



CHHA – NSB
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
North Shore Branch

Annual Report 2018-2019

Your board of directors Alan Dion, Hugh Hetherington, Ruth Lapointe, Susan Gelinas, and Douglas Muir are pleased to present this review of the branch's activities for the past year. Mike Hocevar moved away from the area and sadly Bill Friend passed away just before Christmas leaving your Board two members short.

As with all branches of the independent consumer advocacy society Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, our CHHA-North Shore Branch since its establishment in 1997, autonomously develops its own member-driven program of activity and education for the public in support of the Branch's mission statement:

CHHA, North Shore Branch, has 2 major goals:

Firstly, we will contribute to improving the quality of life for people who are hard of hearing, by providing opportunities for education and life coping skills, and, Secondly, by making the North Shore Community more aware of Hard of Hearing people, and their difficulties, and to encourage the Community to become "more hearing friendly" and accessible to those Hard of Hearing persons.

CHHA-North Shore branch is pleased to report another successful year of offering service to the residents of the North Shore as our part in promoting the concept of livable communities. Programs feature a combination of technological advice and various useful coping strategies and tips, and branch activities that include:

1. Sound Advice: a free public workshop held on the first Friday every month except July and August, at West Vancouver Seniors Activity Centre AND on the last Monday of the month at Silver Harbour Seniors Centre in North Vancouver, also excepting July and August. The latter started this January. Occasionally extra sessions were held at various other locations.
2. Public Speaker Series: On an ongoing basis we invite interesting speakers to our scheduled meetings held at the Summerhill Retirement Home at 15th and Lonsdale. The past year's lineup included:
 - a. April 16, 2018, Sgt. Perri Mainwaring of the North Vancouver RCMP. Perri spoke on the topic "Recognizing and Protecting Yourself from Frauds and Scams."

- b. June 18, 2018, Glen Grigg, Ph.D., R.C.C., practicing psychotherapist and Professor of Psychology at City University of Seattle in Vancouver. Glen spoke on the topic “Feeling Safe—Connecting Hearing to Your Inner Watch Dog”
 - c. September 17, 2018, Our guest speaker was unable to attend due to illness and we held a special Sound Advice session with retired audiologist Deborah Maloon, Flo Spratt and Hugh Hetherington.
3. Personal information packages: Our quarterly newsletter, “Mountain Ear” is published and printed materials are offered at no charge at every meeting including our booklet by Neil Bauman, Ph.D. entitled “Talking with Hard of Hearing People – Here’s How to Do It Right, Eh!”. Further, the branch has available a very useful free Hospital Stay kit that assists with the security of your hearing aids and alerting care providers about the patients’ hearing needs. While the branch doesn’t officially endorse any one hearing aid provider, a list of all known North Shore hearing clinics is also made available.
 4. Information & Education: A phone line 604-926-5222 is maintained to answer both members’ and the public’s queries for hard of hearing related questions, and the branch has an online website <https://chha-nsb.com> that also contains its very informative quarterly newsletter, “Mountain Ear”. Note that under the guidance of director Susan Gelinias, that the branch’s website is being upgraded to be more dynamic and full of useful links on all matters pertaining to hard of hearing issues. Our goal is to have the new website up and running for next year.
 5. Occasional, free home visits are conducted by Hugh Hetherington to assist people with their hearing aids or assistive listening devices, and he has liaised with local churches and community centres to advise on the installation and maintenance of hearing loop systems to enable direct wireless delivery of sound to personal hearing aids for successful listening and participating in services and events.
 6. Your directors have worked with Lions Gate Hospital and various other health related organizations, as well as, attending and volunteering at numerous health and trade shows.

We thank our members for their continuing and faithful support and look forward to serving you and the Hard of Hearing public through the 2019-2020 year.
