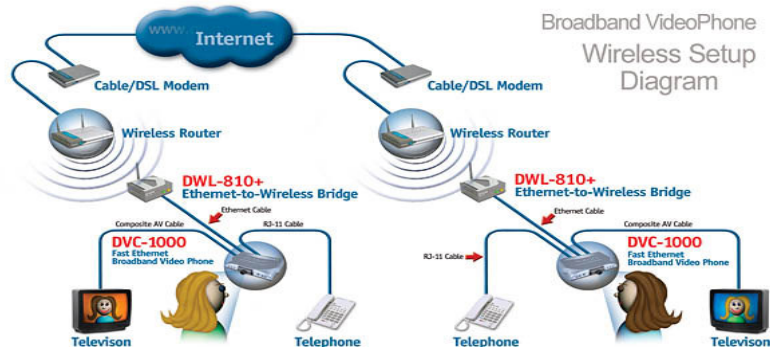
## To request a videophone:

[www.fndc.ca](http://www.fndc.ca) and follow the links for online videophone request. For more information, please contact: [vp@fndc.ca](mailto:vp@fndc.ca)



## **Cordless MICROLINK FM Systems now available for all school children**

Microlink FM systems are now available for all school age children with hearing loss. These are a cordless FM System where boots are attached to the child’s hearing aids and a microphone is worn by the teacher or parent. Many children refuse to wear their FM because of the cords. Previously Microlink FM Systems were only available for children in Grade 4 and above. Please check with your audiologist to see if your child’s hearing aids are compatible with the Microlink. For more info please go to [prp.sd47.bc.ca](http://prp.sd47.bc.ca) (no www.) or ask your audiologist.





# 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

New Membership Renewal

Name Birthdate

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

## WIDHH SALE!

Just to let you know...Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing informed us that they have their "Sonic Boom Alarm Clock with the bed shaker" on sale for \$79.00. Rick Waters (their Communications Aids person) wrote, "This clock and shaker combination was \$135.00 a year ago, and today it normally sells for \$99, so we think this is a great opportunity to purchase what is arguably the best clock of its type for a very good price."

So if you're interested, please contact Rick at 604 736-7391 or email [rwaters@widhh.com](mailto:rwaters@widhh.com)

For further information, visit their web-site at <http://www.widhh.ca/onlinestore.html>

We also plan to have a table of WIDHH's products for sale at the Family Weekend on October 21st. If you would like to see a particular product, let Rick know.

## DOLLS WITH HEARING AIDS

A Mom whose young daughter was just diagnosed with hearing loss found a great website where you can order dolls with hearing aids. This is a great idea to help young children get used to the idea of wearing aids. The hearing aids come in a package with eyeglasses and can be ordered separately from the dolls.

They also offer a variety of adaptive equipment for dolls with disabilities such as wheelchairs, braces and crutches, protective helmets, guide dogs and walkers.

For more information go to: [www.wintergreen.ca](http://www.wintergreen.ca) and search for Adaptive Equipment for Dolls with Disabilities.

## 2006 CAEDHH CONFERENCE



BC Chapter of the Canadian Association of Educators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

**Friday, October 20, 2006**  
Eaglequest Golf Center in Surrey

Presenters:

Dr. Janet Jamieson & Susan Lane  
"Early Hearing Detection and Intervention"

Dr Shirin Antia  
"Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children in the public schools:  
School, family and student influences on success"

Arlene Stredler-Brown  
"Where do we go from here: Developing systems and enhancing services for young children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing"

For registration form and schedule, email [janetles@canada.com](mailto:janetles@canada.com)

Cost for Parents is \$75 or \$95 after October 1 (includes buffet lunch and breaks)

