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OVERHEARD

FALL-WINTER of 2019

*The holiday season is the perfect
time
to reflect on how grateful we are to
have such a supportive
CHHA-Ed community.
May this season bring you peace
and joy!
Season's Greetings
and
Happy New Year!*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lee Ramsdell, President

Brrr! It is winter, and those of us who aren't "snowbirds" love this time of year! My grandchildren are so much fun to be around, I remain here regardless of the COLD outside.

Thanks goes out to Cindy Gordon for all of the work she does with our Hospital Kit project. Awareness continues to grow; Alberta Health Services in Calgary has contacted Cindy about our Hospital Kit, so her work is being noticed in other Albertan cities, as well as the Greater Edmonton area. The Hospital Kit is an asset to those with hearing loss in hospital, which I know from personal experience is challenging.

Since my last report, CHHA-Edmonton has been present at the Annual Health and Wellness forum, the AUMA Conference in September, the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities (VAD) Conference in October, and West Edmonton Mall's Senior Social in November. All events were a success, with temporary Loop systems installed in auditoriums and an Infrared system in the atrium. We also set up a table with information on CHHA-Ed projects and classes.

SAGE, a sponsor for the Annual Health and Wellness forum, was pleased that we were able to provide barrier-free hearing in two areas. As a result of the AUMA conference, a number of municipalities are now aware of the need for barrier-free hearing, and some of the technology that is now available. We had many people and organizations visit our table for information. I will be following-up with groups that indicated that we could host a session about hearing loss, and we will provide barrier-free hearing at their event next year.

CHHA in Edmonton and Calgary are involved in providing Barrier-Free Hearing as a pilot project. In Edmonton, a hearing loop will be installed at the Glenrose Hospital, and we will be meeting with them to determine the best place to install the counter loop. The location in Calgary has yet to be determined.

Thanks to the efforts of Gary Leclair, Frances Tallon, and Cindy Gordon, CHHA-Edmonton has become known in Edmonton and in other municipalities as a place to contact for hearing loss information and assistance.

It was great to see so many of you at the Potluck dinner.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OFFICE NEWS

By Cindy Gordon, Program Director

The office staff are busy as usual, being visible at community events, trade shows, and meetings, and providing information to the public about our services and benefits. Just a few of the events include St. Albert's Senior Fair, Older-Bolder-Better in the west-end, West Edmonton Mall's seniors events, and the upcoming Day of Persons with Disabilities. If you think we should be in attendance at something, OR you want to help us out, please let us know!

Your Third Ear, Speech Reading, and ASL classes have been running full classes. We are glad the interest continues! Check out the new dates for January on our website! Classes fill up fast, so register soon!

As a reminder, both our office staff are part-time and our board is made of volunteers, so if you would like to help out in the office or on a project, or have an idea, we would love to work with you. This is YOUR organization, and we want you to feel a part of it!

Feel free to contact me any time with ideas, suggestions, or offers to help. Email me at cindy@chha-ed.com.

As the Christmas season approaches, I would personally like to thank the board for their guidance, dedication, and time over 2019. A wonderful holiday season of joy and good health to all our members.

We look forward to some new adventures and events in 2020!!

Warmly,

Cindy Gordon



HEARING AID ASSISTANCE FUND

By Susanne Martin, Interim Chair

The Hearing Aid Assistance Fund (HAAF) has been busy since the last report. This year, we had nine applications – more than ever in our history. While our primary goal is to subsidize hearing aids, we also had applications for periphery equipment (devices that connect to hearing aids in some way to help them function optimally).

We approved seven of those nine applications. Our committee always struggles to decline an application, because we can relate to the challenges of affording such vital technology. Nonetheless, one had to be declined due to surpassing our financial restrictions. In such cases, we do our best to offer alternatives to the applicant. The other individual who did not receive subsidy had rescinded his/her application. I encourage HAAF applicants to be very thorough in their documentation. This will speed up the decision significantly. The committee will be meeting in mid-December to review the Terms of Reference and decision-making strategies to determine if changes are needed.

Our funds are running low; however, we still have enough to subsidize two more applicants before the next golf tournament, if need be. We are also still accepting bottles and other refundable containers to help supplement the fund.

We will soon be welcoming a new Chairperson, Jim Bissell, to this portfolio. He has agreed to take on the role, and I will sit on the sidelines once he feels he has clear understanding of his duties.

Wishing a Wonderful Christmas and New Year to ALL!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

- ... Text-to-Hear Apps & Live Transcribe Apps for Androids are available for your cellphone???
- ... Otter and Capti are available for Apple devices
- ... Voice-to-“Text” translates a conversation to your cellphone as it is taking place

Check out these apps and see what will work for you!!!

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

By Gerda Alexander

The recipient of the NAIT Captioning and Court Reporting Program Scholarship 2019 was Abby Robinson. She received an award of \$1000, as well as a one-year membership to CHHA-Edmonton. Congratulations, Abby!

Abby graduated in May of this year. During her two years at NAIT, she shadowed captioners Shannon Wiebe and Sandra Burns, attended a CHHA-Edmonton General meeting, and volunteered at the CHHA-Edmonton office for the Golf tournament in June of this year.

Her goal is to become a captioner for hard-of-hearing students in schools, meetings like those for CHHA-Ed, official functions, or closed captioning for TV programs. At present, she is working as a court-reporter in Edmonton.

We did not receive any applications for the CHHA-Edmonton Academic Scholarship in 2019. If you know of anybody who might qualify, please encourage them to apply. All information can be found on our website at www.chha-ed.com.

Finally, this year, we completed setting up an Award for Hard-of-Hearing High School Students with a monetary prize of \$500, anonymously donated by one of our members. We expect applications to be submitted by spring/summer of 2020.



SPEECHREADING

By Frances Tallon

Have you been thinking about taking Speechreading classes, but you're not sure if they are for you?

Or, have you taken the class in the past, but feel like you are losing some of the skills you gained?

CHHA-Ed's drop-in practice Speechreading sessions are now running. There is no need to register (though we always appreciate a call letting us know you're coming!). Classes run about 1.5 to 2 hours, and the cost is \$5.00.

This is a low-stakes opportunity to see what Speechreading is all about, meet instructors, and meet other students who face the same challenges.

Practice classes are held at CHHA-Edmonton's office in the Jerry Forbes Centre (12122-68 St.) on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 PM.

Speechreading Instructors:
Linda M. & Wendy R.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLASSES!

EVENTS

CHHA-Ed meetings

- Board Meeting – Monday, January 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- General Meeting – Monday, February 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
- Annual General Meeting – Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Location of Meetings is the Jerry Forbes Center (12122-68 Street)

CLASSES

Speechreading & Coping Skills

- Level 1 – Thursdays, January 16th to March 12th, 2020
- Level 2 – Wednesdays, January 15th to March 4th, 2020

Location of classes is St. Albert Further Education, #107, 80 McKenny Ave.

Beginner Level A Conversational American Sign Language (ASL)

- Tuesday (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.) – January 21st to March 10th, 2020
- Wednesday (6:30 to 8:30 p.m.) – February 5th to March 25th, 2020
- Saturday (10 a.m. to 12 p.m.) – February 1st to March 21st, 2020

Location of classes is Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in PD Room #2

For more information on classes and events:

Visit our website at www.chha-ed.com,

Email us at info@chha-ed.com, or

Call us (780) 428-6622

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday : 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please leave a message if no one is available to take your call.
All emails and phone messages will be returned within 2 business days.



Having trouble “hearing”
at the Airport?

Stop at the *Info Booth* and ASK questions,
and NOW Hear the Answers!

New Hearing Loop has been installed!!!

CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION – EDMONTON BRANCH

“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 our website at www.chha-ed.com or the CHHA website at www.chha.ca

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

**For more information
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