

Come to our Spring Workshop!

" Your Child's Self-Esteem " with Barbara Desmarais

Saturday, May 12, 2007 - 10 am to 2pm

BC Family Hearing Resource Centre - Surrey

Children who like who they are and have a positive feeling of worth tend to be leaders rather than followers, tend to make friends easily and understand that mistakes are tools for learning. They also recover quickly from set-backs. Our hard-of-hearing children are children first. This workshop outlines some basic strategies around raising your child's confidence and addresses specific issues related to raising a child with a hearing loss.

Presenter: Barbara has been in the field of Family Life Education for over 18 years and a parenting and life coach for almost 5 years. She has worked in a variety of capacities with deaf and hard of hearing children and adults. Barbara comes highly recommended by many parents who have attended her workshops.

COST: \$15 and includes lunch

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

Sorry, no childcare A registration/info brochure will follow in March or April. Call Lisa Woogman for information at 604-271-5101



See you in Edmonton?!?!

National CHHA conference - May 24 to 27 - for ALL ages

<http://www.chha.ca/conference/2007/> for information

Time to reserve your campsite –

Hurry! APRIL 15 deadline!

Annual family camping weekend - July 20 to 22, 2007

Monck Park Provincial Campsite - on Nicola Lake

Registration form page 7

CHHA - BC Parents' Branch "FAMILY WEEKEND"

Parent sessions, Teen Konnection, Kidz Konnection

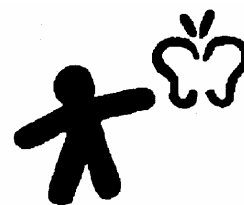
October 12, 13 2007 - Burnaby South Secondary School

Early notice - More info in May and September newsletters

EVENTS CALENDAR

May 12	Spring Workshop - BC Family Hearing Resource Centre
May 24-27	National CHHA conference - West Edmonton Mall
July 20 - 22	Family Camp - Monck Park at Nicola Lake, Merritt
August	Family picnic - hosted by Lonn family
Oct 12, 13	Family Weekend - Burnaby South Secondary School

February 2007



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

Message from the Pres

Reflecting back on our Family Weekend last October, there are a few things that stand out for me. We tried a new venue – Burnaby South Secondary School- and at first it seemed huge and empty. Once everyone sat down to enjoy the potluck, the space seemed perfect for families to meet and talk, and start making connections. It was loud – as social events are – and I noted that one of the teens, who has a hearing loss, was reading a novel. Mmmm, I thought....Acoustically challenging environment.

Despite our attempts to create a time for children and teens and their families to connect, I felt badly that it wasn't working for this fellow. Speaking with his dad, I learned of his concerns that his son was reading instead of engaging with people and socializing. Later on, however, I was relieved and pleased to see that this same teen was laughing out loud, along with the rest of us, at the antics of Max-I-Mime. Great, I thought, our evening entertainment plans had the desired wide appeal and was a success.

It wasn't until the next day that I experienced real joy, and learning, during the panel discussion at the end of the day. The teens joined the adults for this part of the program, which was titled 'Ask me, I grew up with a hearing loss...'. One of the panelists had to cancel at the last minute because of a family emergency. Karen Taylor, a wise educator, (and Provincial Outreach Consultant with the BC School for the Deaf) who has participated on many panels, used her skills to engage the audience in discussion.

One teen, that same fellow who was reading his novel during the potluck, started talking. He took up the invitation to join the panelists at the front of the room and he kept on talking. He was articulate. He obviously had a lot to say. As I listened to him, I was struck by the assumptions that I had made the previous night. Perhaps he couldn't hear, or his speech wasn't clear or maybe he

was ESL and it was just too hard to have a conversation. It was noisy. He might have been tired. Was I ever off-base. I can't remember everything this remarkable teen said, but the message he delivered, when he had a chance to talk and he felt like talking and *I listened*, was something like this: *Don't take everything so seriously. Relax. Don't over-analyze. Don't worry about everything.*

His participation was remarkable. He challenged my assumptions. He taught me, and his participation was my reward. (I know his mom was pretty proud. I'm sure that his dad heard all about it, too.)

Parents enjoyed meeting author Debby Waldman (see the book review in this newsletter) and sharing experiences. Technology updates were valuable, as usual. New families joined us, several Early Childhood Educators were enthusiastic participants who remarked that they couldn't believe how much they learned. The Kidz Konnection program was a hit, and the larger venue gave us lots of room and options. If the truth be known, the kids were way down the hall, safe and having a blast, so I actually didn't even see or worry about them!

Janet Les, the Family Weekend coordinator, again gave us her time and talent to produce the Family Weekend. Our thanks to her are huge and heartfelt. Thanks, too, to Teresa Lonn for her energy in coordinating the meals, and to our core group. Well done.

I'm hoping to see many of you at our Spring Workshop on Saturday May 12, 2007. Barbara Desmarais has been on our list to have at a workshop for some time, so we're pleased to co-host this event.

Leila Lolua

Dear Alex,

On October 21, 2006 I was supposed to be on a panel at Burnaby South for CHHA-Parents' Branch, talking about my experiences growing up as a hard of hearing person. As you know I was not able to attend and I understand that you took my place and did a brilliant job.

I felt very, very badly that I could not let people know that a medical emergency for my daughter meant that I couldn't be there (She is just fine now thank goodness). But life is like that sometimes and we just have to do what we have to do. So for both of us, that day turned out a lot differently than we planned.

When I learned what had happened on the panel, that you took my place and then did a wonderful job I can't begin to tell you how happy that made me. It is so important for us to be able to stand up and talk about our experiences living with a hearing loss. Many people cannot speak out so it makes it even more important for those of us who can, to do that when the opportunity presents itself.

I hope that you will continue to speak out about your experiences because it will make a difference for other youth and adults who can't speak out. They really need to hear people like yourself to know that there are many ways to manage and that they are not alone in dealing with hearing loss.

I really hope to meet you one day and to thank you in person. Perhaps we can both be on a panel together one day.

Very best wishes, Dana Brynelsen

Reflection on CHHA Family Weekend *by Alex Lu (age 14)*

As a hard of hearing person, I've always been the "bookish" type. Whereas "normal" people were great at orating and handling a conversation, reading and writing were my fortes. Isn't that stereotypical? If I were ever to write a book, then conduct an interview, I would be completely shocked and frozen at any question tying me to my hearing loss; reason being that if I were to get recognized for my writing skills, I would only reinforce the deeply-rooted idea that hard of hearing people were social recluses that hid in a corner, with a laptop and tapped out their opinions meekly rather verbalizing them- as the same stereotype is applied to writers. Surely, wave after wave of people will nod their heads, after their suspicions were confirmed! I would be shunned by my hard of hearing peers, after they got turned away from jobs managed by arrogant dunces who believed every bit of that idea! After snapping out of that thought, I feverishly muttered that I would never, ever, do an interview. Unless they offered me a billion and the editing rights to the tape.

Then, fate knocked. At the recent CHHA Family Weekend, I was sitting innocently with the crowds at the panel, when a woman started to voice her opinions about her son. She told everyone that she thought the reason why her son, who was really active in drama until he entered high school, started to get nervous about drama, was because of his hearing loss. As mentioned above, I'm absolutely infuriated with pretty much any stereotype. Babbling like a demented person, I grabbed the microphone and started to voice my opinions.

It took the typist who was close-captioning the weekend several tries to get it. I'm sure even she, a trained professional was raising her eyebrows disgruntledly at how rapidly I enunciated my words. "Eh? What did you say about giant beavers trying to gain an edge on the world market by capitalizing flour?" Doing myself justice, my mother says it wasn't that bad, but I'm sure it's just a parent's opinion. So, finally, I got my message through. I dispelled the motion gracefully (or as gracefully as I could on my ninth try) by telling the group that they couldn't chalk everything up to hearing loss, and that it was probably that the boy was nervous about entering high school. Panting furiously, with my face flushed, my face turned even redder when, amazingly, someone invited me, the "bookish" guy up to the front to the panel!

The moral of this story? Work on your speech, otherwise you're going to suffer. Or, a better moral, is that we should all work towards teaching the world that we are really capable of these feats they deemed us unable. "He can't, he's hard of hearing." "It's impossible for her to do that." Sentences that tie a person down before they can prove otherwise, and they're getting more and more common. Worse off, are the ones who pity; those whom let us, but only to the extent that they believe us capable. No one really understands how well we can do, or what we feel, not even the relatives of us, as shown from the previous example. So, what can we do? We can sit, and pray that people will just suddenly change, or we can actively work towards that change. Once the first hard of hearing person heads proudly on television and wins a debate beautifully, the stereotype crumbles. And once more and more people do so, the stereotype completely falls apart. Telling them that we can do so is not enough; we have to show them!

So, looking at the future, if I become a famous novelist and get asked that dreaded question, I'm not going to avoid it

anymore. Why? Because seeing the amazing hard of hearing people that I've met so far, that restricting notion, that hard of hearing people can't

communicate, will have already fallen apart. One person who confirms with that image wouldn't really matter- because we would already shown the world that indeed, we can do things just as good, maybe even better than them, and how so!

... and from Mom, Lily Tan

Have you ever had this moment: you've been watching your kid very closely day by day and suddenly, you found that your child has grown up so big, from the way he is talking, behaving and thinking. You have realized he (or she) is not your little baby who's always cried for your help any more. How do you feel?

Listening to Alex's speech on the panel, I was so proud about his logical thinking and the way he changed people's judgment of hard of hearing kids; I was also attached by his understanding and sensation of being a hard of hearing person. But, some of his persistent and judgmental statements made me worried about how he could open to the input and challenges in the future...

I've started my learning journey when Alex was diagnosed with a mild hearing loss when he was 5, and now his hearing loss has progressively become to severe to profound. Alex and I have grown up together: learning the new strategies of dealing with difficulties, sharing the enjoyment of achieving our goals, and frustrating about the everyday new problems. I am still learning... and now Alex is a teenager who, believe me, has incredible strengths and challenges. I've recently joined in our very devoted and advocated parent group - CHHA and looking forward to serving our community and also getting support for ourselves.



2006 FAMILY WEEKEND APPRECIATION

MAIN sponsors: Telus, Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

MAJOR sponsors: Cochlear Corp, Phonak, ReMax Corney Les Realty

THANKS to many volunteers and students who helped out.



Visit

<http://www.chha.ca/conference/2007/>

for all the info on CHHA National conference and trade show at Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall. Programs for children, youth and adults... An awesome organizing committee is sure to make this conference a good time for all. Try to attend!

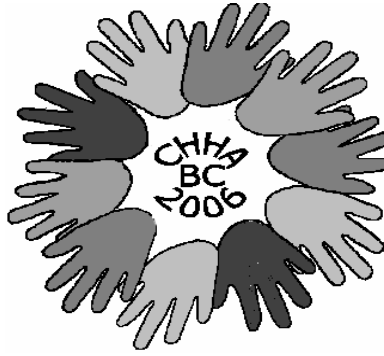
Impressions of the CHHA-BC Provincial Conference *by Lisa Woogman*

On September 29, I set out to attend my first ever CHHA-BC Conference. In fact it was my first time attending any Deaf and Hard of Hearing Conference and I was very excited to learn something new as well as nervous with not knowing what to expect. I was looking at it from two perspectives, one as the Administrator for the CHHA-B.C. Parents' Branch and one as a Mom looking for answers to help my 8 year old son who has mild to moderate-severe hearing loss.

Registration went smoothly and then I met up with a friend whose hard of hearing daughter is in the same school as my son. We had asked our children's teachers to attend part of the conference and were very happy when four of their teachers and the school councilor decided to come. We met up with them and sat down at a table together.

The first speaker was Dr. Jonathan Dawrant who is a Pediatrician at Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. Dr. Dawrant has severe hearing loss and listening to how he overcame so many obstacles to get to where he is now was incredibly inspiring. He spoke about what hearing impairment means. There are frequent missed fragments, always asking did I miss something? The need for reiteration (what, excuse me, pardon me, etc.) and the rationing of pardon me's. There are only so many times you can ask for something to be repeated before the speaker just says forget it. It's a never ending process and a little bit of a struggle always. He said to develop strong self esteem in kids, focus on what they're good at, develop one-on-one friendships and help them with their insecurities. **The most important things are ATTITUDE and GRATITUDE.** A good attitude can get you past the frustrating moments and it's important to appreciate the good things in life.

The other area that Dr. Dawrant discussed was the need to be strategic. An example was that he chose to go to a smaller school for medical school so he would be in smaller class sizes and could get to know the teachers better. You can do anything you want to do but you also have to take in the HOH factor, where you look at your affinity for the job or task, enjoyment and frustration level and make choices accordingly. He strongly recommended mini-mentors which are



more specific and task oriented than one overall mentor. An example of a mini-mentor is someone may have an Athletic Mentor and a University Classroom mentor, instead of trying to find one mentor with everything.

At the end of his speech he quoted a Harvard Study that suggested that **hardship and disability does not determine happiness** and then he opened it up to questions. One of the questions came from my son's teacher. He asked Dr. Dawrant what he felt he needed and didn't get when he was in elementary school. I thought that was such an amazing and caring question. Afterwards I overheard other mothers talking about how they wished that teacher was their child's teacher and I felt a swell of pride that his teachers wanted to learn how to help my son as much as possible and I knew how lucky we were to have that. Dr. Dawrant's speech really hit home to all of us about how difficult being Hard of Hearing can be and how it can be overcome. The lesson that I learned that day is to pass on information to teachers and health care providers and to ask them to put in that extra effort and you never know.

After a short refreshment break we went into breakout groups where you could choose one of three workshops. I chose to go to the Update on New Hearing Aid and FM Technology which was given by Grace Shyng who is an audiologist with the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. **People with hearing loss want solutions to their problems** and the computer age has brought many new developments to the industry. There are some new hearing aids that greatly reduce feedback, expansion which reduces microphone noise and directional microphones which allow the listener to narrow in on the speaker with reducing background noise. It is very important to speak to your audiologist to find

out what will best work for you or your child keeping in mind that technology is constantly changing. There have also been advancements in FM systems; there are unilateral FM's for people with hearing loss in only one ear and Bluetooth technology (wireless) which has many uses. The WIDHH had a booth with all different technology and I was able to find an amplified neck loop which will help my son tremendously on the telephone. There are some **amazing technologies out there to help make life easier** for HOH children you just have to find ones that are right for you.

We then moved on to workshop #2 and I chose *Listening with the Heart and Mind* which was given by Glen Grigg who is a Family Therapist, Professor in Psychology and is married to a HOH person. Glen spoke about how hearing loss can set up a conflict between the "thinking brain" and the "emotional brain" resulting in anxiety, stress and social isolation and how to stop this cycle and regain trust in your abilities, gaining more effective communication and less distress. Disability lies in the relationships and if you make relationships work HOH is not such a problem.

There are three crucial ingredients to hearing and listening; Sounds (ears & aids), Processing in the Brain and Emotional Modulation (kinds of feelings, intensity of feelings). **Escaping or avoiding situations can be very isolating.** For example some children have a really hard time in a group situations so instead of just avoiding these situations have one-on-one play dates where there is less stress and children can increase self esteem. Communication is key to lower stress and use lots of humour and patience. Glen also said that consequences of decisions that you make is not completed until 26-28 years old. This means that up until the age of 28 children do not completely understand the consequences to their actions. I thought this was quite enlightening.

After a wonderful buffet dinner we all moved back together to listen to Gael Hannan. Gael is an amazing woman with hearing loss who did a show portraying all different types of people with hearing loss in different situations and I think almost everybody could relate to something in the

...continued page 5

B.C. Early Hearing Program

In the Spring of 2005, the provincial government approved \$19 million over three years to roll out the BC Early Hearing Program which will screen the hearing of 40,000 newborn babies each year once it is up and running. The goal of the program is:

- every baby will be screened by 1 month of age
- all babies with a suspected hearing loss will have their hearing status confirmed by three months of age
- babies with a confirmed hearing loss will be enrolled in an intervention program by 6 months of age.

The most exciting part is that research is showing that when children are identified this young and enrolled in intervention, they do not necessarily experience any language delays.

For more information, please visit <http://www.phsa.ca/AgenciesServices/Services/BCEarlyHearingPrgrs/default.htm>

We are currently in year two of the roll-out (2006-2007), and babies are now being screened in most special care nurseries around the province.

Cathy Chow and Teresa Kazemir are part of the Parent Advisory Group for the B.C. Early Hearing Program. The role of the Parent Advisory Group is to give a parents' perspective on how things should look, feel, and be for families, from the time of screening through to intervention. So far they have given feedback on various brochures that will be given to families going through the program, and are helping to develop some parent materials for the website.

We will continue to give updates on what the group is doing throughout the process of setting up the program.

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show. She was funny, touching and very informative. Her philosophy is **hearing loss is nothing to be ashamed of so don't say sorry because saying sorry sucks!** Being HOH is so much work sometimes people need to take a break so they bluff. They pretend they understand when they don't but they don't have the energy to get to the bottom of the situation. She got everyone present to do a no bluff pledge and to instead, engage, interact and communicate. It was a wonderful way to end the evening and I went home to get a good night sleep looking forward to the next day.

Day two started off with a bang! It was a stand up comedy routine by Chris Johnson who is known as Dr. Laugh. Chris had everyone laughing right from the beginning. His message is to get people's attention and to get them to listen you have to get them laughing. Laughter reduces stress, promotes self-esteem and eliminates negative thinking. People need permission to be funny. Everyone can relate to this not just people with hearing loss, life is much more positive if you can laugh through it. This was a fun way to start the day and a great life lesson.

After a refreshment break, we went to breakout groups. I chose Communication Strategies for the Hard of Hearing. This was led by Henry Lam who is an audiologist and teacher with the WIDHH. Henry discussed the four factors affecting communication and how to control them as much as possible:

Environment Auditory distractions or background noise – try to be aware and try to reduce background noise as much as

possible. There are some new technologies in hearing aids that can help with this problem.

Visual Distractions – takes attention away from speaker – e.g.: acoustics, seating, distance, PA systems, interference objects, lighting, and ventilation. Hard surfaces are more difficult, use carpet and other soft surfaces to limit echoes. The closer the listener sits the better and tries to limit interfering objects such as huge columns.

Speaker The speaker is very important and problems arise for the HOH when there is a barrier, speaking from room to room, talking in the other direction or with a mouth full, if the speaker has heavy facial hair, cover lips or has limited mouth movements. Also, if the speaker has a soft voice, certain tones of voice, accents and speaking too quickly can be a problem.

To solve some of these problems the speaker should face the listener, get the listener's attention before speaking and have a clear line of sight to face and mouth. The HOH person should be specific about what the speaker needs to do, for example speak slower.

Listener The listener must have realistic expectations and be able to adjust and strategize. An example is to get to a lecture early to get a good seat so try to plan in advance if possible.

Message The message is what is being said and many times HOH people miss part or all of a message. Use grammar and vocabulary rules to figure out words. If you are familiar with a topic it's easier to hear. The use of overheads and visual

outlines is very important.

Some repair strategies that Henry suggested were: Ask for partial repetition instead of to repeat the whole message again. For example: Steve is going where? Or what did you say after ____? Focus the speaker on what you missed. The other idea was to repeat what you thought you heard and then confirm it, especially important information like phone numbers, etc.

I found this information very useful and could see that as my son got older we could begin to introduce some of these strategies to help make things easier for him. After this session I started talking to two other wonderful Moms who both had boys a little bit older than my son. It was very interesting to hear that we all had the same concerns for our boys. They all seemed to be doing well in school but how do we know what they are actually missing? How do we help them to reach their potential and how do we let them be more independent when we worry so much and want to help them to make life easier?

At the end of the weekend I felt that as the Administrator for CHHA-B.C. Parents' Branch I came away with a lot of useful information to pass on to parents of HOH children. As a Mom it brought back those thoughts of **yes my son is different and things will be much more difficult for him, but I am not alone and there are so many things out there now that can help him succeed to the best of his abilities.** He can become a Doctor if he wants to be and that was a very encouraging feeling. All in all it was a wonderful weekend which I'm happy to have been a part of.

Congratulations Lauren!

Lauren Sherwood, 17, was crowned 'Miss Osoyoos' on June 30, 2006. She will represent her community at many public events throughout the year. Many girls attain this title, but what makes this special is that Lauren has a profound bilateral high frequency hearing loss. As part of the Royalty Programme, Lauren wrote and presented a comedy monologue on her most embarrassing moments being HOH - winning her the 'Best Talent' award. Lauren went on to win 'Best Speech' for a five-minute uplifting speech on the environment and the 'Knowledge' and 'Judges Presentation' Awards.

EDITOR: In the interest of space, we hope to publish Lauren's story in our next newsletter - watch for it!

Dear Lauren,

I am writing this letter to you as a way of expressing my sincere congratulations for winning the Miss Osoyoos Royalty Pageant, 2006. I want you to know that writing is my area of weakness but I am trying to share my words with the greater hard of hearing population.

Not only are you beautiful, talented and bright you are a caliber above the rest of the candidates and the majority of your peers. You must realize that I am biased, of course, but I am telling you how I feel. As I sat in the theatre at Osoyoos Secondary School I felt so proud to be able to participate for the first time in a pageant such as this and watch you and the other candidates perform. You are so natural on stage - full of confidence, happy and have a great sense of humor.

I knew that you were a winner - no one could be so open and honest about themselves, especially having a profound hearing loss. I think the judges were absolutely correct with their reasons for choosing you over the other girls. You were the most deserving for the title and all the awards!

I want to wish you a wonderful year as Miss Osoyoos, 2006. The opportunities to make long-lasting friends, travel, meet new people and experience new things are at your fingertips. I am very proud to have had the chance to know you and be your friend. Thank you for being a part of my life.

Your 'teacher', advocate and friend
Karen Matheson
Grade 12 Hearing Resource Teacher
Osoyoos Secondary School



Youth Transition Program

The Youth Transition Program is a provincial resource program for deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf blind youth (ages 17-21). The transition years, from adolescence to early adulthood, present a critical developmental period. Planning for the future is a vital task to ensure successful transition.

The Youth Transition Program is celebrating its one-year anniversary, and it has been a good first year. Teresa Kollias and Melissa Campbell have been busy serving clients all over British Columbia and developing connections with other service providers and resources to ensure successful transition for all clients.

Commencing July 1st, Melissa has accepted the Child, Family and Community Consultant position and will be responsible for Consultative Services and supervising the Youth Transition Program and Deaf Access Office. Melissa's replacement as a Youth Transition Specialist is Sarah Taylor. Welcome to the team, Sarah!

Setting up a transition plan sounds simple. However, it is definitely not that easy. There are many things to consider: Who Am I? What are my needs? Goals? Can I go to college/university? When are the important deadlines? How can I pay for my education? Are there grants or loans I can apply for? What are my other options if I don't want to go to college? Can I get a job? Move out? Get my driver's license? Go traveling? What kind of services are out there? Who will help me? - only to name a few.

The transition into adulthood can be challenging for deaf and hard of hearing youth and their families. As adolescents near adulthood, many important decisions about education, employment, living arrangements, and finances need to be made.

As a resource, YTP offers a unique and vital link for youth towards building their network of support and creating their path towards adulthood. YTP services include one-to-one support from the Youth Transition Specialist in the development of Individual Transition Plan (ITP), client/family/community planning meetings, goal setting, appointment support, assessment of strengths and interests, and connection to community resources.

How do I get a good head start on my Transition Plan? Volunteer! Volunteering enables you to network with different people and explore career options. It gives you a chance to discover, whether or not you are really suited to a particular line of work and to network with different people. YTP can also help you link with volunteering organizations.

Also, in an effort to become independent, it is strongly encouraged that you invest in technology in order to become independent. What kind of technology? It varies, depending on each person. Technology could include a vibrating or flashing alarm clock, TTY or a special telephone device with increased volume; so that you can wake yourselves in the morning and connect with services/employees. This is one simple step that develops your independence.

For more information about the Youth Transition Program, you can view the website at: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/psdhh/> or contact us at: 604.660.1800v, 604.660.1807 TTY, 604.660.1859 Fax or Email: melissa.campbell@gov.bc.ca

CHHA – BC Parents Branch - Family Camping Weekend 2007
Monck Park: on Nicola Lake, 20 km. from Merritt
\$50 Total camping fee for 2 nights: Friday, July 20 and Saturday, July 21, 2007

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

Please send your registration to: **Jamie Mulligan**
 24120 102B Ave. Maple Ridge B.C. V2W 2B4
 Home: 604-463-7180 E-mail: chhacamping@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 of children	_____	Age	____	HoH/Deaf ?	Y	____	N	____
	_____	Age	____	HoH/Deaf ?	Y	____	N	____
	_____	Age	____	HoH/Deaf ?	Y	____	N	____
	_____	Age	____	HoH/Deaf ?	Y	____	N	____

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 Jamie Mulligan)

Provincial Gov't Meeting – by Lisa Woogman

On Tuesday, November 14, 2006 I attended a meeting with the Ministries of Employment and Income Assistance, Advanced Education, Children and Family Development, Education and Health to discuss experiences searching for information about equipment and assistive devices. This session was focused on hearing issues while other sessions focused on other disabilities. These discussions are intended to lead to a “Citizen Centred Model” of service. This model would be to look more at what deaf or hard of hearing people’s individual needs are and try to service those needs instead of the individual trying to fit into the system. Part of the discussion was about establishing a 1-800 Personal Supports Line which would answer questions for anyone with a disability.

I would like to thank everyone who emailed comments to me before the meeting. Unfortunately the focus was on individual stories and the processes that we went through from diagnosis to acquiring assistive devices. I tried to incorporate everyone’s comments into my story as best as I could. I was the only person representing hard of hearing people while everyone else was either deaf or representing the deaf community. It became quite clear early on that our needs in the two communities are very different. It also became clear to the ministries that deaf and hard of hearing is a very complex subject.

I think the intentions of this project are very positive although I’m not sure logistically how it will all play out, but in the meantime the shift to thinking more about the needs of individuals with hearing loss is a step in the right direction.

Annual Camping Weekend

It is hard to believe it is 2007 already and the 5th annual CHHA camping weekend is around the corner. Time to start making plans for the most fun weekend of the summer. If you have been to some of the past camping weekends then you know how much fun is packed into a few days. However if you have never been this is the year to check it out.

CHHA family camping weekend is a great family outing that kids of all ages will enjoy. Adults have a chance to be big kids as well. The annual soccer game is an event that is not to be missed by grown ups and kids of all ages.

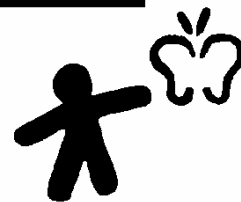
If just relaxing and having a snooze is your thing then the lake is a great place to be on the Saturday afternoon. Time spent recharging your batteries and letting the kids have fun is something that is important to any family

So make your plans and send in the registration as soon as possible and get ready to have FUN FUN FUN!



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...

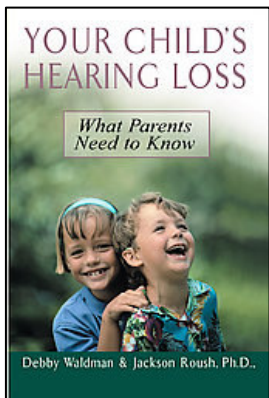
Payable to: CHHA - B.C. Parents' Branch - c/o 10150 Gillanders Road; Chilliwack, BC V2P 6H4 - Phone: 604-794-3772

Book Review by Leila Lolua

Your Child's Hearing Loss – What Parents Need to Know

By Debby Waldman with Jackson Roush, PhD

This is the kind of book that I wish was available when I first learned that my child had a hearing loss. Debby Waldman can write – she is a journalist, and is also the parent of a child with hearing loss. Together with Jackson Roush, an audiologist and professor, she has produced a valuable resource.



Your Child's Hearing Loss explains the technical information that parents need to know to understand and start their journey raising a child with a hearing loss. Options are presented factually, without judgment, and the glossary and resources sections are thorough.

What makes the factual information- presented in an accessible, easy to read manner- so compelling is the infusion of stories and experiences of Debby's family and the many families she interviewed while researching this book. I could relate to Debby's devastation of dealing with the initial diagnosis, the sadness, and all of the questions and doubt. She reflects honesty and with great insight about her thoughts and emotions, *Accepting the Incomprehensible*, as she puts it. I laughed out loud while reading about her perceptions and misconceptions in

those early days. *When you're in the midst of a hearing aid crisis, it's hard to imagine you'll ever find the memory amusing...we take that experience and turn it into an anecdote.* Humour truly does help keep things in perspective.

Debby's words will help guide and reassure parents in their search for knowledge to learn how to parent a child with a hearing loss. Parents have a critical role in monitoring their child's hearing progress. In addition to learning about audiograms, and hearing aid equipment, and working with all of the specialists, Debby also talks about communication, language, advocacy, school and pre-school...in her words, *Advice from the Trenches*. This book is worth reading. Remember to recommend it if you meet 'new parents' who have questions to help them in their journey.

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Young Adults Network (YAN)

is looking for youth with hearing loss who are interested in networking, getting together, etc...

- contact Sophie Paller (Chilliwack) for information sophiepaller@hotmail.com
- Phillip Rogers, CHHA Young Adult rep can be contacted at chhayarep@gmail.com
- CHHA - YAN has a newsletter available by email - contact Greg Carrier at greg.carrier@gmail.com

They will be an active contingent at the National CHHA conference in Edmonton May 24 - 27. Encourage your hard of hearing son/daughter to attend!