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Board of Directors

President – Lee Ramsdell
Past President – Marilyn Kingdon
Vice President – Gary LeClair
Secretary – Susanne Martin
Treasurer – Diane Sperling
Directors – Leslie Colby
– Ryan Gordon
– Gerda Alexander

Inside this issue:

- 1 President's Message
- 2 HAAF Report, Scholarship News
- 3-4 Looping Report
- 5 Letter from a Reader:
Experience at McLab Theatre
- 6 HLAA Article: Folk Artist's
Personal and Emotional Story
- 7 Text with 9-1-1 Announcement
- 8 Office Report and
Announcement
- 9-12 Golf Tournament Information
Package
- 13 Upcoming Events and CHHA
Membership Application

OVERHEARD

In The Spring 2017

President's Message

At the February 6, 2017 AGM, some changes occurred to the board. The current elected board is myself, Lee Ramsdell as President, Marilyn Kingdon as Past President, Gary LeClair as Vice President, Diane Sperling as Treasurer, Susanne Martin as Secretary, and we have three directors, Ryan Gordon, Gerda Alexander and Leslie Colby.

On behalf of the Board I wish to thank Marilyn for a job well done as she provided strong leadership and guidance during her tenure as President. We are grateful she is continuing to serve on the board as Past President. She will be invaluable to me as I assume this new position. I would be remiss if I did not thank all the other directors, some of which have served several terms in this organization.

This is a hard-working board and we need all the volunteers we can find. We have several openings on the board (5) for director/member at large positions, for one year and two year terms. If anyone is interested and willing, please call the office and offer your time. Thank you.

Lee Ramsdell, President



Hearing Aid Assistance Fund (HAAF)

Spring 2017
Update Report

The Hearing Aid Assistance Fund (HAAF) was set up to help individuals who are in a low-income bracket to purchase hearing aids. In 2016, we received seven applications requesting assistance to purchase hearing aids. Of those seven applicants, four were approved and three did not fit the criteria.

The HAAF is supported by donations, bottle and refundable container collections, sale of the hearing aid batteries and fund raising events. Our first golf tournament last June was successful to help build up our resources. Some of the money raised was used to subsidize applications received.

Keep in mind this year's golf tournament is scheduled for June 14th. The more successful the tournament, the more help we can provide to new applicants for the HAAF subsidy. Make sure you sign up to golf, or to support the event.

Leslie Colby
HAAF Committee Chair

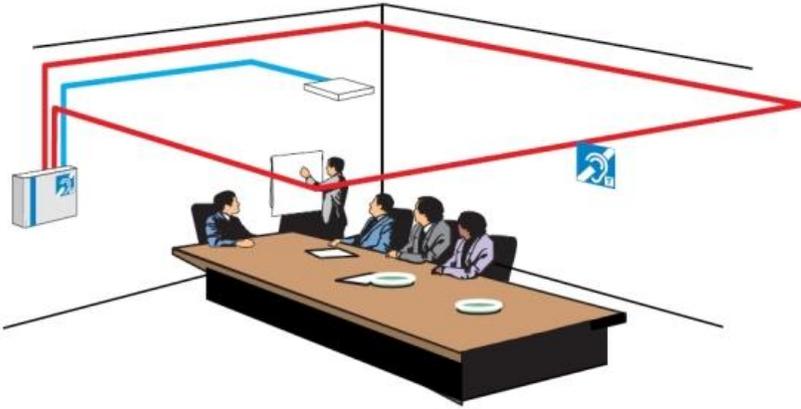
Scholarship News

It is time again for scholarship applications. The due date for submission of applications is May 31, 2017, for both the Academic Scholarship and the Captioning and Court Reporting Program Scholarship. This is a change for the Captioning and Court Reporting Program Scholarship which used to be handed out by NAIT at a time and place of their choosing.

The applications will now be sent directly to the CHHA-Edmonton Branch office and the award handed out together with the Academic Scholarship by the CHHA-Edmonton Branch scholarship committee in September at our first General Meeting after the summer break.

Looping Report

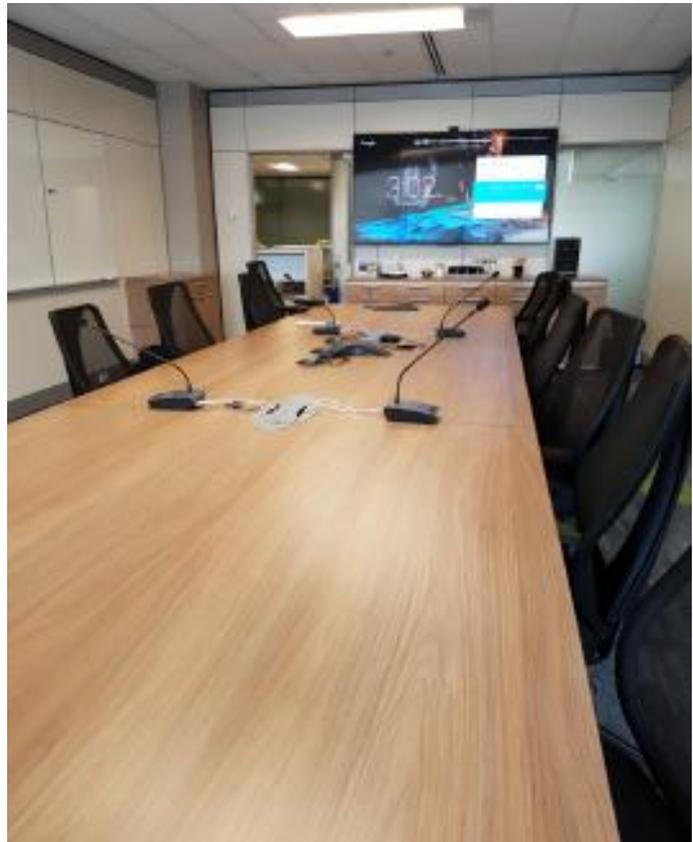
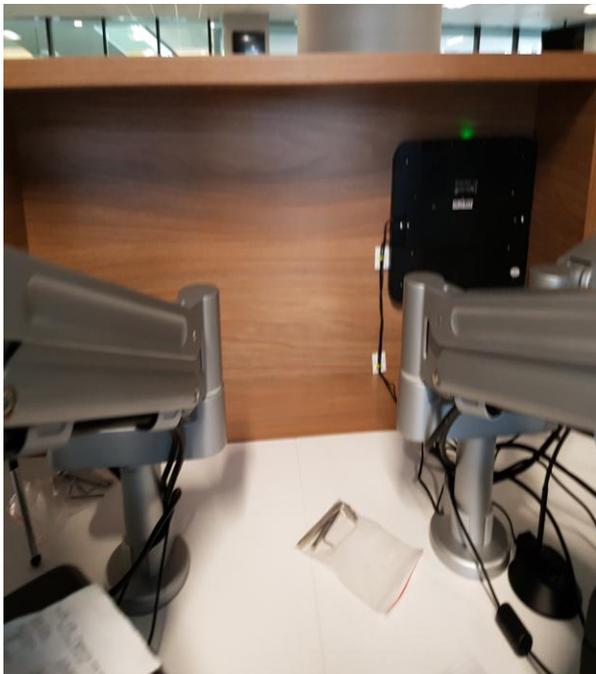
March 2017



Loops at Edmonton Business Tower

The City of Edmonton has opened offices in the new Edmonton Tower and occupies 17 floors for administration. On Floors two and three there are areas for public usage. On Floor two, three meeting rooms are equipped with Loop Systems and there may be areas available for rental of space.

Room 310 has a loop and a retractable wall that opens into Room 320. This can accommodate up to perhaps as many as 75 people at one time. Two smaller rooms are also looped; one accommodates up to 9 attendees and the other accommodates about 16.



(continued)



The third floor has 34 service counters, of which 17 are looped. There will have to be some training as staff members have already repositioned microphones behind monitors or in such a manner that will not allow the voice of the service agent to be picked up.

The Public Library has three counter loops at the Millwood's location set up. In the near future the Public Library is planning to establish loops at other locations; however, no date has been set and they have a few issues that need to be addressed first.

On March 9th I, as a representative of CHHA Edmonton, was asked by the New Alberta Disabilities Forum (ADF) Provincial Coordinator, Meloney Patterson to attend the Spring Forum Meeting. CHHA Edmonton installed a temporary loop system as well as a portable sound system. Meloney Patterson appears to have a collaborative outlook and is suggesting that the ADF works for the various disability groups and helps with advocacy in a positive way.

We have been contacted by Canterbury Court to talk to them about how to provide better hearing assistance. We look forward to that in the future.

ATB and I conferenced by telephone regarding providing better service for the hard of hearing. They are seeking employees with hearing loss to look at doing a pilot project, but to date I have not heard back.

Medicine Hat Inclusion Officer has been actively advocating for loops. They were supplied with designs and will be installing loop antennas in the new senior center. We will receive recognition for our work with this group.

The Maclab theatre's loop is working very well, however the staff have little understanding of what this means for their responsibilities. Cindy approached them about training their staff but did not get a firm response. If any member has attended a performance there and find the service counter a little lacking in providing information, it may be helpful to let the administration group know, to encourage them to get training.

Letter from a Reader:

Experience Attending a Play at the Looped McLab

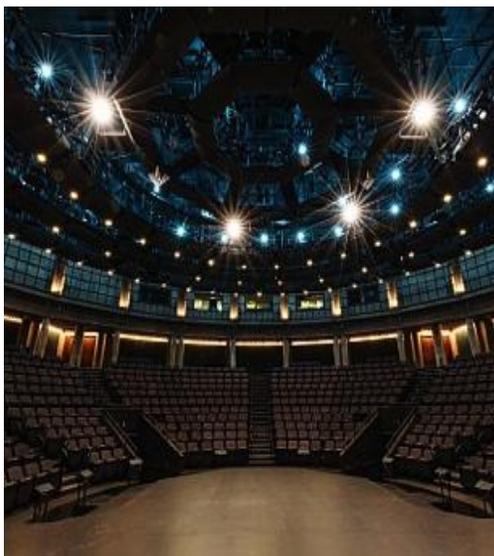
During the Christmas holiday, I attended the *Christmas Carol* play at the MacLab Theatre. As a long time cochlear implant recipient, I was eager to try out their new magnetic induction loop. The loop covers most of the theatre so I was able to join friends on middle tier seats. Even some distance from the stage, I could understand the actor's lines accurately using my device's telecoil pick up. The loop uses the same microphones as the theatre's regular sound system, so I felt I shared the same experience as my hearing friends, enjoying the subtleties of the dialogue for the Dickens classic for the first time.

The system works for me because my telecoil feed bypasses all background noise and the sound distortion from my receiver's microphone. I control the volume by adjusting my hearing device—making it louder or softer. Overall, my sound experience was similar to attending a live performance in a very small venue without amplification.

However, I think the system could still be improved. Whereas the volume of the spoken lines was perfect, the all-troupe musical numbers in the play were somewhat muted. The technicians have promised to remedy this situation. Otherwise, the loop performed as intended.

The magnetic pickup loop in the theatre clearly maximizes the capabilities of my cochlear device. I cannot wear headphones over my cochlear device so most other looping systems are of no benefit. I would be interested to hear whether conventional hearing aid users can get similar benefits from a magnetic loop system.

Les Bergen
Rimbey, Alberta



MacLab Theatre

FOLK ARTIST ZOË NUTT SHARES PERSONAL HEARING LOSS STORY IN EMOTIONAL MUSIC VIDEO FOR HER NEW SONG “LIKE YOU”



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 7, 2017

CONTACT:
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Director of External Affairs
nmacklin@hearingloss.org
301.657.2248 Ext. 106

Reprinted with permission from HLAA

Bethesda, MD: Nashville folk artist [Zoë Nutt](#) today announced the release of the video for her new single “Like You,” which invites people to hear her story of living with progressive hearing loss and tinnitus. Zoë is thrilled to partner with the [Hearing Loss Association of America](#) (HLAA) and [HelloGiggles](#) to unveil the emotionally-driven, captioned video and to use her music as a means to bring a positive message and inspire others for a greater cause. “Like You” can be downloaded via [NoiseTrade](#), and all proceeds will be donated to HLAA. Describing the video in her own words, Zoë said:

I am going deaf. And I want people to know. We are all dealing with issues in our lives, but we don't have to be defined by our problems. I'd rather define my life by how I'm dealing with my problems. It's a strange feeling to be releasing a music video about losing my ability to hear, but it's the hand I've been dealt and one that I plan to overcome. This music video represents the start of my story and I'm very excited to write the next chapter.

I'm on a timer, and there's no way to know when my world will go silent, tomorrow or years from now. I was crying over the page in my notebook, finally letting the news sink in. You're not going to be able to hear. The bulk of “Like You” was written in the fear of that moment. It's a letter to the children I hope to have one day. It's been my way to come to terms with not knowing what's going to happen in the years to come. But releasing this music video has been more than just a letter to a possible future. It's most importantly the start of a conversation I've been longing to have with others. I am going deaf, but I will not let it stop me from making music.

HLAA Executive Director Barbara Kelley commented, “Congratulations to Zoë on the release of her new video. We are grateful for her generosity, but even more, we know she will reach people of all ages with hearing loss through her music. We wish her great success.”

Go to [HelloGiggles](#) today to watch Zoë Nutt's compelling music video for “Like You” and download the track via [NoiseTrade](#) to donate to the [Hearing Loss Association of America](#). Follow [Zoë Nutt](#) online to keep up with new music, show dates, and more.

More About Zoë Nutt:

Zoë Nutt is a storyteller. She likes to tell stories with music and poignant and meaningful lyrics, but it's perhaps her vocal interpretation of those words that brings her musical tales to life. Simply put, Zoë Nutt is a voice you will not soon forget. Raised in Knoxville, Tennessee and a graduate of the songwriting school at Belmont University in Nashville, Zoë has a way of quieting a room and hushing those voices in our heads that make it hard to sit and listen, so that all you want to do is hear the next thing she is going to sing. Cruz Contreras of the band The Black Lillies says, “Zoë Nutt has a voice as haunting and seemingly ancient as the East Tennessee hills she hails from. Her lyricism and delivery are poignant, fresh and promising. Like so many great artists, she knows how to mix the new with the old and create music with broad appeal while never compromising her artistic integrity.”

About the Hearing Loss Association of America

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), founded in 1979, opens the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, education, support and advocacy. HLAA publishes the bimonthly [Hearing Loss Magazine](#), holds annual conventions ([HLAA2017](#) Convention is in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 22 – 25), hosts the [Walk4Hearing](#) in more than 20 cities across the country, conducts [educational webinars](#), and has an extensive network of [chapters and state organizations](#) across the country. For more information, visit hearingloss.org.

Text with 9-1-1 Announcement

Hi Chapter and Branch Leaders!

December 3 marked the announcement of #T911 Day or Text with 9-1-1 day. You likely saw this in our newsletter, however I wanted to bring it directly to your attention.

The [Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association](#) (CWTA) and its wireless carrier members, in partnership with public safety agencies across the country and the [Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission](#) (CRTC), observe the [International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) on December 3 with the marking of the national availability of [Text with 9-1-1](#) (T9-1-1) service for Canada's Deaf, Deafened, Hard of Hearing and Speech Impaired (DHHSI) community.

T9-1-1 provides 9-1-1 call centres with the ability to converse via text messaging with a DHHSI person during an emergency. When a DHHSI person requires 9-1-1 services, they dial 9-1-1 on their cell phone. There is no need for a caller to speak or hear, as the 9-1-1 call taker should receive an indicator that advises them to communicate with the caller via text messaging. The 9-1-1 call taker then initiates text messaging with the caller to address the emergency.

The service, which began rolling out in March 2014, is now available to the vast majority of Canadians, including in many parts of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, and province-wide in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan. Some 9-1-1 call centres are still making the necessary upgrades to their systems and will launch the T9-1-1 service in the coming months.

"All Canadians should have the same access to safety services across the country," said the Honorable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities. "This is why I am very pleased to see the launch of nationwide availability of Text with 9-1-1 service for Canada's deaf, deafened, hard of hearing and speech impaired community. This is a great step in breaking down another barrier for persons with disabilities and to improve inclusivity and accessibility in Canada."

T9-1-1 is only available to those in the DHHSI community. A DHHSI person must first register for T9-1-1 with their wireless service provider and must have an eligible cell phone before being able to utilize this service. All information about T9-1-1, including registration details and areas of service availability, can be found at www.TextWith911.ca.

Here is a link to the news release: <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/404025916.html>

Here is a link to the backgrounder on T911: www.chha.ca/documents/en/T911_Backgrounder.pdf

Here is a link to the communications toolkit: www.chha.ca/documents/en/T911_Toolkit.pdf

Chapters and Branches are encouraged to post this news release to your websites and social media accounts.

Ms. Glenn Martin, B. Comm., CAE.
National Executive Director
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
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Ph: [613-526-1584](tel:613-526-1584)
[1-800-263-8068](tel:1-800-263-8068)
TTY: [613-526-2692](tel:613-526-2692)



Presentation to Marilyn Kingdon, February 6, 2017 at the AGM in recognition of her dedication to CHHA-Ed since the beginning, serving as President several times and volunteering, and participating in events helping to make our association a strong active voice for hard of hearing persons in Edmonton and area.

Congratulations Marilyn THANKS for all that you have done and continue to do.

Announcement

Cindy Gordon, our programs director is constantly busy doing the work of education and advocacy for our membership and the general public who experience hearing loss. She has a gift for educating others and an appealing warmth as she helps individuals and groups alike. Because of her personal experience with hearing loss, her countless hours of volunteer work and vast involvement with advocacy, she was nominated for the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Award.

In February she received notice she will be honored with the distinction of being the recipient of the Voice of Albertans with Disabilities Award for 2016. Those who receive the award are "***recognized for their dedication and integrity in the continuing pursuit of full participation in society by people with disabilities in Alberta.***"

As Cindy is usually up to her eyeballs in her duties, an email or phone call may disrupt her flow; but I'm sure it would be appreciated if when you see her you express a hearty congratulations. It is indeed an honor to have her as a vital part of CHHA-Ed.

Office Report

Well the winter and snow are hopefully behind us and we are thinking ahead to Spring!! The office is busy getting our 2nd annual Golf Tournament underway...Please consider helping us by volunteering OR by contacting a sponsor you might know who could help us OR enter a team and join in the FUN!!

We are also looking at hosting an exciting May Hearing Awareness Event in conjunction with the City of Edmonton. While it is still in the planning stages, it will involve LOOPS and ACCESSIBILITY!! Look for more information to come soon on this event!

Your office staff have been kept busy by remaining visible at community events trade shows and meetings and providing information to the public on our services.

YOUR THIRD EAR sessions continue across the city and Speech Reading Classes and ASL classes have been running consistently!

We are seeking volunteers to deliver memorial donations packages to some of the funeral homes in the greater Edmonton area. It is through these and other fundraising efforts that we are able to continue the important work that we do. Remember if you would like to help out in the office we have opportunities for you! This is ***your*** organization and we would like you to feel a part of it!! Feel free to contact me anytime with ideas, suggestions or offers to help; email me at cindy@bridgessupport.com.

Cindy Gordon
Program Director

CHHA-Ed 2017 Golf Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton Branch (CHHA-Ed) invites you and your corporation/business to be part of our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament being held at The Links in Spruce Grove, Alberta on June 14, 2017.

CHHA-Ed provides support, programs and advocacy for the hard of hearing and late-deafened community in Edmonton and surrounding areas. Hearing loss is the fastest growing disability today and many people struggle to cope with the loss, including the cost of hearing aids, dealing with social situations and developing coping strategies. It is estimated that over 100,000 people have hearing loss in Edmonton alone. This golf tournament will increase CHHA-Ed's **visibility in the community** and help support our **Hearing Aid Assistance Fund** to supply hearing aids to the economically disadvantaged in our region. At last year's tournament we raised \$10,000.00. With your **help & sponsorship** our goal is to increase that amount this year.

Hector Pothier and Jed Roberts, Edmonton Eskimo Alumni and Grey Cup Champions who both have hearing loss, will again be the Celebrity Marshalls for the event. They will be on hand to share their experiences as professional football players. Additionally, Global TV broadcasting personality Seanna Collins will be the event emcee. This will be a fantastic day that you will not want to miss.

Enclosed you will find the Sponsorship Options information providing opportunities available. Donations of golf prizes and auction items are also welcome. Please find enclosed the event agenda and golfer registration form to use and share with others.

CHHA-Ed is counting on your support for our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament as a sponsor and/ or as a participant. For more information visit our website at www.chha-ed.com, email us at chha-ed@shaw.ca or call 780-428-6622.

Yours for better hearing!



Doug Gordon
CHHA-Ed Golf Committee Chair

Sponsorship Options

All funds realized from this event will go directly to CHHA-Ed programs that support and advocate for hard of hearing and late-deafened in the greater Edmonton area.

Platinum Sponsors

- \$3,001^{.00} or more
- Company name/ logo on golf carts
- Company name on all printed material
- Display your company banner or sign
- Four complementary registrations to tournament

Gold Sponsors

- \$1,501^{.00} to \$3,000^{.00}
- Company name on all printed material
- Display your company banner or sign
- Two complementary registrations to tournament



Silver Sponsors

- \$501^{.00} to \$1,500^{.00}
- Company name on all printed material
- Hole signage if sponsoring Hole-In-One (\$700)
- One Complementary registration to tournament



Bronze Sponsors

- Less than \$500^{.00}
- Prizes or cash donation will be used for tournament prizes or auction items (all cash donations will receive a charitable donation tax receipt.)

SPONSORSHIP MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 23rd FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES

For more information call 780-428-6622
Email chha-ed@shaw.ca or visit or website at www.chha-ed.com

Sponsorship or Auction Item Form

Company _____

Individual/Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ PC _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

~ Please send us a JPEG image of your LOGO by May 23/17 ~

Your LOGO will be featured on the CHHA-Ed website, in the Tournament program
and the hole you are sponsoring

Please indicate your level of sponsorship

Platinum

Bronze

Gold

Other (eg. Cash Donation, Team Prizes, Door Prizes)

Silver

Amount or Description _____

I will deliver this item

I need this item to be picked up

Authorized Signature: _____

► Please Fax Completed Form to (780) 420-6661 or Email: chha-ed@shaw.ca

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT and Participation

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION SHEET

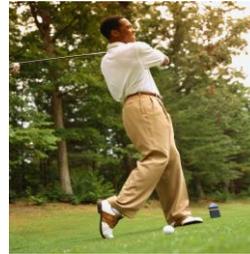
Time and Location

The LINKS at 100 Links Road, Spruce Grove

1:00 p.m. Registration

2:00 p.m. Shotgun start!!!

6:30 p.m. BBQ Dinner



Prize & Fun Holes



- # 6 Hole in one
 - # 7 Men's Longest Drive
 - # 8 Lucky Water Hazard
 - # 9 Longest Putt
 - #10 Eskimo Football Toss
 - #11 Closest to the Pin
 - #12 Women's Longest Drive
 - #14 Hole in One
 - #18 Son of a Beach Hole
- First Place, Most Honest & **Mulligan** Draw



Events

Emcee: Seanna Collins – Global TV

Pecha Kucha

Team Pictures

Food and Liquor Holes

Celebrity Marshalls

50/50

Live Auction Cash or Cheque ONLY (ATM available on Site)

For information call 780-428-6622, email chha-ed@shaw.ca
or our us at www.chha-ed.com

Coming Event

HOW DOES CAPTIONING WORK???

CHHA-Ed General Meeting – Monday, April 3RD AT 7:00PM
Glenrose Hospital – Conference Room B (In the Basement)

Everyone is **WELCOME** to attend this **FREE** session on how captioning works. Ever wonder how this happens?? Why there are mistakes? HOW do they **DO** that???

Now is your chance to see and ask questions- Join **Shannon Wiebe** as she shows us how it's done! Captioning and LOOP will be provided.

For more information call-780-428-6622

SPEECHREADING CLASSES- Level 1 to begin its 9 week session, Wednesday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 at NEESA-7524-139 Ave. Learn how to read lips and speech as well as coping strategies in a safe environment with others like you!!



CALL-780 496-6969 to Register by Mar. 31st
\$175.00 all material included.



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association – Edmonton Branch

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to any person interested in supporting our mission and vision.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____

Volunteers Needed!
We appreciate and value the support of volunteers.

Please contact us if you would be interested in volunteering in any areas such as bi-annual casinos, yearly fundraisers, committees, or as a Board Member.

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