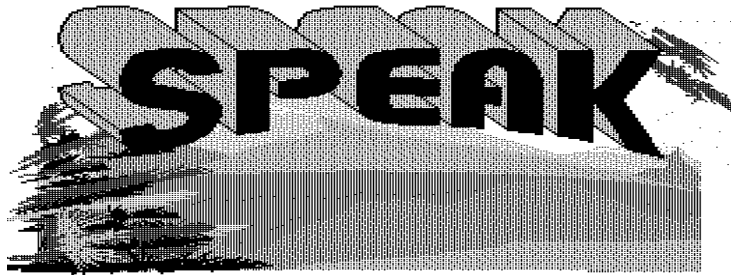


Publication of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
(CHHA)

North Shore Branch



ISSUE 12

JANUARY 1997

The Annual General Meeting of CHHA - North Shore Branch

was held on 26 September 1996 at the North Shore Disability Resource Centre. Sixteen of our 26 members were in attendance along with a number of invited guests. Our honoured guest was Lloyd Dahl, President of CHHA - B.C. Chapter, representing the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. Highlights of the meeting included the President's and Treasurer's reports and the adoption of the North Shore Branch's Constitution and Bylaws by those present. With the Constitution and Bylaws in place, the way is now clear for the Branch to apply to become a B.C. Society. This will be a major goal in the coming year for our Executive Committee. Another important goal will be to increase our membership in the coming year. A new Executive Committee was elected at the meeting and is comprised as follows: President, Erica Barrett; Vice President, Evan Hamilton; Treasurer, Alfred Kobbeltvedt; Secretary, Lynda Jobes. There will also be four Members-at-Large on the Committee, Clarence Bleackley, Lorna Calvert, Hugh Hetherington, and Bill Tivy.

Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of a number of awards recognizing outstanding service to the North Shore Branch. Jean Taylor, the branch's Recording Secretary was awarded the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association's Certificate of Recognition. This award is given to a hearing person who has provided outstanding and significant

service to the hard of hearing community. The award was presented by Lloyd Dahl. A second award was presented to Erica Barrett who has served the branch, first as Vice President then President, since its formation in 1990. This North Shore Branch Award of Recognition was presented to Erica by Evan Hamilton. The third award, also a North Shore Branch Award of Recognition, was to have been presented to Monica Craver who has also served the branch since 1990, first as President, then as Past President. Lorna Calvert accepted the award on behalf of Monica. The presentation was made by Hugh Hetherington.

Following the business portion of the meeting, the Social Committee had organized some entertaining games and refreshments. A number of prizes were won by those taking part. It was a fun gathering with plenty of time for socializing following the meeting.

The regular meeting of the North Shore Branch

was held at the North Shore Disability Resource Centre on 21 November 1996. The topic for the meeting was *Bridging the Gap Between Hearing Aids and Assistive Listening Devices*. Guest speakers were Grace Shyng, Audiologist, and Sandra Baker, Coordinator for the Communications Resource Centre, both from the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Grace spoke about the latest hearing aid technology and illustrated her talk by

showing examples of different aids to the group. Sandra then spoke on assistive listening devices also illustrated with many examples of what is available on the market. The audience, which numbered 26, displayed a keen interest in both subjects and participated by asking many questions of Grace and Sandra on the two topics. The meeting ended with time for socializing and refreshments.

Workers. Jean spoke to the group, outlining things they must remember when their client is hard of hearing. Erica and Lynda helped with the skits which demonstrated to the group how misunderstandings can develop. The workers were enthusiastic, keen to learn and asked lots of questions. All seemed very appreciative of our Branch meeting with them.

Erica and Jean were also speakers at a "Keep Well" Program meeting at the West Vancouver Seniors Activity Centre in October. Erica discussed the North Shore Branch and also gave the group useful tips on hearing devices.

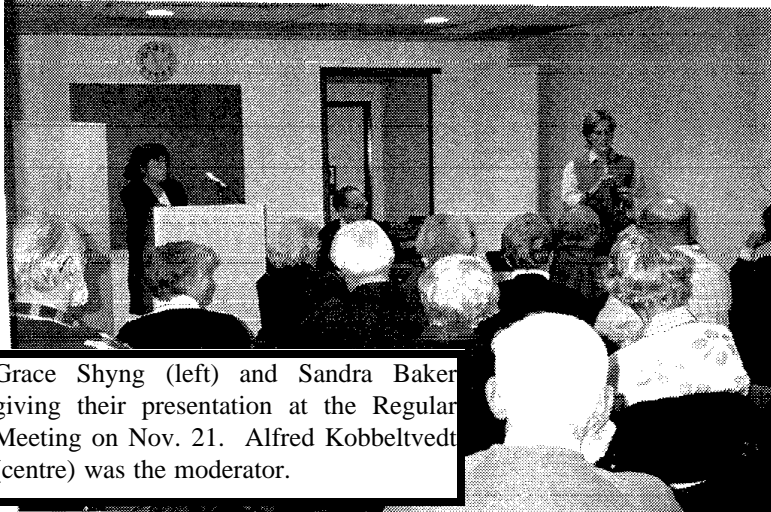
Jean spoke about the Speech Reading Program and explained how it was set up through CHHA - B.C. Chapter with a grant from New Horizons Partners in Aging, Health Canada. Jean advised that there are now teachers trained in this Program across B.C., including two on the North Shore. Jean also outlined how our Branch is striving to raise \$4000.00 to be used for the speech reading course development and delivery. The group seemed very interested and agreed with Jean's closing statement, that although this training is primarily for seniors, it is also greatly needed for young adults.

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Annual Conference - CHHA - B.C. Chapter

The Conference and Annual General Meeting of CHHA - BC Chapter was held on November 1 and 2, 1996 in Tsawwassen. It was also B.C. Chapter's 10th anniversary and there was a huge carrot cake to mark the event. (see photo on next page). Several members of the North Shore Branch attended.

Friday's workshops ended with a round table discussion that included many young hard of hearing adults who answered questions and related their experiences as students attending regular high schools. Everyone was greatly impressed with this panel of speakers. They have all coped well, both academically and socially, and have left no doubt that they will succeed in their career plans, despite severe hearing losses.



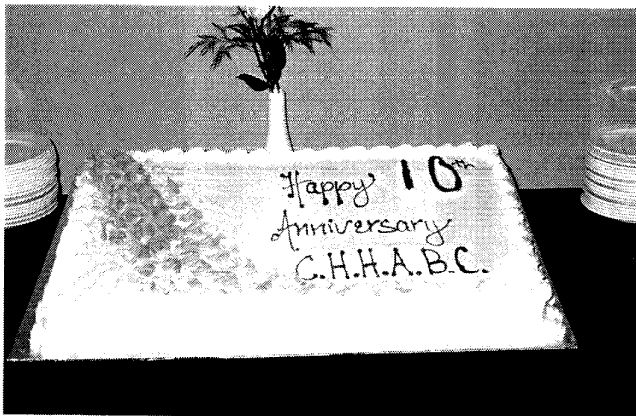
Grace Shyng (left) and Sandra Baker giving their presentation at the Regular Meeting on Nov. 21. Alfred Kobbeltvedt (centre) was the moderator.

The NEXT regular meeting of the North Shore Branch will be held at the North Shore Disability Resource Centre on 20 February 1997 at 7:30 P.M. The guest speaker for this meeting will be Leslee Bruce of Kelowna on the topic of *How to Get Back into Life*. Leslee Bruce, B.A., B.S.W. (Social Work) and M.Ed. is in private practice where she does vocational assessments and counseling throughout the Fraser Valley and the Province. Leslee is Hard of Hearing and has worked for the Canadian Hearing Society in London, Ontario for 5 years and the W.I.D.H.H. for 4 years. The evening should be very informative. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. **Mark your calendar now with this important date.** We look forward to seeing you in February.

Out and About in the Community.

On October 9, Erica Barrett, Jean Taylor and Lynda Jobs met with the North Shore Home Support

Saturday morning's guest speaker was Dr. Patrick Doyle, Professor Emeritus of Otorhinolaryngology at UBC. His topic was Tinnitus - Treatment and Research. Although there is no cure at present for tinnitus, Dr. Doyle's clinic has successfully helped some sufferers, and Dr. Doyle spoke at length on the methods of treatment and the degree to which sufferers can be helped. Anyone wishing to attend his



clinic must be referred by their ENT specialist.

Maggie Dodd presented *Managing Your Hearing Loss*, a project of the B.C. Chapter which has been funded by New Horizons Partners in Aging, a program of Health Canada. Many of her 'Teachers in Training' were presented to the Conference, including Jean Taylor and Joan Bennett from the North Shore Branch.

It was interesting to hear the reports from the other B.C. branches during the A.G.M. segment of this conference. This included our president, Erica Barrett, who gave an excellent, brief and concise report of our branch activities for the past year.

The Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) Code of Practice.

The CTA was previously known as the National Transportation Agency. On 4 November 1996, the new Code of Practice by the CTA was introduced. This will mean that persons with disabilities can look forward to more accessible airplanes. The code

applies to 30 or more passenger seats and establishes criteria with respect to signs, lighting, stairs, floors, space for service animals, tactile row markers and communication announcements. This Code deals with "equipment" on board airplanes. Work on an additional Code of Practice is in progress which deals with communication, from making a reservation through check-in, on board and de-planing. Regulation for Airlines; "Personnel Training for the Assistance of Persons with Disabilities" was issued in 1994 and became effective as of 26 January 1995. Airlines are responsible for setting up these training programs for their employees.

CHHA has a Transportation Committee and has been working with the CTA and Canada's Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT).

The following is an extract from "Vibes" CHS Magazine July 1996:

"Travel Tips for Hearing Impaired people" and "Ears, Altitude and Airplane Travel" can be obtained from the American Academy of Otolaryngology. Head and Neck Surgery, 1 Prince Street, Alexandria, VA, 22316, U.S.A. (Single free copy available with a stamped self addressed envelope - you'll need a USA stamp.)

Here are a few tips when travelling by air:

- λ wear your "ear badge" or carry communication card.
- λ inform your travel agent that you are hard of hearing.
- λ ask for an aisle seat near the front of the plane - easier to attract the attention of the hostess and to speech read.
- λ ask airline staff to look at you when speaking
- λ sit near the ticket counter in waiting area prior to boarding.
- λ Make sure staff know you are hard of hearing.
- λ Bring your own headphones with jack adaptor.

Note: be sure to allow plenty of time at the airport for checking in. Also, don't fly with a head cold.

Get involved. Hearing loss should not be a barrier to communication - Communicate your needs and break

down the barriers

- λ Expect Access, it is your right.

If you should encounter communication barriers when travelling, here are some suggestions which may help.

- λ Explain the problem to the person responsible for providing the service.
- λ Indicate what you need and how they can best assist you.
- λ If the first step does not work, record the details of what happened as soon as possible while you remember them clearly.
- λ Contact the management of the transportation provider and try to resolve the matter.

If you are not satisfied, contact the Canadian Transportation Agency and register a complaint. Their address and phone number are:

Canadian Transportation Agency, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0N9. Telephone (voice) 1-800-883-1813, (FAX) 819-953-6019, (TTY) 1-800-669-5575.

PRESS RELEASE

ALDS Inc. is proud to announce that it has been appointed the exclusive Western Canadian distributor of Sentech Systems and RION Hearing Aids.

Sentech Systems Inc. is a leading Canadian hearing aid manufacturer. Sentech offers a full range of hearing aid models which are now available with the new dynamic EQ II Circuit.

RION Co., Ltd. has a fifty-year reputation as a manufacturer of high quality, reliable hearing aids.

RION specializes in water-resistant and water-proof hearing aids that are designed to satisfy even the most difficult and extreme wearing conditions.

Call your local audiologist or hearing aid dispenser for more information.

ALDS Inc. 2 - 11220 Voyageur Way, Richmond, B.C., V6X 3E1. Telephone: (604) 270-7751 FAX: (604) 270-6308

NEWS IN BRIEF.



The League for the Hard of Hearing, New York has advised us that the 2nd International Noise Awareness Day will be on 30 April 1997. Watch the next newsletter for information about the North Shore Branch's participation for this important day.

Fred Clark, President of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association has been an active participant in the Federal Task Force on Disability Issues. He has been instrumental in having Audiologists included as an authority on hearing loss in the new guidelines for the Disability Tax Credit. This has been reviewed by the Minister of Revenue, Jane Stewart, and Revenue Canada will recommend the policy change to the Minister of Finance, Paul Martin. They do not expect any opposition to the change.

Hazards of Deafness

You are reading a newspaper. Your wife waves to you to get your attention in order to say something. You have to look up to communicate and in doing so you lose you place. "#%@\$%^&&"

The newsletter (((SPEAK))) is a publication of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association - North Shore Branch. It is published five times a year. Your submissions are welcome. Please contact the editors:

- λ Lynda Jobs - 731-4433
- λ Hugh Hetherington - 926-8049