



CHHA – NSB
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
North Shore Branch

Annual Report 2023-2024

Your board of directors Alan Dion, Hugh Hetherington, Ping Lau, Susan Gelinias, Mike Hocevar, Ron Chapman and Deborah Maloon are pleased to present this review of the branch's activities for the past year. Since technology has permitted, we have been able maintain our business activities both in-person and via Zoom.

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 can report another 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:** We continue this monthly service on a regular schedule. All dates are available on our website (www.chha-nsb.com). In-person sessions were held monthly on the last Monday each month at Silver Harbour Seniors' Centre. Hybrid sessions were held on the first Friday each month at West Vancouver Seniors' Activity Centre with participants able to join us both in-person or on Zoom.
2. **Public Speaker Series:** These evening meetings continue to offer interesting sessions "world wide". They take place on Zoom at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Monday in April, June, and September. Guest speakers this year were in April, Bowen Tang, Engagement Manager, Cochlear Canada Inc., speaking on "When Hearing Aids are Not Enough". In June Lorie Jenstad, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Audiology & Speech Sciences spoke on "Advocating for

Hearing Health Care Change in BC". In September Neil Bauman, Ph.D., from the hearinglosshelp.com website spoke on "7 Effective and Free Hearing Loss Coping Strategies" in September. The February and November evening meetings were held as Sound Advice sessions for those unable to attend during the daytime.

3. Quarterly Newsletter: "Mountain Ear" is distributed by email to over 200 addresses and by regular mail, as requested.
4. Information & Education: A phone line 604-926-5222 is maintained to answer both members' and the public's queries on hard of hearing related questions, and the branch has an online website <https://chha-nsb.com>.

We thank our members for their continuing and faithful support and look forward to serving you and the Hard of Hearing public through the 2024-2025 year.