



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association British Columbia Chapter

THE LOOP NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019 | VOL. 22



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY RUTH WARICK, PRESIDENT OF CHHA-BC

I hope you have had a wonderful summer, with some rest and relaxation and that you are now geared up for the fall and winter to come. For CHHA-BC this means getting ready for our move to an office in the new Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility, the operating name for Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

As part of our move, we have posted for the position of Operations Manager. Please see more information on the posting on page 7 of this issue. In the next few months we will be posting for an Information and Finance Coordinator.

In this issue you will also find an announcement about how you can go together with other members and friends of CHHA-BC to donate for the new building of the Wavefront Centre. We are already at the half-way mark to receiving sufficient donations for a plaque in CHHA-BC's name in the building. However, we are not there yet, so please help us with this drive. No amount is too small to contribute.

I also urge your participation in the ninth annual CHHA Vancouver Walk2Hear on Sunday, September 22nd at 1:30 PM at Jericho Beach Park (east end). More information is included on page 6 of this issue.

Over the summer your CHHA-BC board has been in close contact and held a Skype meeting in July. We will be meeting in-person on September 14th. **(Continued on page 2)**

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(Continued from page 1) One of our agenda items is developing an Action Plan to guide us for the next few years. Your advocacy suggestions will be most welcome. As one of our priority items, we have identified the importance of participating in the framing of the new Accessibility Legislation of the Province. Please email your additional suggestions and thoughts to president@chha-bc.org.

With warmest wishes,
Dr. Ruth Warick
President, CHHA BC



HELP BUILD THE NEW WAVEFRONT CENTRE AND HOME FOR CHHA-BC

Later this year CHHA-BC will move its office to the new Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility on Quebec Street at 4th Avenue in Vancouver. The Wavefront Centre is the new headquarters of the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing of B.C., and is the provincial hub for services to people with hearing loss across B.C. by providing employment and personal counselling, audiology services, and consulting services on hearing loss issues.

WIDHH is fund-raising to finance this new building. There are two features to this fund-raising campaign. One feature is that, based on the total sum pledged by an individual or group, there is an opportunity to have a plaque in the name of the donor on the donor wall, or on a specific room or item in the building. The second feature is that a donor has the option to schedule donation payments in installments, over a span of up to five years, thus enhancing the financial feasibility of a contribution.

It is likely that many of our CHHA-BC members would not be in a position to make a large enough donation to qualify for a donor naming opportunity. However, if CHHA-BC members wished to do so, we could donate as a group to qualify for a donor plaque naming CHHA-BC.

Examples of how this could work financially:

75 members @ \$334.00 each = \$25,000 (payable over 3 years, with annual payment of \$112.00/ year) could result in a room named for CHHA-BC.

Or if we have 75 members @ \$134.00 each = \$10,000 (payable over 3 years, with annual payment of \$42) we could have a plaque on the donor wall, or, as a special offer, a donor plaque on the CHHA-BC office.

Or an overall donation of \$5,000 provides a naming opportunity, for example, for the Loop system in the conference room (4th floor).

Please see page 3 for a PLEDGE CARD which can be sent by postal mail to Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility, 2125 West 7th Ave., Vancouver BC V6K 1X9. Names and addresses for the contact persons to answer any questions are provided at the bottom of the pledge card.

WAVEFRONT CENTRE: DONATION PLEDGE CARD

	WAVEFRONT CENTRE FOR COMMUNICATION ACCESSIBILITY	FOR CHHA-BC MEMBER'S USE ONLY
<p>I'm IN! I want to support MAKING WAVES – BREAKING BARRIERS Capital Campaign!</p>		
Please complete this pledge form and mail to Wavefront Centre, 2125 West 7th Ave., Vancouver BC V6K 1X9		
Name _____ Address _____ City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____ Tel/Cell/VRS _____ Email _____		
I wish to pledge my donation as follows: <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ per year, over ____ year(s) for a total donation of \$ _____ OR <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ as a one-time payment		
I wish to honour my pledge: <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Annually Payments to begin: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque (payable to "Wavefront Centre") OR Payment by credit card: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex Credit Card _____ Expiry Date ____ / ____ CVD _____ I authorize Wavefront Centre to charge my credit card for the above amount. Cardholder Signature _____		
For the purpose of donor recognition, please acknowledge this gift in the name(s) of: _____ OR <input type="checkbox"/> I/We wish to remain anonymous		
Your Signature _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> By providing contact information, you agree to receive correspondence from Wavefront Centre. For more information, please contact Rita Albano at rita.albano@wavefrontcentre.ca OR David Scott at david.scott@wavefrontcentre.ca or call 604-736-7391 ext. 228 Charitable Registration Number 108200098RR001.		



MY CHHA CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

CONTRIBUTED BY JESSICA NIEMELA, DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE ON
THE CHHA-BC BOARD

This year marks my very first experience at the CHHA 2019 Conference in Montreal. This experience marks the cherry on top of my hard of hearing identity that has bloomed these last two years. In this time, I found my very first hard of hearing friends who I ended up travelling with to the conference!

Going to a hard of hearing (HOH) conference is really something you need to allow your mind, body and soul to take in. If you don't remember to breathe it can hit you like a ton of bricks because there is a lot going on. You are in the thick of networking with other hard of hearing people, learning about the latest technology, attending the workshops, and at this particular conference there was a huge focus on the newly passed Accessibility Act. In this way, the conference may be about exploring your social, technical, and political self, too. This sounds exhausting, which it is, but it is an incredible experience that I recommend, especially to any HOH young adult!

Honestly, my favorite part of the conference was the "Comedy for a Cause" show. That was my very first time experiencing an accessible comedy show and it was just so powerful exactly how accessible the show was. As a HOH person I used all the points of access - telecoil, amplification, and live captioning - that were applicable to me, which allowed me to be engaged in the entire show. I felt alive, being able to hear and see every word. Thank you for such an amazing experience CHHA!



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The **CHHA BC Youth Peer Support Program** is seeking volunteers to help with their events!

The purpose of this Program is to support deaf and hard of hearing students in their navigation of school, work, and social lives. To learn how you can get involved, visit:

<https://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp/get-involved/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPT
12**

BRANCH MEETING

All are welcome to attend the next meeting of CHHA Abbotsford Branch. President Jerry Gosling will report on the recent speech reading class and discuss developments from the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Refreshments will be served. For further information contact Jerry at 604-864-2916.



Thursday, September 12, 2019



1:00 PM



Chances Abbotsford, 30835 Peardonville Rd, Abbotsford

**SEPT
18**

SPEECH READING

Jerry Gosling, President of CHHA Abbotsford Branch, will be teaching another speech reading class this fall. For more information and to register for the class, please call Jerry at 604-864-2916.



Begins Wednesday, September 18, 2019



Hearing Life, 1975 McCallum Rd, Abbotsford

**SEPT
20**

SPEECHREADING IN COMOX

CHHA Comox Valley Branch will be offering a Level One Speechreading Course! There will be ten 1-hour classes from September 20th to November 22nd. Nerissa Davies, an audiologist and certified CHHA Instructor, will be teaching this popular class. The cost for the course is \$30. For further information and to register, email cvhardofhearing@gmail.com.



Friday, September 20, 2019 to Friday, November 22, 2019



11:15 AM to 12:15 PM



Room A of the Comox Community Centre, 1855 Noel Avenue, Comox

More events on next page...

SEPT
22



CHHA Vancouver Branch hosts its 9th Annual Walk2Hear! Help in raising funds for branch activities that support persons with hearing loss as you connect with others and enjoy a 2km or 5km walk together. Following the walk, there will be a presentation and prizes will be awarded. CART and ASL interpreters will be provided.

There will be a draw for the grand prize from the Air Canada Foundation for two Economy Class return tickets for travel to any Air Canada scheduled destination in North America (including Hawaii, Mexico, the Caribbean and select sun destinations). The approximate commercial value of the pair of tickets is \$2,436. The Air Canada draw will be around 2:15 PM at the Walk.

The Walk will take place rain or shine so please check the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Anyone of any age can register for only \$10. For more information, please contact the Walk2Hear organizers by email at chhavancouver@gmail.com. To register for the Walk or sponsor a registered walker, visit: <https://bit.ly/2OVJy6E>.



Sunday, September 22, 2019



Registration between 1 and 1:30 PM; Walk begins at 1:30 PM



Jericho Beach Park (East End), Vancouver
Meeting place between 2nd Ave. & Wallace St.

SEPT
23

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHHA North Shore Branch invites you to their AGM. This year's Guest Speaker is Gael Hannan, writer, humorist, and author of the book "The Way I Hear It - A Life with Hearing Loss." The title of Gael's presentation is "I'm Hearing as Hard as I Can."



Monday, September 23, 2019



7:00 PM



The Summerhill Retirement Residence
135 West 15th Street, North Vancouver

YOUNG ADULT SOCIALS



The CHHA Youth Peer Support Program is organizing get-togethers for deaf and hard of hearing young adults, ages 18 to 35. Current dates are as follows:

Sunday, September 22, 2019 – Walk2Hear @ Jericho Beach, Vancouver

Friday, October 18, 2019 – Fright Night @ Playland, Vancouver

Saturday, October 26, 2019 – Halloween Corn Maze (Location TBA)

For details, please visit: <https://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp/socials/>



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association British Columbia Chapter

JOB OPENING: OPERATIONS MANAGER

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, British Columbia Chapter is seeking an **Operations Manager**. CHHA BC is a not-for-profit organization focused on hearing loss self-help and advocacy, with headquarters to be based in Vancouver.

The Operations Manager will ensure that the business of the organization is carried out and will manage the running of its office. The following will encompass duties of the Operations Manager:

- supervise office staff and volunteers
- oversee budgeting, membership process, reporting, planning and auditing
- ensure all legal and regulatory processes are followed and that documents are filed in accordance with laws and regulations
- oversee outreach, represent CHHA as directed, deliver presentations and respond to inquiries and correspondence
- prepare research briefs and policy statements in accordance with the mission and work plan of the organization
- manage projects of the organization
- provide operational assistance for the annual general meeting and board meetings

Requirements:

- Bachelor's or Graduate degree in a relevant discipline
- Minimum of five years of work experience in a related field
- Experience in management, operations, and leadership
- Ability to innovate, develop, plan and implement projects
- Demonstrated attention to detail and ability to manage multiple tasks and projects
- Understanding of general finance, fundraising, budgeting, including profit and loss, balance sheet and cash-flow management
- Outstanding oral and written communication skills and the ability to build rapport and consensus with board members, volunteers, staff, and community partners
- Proven public speaking, interpersonal and problem-solving skills
- Excellent computer hardware and software skills and use of office equipment
- Adept technical skills including use of assistive technical devices for people with hearing loss (assistive listening devices, loop systems and alerting devices)
- Understanding of hearing loss issues and non-profit organizations

Compensation: \$2,000 per month for a half-time position equivalent to a 20-hour work week

Resumes and covering letters are due by Wednesday, September 11th, 2019 to the email of info@chha-bc.org. Any inquiries should go to the same email. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

ARTICLES & RESOURCES

Is It Time to Take a Hearing Loss Selfie?

BY GAEL HANNAN (FROM HEARING HEALTH MATTERS: THE BETTER HEARING CONSUMER)

"Whether you've had hearing loss for a year, a decade or a lifetime, it's easy to get sloppy on the basics. Maybe we've become a little careless with our technical devices (as if they cost a few bucks rather than a few hundred or thousand). Maybe we've been backsliding to the days when we tuned out people and activities because it was too hard to hear. Maybe we just think this is as good as it gets and we've stopped trying to improve our communication. If this is you, maybe it's time to take a hearing loss selfie. Take a mental picture of where you're at now. Do you like what you see in that picture? If not, throw it out, make some adjustments, and take a better-looking selfie..." **READ MORE:** <https://bit.ly/31CS5Nq>

Hearing Loss: When You Feel Like Your Senses Fail You

BY SHARI EBERTS (TAKEN FROM LIVING WITH HEARING LOSS)

"One of my favorite parts of the annual HLAA Convention is the inspiring speakers. This year was no exception. Rebecca Alexander, a psychotherapist and author, was the keynote. She has Usher syndrome, which means that she is progressively going deaf and blind. Her vision problems presented in childhood, but when she began having trouble hearing in college, she received her diagnosis. Both senses would be taken from her over time. This is a crushing blow, particularly at age 19. The way she has dealt with such a huge loss is inspiring..." **READ MORE:** <https://bit.ly/2MUSG94>

What (Still) Makes Me Nervous About Hearing Loss

BY GAEL HANNAN (FROM HEARING HEALTH MATTERS: THE BETTER HEARING CONSUMER)

"Most days I feel like I've got this hearing loss thing licked. After all, I've had it for six decades, I write about it regularly and I talk about it all the time. I share tips I've learned from other people and I make up on my own. I OWN my hearing loss. My mission for these past few years has been to take control of it rather than the other way around. I try to keep it as only part of my selfie-vision. I'm not: Hi, I'm Gael Hannan, a person with hearing loss. Or, Glad to meet you - hey guess what, I have hearing loss! (There are better moments to self-identify.) So, in spite of all this nauseating positivity, why does my hearing loss still hold some negative powers over me?..." **READ MORE:** <https://bit.ly/2N4qocb>



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association British Columbia Chapter

CONTACT US

CHHA BC CHAPTER

#216 - 9181 Main Street
Chilliwack, BC, V2P 4M9

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday - Thursday 10 am to 2 pm

☎ **Tel:** 604-795-9238

☎ **Toll-Free Tel:** 1-866-888-2442

✉ **Email:** info@chha-bc.org

🖱 **Website:** <https://chha-bc.org/>

CONNECT WITH A LOCAL BRANCH

ABBOTSFORD BRANCH

Tel: 604-864-2916

Email: abbotsfordretiree@gmail.com

CHHA BC YOUTH PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Email: chhabcypsp@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.chha-bc.org/youthpsp/>

COMOX VALLEY BRANCH

Tel: 250-339-4706

Email: cvhardofhearing@gmail.com

HEAR BRANCH (COQUITLAM)

Tel: 604-939-0327

Email: anna.r.bernard@gmail.com

NORTH SHORE BRANCH

Tel: 604-926-5222

Email: chha_nsb@telus.net

Website: <http://www.chha-nsb.com/>

VANCOUVER BRANCH

Tel: 778-358-9955

Email: chhavancouver@gmail.com

Website: <https://chhavancouver.ca/>