Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
North Shore Branch
Annual Report 2025–2026

Remembering Hugh Hetherington

At a special meeting on November 24, 2025, members unanimously agreed to grant Hugh Hetherington a life membership in the branch. Members paid tribute to his valuable advice and feedback, to his role in establishing Sound Advice, and to the technical expertise he shared freely with churches and other organizations to help them become hearing accessible. Following his passing in 2026, a celebration of life was held on Monday, April 27, 2026, at Silver Harbour Seniors Centre, with tributes from board members, past colleagues and friends, supported by captioning and online participation.

Hugh Hetherington Memorial Scholarship

A Hugh Hetherington Memorial Scholarship was established and was announced at the celebration of life. The proposed award is $1,000 per year, given to one hard of hearing student pursuing full-time postsecondary studies in Canada. Meanwhile, North Shore continues to fund the Carrell Hearn Scholarship, now at $1,000 per year.

Governance and Leadership

In November 2025, at a special meeting members of the Branch passed a motion to dissolve the branch and transfer its records and assets to CHHA-BC. Following the passing of Hugh, much of the year's administrative work centred on the transition of branch records, materials and banking to CHHA-BC. A new email was established for the Branch – northshore@chha-bc.ca. In February 2026: Ruth Warick was appointed Treasurer and Secretary; Ruth Warick and Mike Hocevar were approved as bank signing authorities, joining President Alan Dion. The Branch continued and decided to revitalize and continue to operate with the support of CHHA-BC.

Programs and Activities

- **Sound Advice:** Monthly sessions continued throughout April 2025 to March 2026. Hybrid sessions (in person or Zoom) met on the first Friday at West Vancouver Seniors' Activity Centre during this fiscal year period on May 2, September 5 and October 3, 2025. In-person sessions continued to be held at Silver Harbour Seniors' Activity Centre. Dates covering this fiscal report were May 26 and June 30, 2025 as well as February 23 and March 30 in 2026.
- **Evening speaker meetings (Zoom):** On June 16, 2025, Ken Jones spoke on "Love Your Tinnitus for Success." The September 22, 2025 AGM featured Neil Bauman, Ph.D., on "Put the Odds in Your Favour When Taking Ototoxic Drugs," with live captioning enabled.
- **Newsletter:** The *Mountain Ear* was produced in September 2025 under Susan Gelinas's stewardship and resume a regular scheduled with the June 2026 edition which gave tribute to Hugh Hetherington.
- **Website and information line:** The branch website (www.chha-nsb.com) was maintained throughout the year, with meeting notices, newsletters and resources posted regularly

Looking Ahead

As noted earlier in this report, the Branch Board has decided to continue and rescind a previous motion to dissolve, with the support of CHHA-BC. Sound Advice remains a flagship program of the Branch.

We thank Alan Dion for his years of service as President, our retiring directors, our volunteers, and our members for their continued support.

Prepared by Ruth Warick, Secretary and Treasurer of North Shore CHHA Branch, and President Alan Dion.