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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Lee Ramsdell

Vice President Jim Bissell

Secretary Doug Kingdon

Treasurer Louella Pick

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Sandra Morin
Marcy Vautour
Thomas Huizinga
Pratik Patel

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lee Ramsdell, President

This summer has been busy for the Edmonton Branch and the fall will continue to be very active. Fortunately, we have a full board, and these members will be serving on a number of projects in the coming year. Thanks to the efforts of our Vice President, Jim Bissel, has managed to get us selling 50-50 tickets to this years **Blues Festival, Aug. 19-21**. This event will have an area with a hearing loop, and we will be promoting our organization. The office staff has organized volunteers to sell the 50/ 50 tickets and that is very much appreciated. I encourage everyone that is in town to spend a few hours at this event. For more information regarding the event here is a link:

<https://www.bluesinternationalltd.com>

This will be my final year as President of the Edmonton Branch, and it is past time that we have a new President. CHHA Edmonton has been representing the hard of hearing for the Edmonton Area for 30 years and over this period there has been a total of ONLY 4 different presidents! It is essential that we have someone serve as President that has never held that position. I am sure that whoever becomes the next President will bring new perspective to this organization. Is this person you??

Please give this some consideration and come to our next meeting on Sept. 12th to discuss! I look forward to seeing you there.

Lee Ramsdell

OFFICE NEWS

by Cindy Gordon Program Director

Welcome summer!

“Keep your face to the sunshine and you will never see the shadows” — Helen Keller

That’s what CHHA-Ed must continue to do, keep our message out there to ensure living with hearing loss continues to be manageable for all. And while summertime does become somewhat slower...We continue to provide programs, services and advocacy no matter what the season to help all of our members.

Healthcare kits, YOUR THIRD EAR sessions, Sensitivity Training, Speech Reading Classes as well as ASL all continue to run and new sessions will ALL begin in the fall. Please check this newsletter and our website for dates, times, and locations.

This year’s golf tournament June 15th, 2022, was a success!! 120 Golfers attended a rainy start BUT a bright finish, with breakfast and a lunch banquet, new sponsors, and prizes as well as a West Jet Raffle, FUN was had by all. Planning for next year will be under way soon. If you are interested in helping us out in any way, please contact me! Again, Big thanks to all those who supported us in this endeavor. The funds were to help the Hearing Assistance Fund grow, so donations are still welcome!

Our office is here to help those with hearing loss in many ways. Questions, support, advocacy or devices. Let us know what you need. We do have a variety of donated hearing aids, phones, alarms, etc. If you need something, please let us know, we’d be happy to give them to you.

As always... this is YOUR organization, and we want you to feel a part of it!
Contact me any time with ideas, suggestions or offers to help.

Email me at: cindy@chha-ed.com

Cindy Gordon
Program Director



BEHIND THE SCENES AT CHHA-ED

CHHA-Ed is very fortunate to have a volunteer that many of you don't know is part of our team...Mike Eaton.

Mike is like an unofficial third member of the office, and integral to the CHHA-Ed association. Mike has used his knowledge as a web master to completely redesign CHHA-Ed's website. He has been instrumental in making improvements in the quality and design. Mike continues in an "on-need" capacity adding, changing, and modifying our website as needed. In addition, Mike volunteers his time to help us in other IT capacities, website design, email accounts and computer advice, as well as keeping our information safe and up to date.

Mike previously worked with CHHA-Ed board member Doug Kingdon, who recruited Mike, over 5 years ago, to take over CHHA's website when the person before him wanted to focus on other priorities. Mike also volunteers his services, maintaining the website for the Northwest Voyageurs Canoe and Kayak Club in Edmonton.

Mike has worked at Suncor for 32 years, most recently as an Engineering Director handling large projects. Mike lives in Calgary with his wife Michelle. They have a daughter that lives in Edmonton.

Mike was awarded The Dr. Norah Browne Professional Award that is given to individuals who are professionals or a professional group that have contributed outstanding service to the work of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), at the National, Chapter (Provincial/Territorial) or Branch level.

Mike goes above and beyond his role as a volunteer, often making great suggestions and offering ideas. We could not manage without his expertise and devotion of time. Thank you, Mike!



CHHA-ED HEARING ASSISTANCE FUND

The Hearing Assistance fund endeavors to assist disadvantaged people with hearing loss by making funds available to purchase hearing aids, implants, and devices, or to repair still-viable hearing aids. A strong set of criteria has been established to ensure financial need. Eligible candidates must:

- Require financial assistance
- Be of age 19 or over
- Live in Edmonton/North of Central Alberta



All donations to CHHA-Edmonton for the Hearing Assistance Fund are appreciated!

Please visit the CHHA-Ed Hearing Assistance Fund page for more information, at <https://www.chha-ed.com/assistance/hearing-aid-assistance-fund/>.

Download the application form at <https://www.chha-ed.com/wp-content/uploads/Forms/2020-HAF-BLANK-APPLICATION-FORM.pdf>

CONVERSATIONAL ASL CLASSES

ALL CLASSES ARE ON-LINE USING “ZOOM” WITH IN-PERSON COMING SOON

BEGINNER LEVEL “A”

Thursday Sept. 15th -Nov. 03rd

Saturday Sept. 10th – Nov. 19th

BEGINNER LEVEL “B”

Wednesday Sept. 21st- Nov. 09th

CLASSES AVAILABLE WEEKDAY EVENINGS FOR LEVEL A & B, SATURDAYS MORNINGS FOR LEVEL A.

COST: \$150 PER PERSON, 8 CLASSES

* Please contact the office at for more information or visit our website.

SPEECHREADING LEVEL 1 & COPING CLASSES

TUESDAY MORNINGS

SEPTEMBER 20-NOVEMBER 15, 2022

WHAT IS SPEECHREADING?

Speechreading is the ability to understand speech by observing visual cues such as the movement of the lips, tongue, jaw, and facial expressions. Speechreading also involves observing other cues such as body language, gestures and situational clues. It is a skill that can be learned through study and practice. Coping strategies go hand-in-hand with this skill and its success! Students will learn new strategies and information every class!!

Dates:

Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 04, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 01, 08, 15

Cost: \$175 per person- Max. 8 people per class at the Jerry Forbes Centre

Deadline for Registration: Sept. 13/22

YOUR THIRD EAR

PRESENTATION DECSCRIPTION:

Cindy Gordon has developed a thorough, effective, and efficient way to present key issues to hearing aid wearers, AND their communication Partners in a fun and lively manner.

The program takes participants on a path of understanding their own hearing loss, recognizing unrealistic expectations they may have of hearing aids, accepting their reality of hearing loss, moving forward as hard of hearing individuals, and reconnecting with loved ones with some communication strategies!

Dates:

Thursday Sept. 15th 9:30-11:30am In-Person @ Jerry Forbes Centre

Thursday Oct. 13th 1:00-3:00pm In-Person @ Jerry Forbes Centre

Please bring your communication partner!

HEARING LOOPS

What is a Hearing Loop?

A **Hearing Loop**, also known as an Induction or Audio Loop, provides a magnetic, wireless signal that is picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to T-Coil (Telecoil) setting. Since the signal is being delivered directly to the **Hearing Aid** or **Cochlear Implant**, the sound is customized to each individual's hearing loss.

How Does it Work?

The loop system consists of a microphone to pick up the spoken word; an amplifier which process the signal which is then sent through the final piece; the induction loop, a wire placed around the perimeter of a room or sanctuary to act as an antenna that radiates the magnetic signal to the hearing aid or cochlear implant.



If you know an organization who is interested in learning more about Hearing Loops, contact the CHHA-ED office.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2022

Academic Scholarship Award

Hailey Viteychuk- plans and goals for the future are to become a doctor. Hailey is applying to medical school in the fall with hope to help people through medicine and to spread knowledge about hearing loss. Through medicine, Hailey will strive to improve experiences of those with hearing loss in the hospital and encourage programs to educate the staff to better communicate with patients. Currently a server at THE KEG, which prompts Hailey to face hearing challenges daily. Hailey has been extremely successful in her academic career so far without any accommodations and is an advocate for hearing loss. Hailey hopes that through volunteering at CHHA she will gain a great deal of knowledge of the problems the Hard of Hearing face and create awareness to the younger community. The scholarship will aid to continue her education for as many years as needed and be greatly appreciated. You might have met Hailey at our golf tournament as a volunteer.

High School Achievement Award

Qasim Afzal- Qasim started having hearing issue in grade 11 but did not realize what was going on. Not understand the class lecture or the discussions but was too embarrassed to ask others to repeat what they said. Qasim hearing loss also caused frustration at home and found himself smiling and nodding more often to avoid talking to others. Qasim always tries to sit at the front of the class to hear well, but not every time there are seats at the front. With his grades sliding Qasim went for hearing test, where it was realized he needed to wear hearing aids. Qasim's main struggle with hearing loss was the inability to focus on what the teacher said and taking down the notes at the same time, trying so hard to listen to every word while writing. Now, with aids Qasim can focus on both, listening and writing at the same time when the teacher explains something in class. Using caption and Easy Pen, which is a DM say system has made learning easier. Now Qasim isn't embarrassed wearing hearing aids would be happy to talk to others about how beneficial aids can be.

Congratulations Hailey and Qasim!!

Captioning & Court Reporting Scholarship Award- To be announced soon

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

If you haven't been on our website come, see what's new.

Thanks to a Grant CHHA-Ed received from Alberta Community Social Services to make videos of our services for Hard of Hearing people in need during covid

The videos are:

- Speechreading
- Third Ear
- Loops
- Hospital Kits

Simply go to www.chha-ed.com under the Education tab look for Links and Resources...then videos

CHHA-Ed Members Meeting

Monday September 12th
7:00PM at Jerry Forbes Center
Mezzanine Level, enter thru south employee entrance

Guest Speaker: Kim Twitchell
Consumer Engagement Manager
MED-EL Corp
Presentation on Cochlear Implants and more!

All members and Public welcome!

It's time to see each other again!

PLEASE RSVP BY Sept. 08th

Your 2022 Board

Lee Ramsdell I will serve his last year as your president. **Jim Bissell** is once again the Vice-President for one remaining year. **Doug Kingdon** has volunteered to be the Treasure once again. **Louella Pick** has taken over as Treasurer from outgoing board member Kara Kempin. Long-term CHHA-Ed members **Gerda Alexander** and **Leslie Colby** are once again serving as Directors. **Sandra Morin** and **Marcy Vautour** are your Directors for another term. New to the Board are **Thomas Huizinga** and **Pratik Patel**.

The Board would like to thank outgoing Board Members, Kara Kempin, Remington Shandro and Lasha Kraychy for their service to the board and CHHA-Ed. We wish them all the best in the future and hope to see them stop by or at our various activities.

CHHA-Ed would like to recognize the contribution our member & past President of CHHA-Ed, **Marilyn Kingdon** has made as the outgoing President of CHHA National. Marilyn served as president for one 3-year term, implementing many new initiatives and represented our branch honorably. Thank you, Marilyn for your service to CHHA.

HEARING AIDS AVAILABLE

CHHA-Ed has graciously been gifted Hearing Aids over the years from generous donors. We have a large variety of types of hearing aids ready for the taking. If you're looking at getting a new aid or someone you know is looking for a replacement.

We still have a variety of **PHONES** and **HEARING ASSIST DEVICES** should you need these items. Once again please contact the office for more information.

They will be available at the Sept. 12th meeting!

----- BECOME A MEMBER! ----- CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION – EDMONTON BRANCH

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*Membership is open to anyone who
is hard-of-hearing or interested in supporting
those who are hard-of-hearing!*

To become a member of the
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) and
**Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton
(CHHA-ED)**, visit the CHHA website at:
www.chha.ca, or our website at www.chha-ed.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We appreciate and value the support of volunteers.
Please contact us if interested in volunteering for:

- Casinos
- Annual Golf Tournament committee
- Fundraisers
- Serving as a Board Member and/or on a committee