



**President – Cindy Gordon**  
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**Secretary – Susanne Martin**  
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## CHHA-Ed Executive

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**Director – Alexander Gerda**  
**Director – Marilyn Kingdon**  
**Director (Past President) – Leslie Colby**  
**Office Coordinator – Frances Tallon**



## Words from the President

Cindy Gordon

Dear members,

The year is coming to an end and when we look back and reflect on all that CHHA-Ed has done this past year I believe we can stand proud of our achievements!

We spent a good part of the last year hosting a very successful National conference. We came together as a group and created a lot of exposure in the community for our Edmonton Branch! Coming off of this success, the board is looking ahead to the New Year and is excited to announce that we will be hosting a one day conference for our Edmonton members next May! We need your ideas and involvement once again!

Our members have been attending several meetings and trade fairs in the community to ensure that the voice of the hard of hearing is always heard! Thank you to all those members who have attended on CHHA-Ed's behalf and given of your time and talents!

Thanks to your feedback, we are changing the look of our meetings and including more social activities and guest speakers. Our first guest lecturer was from Waltherdale and the Citadel Theaters on entertainment were excellent. Of course the Christmas Potluck was a wonderful and yummy event that included excellent food, friendship, gift giving and laughter. (Only wish the weather could have cooperated more!!!)

The board had a fall weekend of strategic planning and we are excited for the upcoming changes in the New Year, stay involved to see what is happening!!

It's never been a better time to be involved...it's as easy as coming to a meeting or calling the office or email me...cindy@bridgesupport.com. Remember that at the February meeting it is our AGM, a new board will be elected, your vote counts!! We will have a new council even though there will be some returning board members.

I will be stepping down as President as I have been honored to serve as your president for the last six years. We have also had Warren Bittorf step down as director in the fall. We were sorry to see him leave and want to thank him for his hard work while on board.

In closing, I would like to sincerely wish you ALL a Merry Christmas, may your holidays be filled with love, joy and peace and may 2014 be the year when all the people with hearing loss feel accepted and part of society in every way imaginable!

## Committee Reports

### Scholarship Fund

Prepared by: Gerda Alexander (Committee Chair)

At our General Meeting on September 9, we welcomed our two scholarship recipients, **Damian Karl** and **Janet Belm**, to express our congratulations and present them with their award as well as a one year membership to CHHA-Edmonton.

**Damian Karl**, the recipient of the CHHA-Edmonton **Academic** Scholarship, is enrolled in the Education program at the University of Alberta, and is about to undertake his advanced teaching practicum this fall which involves two full university courses compressed into five weeks, followed by nine weeks of placement in a classroom with a mentor teacher. His career goals and interests are in education for the deaf and hard of hearing, with a specific interest in English literacy skills.

**Janet Belma**. The recipient of the **NAIT Captioning and Court Reporting Program** Scholarship, graduated this Spring from NAIT, and received the award money at a ceremony at NAIT earlier in the summer. Janet has been volunteering with CHHA-Edmonton in the Mayor's Run for Charity in St. Albert in 2012 and 2013. She also was involved at the CHHA National Conference in May of this year volunteering as a student for NAIT.

On behalf of CHHA-Edmonton Branch, the scholarship committee wished them well in their future careers and expressed hope to see them again at one of our meetings and events.

Please check out [www.chha-ed.com/assistance](http://www.chha-ed.com/assistance) for more information and to download the application forms.

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### Hearing Aid Assistance Fund (HAAF)

Prepared by Susanne Martin – Committee Chair



The bottle drive is ongoing and we're hoping the collections will increase over the holiday season. The income so far this year has not been the best. Since January of 2013 we have collected \$887.95. This means that for a whole year of collecting we would not be able to pay out for one full subsidy for a hearing aid. Perhaps some of our members could request friends and family begin collecting. If you know of an agency or corporation willing to collect for us, please let us know. We have received three applications so far this year, two of which were declined and one which was paid out from funds collected in previous years. Thanks to all of you who have so generously contributed. Have a wonderful holiday season!!

**St. Albert's Roy Financial Mayor's Walk for Charity** will be held on **Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014**. All funds raised go to CHHA-ED's HAAF. Be sure to go to St. Albert's Roy Financial Mayor's Walk for Charity website at <http://royfinancialmayorswalk.com> to check out the 3K and 5K route that are post and to download your Pledge form that will be available early in 2014.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the University Hospital for the donation of a number of slightly used hearing aids that we will be able to have prepared and used by those who don't qualify for the funds from the HAAF but financially can't afford to purchase new hearing aids.

*The Hearing Aid Assistance Fund information and Application Form maybe viewed and downloaded from CHHA-Ed's Website at [www.chha-ed.com](http://www.chha-ed.com) or contact the office at 780 428 6622.*

## Support CHHA-ED's Hearing Aid Assistance Fund

### ZeniPower Batteries

1 pkg. of 6 for \$3.00 or 10 pkgs of 6 for \$30.00

Funds raised are in support of the Hearing Aid Assistance Fund

Contact CHHA-Ed at [chha-ed@shaw.ca](mailto:chha-ed@shaw.ca) for more information

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## Beginner "Level" American Sign Language (ASL)

Instructor: Connie Gongos

Hard to believe, but Connie has been even busier during the fall of 2013 than she was in the spring. We had three full classes that started early in September and one at the end of October and finished Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>. One class was Level B and three were Level A. It was a pleasure to read through the evaluation forms, as they were very positive with praise for content and the instructor. Congratulations Connie on a great job.

We will be offering one ASL class starting late January. Information will be posted on CHHA-Ed's website at [www.chha-ed.com](http://www.chha-ed.com). Be sure to check out CHHA-Ed's website for dates and time for the January class.

For businesses or groups interested in ASL classes please contact CHHA-Ed's office by phoning 780 428 6622 or emailing [chha-ed@shaw.ca](mailto:chha-ed@shaw.ca). Special arrangements can be made for groups of ten to fifteen.

## CHHA-Ed Events

### General Meetings

*Entertainment Options for the Hard of Hearing* in Edmonton was the topic of the **Novembers 4<sup>th</sup> General meeting**.

The Citadel Theatre has twenty *hearing assist headsets* that are available at the door. These head sets are used with infrared sensors that work with the audio for the stage. Ushers should know where these sets are and if they don't speak to the supervisor. Headsets are cleaned after every use. It should be noted that headsets are not completely noise eliminating. Notices will be posted that headsets are available and where to get them.

Seating location also makes a difference so be sure to identify yourself as hard of hearing to get the best seats for you. If you have question about seating or hearing devices contact Kim Stillman. She will also be checking into the use of loops for the Citadel Theatres.

Hannah Whittaker spoke about the different productions for the 2013/2014 seasons. There is a great variety to be seen and by going to the [www.citadeltheatre.com](http://www.citadeltheatre.com) you can read about the different productions, dates and costs. Check it out.

The Waterdale Playhouse Theatre is next door to the Farmers Market in Strathcona, just north of 82<sup>nd</sup> avenue. They use to have an infrared system that proved to be useless and very few used it. Last season they met with Lee Ramsdell, Jim Sawatski and Shelley Thompson from the city to discuss the various hearing device options available and the technical requirements for each. As a result of the Waterdale venue it was decided to try a T-Coil on one side, as only one side is

perfect for it. They are working diligently to get it in as soon as possible with the only hold back being funding. Hopefully it will be ready for next year. This will mean that in the future there will be a number of seats suitable for our hard of hearing community.

Richard Hatfield also spoke briefly about the current season's productions briefly highlighting each. To find out more about the Waterdale Playhouse productions go to <http://walterdaletheatre.com>.

Also discussed was:

- Cineplex Odeon Theatres have Captiview – a system that provides captioning for the movie. The End goes into the cup holder and the screen arm is flexible to adjust for your viewing. This system is available where you purchase your tickets and just has to be asked for. North Edmonton had all movies except for 2 were captioned. For larger groups advance notice will be required as they will need to contact the other Cineplex Odeon theatres to bring in more systems as they have a limited number.

Watch for captioning glasses that are now available in the East, but not in Edmonton yet. Thanks to Cindy Gordon for doing the research and reporting to use on Cineplex Odeon.

Next General meeting is our **AGM** and will be on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014** at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital in Conference Room B. You are welcome to attend.

**Second call for nominations** went out on in November and nomination forms and criteria are available by contacting the office at 780 428 6622 or emailing [chha-ed@shaw.ca](mailto:chha-ed@shaw.ca)

## Christmas Potluck Dinner on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

Tis' the season to be Jolly and jolly time was exactly what CHHA-Ed members and friends had as they joined together for their annual Christmas pot-luck dinner. It was a special evening with joy in the air, fun-filled conversation and laughter. Food was delectable with a variety of salads and casseroles and finish off with delicious desserts including cakes and pastries. Further excitement added to the evening with Cindy Gordon, president of CHHA-ED, had draws made for door prizes, which all in attendance were eligible to win. Thanks to Patricia and Tara Mitrovic bring a couple of gifts that were drawn for as well.



This evening was a memorable one enjoyed by everyone who attended.



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all*

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## **DONATE Your PENNIES TO CHHA-ED**

All pennies donated shall go our HEARING AID ASSISTANCE FUND  
Pennies maybe dropped off at CHHA-Ed, #10, 9912 – 106 Street  
or phone 780 429 6622 for pick-up.

### **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 CHHA-Ed joined others at this special day of recognitions of Persons with Disabilities by having a table and making information on hearing loss available to all who attended. It was stimulating to see and hear the presentation for each of the award winners and the entertainment provided.



Visitors to the IDOPD



Frances at CHHA-Ed's Table

### **2014 Conferences**

**CHHA-Ed Mini Conference** is to be held during the first week of May. Be sure to check [www.chha-ed.com](http://www.chha-ed.com) for more details as they become available early in the 2014. This conference will be a one day event with a keynote speaker, a couple of workshops and tradefair focusing on hearing devices and technology.

**CHHA 2014 National Conference** is being held in Toronto May 22-24, 2014. Go to [www.chha.ca](http://www.chha.ca) for conference information on events, presenters, the Trade Fair and registration. Remember register early for the best rates and invite a guest for a further discount.



**Keynote Speaker** D.J. Demers a stand-up comedian in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. He is a television personality on AMI-tv and also hosts and produces a popular comedy podcast with AMI-audio called Say What? In 2013, D.J. released a stand-up comedy EP with Comedy Records. D.J. has been recognized as an outstanding performer in Canada and the U.S. He was the winner of the 2013 Toronto Comedy Brawl, a finalist in NBC's Stand-Up for Diversity, and was nominated for 'Best Stand-Up Newcomer' at the 2011 Canadian Comedy Awards. He also wears hearing aids.

**ONLY 5 Months** to the 2014 CHHA National Conference

### Telecommunication Service Providers in Alberta

By Kamil Dharshi

Telecommunication service providers such as **TELUS** and **Shaw** have created services that are available to the hard of hearing. Telus' [Special Needs Centre](#) provides information about the various assistive technologies offered such as "[Telus Relay](#)." This service is utilized by deaf and hard of hearing individuals who use personal computers and/or mobile devices. For example, using a mobile phone, any text message received can be forwarded to a personal computer... "Telus IP Relay is a service for deaf and hard-of hearing individuals to place and receive text-based relay calls from their pc and/or mobile device."



Another service TELUS offers is "[Telus Relay Service](#)" used by the hard of hearing to communicate over the phone effectively. Telus provides a cost effective charge for both services. Please click here for more information about [Telus' Special Needs Centre](#). Telus provides TTY payphone, the instructions on how to use this Telus Relay Service can be found on the homepage of Telus, under the link Home Phone, and there is a sub link for Relay Service, that provides all the information necessary for hard of hearing individuals to properly have telephone conversations without any technical difficulties.

Shaw Cable is another service provider that offers different services so the Hard of Hearing are able to enjoy their favorite television through closed-captioning. The national English-language satellite-to-cable network has described video and captioned programming 24 hours a day, offering hard of hearing viewers access to high quality news, entertainment, and other programming."

Closed-Captioning is available to all Shaw Cable service providers, and can be seen through most broadcasts. "Closed-Captioning text on TV programs is an excellent tool for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers to enjoy Shaw Television Programming."

Shaw Cable's home phone is equipped with resources (voicemail to email) and Shaw Cable offers real time captioning TV to make it easier for those who are heard of hearing or deaf, to enjoy cable television without experiencing hearing difficulties enjoying your favorite television programs.

Communication and entertainment devices such as telephones, television, and computers have hearing assistive technology and solutions such as text and email messaging, compatibility with hearing aids, Teletypewriter (TTY), closed captioning, and amplification. These assistive hearing technologies are just some examples that allow those who are hard and/or deaf to have dramatically improved communication and quality of life.



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## I Listen... / À L'écoute...

Your weekly e-newsletter – [Votre e-bulletin hebdomadaire](#)

Be sure to check out 'I Listen,' CHHA's weekly news brief of products and events of interest to Canadians with hearing loss. This weekly e-newsletter is emailed out to members weekly.

New articles at [www.hear-it.org](http://www.hear-it.org):

**Cochlear implants can give quality of life back to the elderly**

Quality of life among those members of the elderly who have a very profound hearing loss is greatly improved after cochlear implantation, according to studies

The elderly population is growing. There is a fast-ageing population trend worldwide, a trend ...

[Read the whole text here.](#)

## Tinnitus and hearing loss jeopardizes the future of teenagers

One in five teenagers has permanent ringing in their ears, according to study.

Many teenagers are surrounded by excessively loud noises in their daily lives. They go to concerts, festivals, parties, etc. and they often listen to music that is too ...

[Read the whole text here.](#)

## Sponsorships, Grants & Cash Donations

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**“FEEDBACK” on articles is always welcome.**

**“WANTED” articles, pictures and information**, as well as jokes and trivia that ARE interesting. Your story is a great place to start, share an event from your life. Please forward a copy along with the source using [chha-ed@shaw.ca](mailto:chha-ed@shaw.ca).

## Membership

**Membership** provides you with informative bi-monthly meetings, access to information about hearing devices and technology, CHHA publications, quarterly local newsletter, a voice on local planning committees and more. Information and resources are available to you and your family to help you better cope with worsening hearing loss. The CHHA resources and meetings are open to all hard of hearing persons, those that know someone who is hard of hearing or just interested in learning more about hearing loss. The membership covers all ages, all backgrounds and locations.

CHHA and CHHA-ED allow you to share information with other people with hearing loss. It is so empowering to be in a room full of hard of hearing people that are learning about their disability together from knowledgeable people and together advocating for their needs in their own home communities.

**Looking for a hearing loss support group?**

Do you or someone you live or work with have a hearing loss?

**Join CHHA and CHHA-Ed**

We offer tips, techniques, education and support for living a high quality of life

Contact the CHHA-Ed office for more information.



*Christmas joy warms the heart*

*“Merry Christmas to each of you  
& a very Happy New Year”*

**CHHA-Ed Office will be closed December 20, 2013 to January 5, 2014**

**\*\*\* CHHA-Ed Office Hours \*\*\***

***Monday & Wednesday – 12:30 pm to 5:00 pm & Thursday 9:30 am to 3:30 pm***