



Overheard

AUGUST 2015

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Words from your President**
- **The HAAF Needs your help!**
- **News regarding Text with 911**
- **Info on your upcoming CHHA-Ed classes & Projects**

President's News:

CHHA-Ed members gathered at the park beside the Walterdale Theatre on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, for a year-end potluck picnic followed by a show at Walterdale Theatre. All members were able to try out the loop system installed in the theatre either by T-coil on their hearing device or through a headset. It was an enjoyable way to begin the summer. We look forward to seeing you all again in September. If you have any ideas for guest speakers for general meetings beginning September, please let the office know. As some of you may be aware, the CHHA national office is seeking a new executive director. CHHA-Ed will keep you updated regarding the appointment of a new executive director. In the meantime, enjoy the summer! -Marilyn Kingdon

HAAF

Wouldn't you think we would have more bottles and containers in the summer when everyone gets thirsty from the heat? Well, we're not seeing them here at the HAAF bottle drive.

We're still waiting for all of you out there to bring your bottles or donations in. We've had several applications for the hearing aid assistance fund and we have no funds to provide assistance. Please keep your eyes open for corporate donors or corporations who would like to provide us with their empty refundable containers. Enjoy the rest of your summer with lots of healthy water and other liquids. Here's a neat trick you can teach your dogs to help in your efforts. -Susanne Martin

Your 2015 Board of

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News From the Office

The office has been a very busy place for the last four months with registration for the Mini-conference, Speechreading & Coping classes and ASL classes, as well as all the usual bill paying, filing, and answering of emails and phone calls. We have been helping with organizing the Picnic in the Park and Night at the Theatre. It has been a very rewarding time seeing the results from the different classes, events, and promotional activities.

For the summer we are focused on promoting our FREE "*Your Third Ear*" workshops offered once a week at the Central Lions Senior Association centre. In August and September, bookings can be made for Tuesdays on August 11th or 25th and Wednesdays on August 5th or 19th at 9:30 a.m., September 8th and 22nd at 1:00 p.m. Work continues on planning our 2016 Golf Tournament to be held on June 15th, and our Pecha Kucha for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

We are also starting to plan and take registrations for the fall season Speechreading & Coping Classes and ASL classes starting early September. As usual, CHHA-Ed office is a busy place with all the events and activities going on. Have a GREAT day and ENJOY the summer. -Frances Tallon

S U M M E R E V E N T S

May:

1. CHHA-Ed 2015 Mini- Conference May 2nd
2. St Albert 50+ Seniors Expo – May 6th
3. Volunteer Alberta AGM
4. Arena Meeting
5. CHHA-Ed Board Meeting
6. CHHA National Conference – Halifax, Nova Scotia
7. CHHA Board Meeting
8. Rewrite Building Code to include Loops

June:

1. West Edmonton Seniors Fair
2. West end Senior Centre – Older, Bolder, Better Activity
3. Speechreading Level 1 class
4. Speechreading Level 2 Teacher Training

July:

1. Galleria District Meeting – Loops
2. Arena meeting
3. Picnic in the Park & Walterdale Theatre
4. Hearing Presentations

Upcoming Classes & Projects

Speechreading Classes...Cindy Gordon

This year has seen two classes of speechreading completed!

As the instructor, I thoroughly enjoyed running the 10 session classes. People in the class have been amazing! I applaud each of them for their perseverance and attitude. We have all learnt together. Speechreading classes are more than just reading the lips. The first hour is spent on learning different speech sounds and practice, and the second hour of the class is coping strategies and ideas, technologies, and sharing. Practice at home is essential! It is a wonderful thing to be somewhere where you belong and people understand you! That's what you will get from taking part in these classes. You will find new information, new strategies, make new friends, learn to live as a person with hearing loss in a hearing world, and accept yourself! Fall Sessions:

Level 1 class: Sept. 16 to Nov. 18, 2015 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (10 lessons)

Level 2 class: Sept. 23rd - Nov. 16th at 1:00-3:00 p.m. (8 lessons)

Classes are held at the South East Seniors Center (SEESA)...9350 82 St Nw, Edmonton, AB, T6C 2X8 (*You do not have to be a senior to attend!!!!*) Free parking and easy access at this location.

Conversational American Sign Language (ASL)...Frances Tallon

Conversational ASL classes continue to be in demand. Since March, four classes have been completed and a special group session done for West Edmonton Mall Staff. A short introductory class for a group home consisting of four two hour classes at their home was also provided. Connie Gongos, our instructor, is instructing a summer class July 8th to August 26th, 2015. It is exciting to know that people care enough to learn another language to communicate with those who need visual communications.

Fall classes for Conversational ASL and Speechreading & Coping will be posted on our website at www.chha-ed.com by the end of July. Please register early as space is limited.

Your Third Ear Cindy Gordon

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association– Edmonton Branch and Bridges Support Services have partnered together with a grant from Alberta Lotteries Community Initiatives Program to bring you and your "communication partners" a FREE educational, informational, and fun workshop to help you understand hearing and hearing aids! This workshop is meant to compliment, not replace, the services you already receive from your practitioner and/or audiologist. You will see, giving yourself and your communication partner a wonderful opportunity to talk and learn about hearing loss provides you a sense of relief and belonging! All you need to do is call or email to register and plan to attend the session!

Limit of 10 per each session and open to all ages. Please register early so you are not disappointed! All workshops are held at the Central Lions Senior Association Centre with free parking and easy access. For more information go to www.chha-ed.com.

Text with 911 News

Email received on April 29, 2015:

Good morning,

I am pleased to announce that the Edmonton Police Service (who provides 911 services for Edmonton) will be launching the new Text-with-911 service for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Impaired (DHHSI) communities on April 30, 2015.

While members of the DHHSI communities in Canada have had the ability to register their mobile phones for Text-with-911 since January 2014, the service was previously not available in Edmonton.

As we prepare to launch the service, we want to reach out to your organization's members to encourage them to register their mobile phones. Information on Text-with-911, including how to register and use the service, is available at www.textwith911.ca. Additionally, EPS Inspector Erik Johnson and I are available to attend your local meetings to answer any questions about the new Text-with-911 service if desired.

TTY/TDD services will continue to be available for those members of the DHHSI community who use this technology. Text-with-911 is not available for non-emergency calls and so TTY/TDD should be used for these types of calls.

It is important to note that Text-with-911 is only intended to be used by members of the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Speech Impaired (DHHSI) communities, and will not be available for the general public. Voice calling remains the only way to communicate with 911 services for a person who is not deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired.

Please feel free to contact Erik Johnson or me if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Lyne Eaker

Contact info:

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2015 Roy Financial Mayor's Walk for Charity

Zeni Power

Batteries:

Sizes A10,
A312, A13,
A675,
A675P

1 card of
6 for \$3.00
or 10 cards
of 6 for
\$30.00

Contact
chha-
ed@shaw.c
a for more
information

Our major fundraiser for the Hearing Aid Assistance Fund (HAAF), the St. Albert Roy Financial Mayor's Walk for Charity was held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 leaving from the Legion Memorial Ballpark clubhouse with the 3Km going east and the 5 Km going west. It was a sunny morning with a definite chill and a stiff breeze for our five walkers. Our dedicated walkers enjoyed the walk and were able to raise just under \$1000.00.

We want to thank our walkers and our volunteers who helped with the registration of walkers and looked after the display to promote our Association. Thanks to Eleanor Stewart, Norman Gressel, Cindy Gordon, Gerda Alexander and her daughter, Margaret Choma and Frances Tallon for a job well done.



CHHA-Ed Annual Mini Conference

A wonderful day was spent with 70 other people who had hearing loss! There was opportunity in the morning to hear stories from two former Edmonton Eskimo Players, Jed Roberts and Hector Pothier as they shared their perspective of how hearing loss had affected their lives when they played and now.

After a delicious Italian lunch of lasagna, there was opportunity to visit several of the booths on display. AB CART and Captioning, On-Site Placement, Beltone, Mental Health Association, and CHHA-Edmonton. Jennifer Quinn then spoke to us on recognizing depression and how to deal more positively with hearing loss. To wrap up our day we actively took part in laughter YOGA with Pat Parkinson. The room was filled with an assortment of sounds as everyone learnt how to add laughter to our lives!

To make the day even better, all participants actively participated with CART and a LOOP system being provided. Just imagine no worry about being able to "Hear".



Thank-you to our sponsors, Thorvin Electronics, The Melting Pot, the Links Golf Course, Living Sounds, Alberta Blue Cross, AB CART and Captioning for helping make this day a success!

CHHA-Ed's Picnic & Theatre Event

On Tuesday, July 7, 2015, CHHA-Edmonton Branch gathered at the park beside the Walterdale Theatre for an end of year potluck picnic. As usual, the food was fantastic, and the company of approximately 35 CHHA-Ed members and guests even better. As part of the picnic, presentation of a Certificate of Recognition from CHHA National was made to Clare and Richard of the Walterdale Theatre to acknowledge their support of persons with hearing loss by the installation of a loop system in the theatre. Following the presentation and picnic, members and guests attended the Walterdale show "A Man of No Importance" in order to try out the loop system. The performance was a challenge, since it incorporated live orchestra music as well as speaking parts, but the loop system performed as expected. Thanks to all who came out to support CHHA-Ed and the Walterdale Theatre. –Marilyn Kingdon

Comments about the Event:

- A wonderful evening enjoying an outdoor potluck and conversations in Old Strathcona, topped with a thoughtful and humorous presentation of "A Man of No Importance" by the Walterdale Theatre Associates, not to mention the fabulous musical renditions and accompaniment. These people are creating joy in their own lives and those of us privileged to witness the results of their dedicated effort. It was a special treat to recognize Katya Mierau in the troupe and greet her afterwards - what a talent investing herself in community theatre and art! Thanks to Cindy Gordon and company for organizing this event. And, Shannon Farrell Wiebe, there's no price I can place on our conversation. -Louella W.
- At the Walterdale the orchestra was on a raised platform and were close to the microphones. The flute I found was being picked up by the microphones more so than the rest of the sound sources (actors and other instruments). There was a lot of sound sources, and I think they did a very good job of getting the sound as good as it was given the conditions. Sound is very difficult to get right when using electronics and that is why the Walterdale does not have speakers and so on for the people with normal hearing.
- This type of performance is truly an acid test for loop system they have. I was truly impressed with what they accomplished and I would point out that for non musical performances the sound for the hard of hearing is very good. Edmonton should be proud of what the Walterdale has accomplished and Richard Hatfield should be very proud of what he has done for us. He has the talent to quit his day job and go into the theatre. I for one, am grateful for what this group is doing for us. - Lee R.

Upcoming Events:

August:

1. YOUR THIRD EAR workshops – Register at least a week in advance.
2. Follow up meetings on Looping & Golf Tournament
3. Registration for Speechreading & Coping classes
4. Registration for Conversation ASL classes

September:

1. YOUR THIRD EAR workshops – Register at least a week in advance.
2. ASL classes – Level A & Level B
3. Speechreading & Coping classes – Level 1 & Level 2
4. General Meeting – September 14, 2015

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Pictures from the Picnic & Theatre Event

