

FAMILY NETWORK

FOR DEAF CHILDREN



February 15, 2001

No. 01-01

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

You are probably asking about more questions about our Board Retreat. Who do we serve? What about hard of hearing? What about children with cochlear implants? What about deaf plus children? What about literacy? ASL and the

Deaf Community? The list is endless! Well, we had some great discussions about all of the above issues.

We have an awesome Board of Directors. One of the things made clear to each and every board member is that in order to be part of the FNDC board, they cannot be there only for their own child. As a FNDC board member, they are expected to think about the various needs of all deaf children (that use sign language or are learning sign language. As many of the board members are from the lower mainland, we also have to be thinking about deaf children who live in outlying areas.

Our Board represents a group of people who may have very distinct viewpoints for their own child, but are very open minded to looking at the larger picture. I'm honoured to work with such an incredible group of individuals. We have learned a lot from each other! We argue, we laugh - we have even be known to cry together (although we hate to admit it).

Who do we serve?

All agree that the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA Parent's Chapter) have an equally amazing group, and that they represent hard of hearing children. We represent "deaf" children who use sign language as their primary language or children with a hearing loss who are in the process of learning sign language. Its unfortunate that we have to pick labels for our children. Deaf or hard of hearing? I guess if we substituted the group names and gave out new categories: the Yellow Group or the Red Group, we would still be trying to define "who" fits into "what" group. Its all so crazy isn't it?

What is FNDC's position on cochlear implants?

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That's a nice light topic for our Winter Newsletter. Well, the Board decided that a cochlear implant shouldn't become a huge issue for us. That's like saying "what about deaf children that use hearing aids"? The point is: we want to serve any deaf child that uses sign language or is interested in learning sign language - regardless of their "audiogram"

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE cont'd ...

After much debate, the FNDC board agreed that FNDC is an organization that supports and encourages sign language for deaf and hard of hearing children. Really, we believe that whether you are deaf or hard of hearing - one is not better than the other. Some issues are different, yet many are similar. As hearing parents, we agree that education can still be a struggle, communication can be awkward, and self esteem can suffer whether you are deaf or hard of hearing.

A bit about the Deaf Community

Many people think that the Deaf community is made up of ALL profoundly deaf individuals. In fact, the Deaf community is made up of a large group of hard of hearing individuals. While some individuals may be "audiologically" hard of hearing, they have chosen to socialize and be involved in the Deaf community for a variety of reasons.

The Deaf Community isn't a "place" - instead it's a gathering of people. For example, a hearing friend of mine was born and raised in Canada, yet quite often socializes in the Chinese community. She speaks Cantonese and enjoys her community. She doesn't live within a community of all Chinese people. She lives in an English speaking community. When her friends and relatives gather together, they **become** part of the Chinese community - sharing that language and culture. She is fortunate to be bilingual and share different cultural experiences. It's the same for many Deaf adults. They socialize within the Deaf community, and lead lives in the "hearing" world as well.

I'm the first to admit that when my daughter was diagnosed, I was terrified of "losing her" to the Deaf community. Somehow, I thought there was this big Deaf Neighborhood out there that wanted to steal my child forever. It wasn't until she was about 3 years old (when I saw her with a group of other deaf 3 year old children) signing up a storm, that I realized this was the her community: a group of deaf 3 years olds - sharing language and having fun together at a birthday party.

Whether your child is involved in a signing program or an oral program - communicating and having fun with their friends instills in them a great sense of community.

Whew I'm done! FNDC wants to acknowledge the differences, and be inclusive!

status, hearing aid use, cochlear implant, speech capabilities, additional special needs or whether they are "deaf" or "Deaf". A child is a child, and sign language has a lot to offer all children: deaf and hard of hearing. (In addition, sign language has a lot to offer hearing friends, siblings and parents too!)

Cecelia

WHAT FNDC IS ALL ABOUT?

- FNDC believes that families are vital in ensuring that deaf children reach their full potential through a supportive home environment.
- FNDC believes that families have the right to make informed choices based on the needs of the deaf child and the family.
- FNDC believes that deaf children have the right to a quality education in a language that is 100% visually accessible.
- FNDC believes that each child is unique and has individual abilities and needs that must be recognized.
- FNDC believes that the rich and varied experiences and language of the Deaf community are an important and valuable resource for deaf children and their families.

WHO IS FNDC?

FNDC is a non-profit society that was founded in March, 1995 to bring together families of deaf children in British Columbia who share common concerns.

Through our newsletter we are able to share information with our members and provide an opportunity for families to network with each other.

With the support of our members, we hope to grow into an organization that provides workshops, networking via the internet and educating the hearing community and

the Provincial Government on issues that are common and important to us all.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Peterson, President
 Sylvia Walterhouse, Treasurer
 Kathy Caldicott, Director
 Kathy Russo, Director
 Blair Flink, Director
 Nicki Horton, Director
 Janice Feanny, Director
 Anna Lesko, Member at Large

STAFF

Cecelia Klassen, Executive Director
 Bella Magel, Executive Assistant

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As always, we take great pride in our newsletter. We enjoy producing it (and we especially love all the positive feedback). You may not realize how difficult it is to produce a newsletter for such a large, diverse group of people. Our newsletter goes out to parents, health professional, teachers of the deaf, teacher's assistants, preschool programs for deaf children, Deaf community organizations, and the list goes on.

FNDC's newsletter is published three times a year (February 1, June 1 and October 15).

ARTICLES

We love receiving articles from members and friends! If you are reading someone's article and saying, "I can't write anything" — think again. The feedback we get on these personal stories is phenomenal. So, tell us about your experiences. It doesn't matter who you are - a parent of a deaf child, Deaf adult, educator of deaf children, grandparent, aunt, uncle — we want to hear from you! We welcome your opinions, ideas, concerns or other information. Please remember **WHAT** you have to say is much more important than the spelling or grammatical errors.

The views and opinions within the FNDC newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Board of Directors or all the members of FNDC. We do, however, encourage individuals and organizations to submit articles.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to those who support the goals of our organization. All FNDC members receive:

- a one year subscription to our newsletter (which is published three times a year)
- Family Network for Deaf Children's province-wide parent network.
- Update bulletins and information notices regarding upcoming workshops and courses presented by FNDC.

REPRINT PERMISSION

Please feel free to copy and distribute any of the material in this newsletter unless otherwise noted. We ask only that you credit the FNDC Newsletter as your source.

BABYSITTING COURSE

St. Johns Ambulance

Victory Hill Family Support Program will provide the interpreters.

For Who? Deaf students and Hearing siblings

Where? At Victory Hill Family Support Program
4334 Victory Hill St, Burnaby

Cost? \$30.00 (includes a 15% discount!)

Ages? 11 and up

Starting date? Wednesdays April 11th, 18th & 25th

Time? 6:30 to 8:30pm
(Parents are invited to stay and have coffee at the Family Support House while child is in their course)

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & SNACKS.

This course includes:
Becoming a babysitter- their responsibilities
Caring for children
Kids and Food
Getting along with kids
Kids and play
Keeping kids safe
Handling Emergencies
First Aid

Upon completion of this course- students will receive a certificate.

** Minimum 8 students are needed for the course to run**

RSVP: ANYTIME BEFORE MARCH 30th, 2001

For more information contact Linda Ramsey at #775-4008 or Melissa Mykle at #660-1807 tty or email: Melissa.Mykle@gems9.gov.bc.ca

BCSD NEWS

News from The BC Provincial School for the Deaf

The staff at the BC Provincial School for the Deaf (BCSD) wish a Happy New Year to FNDC members. Both the elementary and secondary schools are busy with a variety of programs and activities for 2001:- Multicultural Week activities at the elementary school.- Aboriginal deaf students from BCSD Circle Program will visit the Hiwas Long House at Grouse Mountain. The adventure will include a gondola ride, snow shoeing to the long house, storytelling, and a specially prepared lunch including bannock!- Career Fair at Burnaby South Secondary will include Deaf presenters in the fields of computer technology, acting, esthetics, child care counselling, and tv/film production.- Deaf Awareness Week which will showcase students' talents, linguistic and cultural displays, and morning announcements signed by Deaf students with closed-captioning for the hearing school population. Elementary students at the Grade 7 level will participate in an exciting exchange opportunity in May with the Robarts School in London, Ontario.

Secondary students are preparing for an expanded Canadian Tournament of the Deaf as Ontario schools have joined the Western provinces to create the Youth Canadian Tournament of the Deaf (YCTD). This tournament is held every 3 years on a rotating host schedule and will be in Edmonton in May. The BC Team will be made up of Grade 11 and 12 students from BCSD and Mountain Secondary School. If you have questions about BCSD events or programs, please contact Joe McLaughlin at BCSD Elementary or Loretta McLaughlin at BCSD Secondary. Thanks to FNDC for the chance to update families about the events at the school - we look forward to the FNDC newsletter as it connects parents, professionals, and deaf children across the province and beyond. Thank you to FNDC for their commitment and energy.

**MOUNTAIN SECONDARY
NEWS**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
the 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Family Network for Deaf Children**

DATE/TIME: Friday, May 11th, 2001 @ 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Bonsor Recreational Complex
Multi use Room #1
(6550 Bonsor Ave., Burnaby, B.C.)

The agenda will include reports from the co-chairs, treasurer and board committees and the election of new board members.

Members in good standing are all members who have paid their annual membership fee.

Voting members are persons who are parents or legal guardians of a deaf child.

Interpreters will be provided.

Mountain Senior Secondary Student goes to Rome
Erin Pranzl, a grade 12 student in our program, has been selected for the Deaf Canadian Swim team. She will be going to Rome in July with her sister, Kristen, and other members of the team to represent Canada at the World Summer Games for the Deaf.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT MSS?

Reprinted with permission from Silent Times, January, 2001 and December, 2000 Editions

Christmas Potluck

Deaf and hard of hearing Christmas potluck was a big success! Thanks to the DHH student council, they all worked really hard! Many people came and they all brought delicious food. The buffet table looked fabulous and tasted great! The student council held a 50/50 draw. We earned 43 dollars and the other half went to the happy winner who was Eleanor McLaughlin. Our half went to pay for the Polaroid films that the photographer Erin Pranzl, who used them all up, needed. Erin took some good pictures of Santa and the potluck events. There were so many hands up in the air! So many people enjoyed socializing, and there were even some teenagers from BCSD. We had games planned for the potluck but no one got to play because we were too busy chatting to play. We hope everyone had a great time.

April 11, 18, 25: A babysitting course with some first aid training will be set up at Victory Hill. The course will be split up in three session, two hours each. There is a high demand for Deaf or signing babysitters and whoever graduates from this course will be referred to families who ask for a babysitter. Interpreters will be provided.

Grad news: On February 28th, there will a fashion show at Mountain Secondary School. The show will start at 7:30 p.m. The tickets are \$5.00 or \$6.00 if you buy it at the door. The fashion show is a fundraising event for the grads of 2001. Grad Evening wear and

MOUNTAIN SECONDARY NEWS cont'd ...

some casual wear will be modeled by grads at Mountain.

Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has planned a leadership course for teens aged 14 - 18 who have a hearing loss. It is for teens who want to discover more about themselves and leadership development. It will take place at the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Are you between the ages of 15 - 18?

This is big news. There is a "Encounters with Canada Program" at Terry Fox Center in Ottawa. Whoever will be chosen will be the student who determines independence and the ability for self-advocate. It is a week for Leadership. There will be a theme which "Canadian Experience". The week is April 29 - May 5th 2001. Students who are chosen to go will be told what items they should bring to Ottawa. Transportation including airfare will be covered. If you have any further questions, contact Alison Anderson at 888-3009 or aanderson@sd35.bc.ca Laura van Yperen, Alan Locke and Erin Pranzl went last year and they both said it was the most amazing experience. Never has one week made such an impact on their lives.

IN THE NEWS

CATHOLIC DEAF TEACHER GETS HONORARY DEGREE

Reprinted with permission from the B.C. Catholic
December 18, 2000
by Laureen McMahon

When Our Lady of Perpetual Help parishioner Maureen Donald was contacted about a year ago by the University of British Columbia with the offer of an honorary degree, she was immediately sure she would refuse.

"I didn't want special recognition just for doing my job," said the profoundly deaf, but highly independent retiree, who was the first deaf teacher hired in B.C. schools. "I felt I was lucky to be able to help the deaf community. It was always a joy."

As time went on, Donald began to have a change of heart.

Still, it took until the morning of November 24, the day of the commencement exercises, for her to call and ask if it was too late. They said absolutely not, so along with other

distinguished honorees, Donald received the honorary degree and a citation describing her as "the most outstanding teacher of the deaf in 20th-century Canada."

Two weeks later, the woman who helped form the Vancouver Catholic Deaf Association sat down with the B.C. Catholic and a deaf interpreter to discuss her remarkable career.

Deaf since the age of two from an unknown cause, Donald grew up in Saskatoon with one hearing sibling and another who was deaf like herself.

"I was the oldest and I'm sure my parents were quite overwhelmed and concerned about my future. When I was about four years old, they met a deaf woman who told them about a school for the deaf in Manitoba. In retrospect, I think my parents did a terrific job. They understood our needs as deaf children and they made sure we got help to become independent."

Donald entered the Manitoba School for the Deaf, with her sister following two years later. When Saskatchewan opened a school for the deaf in 1931, both children returned home to continue their education.

As a young woman, Donald enrolled in business courses which led to a job in Vancouver with the Hudson's Bay Company.

From 1945 to 1978, although she had no formal teacher training, she worked at the B.C. School for the Deaf and Blind (renamed the Jericho Hill School in 1955). "They had been looking for a deaf adult to teach, and although I had no formal teacher training, I trained on the job, so to speak. I enjoyed the work and the children immensely."

Donald taught American Sign Language to students who didn't speak at all. Many were considered special needs because of additional disabilities like cerebral palsy.

Donald always encouraged her students to pursue higher education and was thrilled when, in 1960, the first went off to Gallaudet University, a college for the deaf in Washington, D.C.

"It was really my passion to see them go on to the post-secondary level. Eventually, about 50 attended university."

Today's deaf, she said, can look forward to education opportunities and better employment. Social barriers have diminished, which is reflected in more marriages between hearing and non-hearing spouses.

IN THE NEWS cont'd ...

"I think the deaf community had more of a problem breaking the ice between themselves and the hearing world in the past. Today we have counselling and other services to help kids and parents. I know all parents of deaf kids feel the same; they want them to have a life filled with opportunities similar to what the hearing enjoy.

"While things are generally better, there is also instability, as funding sometimes dries up and many good programs go by the wayside."

When Donald took her teacher's hat off in 1978, she received five different job offers, and chose to work with the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Vancouver.

The world of broadcasting opened up when a local community-access TV station offered her a "talk" show directed to the deaf. It was interesting to note it was called Show of Hands.

"I signed and we used a deaf interpreter. We profiled deaf personalities and the deaf in different careers. We interviewed some organizations which employ deaf people. We also produced children's programs which were very interesting. The exposure highlighted the talents and skills of the deaf and boosted the community." People still talk about how much they enjoyed the program.

All deaf kids, Donald emphasized, need deaf role models and need to see their parents using sign language in the home. The modern approach of mainstreaming deaf kids in school, she said, can result in kids feeling isolated.

Because she feels it is important for deaf children to meet other deaf children and adults, Donald toured with a program to isolated communities in B.C. to help the deaf kids improve their socialization skills. The program, however, ran out of funding.

"We did have a little bit of money left over to edit a reference book for B.C. families to connect with resources," she said.

Donald keeps active in retirement; she has joined with five other deaf people to edit a Canadian version of the American Sign Language dictionary.

In 1982, she became one of very few Canadian names to the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf Hall of Fame for her exceptional contribution to the deaf community on an international level.

Donald has been associated for many years with the Vancouver Catholic Deaf Association, where she has been a wonderful role model to the Catholic deaf community, said Msgr. David Monroe, association chaplain.

"Maureen was a founding member and when I started over 30 years ago with the association, she was very helpful to me in my knowledge of sign language. She was always a tremendous supporter of the Catholic deaf community and is very deserving of this recognition from UBC because of her many efforts on behalf of the deaf community.

NATIONAL POST

Article titled: "Sign of distance between sound and language" - Dec. 29 2000

A short synopsis says results of studies done by Laura Ann Petitto and Praised by Chomsky no less....."led the McGill team to offer a new account of the brain and language: Areas of the brain are not programmed exclusively for talking and to hear speech, but are tuned to specific **patterns** found in all human languages".

WAY TO GO RYAN!

*The following article has been re-printed with permission from **Runner's World Magazine**, December 2000.*

It was a long time coming, but 20 year old North Vancouver, British Columbia resident **Ryan Ollis** finally finished a race without falling down or getting lost. Ollis, who has been deaf and legally blind since age 3, finished the Shaughnessy 8-K last May with a PR of 29:54, good enough for second place in his age category. "He just beamed at the awards ceremony," says Mark Addison Shorter, race director and Ollis's race guide.



When Ollis preregistered for the event, his parents inquired about a guide who could run with their son at about a 6:30 pace. "I've run sub-6-minute pace for 8-K, so I figured I'd be able to cruise at 6:30," says Shorter.

Maybe, but Ollis was having nothing to do with a 6:30 pace. When the gun went off, he took off like a shot. He could see **IN THE NEWS cont'd ...**

curbs and pylons, but he kept looking back for his guide. "I finally caught him at 800 meters," says Shorter. "I did all I could to stay just ahead of him." The course headed uphill to the mile mark, then traced two 2-mile loops.

With 800 meters to go, Shorter couldn't keep up anymore. But the course was well-marked, and Ollis made the last turn without incident, finishing 14 seconds ahead of Shorter. At the awards ceremony, the crowd gave Ollis a standing ovation. "That was the first time Ryan has had a guide in 2 years," says his mother, Jan. "His father used to guide him, but Ryan got too fast."

Submitted by: Jan Ollis

[I thought I'd send you this article about Ryan. It appeared in the December issue of Runner's World Magazine. We are proud of Ryan for overcoming so many obstacles in his life, but are particularly proud of his accomplishments in running, as he has always had such a difficult time with sports. It may serve as an inspiration to other parents of children that are deaf plus! P.S. Ryan recently found out that he qualified for the World Games for the Deaf, so he's off to Rome next summer!]

MEMBER TO MEMBER

Summer Experience for a Young Deaf Adult

Are you interested in spending 2 -3 weeks in the interior (Kamloops) this summer? Well, we are looking to have a young Deaf adult come and spend some time with our family. We would like a friendly and interesting youth to come and share some of their knowledge of ASL with us. We are looking for someone who would like to spend some time at the park and beach with a six year old Deaf girl. If the weather is good enough maybe even a camping trip at a local lake and some fishing and hiking.

So, if this sounds like it could be fun, let me introduce myself and tell you a little about my family. My name is Helene McKibbon, I am a stay-at-home mom of four. Then there is my husband Don. He is a truck driver and there are four children Gordon 13, Reanna 11, Shelann 9 all hearing and Levi Ann 6 who is Deaf. My oldest is presently in high school and Levi has been mainstreamed into grade one here in Kamloops.

well enough to avoid major obstacles like

We are seeking to improve our signing skills and have some time interacting with another Deaf person. This would not be a child care position, it would be more like visiting with us.

We are willing to provide transportation to Kamloops, whether we pick you up or provide you with transportation fare (Greyhound). While staying with us you would have your own bedroom and meals, plus some remuneration for spending this time with us.

In return we would ask your encouragement in developing our signing skills, reinforcement in ASL and that you would spend some time with Levi reading to her (grade one) and encouraging her to develop her own signing skills more. We would like someone who likes to do things, go to the park, to the beach, camp, fish and hike and to share these activities with us for 2-3 weeks as a part of our family.

If this sounds like it could be interesting to you please call me collect at (250) 376-6594 v/tty or you may write to me Helene McKibbon, 1645 Westlynn Drive, Kamloops, B.C. V2B 5Z4. We would like to hear from you soon, as time will be needed to meet with you and your parents and set up dates for the summer. References will also be required please.

BC Cultural Society of the Deaf (BCCSD) ASL FUN NIGHT

When: Friday, March 2, 2001 & Friday, April 6, 2001

Time: 7:00-9:00pm.

Where: Douglas College, 700 Royal Avenue

Contact Person: Norma Dunkley
ndunkley@attcanada.ca or Sandra Fennings
sfennings@yahoo.ca

EDUCATION

FUNDRAISING FOR LONDON ONTARIO

EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

We are writing to tell you about a very exciting upcoming event at the British Columbia Provincial School for the Deaf. In May of 2001, our 9 grade seven students and their 3 teachers will be taking part in a YMCA Youth exchange program with the Robart's School for the Deaf in London, Ontario. Students from the Robart's school will be coming to Burnaby to visit with us and take part in activities from May 1st through to May 7th. It will then be our turn to fly to London and stay there from May 11th to May 17th. Students will take part in educational and community oriented activities as well as ones specific to Deaf Culture.

This venture is a very costly one. We have already begun our fundraising efforts. We are in the process of making a BCSD recipe book that the students will then sell to family and friends. We plan to involve the students in chocolate sales, bake sales, car washes and a roller bladeathon. We are also hoping that some community organizations may be willing to make a donation in order to support this valuable educational and cultural experience.

If you are willing to make a donation please make a cheque payable to South Slope Elementary. If you have any future ideas for fundraising we would love to hear them! Thanks for your support!

Jennifer Edgar/Alice Blagaic
 BCSD Grade 7 Teachers of the Deaf
 664-8300 voice
 664-8304 tty

Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) is an exciting new service that uses computer technology and skills of shorthand reporters to enable the deaf or hard-of-hearing student to be placed on an equal playing field of understanding and involvement in the learning process as any other student. CART providers write word for word everything that is said in the classroom, including environmental sounds, on a stenograph machine using realtime software that instantly produces English text on a monitor for a student's use. There are many applications of CART from individuals to large gatherings. Note takers are generally fast typists but they are not able to provide a verbatim account. They decide what information is important to summarize. This places the student at the mercy of the note taker's understanding of course material and prohibits them from forming their own opinion or joining in discussions. Realtime capability empowers them to be included in debates, jokes and laughter, grasp certain concepts and decide for themselves what information should be retained. It allows them to fully concentrate on the subject matter instead of expending energy and time putting bits and pieces together. A disk or printed material may be provided after some editing to the student, depending on the educational institution's position, which varies. There are many ethical questions that arise to be addressed, such as the provider and user of CART must never give or sell the data to other students. It is essential that CART providers are given class material and outlines by the instructors prior to courses so the vital content may be entered into the computer's data base to ensure a higher translation rate of the words at the time.

Closed Captioning is where words are transmitted on to a video screen with images (closed means they are hidden unless specified by the viewer). They may be done off line meaning prior to a broadcast, such as movies, or online, like in live news broadcasts where the reporter is sending data by modem to the station.

EDUCATION cont'd ...

There is a specific task force assigned by the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) to address the unique responsibility of reporting professionals who act as communication facilitators, along with founding CARTwheel, a global network of CART providers. I had the opportunity of attending a convention where I was able to listen and learn from panels of pioneers of this field, provider and user perspectives.

There is now such a growing demand for CART in some States that the provider is in another location listening to a voice and transmitting the text to the school setting (remotely). Teleconferencing may be captioned and writing live over the internet is another application. These all involve special technical support and equipment which makes the CART provider "invisible" to the rest of a classroom or gathering but it may also curtail the provider's ability to convey all sounds and gestures that are occurring.

CART providers spend many thousands of dollars on equipment, training and upgrading and thus are impeded from working at a note taker's wage and must be enticed to divert from the legal setting or tv captioning employment. Budgetary constraints are the largest obstacle to obtaining this communication access for independent learning. I believe the joint efforts of the consumer and provider of CART to educate the public, the politicians and school systems of its superiority over note-taking methods and for the user to demand his or her rights will open the door of opportunity for an equal access to education.

Van Isle Voice-to-Text Captions' website is located at www.island.net/~captions which has links to other informative sites; if you would like to add your organization's website or have any further inquiries, contact Shelley Arthur at (250) 337-5417, fax (250) 337-8081, or via e-mail: captions@island.net



Victory Hill Family Support Program will

provide Interpreters

.....

The Adventure

2:00 pm on February
(performance) Vancouver
Venables St., Vancouver

Please buy tickets through

Children: \$6.00

Adults: \$8.00

Family Pack: \$22.00

Contact Linda Ramsey at
at 660-1807 (tty) to see
interpreters.

YOU MUST CONTACT us
seats near the interpreters

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (1984), SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Adaptions and Modifications Source: a manual of Policies, procedures and guidelines. Victoria: Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Education Definition for an Adapted Program.

An **adapted program** retains the learning outcomes of the prescribed curriculum, but adaptions are provided so the student can participate in the program. These adaptions can include alternate formats (e.g. Braille, books-on-tape), instructional strategies (e.g. use of interpreters, visual cues and aids) and assessment procedures (e.g., oral exams, additional time). Students on adapted programs are assessed using the standards for the course/program and can receive full credit for their work. School personnel should document the adaptions provided for the student.

EDUCATION cont'd ...

Definition for a Modified Program

A **modified program** has learning outcomes which are substantially different from the prescribed curriculum, and specifically selected to meet the student's special needs. For example, a grade 9 student in a modified math program could be focusing on functional computational skills in the context of handling money and personal budgeting or, in language arts, a Grade 5 student could be working on recognizing common signs and using the phone. In these examples the learning outcomes are substantially different from those of the curriculum for most other students. The student's program may include some courses that are modified and others that are adapted. The student's transcript should indicate those courses that are modified.

THE COALITION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

Submitted by: Cathie Camley, Learning Disabilities Association

The Coalition for Special Education is a group for provincial level advocacy and supports organizations dedicated to children with exceptional learning needs. We have met on several occasions with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) who is interested in exploring the possibility of launching a Human Rights Complaint of systemic discrimination against the public education system. Specifically, the HRC is looking at three areas of concern: 1) the Funding Mechanism for Special Education and how it discriminates against students with disabilities. Chronic under funding being a key problem. 2) poor teacher training. As most students are integrated into regular education classrooms, it becomes problematic that their training does little to inform them about how to teach students with special learning needs. 3) Poor or lack of appropriate accommodations. Poor IEPs, inadequate levels of service, no specialized equipment available, insufficient Special Education Assistant time, etc. We are gathering "fact scenarios" from parents who believe their children have suffered discrimination because they have a disability. We are asking for a one to two page summary of the event(s)

and for an indication of what the parents have done about it (appeal, letters, meetings, etc) and an indication if they have any supporting documentation (letters, report cards, IEPs, psychoeducational assessments, speech/language reports, etc.)

We do not want the documentation at this point only an indication that it is available.

This information will be shared with the HRC and the subcommittee of the Coalition working on the case. It will not be shared any further unless parental permission is received. Parents may then be called to testify as witnesses at a tribunal hearing. Not all parents who submit will be called. Individual situations will not be resolved through this process. Rather, we hope to change the system as a whole. Letters should include the parent(s)' names, addresses, phone, fax, e-mail and the name of their child and the dates the situation occurred. Even if the situation is now resolved, the discrimination still happened and will be of value to the case.

Contact Cathie Camley if you want more information you may call her at 931-5166 or e-mail me at ldabctri@home.com or 1144 Chateau Place, Port Moody, BC V3H 1N6.

GVAD Presentation on E-mail Pagers by PageNET
 What: Presentation about e-mail pagers with opportunity for HANDS-ON time to "play with" and experiment with the pagers of:-Motorola T900 pager-Motorola Page Writer-Blackberry 962
 Come and have your questions answered about the newest pagers available!
 Who: Georgia Gerontas and Interpreter
 When: Wednesday February 28, 2001
 Time: 7:00 - 9:00pm.
 Where: Multi-Purpose Room, Rooms C248/249, Burnaby South Secondary School, 5445 Rumble Street, Burnaby

VICTORY HILL FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM
OUTREACH WEEKS

When?
 March 26 - 30/01 for Intermediate grades
 May 14 - 18/01 for Primary grades

Where?
 Family Support House at Victory Hill
 Burnaby, British Columbia

Purpose?
 To provide families (parent/teacher) areas with opportunities to meet with Victory Hill staff and other staff. We will provide the family with a chance the opportunity to make ne

will have the opportunity to visit this area deaf community for the Deaf. Limited to four families at a time.
How can I get more information?
 Please contact Linda Ramsey (Family Support Program Coordinator)
 By calling: (604) 775-4008
 Email: Linda.Ramsey@gems.tyabnc.ca

... loud (pardon the pun) and while I am unable to make sense of auditory input even though I am getting lots. This is a challenge. Hard of hearing people have an interesting place within the deaf and hearing communities. It is very handy to be able to interact on a one to one basis with patient, non-bearded people. It is also a HUGE relief to sign with patient, flexible people who understand that one cannot be expected to sign like someone who was born deaf when they learned it in adulthood. The advantages of being able to hear are obvious enough... I can function independently in some situations but do rely on interpreters for anything where there is more than one person, new or technical vocabulary, very fast pace, accents, sensitive issues that need to be heard the first time, etc. I also have the benefit of a lifetime of access to naturally spoken English so reading and writing are easy for me. The benefits of using manual language include immediate access to the full message and no fear of embarrassment due to misunderstandings. For school, work and socializing, it's great. The most difficult part of my experience is feeling like there is no community for people such as myself. I have been a peripheral presence in the Deaf Community but it will never feel like home. I do not share the experiences that most members have had and really would never want to. On the other hand, I do not hear well enough to function comfortably in the hearing community and even the most successful times are exhausting for me. I sometimes get the impression that I am looked upon as "less" by both sides and can never meet the criteria for full membership in either. I have wondered why there is no Hard of Hearing Community but as soon as I have the thought I am entertained by the hilarious image that comes to mind. I can just imagine the parties where the music is too loud to communicate well even at soft volumes, but too soft to hear unless it's very loud. There would be a room full of people who don't understand speech unless it is very clear, yet most of them would have blurry, hard of hearing speech. The range of manual communication skills would frighten anyone but a linguist and most of the evening would be spent asking for clarification. All would go home exhausted and frustrated. I guess I have answered my own question.

SHARED THOUGHTS

Thoughts from Heather Sebastian

Heather Sebastian, is a Teacher of the Deaf at Uplands School in Langley. Heather is a late deafened adult and shares her thoughts with us in this article.



It was delightful to read the article by Eileen Marshall in the October issue of this newsletter. She described some of the thoughts that I, as a hard of hearing person, have had, but never put to paper. I have often wondered where the cut off is between hard of hearing and deaf but never really understood it. I have used a TTY for all phone communications since I showed up on Monday the 16th for a meeting that was on Sunday the 15th and was forced to admit that the phone is too difficult. I also have intermittent tinnitus
SHARED THOUGHTS cont'd ...

As for the role of the hard of hearing ... (should I capitalize the H's?) ... I am sure we could move off of the fences where we are placed by others and function more as bridges. People with intact hearing probably cannot understand the frustration of being left out of communication because others are unwilling to take the time to translate or repeat

themselves. Hard of hearing people know this feeling well. Many D/deaf people have never known the joy of reading passages of beautifully written English that could move them to tears. Many hard of hearing people are avid readers because it is a safe way to gather information without fear. It seems to me that these are the people who can facilitate understanding between the Deaf and Hearing (if I capitalize one shouldn't I capitalize the other??). I am not sure where to go with this. I have had times when people who are of the non-hearing

persuasion encourage me to adopt the label "Deaf" because I sign, work as a teacher of the deaf and have some D/deaf friends. I think that suggestion is intended as a compliment but I am not so sure about how to react. I am happy with my own identity as someone who doesn't hear well but plays on both teams. I know that the official rules don't allow that and we are expected to state our allegiances, but I want some new rules. I also want the kids who are hard of hearing to access manual language from the time they are young so that they can make their own choices about what works best for them. Some functions and events are open only to D/deaf children and I think we need to look at this again. As Ms. Marshall states "... there seems to be more diversity in the Deaf Community with increasing numbers of Deaf people whom have both skills of sign language and oral skills." I wonder if some of those people are, in fact, hard of hearing but adopting a label that doesn't really fit in order to feel like they belong. There is no shame in listening to music, asking for clarification or just admitting that you are too tired to lipread right now and could other people please sign. Another time it might be just fine to communicate orally because the circumstances are different. Learning to sign has opened up a part of my life that would have been lost without it and I think we all need to make room for the people who need the flexibility of having choices. Maybe there will be



a Hard of Hearing Community someday with their own sense of culture and identity, but the parties will be a chore!

DEAF ROWING CLASSES

Date: Sundays March 11 to May 6, 2001 (No Rowing April 29th)

Time: 12:30pm.

Where: Deep Cove Rowing Centre Deep Cove, North Vancouver

Who: Jill Yates will be the head instructor. Other coaches will

ANNUAL INDOOR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Hosted by Greater Vancouver Deaf Sports Association and West Coast Deaf Golf Club 21st Century Totems 7th Annual Men's & Women's Indoor Volleyball Tournament **When:** Friday/Saturday February 23 and 24, 2001 **Friday:** 5 - 10pm. **Saturday:** 7am - 4pm. **Social/Awards Night** 7pm. - 1am. **Where:** Burnaby South Secondary School Gymnasiums 5455 Rumble Street, Burnaby, BC **Awards/Social @ Jubilee Hall, 6884 Jubilee St., Burnaby** **How:** Get your own team and register now! Limited to 24 teams! 16 years old and up. **Deadline:** February 16, 2001 **Team & Player Fees:** Team: \$80.00 **Player:** \$8.00 **Late Registration Fees:** Team: Extra \$8.00 **Player:** Extra \$5.00 **For more information,** about Indoor Volleyball Tournament, contact: Tien Verstraete, gvdsa@home.com or Mike Parkes, mlparkes@telus.net You can also fax to: 543-6284

be hired from the DCRC coaching staff depending on numbers.

Cost: \$116.82 plus GST = \$125.00

Program includes: 8 rowing sessions

RowWest T-shirt featuring Deep Cove Deaf Rowing

graphics. Final event in the Cove featuring racing, picnic, etc. Equipment, coaching, insurance, facilities.

More info.? Contact: jillyates@yahoo.com

will continue until approxin
topic of the contest this ye

The presentations are to b
be presented orally, in sig
and sign. The contest is of
7 to 12.

We would like to invite me
of hearing communities, p
hearing children and you
who might be interested in
Please come out to sup
hearing youth! If you have
event, please contact Sus:
664-8560, extension 4234
there!

Creative Memories - Scrapbooking Workshop

What: "Creative Memories - Scrapbooking" Workshops
Make Your Pictures Beautiful!
When: Thursday, February 15 2001
Time: 4:30pm. - 9:00pm.
Where: Burnaby South Secondary School, 5445 Rumble
Street
Cost: \$15.00
More information, contact Sue Anderson at
anderson4200@home.com. Interpreter provided.

DOUGLAS COLLEGE NEWS

DOUGLAS DIALOGUE

Submitted by: Cheryl Palmer, Dept. of Sign Language
Interpretation

NEWSFLASH!!!

The British Columbia Optimis... We are pleased to announce that the Centre for
Provincial School for the Deaf... Deaf with a language lab
hosting the B.C. Provincial Officially open on March 27. The lab includes 20 student
Championship for Deaf and Stations and 5 assessment stations, each with computers
This event will be held on Monday, March 26, 2001. This will support face-to-face and
Michael J. Fox Theatre at the B.C. Student Centre and assessment. It will be shared
in Burnaby. The Contest will be held by the Departments of Sign Language

DOUGLAS COLLEGE NEWS cont'd ...

Interpretation and English as a Second Language. This is a
"dream come true" as we have been working for eight years
to make this a reality. We will try to set up a tour in
connection with the Spring Western Association of Visual
Language (WAVLI) AGM.

To keep you abreast of student activities, there are currently
13 second-year students and 17 first year students including
those attending full and part-time. This bumps the total
number of students currently enrolled in the program to 30!

Second year students have been off campus for their first
block of practicum. Placement sites for students range

across Canada, including Calgary, Winnipeg, and Halifax.
The farthest out-of-country site this year is in Austin,
Texas. There are several students doing practicums with
freelance interpreters in the community as well. We are
very grateful to the members of the Deaf community who
agree to have students interpret for them, as well as the
organizations and individuals who have agreed to host
students this year. Without the involvement of all these
people, practicums would not be a possibility ... and as a
result, we would not be able to graduate new interpreters
to meet the growing needs of the Deaf community.
Unfortunately, we can't name every person involved, but
we can extend our thanks to the individuals and
institutions that are hosting students this year.

- British Columbia School for the Deaf
- Douglas College
- Emily Carr Institute of Applied Design
- Kwantlen University College
- Riverside High School
- Vancouver Community College
- University College of the Fraser Valley
- Queen Elizabeth School (Calgary)
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (Calgary)
- Independent Interpreter Referral Service (Winnipeg)
- Numerous settings in Halifax
- Austin Community College (Austin, Texas)

In addition, we thank the following individuals who are mentoring practicum students:

- Deloris Piper
- Leona Parr-Hamel
- Lis Duclos, and
- Tanis Campbell

Fourteen first-year students have just completed a full-time five week interpreting course co-taught by Dave Still and Kirk Ferguson from Edmonton, who has joined the faculty to assist us teaching this very intensive course. This course includes a four-day retreat at Camp Alexandra in Crescent Beach where the students first get to set aside the videotapes they've been utilizing and practice with real, live people! It can be a fun and terrifying experience! This year 3 deaf children joined the 40 Deaf and hearing volunteers who took part in role-plays, giving the students the opportunity to experience what is required when interpreting for young people. The students receive feedback on all their interpretations and take part in activities to help them reflect on their work and the progress they are making. The students will begin volunteer interpreting the week of February 12th. You can request student volunteers by calling 527-5552 #1 or 527-5133 tty. Please note that we need to receive your request for service two weeks prior to the event in order to check the students' schedules.

ISLAND DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING NEWS

FUN IN THE SUN SILENT WEEKEND 2001

DEAF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS

DEAF CHRISTIAN GYM NIGHT

After a very successful first try, Deaf Community (DCCC) has decided to offer a monthly "Family Gym Night" at our location at the Community Church in Burnaby. The



COMMUNITY CHURCH -

successful first try, Christian Church decided to offer a Gym Night" at our Royal Oak Church in Burnaby. The church is located at Royal Oak and Victory Streets (one half block south of Skytrain near Burnaby South High School). Parents are encouraged to come and play with the children and enjoy visiting with each other (Parents with sensitivity to a high level of noise might consider bringing ear plugs!). Floor hockey is available as well as basketball and some organized games. Please bring some snacks to share. Coffee and cold drinks provided. No charge! Upcoming scheduled gym nights are Feb 23, March 30, April 27, and May 25, 2001. For more information contact DCCC Office at 430-3323 (TTY/Voice) or email pastor@dccc.bc.ca

Submitted by Dennis Larabee, Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre 1-877-424-3323
email: idhhc@island.net

Once again the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre is hosting Silent Weekend. Silent Weekend 2001 will take place during May 18th to May 21st at Camp Capernway on Thetis Island, just a short ferry ride from Cehmainus, B.C. on Vancouver Island. This will be our second time to Camp Capernway following a successful Silent Weekend in May of 1999. One piece of feedback that was noted repeatedly on the 1999 Evaluation Forms was ... "not long enough, so

let's go for three nights next time." Hence, Silent Weekend has grown from being a traditional 2 night, 2 day event, to 3 nights and 3 days.

Silent Weekend is a rare opportunity for approximately 140 Deaf, Hearing and Hard of Hearing individuals in the community to come together for an educational, social, action-packed, fun-filled weekend of sign language immersion. It is also an opportunity for Hearing families with Deaf Children to meet, and learn from each other's experiences while they are surrounded by some wonderful Deaf role models for their children. There will be several workshops available for everyone facilitated by Deaf individuals. Some of the workshops will be for Hearing Parents and siblings learning sign language to improve their communication skills. Families and friends will come together at mealtime, which is prepared and served by camp staff. After mealtime, the children will be anxious to return to the kid's only area where they will be busy with arts and crafts, games, play time and being entertained by a clown or magician.

Afternoons will be spent exploring Capernwray's gorgeous 100 acre ocean front property. People will enjoy walking the 5 km forest trail, or learning how to rock climb on the 40 foot Climbing Tower, have a game of volleyball, Frisbee-golf, or horseshoes. Others will want to explore the coastline after learning how to kayak or canoe, or perhaps a game of ping-pong, or badminton. Some will want to be challenged and learn team-building skills as they work their way through the team obstacle course. In the evenings after supper, we will gather around at the outdoor amphitheatre for some live entertainment and then roast some marshmallows over the bonfire. After an action filled day, everyone will tuck into their cottages and cabins for a good night's sleep - dreaming of tomorrow's events.

Stay tuned for more upcoming Details.

HORNBY ISLAND DEAF CAMP cont'd ...

ALLISON'S WALK FOR FAMILY DEAF CAMP

On June 2, Allison Campbell is walking/running the grueling 63.5 walk from Gold River to Tahsis on Vancouver Island.

HORNBY ISLAND DEAF CAMP

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL HORNBY ISLAND FAMILY DEAF CAMP

This year's HORNBY ISLAND FAMILY DEAF CAMP (2001) will be at the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre (Hornby Island) from Thursday, July 5* to Sunday, July 8. The camp (staying in tents or RVs) is for families having one or more Deaf members and that use sign language as the method of communication with those members. Once again the **Centre's staff** and **Deaf Youth Program staff** are teaming up to offer an incredible range of programs for the whole family (kayaking, climbing and ropes course, crafts, games, hikes, campfire skits and stories and more). More information and registration will be available in the next FNDC newsletter or you can contact Allison or Gord Campbell at (250) 335-0080 (voice/tty) or fax (250) 335-0847 or e-mail gcampbel@sd71.bc.ca

* There have been some folks asking about having a longer Family camp, if there was demand (and we can meet costs), we would be willing to add to the camp length (Please fill out or send us a response to the survey...on page 18).



The "walk" (billed as "North America's toughest walk"), goes through spectacular scenery on a twisty, up and down, dusty gravel road that often takes the participants through snow, rain and intense heat. Over the seven

years that Allison has done the "walk", she has brought her time down from 12 hours to last year 8 hours, finishing 76th out of 1000 people! Why does she do it...because she is crazy?...No, Allison does it for the challenge and to raise money to help subsidize the camp fees and provide for the "extras" at the Hornby Island Family Deaf Camp (see information elsewhere in the newsletter).



You can support the Hornby Island Family Deaf camp, by sponsoring Allison on the "walk". Tax receipts will be issued by request for amounts more than \$25. (Donations over \$500. receive the coveted "Tribune Bay" fleece vest.)

Please make cheques payable to: Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Society.

Send to:

Allison Campbell

Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Society

Seadollar 1-7

Hornby Island, BC V0R 1Z0

B.C. DEAF SPORTS

Please spread the news to your friends about **BC Deaf Hockey Try-out** is being rescheduled on Saturday, March 3, 2001 at 11:30 pm to 12:30 am (Night) The site is at Killarney Community Centre - 6260 Killarney Street, Vancouver, BC Please all interested hockey players to be there at 10:30 pm for registration with BC Deaf Sports Federation. NON-MEMBERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY HOCKEY THERE DUE TO INSURANCE.

DEAF ROWER'S OPEN HOUSE

Date: Sunday, March 4, 2001

Time: Meet at 12:30pm.

Where: Deep Cove Rowing Centre
Deep Cove, North Vancouver

Who: Jill Yates will be the head instructor. Other coaches will be hired from the DCRC coaching staff depending on numbers

More info.? Contact: jillyates@yahoo.com



HORNBY ISLAND DEAF CHILDREN'S RESIDENCE CAMP

This year, the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre is proposing to offer a residence camp for Deaf children in addition to the Family Deaf Camp. The children will stay at the Centre and do all the traditional camp programs in a full signing environment (at all times there will be trained Centre staff and trained Deaf or signing staff working together to make a safe but dynamic program).



Although this would be the Centre's first Deaf residential children's camp, the Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre has more than 2500 children a year come to stay at the residential Centre and go through our programs.

The rationale for the Deaf children's camp is to have the children have a good family experience at the Family Deaf camp and feel comfortable being at the Centre and then have time on their own with their peers in a traditional camp experience. We would only offer the camp if there are enough people interested, please fill out the survey or send us a response to survey...at the bottom of the page). If the camp will run, full information on cost, dates, return transportation and any other information will be available in the next FNDC newsletter.

Survey for Hornby Island Family Deaf Camp and Proposed Residential Deaf Children's camp

1. Family Deaf Camp (assuming it would be @\$40. more per night /family) should be; (choose one)
 - a. Same length
 - b. One day more
 - c. Two days more
 - d. Other

2. Family Deaf Camp (there may be increased cost for items selected) should offer;
 - a. More supplied meals
 - b. More programs like (circle your choice) sign classes, gesturing, storytelling, keep it the same, or _____
 - c. If Allison's fund raising is successful, what special events would you like to see (in the past we have provided family meals, jugglers, magic show, stilts, kites, zodiac boat ride)?
More meals, or _____

3. If we were to offer a Deaf children's residential camp, in the second or third week of July (assuming we received extra funding to run and at a cost @ \$200. per child for a 5 day camp) would you;
 - a. Send your child this year
 - b. Send your child another year
 - c. What grades should it be for
 - d. Be for deaf signing children only , include signing brothers and sisters , include signing friends , co-ed, others
 - e. Would you want transportation supplied from : Vancouver Buckley Bay (ferry for Hornby Island) Other

4. Other thoughts or ideas about Family Deaf camp, Children's residential camp or other:

—
Thank you for taking time to do this survey.

Please use this form and send back to us or just send the information back by Feb.28. Fax (250) 335-0847, e-mail gcampbel@sd71.bc.ca Mail: Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre, Seadollar 1-7, Hornby Island BC V0R 1Z0

OKANAGAN NETWORK UPDATE

THE OKANAGAN/INTERIOR NETWORK OF THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING IMPORTANT UPDATE

Submitted by: Claire LeBlanc, B.A., M.A. (English), Teacher, school district no 83: North Okanagan/ShuswapI would like to thank everyone for the positive feedback I received on the first issue of The Okanagan/Interior Network of the Deaf Newsletter. The feedback came from a variety of sources, and was overwhelmingly positive and encouraging. There is no doubt that there is a great need for a stronger network for the Deaf in the Okanagan. I realized that it would be better for the Deaf community if they were to take up publication of this project themselves. The Okanagan Valley Association of the Deaf voted at their pre-Christmas meeting to take up publication of the newsletter. I will continue to work on the newsletter in a supporting capacity and provide them with the working copy of the directory of programs, services and people that I have been working on. (The names will not be published without permission.)The next issue of the newsletter should be forthcoming fairly soon, and it will be issued by the Okanagan Association of the Deaf. I am looking forward to submitting some articles to the OVAD newsletter. I have been involved in the Deaf community in many different capacities since I published the first issue in September, and I am eager to reflect on my experiences and share what I have learned and experienced. I am eager to share the feedback I received from the first issue as well. Those interested in submitting articles or information for publication should contact The Okanagan Valley Association of the Deaf. Should anyone wish to pass on anything to OVAD through me, I would be happy to do so. To add names to the mailing list, or to submit information for publication, or to contact the Okanagan Network for any reason, contact:

Mrs. Claire LeBlancR.P.O. Box 200714400 32nd street.Vernon, B.C. V1T 9L4Tel: (250) 558-6138 v/tty Fax: (250) 558-0652email: avalon@junction.net

CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION

The Canadian Hard of Hearing (CHHA) Kelowna branch are pleased to announce the following presentation.

All are welcome to attend: hard of hearing youths, adults and seniors, family members and professionals. There is no charge for this presentation. There will be an assistive listening system established.**Who:** Brad Bice, Head of Communication Aids Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Vancouver**What:** Demonstration of assistive devices for Hard of Hearing and Deaf people for use with in the home, school, work place and community.**When:** Sat, Feb 17, 2001 1:30 - 4:00 (1:30 - 3:00 demonstrations; personal consultations afterwards)**Where:** First United Church 721 Bernard, Kelowna, BC**For more information,** contact Leslee Bruce @ (250) 868-9540 or Rosalie Bohn at (250) 765-3635.



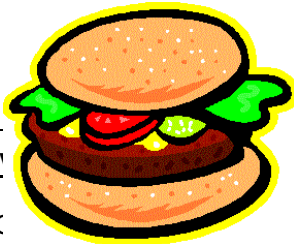
**KELOWNA CHURCHES
with Interpreting**

Interpreted/Signed Church Services in the Kelowna area:
Alliance Church, Vernon: Saturday adult service at 6:30
pm Christian Reformed Church, Vernon: Sunday at
10:30 For further information regarding the Alliance and
Christian Reformed Church services please contact
Charlayne Peters at 542-0139. Kelowna Christian Centre
(Charismatic) at 10am and 6pm. For further information
contact Krista Clement at: (250) 762-4989. Our Lady of the
Valley Catholic Church, Coldstream: Sundays at 10:30
am. For further information contact Claire LeBlanc at: 250
558-6138 v/tty

WHAT'S HAPPENING

FEBRUARY/MARCH
**February 22 and March 29, Canadian Hard of Hearing
Association (CHHA) Parents Group** at the Elks Hearing
Resource Centre, 7:30pm. Susan Van Gorp will be the
guest speaker at the March 29th meeting.

FAMILY NETWORK FOR DEAF CHILDREN
**SPRING
GROUND BEEF/CHICKEN BREAST SALE
APRIL 11, 2001**
GROUND BEEF
Grain-fed, hormone free ground beef.
LEAN: 10 lb bag - \$20.00
EXTRA LEAN: 10 lb gag - \$22.00
CHICKEN BREASTS
Boneless/skinless frozen chicken breasts.
8.8 lb (19.36 kg) box: \$36.00
ORDER DEADLINE: April 4, 2001
LAST MINUTE: April 9, 2001
PHONE: Colleen 931-2514 (v) 931-2507 (tty)
EMAIL: cdpeterson@telus.net
PICKUP ORDERS: April 11, 2001 after 1:00 pm
PICKUP LOCATION: Kathy Caldicott's house
7258 Weaver Court, Vancouver



**Would you like to Receive G
via email?**
e-mail to GVAD-subscribe@elk



F.Y.E

Children. Yet, from this familiar story, Joanne Cripps has done a simple and extraordinary thing. She has "gathered information all her life" to write a book outlining the basic rights of Deaf children. The book is entitled, Quiet Journey - Understanding the Rights of Deaf Children. As a hearing professional working with Deaf children, this book gently shook me into consideration of the rights all Deaf children should enjoy, yet still do not receive. In the introduction, Cripps writes, "If you have ever been in a position of trust with Deaf children and felt the responsibility to inform, inspire and empower them, this book will help you. It will help you understand Deaf children's rights and, with that understanding, clarify what you can do to protect those rights." Cripps bases each chapter discussion on a corresponding right of all children laid out under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Joanne makes poignant parallels between hearing and deaf children, and explores the areas where deaf children differ. Each chapter is engaging and readable and provides some gem for contemplation. Cripps begins with the rights of minority children. Article 30 of the UN Convention states: "In those states in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, a child belonging to such a minority ... shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, ... or to use his or her own language." You can imagine the argument Cripps can construct on behalf of Deaf children who use sign language -- but she is not didactic nor does she mindlessly assume that all parents with deaf children can and should make the same decisions for their child. It is this ability of Cripps to openly engage the difficult questions of speech skills, cochlear implants, and bilingual/bicultural education which kept me with her as a reader. She explores the old, complicated issue of inclusion; "To experience inclusion a person must feel part of a wider social circle, not isolated or excluded." The disability movement's push for inclusion and least restrictive environment tends to go awry in the case of deaf children. "It would be nice if we lived in a world that was truly inclusive, ... where everyone knew a common language and respected diverse cultures. But that is not a reality." To most people, inclusion means being an accepted member of their family and community. Cripps puts it succinctly; "For Deaf children, inclusion means: they feel secure, loved, and included in all areas of family life; they have true relationships with peers to help gain a knowledge of self; they are provided by the Deaf community with role models, values and heritage thus ensuring a natural social development within a minority;

BOOK REVIEW

INTERESTED IN BEING A HOST FAMILY?

Hi! I am a student at the University of Arizona in Tucson. I am going to be an exchange student at the UBC in the fall for four months and am desperately searching for a Deaf host family. Monetary arrangements will be made for living expenses. I have taken ASL 1-4 and desire an intensive immersion into the BC Deaf community during my stay in Vancouver. Please, please email me ASAP if you are interested. Thank you so much!!!! Sincerely,

Sarah Swinford 1435 E. 2nd St. Tucson, AZ 85719
spoonface@hotmail.com



"Quiet Journey: Understanding The Rights of Deaf Children"

Joanne Cripps was born the only deaf child in a hearing family with six children. She attended a residential school in Ontario during a time when the philosophy of educating and raising a deaf child was primarily oral. Joanne struggled to communicate with her family and teachers, but has sweet memories of her dorm life and deaf classmates. Joanne went to Gallaudet where she discovered her community, identity, and language. She is now the Director of the Canadian Deaf Heritage Project which is at the forefront of ASL Literacy development in Canada. She is married to a Deaf man and has two hearing children. Joanne's story parallels the experiences of many Deaf adults and it is one that some hearing parents of deaf children are well familiar with -- the frustrating childhood experiences of Deaf adults like Joanne have laid the foundation for the advocacy work done by parent groups such as Family Network for Deaf

BOOK REVIEW cont'd ...

and they are able to interact with hearing society on a daily basis."

Cripps explores other rights: Language and Culture; Identity and Social Ground; Justice and Social Accountability; Access to information; and Deaf children's rights in the home environment. The chapter which jarred me from my self-satisfied space was the right to Privacy. Cripps starts this chapter with the African proverb, "It takes

an entire village to raise a child". Her irony is not lost on me. Deaf children tend to lead very "peopled existences" -- there is any given myriad of family members, professionals, role models, mentors, advocates, networks, peers, and support staff invested in the raising and educating of each deaf child. Somewhere within the melee the deaf child's fundamental right of privacy can be deeply infringed upon. This chapter does an excellent job of gently but directly reminding us that each person has the right of ownership over his or her "self". Cripps tackles the right to Equal Standards in Education with the following thesis: "Deaf students learn best in a classroom full of other Deaf students, where well-trained staff understand Deaf norms and concerns and promote Deaf issues such as ASL literacy and social literacy and provide access to culturally appropriate learning materials. Deaf students require a classroom environment where they can develop linguistic, mathematical, and artistic skills in ASL, their natural language." The UN articles 28 and 29 state: "education is directed at developing the child's personality and talents; preparing the child for responsible life in a free society; and developing respect for the child's parents, basic human rights, the natural environment and the child's own cultural ... values and those of others." Cripps promotes a wider definition of literacy as articulated in UNESCO's Literacy, Gateway to Fulfillment: "rather than be an end in itself, literacy should be regarded as a way of preparing [humankind] for a social, civic, and economic role that goes far beyond the limits of rudimentary literacy training consisting merely in the teaching of reading and writing" Cripps also puts forward the link between ASL literacy and English literacy - knowledge and confidence in one language is the necessary bridge to mastery of a second language.

Cripps is an advocate of bilingual-bicultural education; she lays out the recipe for success: "A holistic approach for a bilingual-bicultural environment in home, school and residence focuses on four main areas: language, culture, and identity. To achieve these goals, a bilingual-bicultural

education must be child-centered; in other words, it must recognize that Deaf children come from a variety of backgrounds." Cripps also rails against deaf schools that keep potential students out with rigid and arbitrary entrance requirements such as hearing levels - her argument again is to be child-centered and consider placements and supports which would be most beneficial to the deaf or hard of hearing child. In essence, programs should fit the child rather than forcing the child to fit the program. Cripps ends with a chapter on the FUTURE where she insists that the difficult decisions hearing parents make for their deaf child must be respected, and they must be informed (i.e. parents should have total access to information about the complex realities of deafness). "It is difficult for any family when faced with a decision that they never thought they would have to make. The difficulty increases when a family is made to feel guilty if they haven't made the right decision. We must respect each other's choices and, more importantly, understand that there is no one single best choice for all families. No family should live their life wondering whether people will understand." (taken from *Will They Understand?* by Audrey Byrne). So, in returning to the introduction of this book, Cripps delivers on her promise, "If you have ever been in a position of trust with Deaf children and felt the responsibility to inform, inspire and empower them, this book will help you. It will help you understand Deaf children's rights and, with that understanding, clarify what you can do to protect those rights." This book has the power to move the reader toward a better understanding and a recommitment to the fact that basic rights are not privileges, they are rights. And if the reader is lucky enough to have a part in the life of a deaf child, there comes with that gift an obligation to promote and protect that child's rights. Submitted by Rebecca Storey Book Order: CCSD Bookstore House 144, 11337 - 61 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T6H 1M3 Cost \$16.95 ISBN 0-921773-52-8

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you have a story of celebration and achievement that is about or involves the life of an individual(s) with an intellectual disability we want to include it in our book entitled "Taking Care of Our Own". St. Margaret's Bay & Area CACL, together with Strata G's of Nova Scotia have received funding from the Canada Millennium Partnership Program to produce a book of stories, poetry, photographs, art work and youth involvement ideas to mark the millennium Here is your chance to have your story recorded for the next generation. Join us in telling our "Family History". Stories and ideas can

be sent in written, audio or creative artwork should be original work no larger than

Deadline for submission

Please send your submission to:

Kathryn Gamache

Strata G's of Nova Scotia

Site 4, Box 0 RR# 2

Hubbards, Nova Scotia

or phone: (902) 857-9071

Fax: (902) 857-1787

email: kathy.gamache@ccsd.ca

We can't wait to hear you

NEED AN INTERPRETER??????

If you need to hire an interpreter, you can contact Susie Giroux at 584-9881 or by email at: sgiroux@home.com. Susie will ensure that the request is sent out to all the available interpreters on their e-group list.

Directory of Visual Language Interpreters

If you would like a copy of the photo Directory of Visual Language Interpreters (WAVLI). This Directory is very handy when you need to hire an interpreter and don't know who to call. If you would like a copy, please contact, Deloris Piper at 739-1167 or by email at deloris@dowco.com. You can also check out WAVLI's website at: www.wavli.com



Tribute to Maureen M. Donald: Mentor, Model & Doctor

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by Terry Parson-Tylka

I sat with the crowd of enthusiastic family and friends at the Chan Centre, awaiting the convocation ceremonies for the year 2000 graduates from the University of British Columbia. I am sure that those of us there to honour Maureen Mitchell Donald were among the most proud and excited! Maureen Donald was not just another graduate. She was the first Deaf Canadian to receive an honorary doctorate from a Canadian University. She was also the first person to use American Sign Language to deliver the convocation address to a class of Canadian University graduates! There is surely no Deaf person more deserving of this recognition than Maureen Donald.

Maureen spoke about 'Communication', a theme close to her heart. She advised the new graduates that ***"Communication should not be taken for granted or ignored. Communication is an original pattern; we keep learning and finding our place in the world. This communication may come in different forms: voice (spoken language), Sign Language, foreign languages, gestural/alternative communication. Using your teaching skills, students will gain knowledge, confidence, culture, respect, a positive attitude, responsibility and independence."***

Her words held a universal message for everyone witnessing the event, and her eloquence in presenting the address in American Sign Language was a sight to behold. The event was skillfully planned so that it was accessible in its entirety for all of the participants and audience members- Deaf and Hard of Hearing, as well as hearing.

Interpreters were positioned so everyone who needed to could see them clearly. There was also real time captioning of the speeches.

The conferring of her degree as well as her address were met with the entire audience wildly 'applauding' by waving their hands high in the air! It was a thrilling and emotional occasion.

But for me, this story really begins over 25 years ago, when I arrived on Maureen's doorstep as a young and nervous student beginning my Teacher of the Deaf education at UBC. With a beginning course in sign language from night school, some volunteer work and an undergraduate degree with a major in Human Development, I was ready to start my studies, and Maureen had agreed to take me in as a boarder. I had no idea then that my real education would come from living in Maureen's home.

At that time, Maureen was a teacher at Jericho Hill School, the first Deaf teacher of the Deaf in BC. But her teaching extended far beyond the walls of that institution.

Her home was a living classroom where almost daily, Deaf, Hard of Hearing and hearing people of all ages (including many parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children) would visit with Maureen, seek her advice, and share their stories, ideas, concerns, hopes, challenges and triumphs.

It was from these stories that I learned my most valuable lessons in 'Deaf Studies'.

I came to understand that it is as absurd to talk about 'The Deaf' as it is to talk about 'The Hearing', because every Deaf and Hard of Hearing person has their own unique story. I learned that parents of Deaf and Hard of Hearing children could find support and strength from Deaf and Hard of Hearing adults and their stories. I learned that the common thread that brought all these people together was their overwhelming desire to communicate. I learned of the power they felt and the joy they found in communicating, especially through sign language.

Maureen was the greatest of teachers. She never lectured, judged, or ridiculed. She modelled patience, openness, acceptance and encouragement, and taught by example. She shared an enthusiasm for new ideas while sharing her wisdom of the past. I hope that the lessons I learned in Maureen's home are an integral part of what I bring to all my interactions with the families and children I work with. I am forever grateful to her.

And now here I was a guest at her convocation! Maureen has often been honoured for her many years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership on behalf of her students and the Deaf community. Her honorary doctorate is only one in a long list of awards. It is surely one of the most prestigious. It has raised the standard for what a Deaf person can aspire to! It was the thrill of a lifetime for me to share in this special ceremony, for a very special person.

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2001/2002 MEMBERSHIP FORM**
P.O. Box 50075, South Slope R.P.O
Burnaby, BC V5J 5G3

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Memberships are valid April 1, 2001 - March 31, 2002

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Any parent or legal guardian of a Deaf child is entitled to vote. One vote per family.
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CHILD'S NAME: _____ /AGE: _____ Please indicate which child is d/Deaf with a *.

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February 15, 2001 (No. 19)

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