

Overheard

November 2015



CHHA-Ed Golf Tournament

JUNE 15, 2016 **save THE date**

100 Links Road
Spruce Grove, Alberta

**FIRST ANNUAL
CHHA-ED
CHARITY GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

\$150/person or \$550/team
1:00pm Shotgun Start, 18 Hole Texas Scramble
Includes: Round, Cart, BBQ Dinner, and Prizes

in support of:
CANADIAN HARD OF
HEARING ASSOCIATION
EDMONTON BRANCH

Celebrity Marshalls:
Edmonton Eskimos Alumni
Hector Pothier
& Jed Roberts

To REGISTER or SPONSOR - Phone (780)428-6622 or Email chha-ed@shaw.ca

Save the date! Introducing the First Annual CHHA-Ed Charity Golf Tournament with Celebrity Marshalls Hector Pothier and Jed Roberts of the Edmonton Eskimos Alumni.

Taking place on June 15, 2016 at The Links Golf Course, the cost is **\$150 per person or \$550 per team** with a 1:00 pm shotgun start, Texas Scramble. This price includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart for two, a BBQ dinner, and prizes.

Stay tuned for more details about this exciting event!

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Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton Branch
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President's Message

The November 2, 2015, CHHA-Ed general meeting had an excellent guest speaker. Shasha Shi from the Glenrose Audiology Department talked about what makes a good cochlear implant candidate, how the cochlear implant program works, as well as the results some of the Glenrose patients obtained after the surgery and hook up. A number of very good questions were asked regarding cochlear implants, which shows there is much interest in the technology. Thanks to everyone who came to the meeting and Shasha for her excellent presentation. A reminder that CHHA-Ed's next general meeting is December 7, 2015. As in the past, this will be a **potluck** dinner & get together for Christmas with no formal meeting. On behalf of the CHHA-Ed board of directors, have a safe and happy holiday break.

Hearing Aid Assistance Fund

As we near the end of the year, it's important to look over what has been accomplished and where we want to go in the future. The HAAF was established several years ago to help those who struggle to participate in a full and satisfying life because they are unable to afford hearing aids. We have had three applications this year, and are unable to meet the need.

We have four basic resources for funding: Special events (the walk), financial donations, bottle donations, and collecting coins. Naturally, donations can fluctuate, but sadly the donations this year have been the lowest since 2010. In 2013 we brought in over \$7000.00. This year our walk only brought in slightly over \$1000.00 and our bottles have only earned a little over \$400.00. As of this year, the Roy Financial Mayor's Walk, which provided the bulk of our funds, will no longer exist. We are looking to find additional donors. Donations can be in the form of cash or containers that are designated as refundable. If you know of any small or large businesses/corporations who would consider donating (either cash or containers) we would be pleased and grateful to receive their gifts on behalf of those who are unable to afford hearing aids independently.



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association Edmonton Branch
Board of Directors
Effective August 24, 2015

N A M E	P O S I T I O N
Marilyn Kingdon	President
Lee Ramsdell	Vice President
Joanne MacKenzie	Treasurer
Susanne Martin	Secretary
Gerda Alexander	Director/Member at Large
Leslie Colby	Director/Member at Large
Ryan Gordon	Director/Member at Large
Gary LeClair	Director/Member at Large

YOU are invited to join CHHA-Ed on December 7th at 6:00 p.m. to
Celebrate a great year coming to a close and bring in the Christmas Season.

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

Held in the Glenrose Small Cafeteria

Bring your favor dish to share with others

ALL are welcome – If you plan on attending please let the office know.

Scared to Deaf

Scared to Deaf is a blog based on the experiences of a professional with profound hearing loss.

So what it is like to work in a professional job when you can no longer hear?

Well, it's great!

Now it is not great as in "this party is great", or "he's a great guy". It is more like parenting is great, or as in Peter the 'Great'.

Great: *an intense experience that is flanked by unspeakable horrors offset only by the occasional triumph.*

When I began to experience a major change in my hearing I did what most people do – I pretended that nothing was wrong. I guess you could say that I suffered in silence.

To be honest I was so horrified once I understood what was happening to me that I considered hiding in my room...forever! The outside world had become foreign to me. It was a hostile place. At times I felt just like this:

"For me there can be no recreation in the company of others, no intelligent conversation, no exchange of information with peers; only the most pressing needs can make me venture into society. I am obliged to live like an outcast." – Beethoven – reflecting on the social impact of his hearing loss.

Even though working was a constant stress during this time, it turned out to be my salvation since it forced me to deal with the consequences of my hearing loss.

I was fortunate to have a boss who also happen to have an undisclosed hearing loss. In other words, he was a really loud-talker.

Even with my loud boss it soon became evident that my 'avoidance strategy' at work had to stop. My hearing was just too bad, and you can't dodge the phone, big meetings, or background noise indefinitely.

I did use online "chat", email, texting, etc. for communicating as much as I could. Still, I would get into trouble because when you can't hear you don't always know what you are missing. If you happen to nod at the wrong moment things can go off the rails rather quickly. I had to do something!

It turned out to be a lot harder than I thought. When I finally got up the nerve to disclose my hearing loss to my boss I discovered that he already knew (they always do), and it was really no big deal. He only wanted to know what I needed for accommodations.

Um...let me get back to you.

So I spoke to our Disability Group – they had no clue.

Audiologist- nope, she didn't know.

I finally found a local agency (Bridges Support Services) that would do an accommodation equipment 'consult' at work, and I went from there.

So I got a hearing aid, assisted listening, CART services (real time captioning), etc., but the struggle was far from over. There was a lot of trial/error, and false starts along the way. Also since hearing loss accommodations are often conspicuous, I routinely found myself becoming a 'hearing loss ambassador'. I spent a lot of time educating co-workers, and answering other people's questions about my situation. To be honest – it was awkward, but it did help me to become more comfortable talking about my hearing loss.

I started to further education myself as well. I attended hearing loss presentations, conferences, and even made some hearing loss friends :) Little by little my hearing loss management skills improved.

CHHA Awards

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - Edmonton Branch received The Charles Laszlo Award of Technical Excellence in 2015.

The Charles Laszlo Award of Technical Excellence

Dr. Charles Laszlo, a founding member of CHHA and the association's first President, is a vocal advocate of hard of hearing concerns. Amongst his many achievements is his ability to bridge the scientific and technical worlds with the needs of hard of hearing people, including the contribution to the creation of technical standards and the invention of several devices now commercially available.

The purpose of this award is to encourage Branches, Chapters and Members to offer the best possible accessibility to its members, thereby stimulating greater member participation and involvement. Considerations for this award are the following activities engaged in by Branches and Chapters:

- Handling technical access for Branch/Chapter activities and members
- Giving presentations, demonstrations or training sessions on technical devices
- Contribution to publicizing technical aids
- The loan of equipment to others in the community
- Installation of assistive listening devices at some community organization or building
- Suggestion of an innovative technological solution to a problem
- Uncovering a technical flaw or design error, and doing something about it

As the field of technical devices for the hard of hearing population is new and exciting, the potential for creative ideas is enormous. There is no limit to membership initiatives and all are encouraged to be innovative.

Award Requirements

A brief biographical sketch of the Branch, Chapter or CHHA member of no more than 500 words, and details of the technology used must accompany the nomination. Criteria would include (where applicable) nature of the activity/technology, the costs involved, feasibility, creativity and number of those involved.

CHHA-Ed received the CHARLES LASZLO AWARD OF TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE on May 23, 2015 for being a leader in the promotion and use of technology. This is the second time that we have received this award. The 2015 award was for use and advocacy of Loop systems in Edmonton and area.



CHHA-Ed Members receiving the CHARLES LASZLO AWARD OF TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE May of 2013.

Bridges Psychological and Rehabilitation Support Services Association received The Dr. Norah Browne Professional Award in 2015.

The Dr. Norah Browne Professional Award

This award recognizes a professional or a professional group who has contributed outstanding service to the work of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), at the National, Chapter (Provincial/Territorial) or Branch level.

Dr. Browne was diagnosed with hearing loss at age 13. She did not allow it to interfere with her plans to enter medical school. After graduation she became a strong advocate for the hard of hearing and deafened, and their families in Newfoundland Labrador (NL), and also on the national level in Canada. Dr. Browne is the founder of the organization, which later became the NL Chapter of CHHA.

She taught medical students how to communicate with hard of hearing patients, led by her own example. This award is named in honor of the contributions of Dr. Norah Browne.

- Nominees may or may not be members of CHHA.
- Nominees are professionals with or without hearing loss
- Nominees must have demonstrated significant service to the hard of hearing or deafened.
-

Award Requirements

A brief biographical sketch, not more than 500 words, and a complete description of the nominee's accomplishments must accompany nominations.

Advocacy does work

Tara and Patricia M are two of CHHA-Ed's most active advocates. Tara is hard of hearing and due to her advocacy was able to vote at her polling station on October 19th.

On the evening of the Federal Election, there was a loop for Tara to use. This made it possible for her to hear the questions asked by the polling clerk; receive her ballot and instructions with ease.

Tara has used counter loop at their bank and several other facilities in Millwoods and said that they used a loop system, which had a yellow stripe/color, not blue. The loop system was waiting for Tara and all she had to do was ask for the supervisor. Tara experienced no problems using the loop system.

Thanks to Election Canada for making this possible, and thanks to Tara and Patricia for taking the initiative to check in to having a loop system available through phone calls, and letter writing.

CHHA-Ed Academic Scholarship Winners

"A scholar who cherishes the love of comfort is not fit to be deemed a scholar" – Lao Tzu



Congratulations to CHHA Edmonton Branch Court Reporting Program Scholarship recipients Sarah Meyer (top) and Charlene Williams (bottom). This prestigious award has been given to Sarah and Charlene for their academic stewardship at NAIT.



CHHA-Ed Scholarships

CHHA-Ed Academic Scholarship

A Scholarship of \$1000 offered to any full-time student in a Post-secondary institution in Northern Alberta.

Application deadline **May 31, 2016**

Captioning and Court Reporting Program Scholarship

A scholarship of \$1000 offered annually to second year students in the Captioning and Court Reporting Program at NAIT.

Application submitted directly to NAIT Awards office and at the **date determined by NAIT' program.**

Alberta Scholarship

Charmaine Letourneau Scholarship - for Deaf or Hard of Hearing Post-Secondary students

The scholarship supports Deaf or Hard of Hearing residents of Alberta who will attend a qualified post-secondary institution or vocational school. Involvement in the Deaf community, school and community leadership, diligence and effort in studies, and commitment to the proposed field of study are considered.

Application deadline is **August 31, 2016**

More scholarships are available by visiting The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) to apply for scholarships available through the National Scholarship Program. All applications for CHHA Scholarships must be received by **March 4, 2016 at 3:00 pm (EST)**. For more information go to www.chha.com

Loop System Locations:

Hearing loops systems are starting to be incorporated in the Edmonton area. We are starting to get more interest in counter loops as well as looping of churches and community facilities.

To date we know that there are at least eight counter loops or systems in Edmonton and area:

- 1) Millwoods Public Library have installed a counter loop into a service desk in the new library and the Director for City of Edmonton libraries is looking at loop systems and counter loops for other facilities
- 2) Kinsmen Field House has purchased 3 counter loops at the main entrance counters and the director is hoping to get funding to loop other rooms
- 3) Walterdale Theatre has looped the seating area in their theatre
- 4) Royal Alberta Museum will be installing loops and counter loops
- 5) Galleria is looking into this as well
- 6) Norquest College - Meetings are set for the purpose of looking into looping
- 7) Bank of Montreal in Millwoods has a counter loop
- 8) Toronto Dominion Bank in Millwoods has a counter loop

We continue to do a lot of advocacy to the City of Edmonton and it is starting to show some results. CHHA-ED **will** continue to advocate with the new Ice District and there might be some loops in the arena. We **will** continue to cause a stir until we see some definite results.

Loop Systems

We would like to bring to your attention technology that has benefited many members of the hard of hearing community. The technology is a loop system.

Why does it work?

All hearing aids use a microphone to pick up sound. While this works well when close to a speaker, the further away from the sound one needs to hear, the more noise you hear. A t-coil equipped hearing aid does not use a microphone. The sound is captured by the hearing aid by a wireless system using a magnetic field. Background noise is no longer an issue and all that is required is to access the t-coil is a press of a button by the hearing aid user.

Why are there so few Loop Systems available?

The general public is not aware of this technology, so a focus of CHHA-Ed is to bring this issue forward to address the educational issues of loop technology as well as encouraging hard of hearing users to request this technology in public areas

Where should this service be available?

Hospitals, Doctor's Offices, Pharmacies, Dentist Offices, Police Stations and Cruisers, Retail Stores

The CHHA-Ed office is now equipped with a loop system, so the next time you visit, be sure to try it. If you would like further information on loops or a copy of correspondence to send to your hearing aid provider, bank, drugstore, etc. requesting that they install a loop, please contact the CHHA-Ed office and we can provide you with the form letter to circulate.

Let's work on making Edmonton and area as accessible as possible!

Office News

Fall is always a very busy time with the fall programs, committee meetings and promotional events. To make it possible for those interested in registering for classes and events CHHA-Ed has opened a PayPal account and have the buttons and links available on our website. Be sure to check it out when you are checking out the information for on hearing loss, classes, and special events that are being promoted.

CHHA-Ed now offers three support programs through-out the year:

- **Speechreading & Coping** classes – Level 1 started September 16th and will be finishing on December 16th. We have a Level 1 class starting on February 24, 2016 and Level 2 will be starting on March 1, 2016. Information with location and dates is now available on the website. Registration for both classes will be accepted starting in December.
- **American Sign Language** classes – Beginner Level Conversational classes started early in September. Level A and Level B classes finished at the end of October. We are now offering two Level A classes with one starting Saturday January 31st and the other starting on Tuesday evening February 2nd. Registration is now being accepted for both classes.
- **YOUR THIRD EAR** Workshops – are held once a week at different locations. These workshops are for hard of hearing persons and their communication partner. They find out what their third ear is and how they can develop it. Dates for new year will be listed on the website shortly.

Be sure to check out classes on the website for more information, times and dates for classes.

New Location! CHHA-Ed has settled in and is enjoying our new office space. To make our office welcoming to all who have hearing loss and use hearing aids we have had the room looped making it possible for those with a T-Coil in their hearing aids to hear all that is said very clearly without background noise. When you are downtown and have a few minutes be sure to drop in and say hi.

Office hours are Mondays & Wednesdays (12:30 to 5:00 p.m.) and Thursdays (9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).



CHHA-Ed Activities

September, October, November & December

Date	Activity - Event
Monthly meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Healthy Aging Meeting - 2. Hearing Awareness Training – Edmonton Airport 3. Third Ear sessions for living Sounds and others as booked
September	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General Meeting – Scholarship winners announced, round table 2. Advocacy – Museum meeting, Millwoods Senior Centre, Arena mtg. 3. SEESA open house – promotion booth 4. Conversation Café (ESSC) – Attracting Younger Seniors
October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moved to our NEW office at #52, 9912 – 106 Street 2. City of Edmonton Transit Meeting 3. Pecha Kucha Meeting 4. ADF Forum 5. Age of Wisdom – Millwoods Senior Activity Centre 6. AADL Advisory Meeting
November	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CHHA-Ed General Meeting – Shasha Shi presentation on Cochlear Implants 2. WEM 50+ Seniors Day 3. CHHA-Ed Golf Tournament Meeting
December	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NAIT Disability Day – Dec. 1st 2. International Day for Persons with Disabilities –Dec. 3rd at the Ramada Hotel 3. CHHA-ED CHRISTMAS POT-LUCK DINNER – DEC.7TH
<p>Check the website to keep up to date on what is happening</p>	

**Make a Tax-Deductible Gift
to the
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton (CHHA-ED)**

Thank you for your Tax-Deductible gift that will be used to support our mission to increase awareness and remove barriers for all persons who are hard of hearing in the greater Edmonton area by providing support, programs and advocacy. Donations are need for the Hearing Aid Assistance Fund.

Please complete this form and mail with a cheque or money order to:

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton
Attn: Office Coordinator
#52, 9912 – 106 Street
Edmonton, AB T5K 1C5

Please make cheques or money orders payable to: Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Donor Information

Donation Amount (in Canadian Dollars) \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Wishing you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season
and the Best of all in the New Year***

Official Receipts are issued for all donations of \$20 or more.

Who Can Join?

Everyone is welcome to join. A hard of hearing person's **main goal is to learn to better communicate** with the hearing world, so we encourage hard of hearing and hearing persons to become involved.

Personal membership fee is **\$45** (\$15 for CHHA-Ed and \$30 for CHHA National) or \$80 for family membership (\$30 for CHHA Ed and \$50 for CHHA National). CHHA-Ed only Membership is \$15.

Please make cheque or money orders payable to Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton.

Bring or Mail Membership form & fees to:

**Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton Branch
Suite 52, 9912 – 106 Street Edmonton, AB T5K 1C5**

To better serve you and comply with provisions of various legislation; including the *Personal Information Protection Act*, we ask you provide to the following information.

[] Dr. [] Mr. [] Miss [] Ms. [] Mrs.

First & Last Name: _____

Street, Box Number: _____

City, Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone Number: Voice/ TTY: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Cheque [] Money Order [] Cash [] (do not mail) Amount: \$ _____

I hereby consent to:

- CHHA-ED using my name and/or image on the CHHA-ED website, newsletters, and brochures for promotional and information purposes.
- CHHA-ED using electronic email as a main means of communicating with me

Please sign and date if you give consent

Signature: _____ Date: _____