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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lee Ramsdell, President

For the past 15 months with Covid 19 in our midst we have all felt the effects of communication breakdown!! Barrier Free hearing is still a priority to us!! WE have been promoting clear view mask sales and continue to do so. However, with restrictions, we have had very little interest from organizations for barrier free hearing solutions BUT like the season that is now starting to change. Recently, we finished looping the Chapel and overflow area for the Canterbury Foundation Retirement and Assisted Living venue and be installing other systems for them later this year.

We met with the North East Senior Centre earlier this month and we have proposed to loop the gym and provide a portable loop system.

We had a meeting with the City of Edmonton regarding the Election this fall and the need to have Barrier Free Hearing. They are looking to equip 12 locations with hearing loops so we are hoping and excited that we will be involved in this undertaking.

The office occasionally receives other requests from organizations looking for barrier free equipment to rent for events and this might be time for more change and for CHHA Edmonton to purchase some counter loops that could be used to rent out for events.

CHHA Edmonton is one of a few branches that actively promotes barrier free hearing solutions. The Sudbury Branch has a pilot project to loop an independent Loblaws store that includes cashier stations, their deli center, the pharmacy, and the service counter.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1-2 President's Message

2 Office News

3 Member Highlight

4 Free for the Taking

5 CHHA Ed Support

6 Mentoring Program

Assistance Fund

7 Masks

8 In Memoriam

They will have good media coverage for this project and their hope is to get all stores across Canada to loop their stores. CHHA-Edmonton will be working in Edmonton with support from Sudbury on this as this seems like a worthwhile endeavor.

The time has come to form a looping committee that goes out to venues such as commercial stores, banks, senior living locations, pharmacies and so forth to promote looping their venue. Having nontechnical people with a hearing loss promoting these systems may be more effective than a technical based person doing this type of promotion.

If you are interested in being a part of this committee and affecting change, please reach out to me at leeram@shaw.ca

I look forward to hearing from you!!

OFFICE NEWS

By Cindy Gordon, Program Director

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of Overheard.

This pandemic has changed the way we are used to doing things. It has impacted the way CHHA-Ed operates. WE have however adapted and have been able to offer most of our courses online. We will also be re formatting all of our programs this summer and fall into online courses and videos thanks to a grant from Social Services. We look forward to moving forward with this opportunity and broadening the reach for those who could not attend in person in the past.

This does not mean we will not be offering YOUR THIRD EAR sessions, Sensitivity Training and Speech Reading Classes as well as ASL in person as soon as safely possible.

Unfortunately, this year's golf tournament had to once again be cancelled due to restrictions BUT we will be back July 15th 2022, BIGGER and BETTER than before. The office was very busy getting it underway and we had a lot of commitment. 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! Thanks to Pinsent and Association and the Kingdon's for their generous support even without a tournament.

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.

Also Remember, 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

Cindy Gordon

Program Director

Member Highlight

Marven Likness

Overview: Marven is a late deafened/HoH blue collar photocopier repair technician by day - Creator by night, weekends, holidays etc. He is always looking for small acting roles for local film projects. Helping passionate new film makers is a passion for him.

In April of 2016 Marven lost most of his hearing overnight. Left profound Right Severe to Profound. He was also diagnosed with Meniere's disease (A balance disorder with the inner ear). In his words "I thought my life was over. Walking around like I had my head under water not being able to understand anyone and dizzy 24/7. One night I thought I was having a stroke. I went for a nap and woke up with the room spinning so bad I could not even lift my head from my pillow. I later found out that was a Meniere's drop attack. By 2018 Marven had learned to combat most of his Meniere's symptoms through medication, diet, and exercise. As for his hearing he wears a hearing aid on his good side and took up learning ASL (American Sign Language) through CHHA-Ed and various ASL camps.

Marven has appeared in many film projects such as student shorts, commercials and Indy features. In 2019 he started to develop his script writing abilities. Marven plans to continue writing scripts and appearing on film sets for small roles hopefully including sign language when he can. Marven's various scripts have won many awards in various countries and categories.

Marvens most successful script has been One in a Trillion winning much recognition including:

Best Short Screenplay - 52 Weeks Film Festival, **Best Screenplay** - Global Monthly Online - Best TV Script - Script and Storyboard Showcase, **Best International Screenplay** - Mile High Film Awards, **Best Short Script** - Indy Short Fest L.A., **Best Short Script** - Indy Short Fest L.A., **Best Short Screenplay** - European Film Festival, and too many more to mention in this article.



If you are in Need...Free for the Taking!!

Just contact the office to set up at time at:

(780) 428-6622 or info@chha-ed.com





CHHA Edmonton Supporting our Members and community.

Our programs include:

Your Third Ear Program

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!

SPEECHREADING 1&2 COPING CLASSES

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!!

CONVERSATIONAL ASL CLASSES

ALL CLASSES ARE ON-LINE USING "ZOOM" WITH IN-PERSON COMING IN THE FALL

BEGINNER LEVEL "A"

BEGINNER LEVEL "B"

CLASSES AVAILABLE WEEKDAY EVENINGS AND SATURDAYS FOR LEVEL A.



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
Association des malentendants canadiens

CHHA Online Hearing Loss Mentoring Program

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) Web-based mentoring program is for people with hearing loss.

It is designed to help individuals acquire those skills in managing their hearing loss in everyday life, which will help them to achieve optimal well being, personal fulfilment and productivity.

The objectives of the Online Mentoring Program include:

1) For the person with hearing loss seeking mentoring (the mentee)

Facilitate peer support

Promote self-help and education for coping with the effects of the loss of hearing ability

Enable the person with hearing loss to gain leadership and communication skills

2) For the mentor:

Provide an opportunity to volunteer and contribute in a rewarding way.

To get started go to: [Getting Started | Canadian Hard of Hearing Association \(chha.ca\)](http://chha.ca)

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>

Transparent masks and face shields can help improve communication.

Transparent masks and face shields allow people with hearing loss to use speech reading to assist with better communication and understanding. They may also help people with communication difficulties participate in conversations and express themselves more easily.



ORDER YOURS TODAY!!!

Lip Reading Masks

\$22.00

(* an additional \$5.00 fee for shipping)



Protective 2-ply 100% polyester printable top layer and 64gm polypropylene filter

- ✓ Accessible - Lens is made with a medical grade level 1 acrylic material for clear viewing.
- ✓ Comfortable - lightweight soft fabric make these masks one of the most comfortable on the market
- ✓ Reusable - a quick hand wash with soap and hot water they can be used over and over
- ✓ Green - We use only water based dyes and reduce the number of disposable masks in our landfills.

Available colours: Blue/ Black and Blue/ Grey/ Canada Emblem/ Tye Dye/ Jean/ Camouflage

In Memoriam

Obituary for Frank Coady

It is with great sadness, to announce the passing on a long-time supporter of CHHA, Frank Coady.

Frank is survived by his loving wife Minette (a long-time member of CHHA); daughter Moira Kanak (Dennis) and son, Shaun; granddaughters; Hailey, Sydney and Billie.

Frank was born in PEI and as a young man headed west settling in Edmonton. He married Minette in 1971 and they made their home in the Edmonton area for the next 50 years. Frank enjoyed a long career with Eaton's. He and Minette spent their retirement traveling, volunteering, and spending time with family.

Frank will be missed at the CHHA events, and conferences he and Minette faithfully attended.



----- 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 – Dates coming soon**
- Annual Golf Tournament committee
- Fundraisers
- Serving as a Board Member and/or on a committee