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COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT:

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FNDC's newsletter is **published three times a year** (February, June and October). We periodically publish information bulletins in between newsletter publications.

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.

FNDC UPDATE

It's been a very busy couple of months: fundraisers, workshops, conferences. Several FNDC Board members/staff attended the Cochlear Implant Conference that was organized the B.C. Family Hearing Resource Centre. It was fabulous to see so many familiar faces, and meet lots of new people.

FNDC is interested in exploring how, as an organization, we may be able to better support deaf and hard of hearing children whether they are cochlear implant users, hearing aid users or children that choose not to use hearing aids.

Our goal is to network with other organizations in order to keep families updated on events, as well as to provide access to "community" events and promote educational opportunities that enhance family communication. Our fundamental mandate is to proudly promote sign language and to include deaf and hard of hearing adults as role models. We believe that each deaf child is unique. We also believe strongly that "family" is where everything begins: hence the choice of our name: Family Network for Deaf Children.

Summer 2002 - have you checked out the FNDC website? - Add it to your list of favourites on your computer - www.fndc.ca! We are delighted to have a website that is updated regularly, so make sure you go in there on a weekly basis to see what's happening.

You will notice in this newsletter we have a flyer for three Sign Language videos that have just been completed. These videos are incredible and we know that you will find them useful! We are trying to distribute the videos for free to families that live in B.C. (special thanks to a grant from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, British Columbia - April 2001). You may order the videotapes for a shipping and handling fee. (see flyer in this newsletter)

We are also hoping that organizations, schools and clubs that serve families with deaf and hard of hearing children will contact us to receive complimentary copies that may be given out to the families that you serve.

FNDC UPDATE CONT'D

Please note: With summer underway, video distribution will not take place until the end of August! Watch for Deaf Youth Today's - Deaf Expo 2002 on August 28th (see flyer attached to this newsletter). We will be there with our complimentary videos (you can avoid the shipping and handling fees). The entrance fee will be extremely reasonable so that families and community members are able to attend this great event. **MARK IT ON THE CALENDAR** and come out and enjoy the last Summer Event before school goes back!

Have you seen the Deaf Youth Today brochure? The Deaf Youth Today staff have an "awesome" summer program that has various locations and includes all age groups, as well as including deaf, hard of hearing and hearing children in various weeks! If you haven't yet received a brochure, please leave a voice message at: 604 684-1860 or a tty message at: 604 421-5271. You may also read brochure online (and register online as well) at www.fndc.ca.

I wanted to include a challenge to all our parents out there that are using computers. I recently got myself a hotmail address and learned how to use MSN (some people use ICQ). What a great experience! Having MSN is terrific! It means that when my daughter (11 yrs old and deaf) is spending the night over at her cousin's house, we can communicate back and forth. It's a great tool. I'm learning all kinds of new "lingo" and feeling like I'm a teenager (well, that's a bit of a stretch, but ...). Anyway, I have quite enjoyed "chatting" online with other parents of deaf children (considering our kids know all the email addresses).

What a privilege to have such amazing technology available to our children. I encourage you to get involved with your children's computer activities so that you know the types of internet sites they are entering into and who they are chatting with on the computer.

Have a great summer.

DYT UPDATE

DEAF YOUTH TODAY

DYT is getting ready for our summer program starting in a few weeks (maybe a few days by the time you are reading this newsletter!). We are looking forward to a great summer with lots of fun activities. There are still a few spots open for registration so get your registration in as early as possible to save on program fees. We have a great staff team this year, Kristen Pranzl, Jennifer Edgar, Scott Jeffery, Richie Dyck, Jolene Copp, and Jascine Peterson.

If you have any questions about our programs or registration you can contact us at:

604-687-1860 (VOICE)
604-421-5271 (TTY),
604-421-5273 (FAX), or
email: deafyouthtoday@fndc.ca

Check out our programs online too at www.fndc.ca/summerdyt.htm



MEMBER TO MEMBER

Open Letter to Families With Signing Skills

Submitted by Heather Sebastian

There is a new guy in my life. Normally I don't volunteer my private information but the affect he has been having on me is so positive I feel compelled to inform others. When it all happened, I wasn't looking for anyone new. In fact, I was pretty happy with my life the way it was. I have a great job teaching deaf students, a wonderful family with five kids, a husband and a hobby farm. How could I have guessed that I would be so easily swept off my feet by such a little guy??

It all started when I was delivering my students to the waiting area for the school bus. He was there with his limited communication and toys that were not suitable for his age or gender. He seemed so sad. I tried to communicate with him but quickly understood that he did not have a language base. I used gestures and facial expressions. His face could tell wonderful stories!! I spent part of my growing years in the care of foster parents. They changed my life in a very positive way and I always hoped that someday I would be able to return the favour (to pay it forward). I felt that the right situation would come along and I would know it when it did. This child was "it". I don't hear well and prefer sign to speech when I have a choice. My children all sign and the youngest ones are equally comfortable with speaking and signing. The child who needed a family was two years younger than my fourth child and two years older than my youngest. If I had conjured up a perfect situation for this boy, I don't think it would have been better than what we had to offer. I discussed him briefly with my husband and we agreed to offer our home and family. I had talked of this "debt" in the past so he had known this might happen. We called a social worker and were informed that we would have to take the foster parent training program that was offered in our community. We were also expected to participate in workshops on a continuing basis. We agreed to everything they suggested and began attending workshops and evening classes. The next stage involved a "home study". This meant that a stranger (in our case a series of strangers because of staff changes) came into our home and discussed our family, marriage, values, goals..... This process opened up discussions in our house that might otherwise have been left unearthed. Some of it was uncomfortable as we looked back on our own experiences of childhood and as parents. I think it was

helpful to have been a child in care but sometimes that was difficult to share.

Time went by and we began to feel that we would never be approved as caregivers. We went to the cultural presentations and workshops but started to see it as educational opportunities for our family. I still called from time to time and reminded the social worker that we were available. I also continued to chat with this little fellow when I had a chance to make sure he knew me and would be comfortable with me if he was moved into my home. Nineteen months after our first call we were finally approved as a foster family. Within days we had set up our first visit with this child and his caregivers. There were some tense feelings. They may have felt that we were judging them but we understood that they were doing the best that they could with the skills that they had. Unfortunately, their abilities did not include sign language and this little boy is profoundly deaf with no use or understanding of oral communication. There is no easy way to switch families for a child but we tried our best. Day visits became overnights, followed by weekends and after four months, at the end of the school year, he moved in with us full time. I expected my own children to be jealous or have difficulty adjusting but the gradual transition seems to have worked. They were happy to get a new brother and I was very pleased to offer one without the stress of pregnancy or babies. When he moved in we went to the paint store and selected colours for his room. He participated in the removal of all the wood trim, priming and painting his new room. His chosen colour was "happy face" yellow so it took several coats to get a nice finish. He was very willing to work on making his own place in our house. He still lights up like his walls when the sun shines in his bedroom. I think he has a very good sense of colour. You can't help but smile as you walk through the door. Over the summer we all noticed that he was gaining language skills. At first he watched a lot and said little but gradually he started to participate in family discussions. He learned to look back on his day at our evening meal and find something he could say thank-you for. He participated in the care of our horses and collected eggs from the chickens. When one of our dogs died that summer he had a first hand experience of death. My children told him everything. He learned to defend his opinion, argue, tease, fib just like a real boy. He also learned to tell us what was in his heart which included some intense feelings of grief, anger and love about his experiences of family, and eventually, affection for us. It was like watching someone grow up "on fast forward". He is still gaining but has a long way to go. I wonder about his potential but will continue to treat him as if he can become a self-supporting adult.

MEMBER TO MEMBER CONT'D

Sometimes he surprises me with his creative use of signs and his very unique sense of humour. He has learned to bike, roller blade, ski, swim, fish, tell stories and he has earned his yellow belt in a marital art. He has also figured out what spelling is for and we are beginning to read together. I can't guess what the future holds for him but we all will continue to provide the most stimulating environment that we can.



We are now approaching the one year anniversary of the day that he moved into our home. We all have come to see him as a full member of our household and I hope he stays until he is ready to be independent. He has given all of us a richer understanding of ourselves and others. He has also made our home more of a signing environment. For that, I will be grateful for the rest of my life. I can talk and to save time, often do. He cannot which has made everyone in the house much more aware of signing and deafness. My children have all learned to share everything with a stranger. My husband and I have learned to become parents to someone who is not "ours". We are all gaining something valuable from this experience. I know of other deaf children who are needing homes and families. I hope that they too, will be able to find a place where they can be understood, educated and loved.

WAVLI/CAEDHH-BC Educational Interpreting Committee June, 2002

by Deloris Piper and Miriam West In 1999, the Canadian Association of Educators for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing – British Columbia (CAEDHH-BC) contacted the Westcoast Association of Visual Language Interpreters (WAVLI) to assist them with how to support interpreters working in educational settings with networking and professional development, and to assist school districts with the hiring process. WAVLI struck an adhoc committee and completed preliminary investigations into existing tools and processes that could be adopted/ revised and tailored to the K-12 setting. From this investigation, it appeared that none of the existing tools could simply be applied or transferred nor could they be adapted adequately, and that some kind of tool that was unique to the setting would have to be created. Since that initial activity, a joint WAVLI/ CAEDHH-BC committee has been struck and further investigation has taken place. From the last meeting of the joint committee in June 2002, the following summarizes the

MEMBER TO MEMBER CONT'D

2002 KITSILANO SOAP BOX DERBY

findings and efforts of the committee to date. The committee focused first on identifying areas of concern, which concentrated on inconsistencies and lack of standardization in areas such as hiring practices, job descriptions, professional development and on-going education opportunities. This determination came from information collected from a variety of sources, including but not limited to: WAVLI's preliminary investigation, recent

surveying K-12 interpreting personnel, discussions with parents, input from CAEDHH-BC, and also information from the 2000 Special Interest Group session at the AVLIC conference. In addition to researching the possible need for a screening tool, the committee has also been looking at resources, stakeholders, and processes that are necessary to guide the work further. A primary goal has been to establish effective channels of communication, support and networking. Through strong relationships with all of the various players, it is believed that the outcome will be one that achieves a standard and practice that is the most beneficial to all. The committee will be looking to expand its members in the fall, to include representation from other stakeholder groups. Networking has begun with the establishment of a data base of interpreting personnel, via surveys conducted through the Provincial Outreach Program, and for this group, a regular WAVLI contact will be established by the fall. In addition to submitting regular articles to various newsletters, the committee also aims to have information and updates available on the web. There will also be a link to the Provincial Resource Library, which people are able to access now at : <http://south.sd41.bc.ca/bcsd/s.exe> WAVLI has also offered opportunity for educational support to interpreting personnel. A workshop was presented by WAVLI to K-12 interpreting staff at the CAEDHH-BC provincial conference in October 2001, and WAVLI is set to having another workshop offered at the 2002 fall conference. The committee is currently reviewing models of screening tools in Canada and the U.S., and is considering the resources involved in the various possibilities. Over the summer months and in the fall, efforts will be made to apply for grant funds for this project. Whatever end result and product of this committee's work may be, the committee firmly believes that a consultative approach to offer support, guidance and education needs to be established in this area and are pursuing processes to this effect.

submitted by: Bella Magel

It's been called "The Greatest Amateur Racing Event in the World". "The Gravity Grand Prix", and many other expansive

euphemisms-but to most of the more than a million youngsters who've participated, it's just the "Soap Box Derby."

It was christened "Soap Box Derby" back in 1933, when a *Dayton (Ohio) Daily News* Photographer encountered three boys racing home-made, engine-less cars down an inclined brick street.

Now 69 years later, in the year 2002, in beautiful Kitsilano, British Columbia, the 12th Annual Kitsilano Soap Box Derby was held on Sunday, June 23, 2002. Race week started off with Kits Days 2002, a fun-filled three days of community celebration - sidewalk sales, family entertainment, and local merchants participating in this once a year special event sponsored by the Kitsilano Chamber of Commerce, Autoplan Brokers, Kitsilano 4th Avenue Business Association, 97 KissFM, Vancouver Courier and organized by Cheryl McNeil of the Main Event.

Sixty-five young champs from different parts of the lower mainland, aged 9 to 13 took over 4th Avenue in their homemade soap box cars. This year the race track was on a new stretch of 4th avenue (between Arbutus and Burrard) approximately two city blocks. The 2002 winners:

1st Kia James (age 11) 2nd Eli Trenhome (11)
3rd Travis Neef (13) 4th Nicole Brown (12)

With the exception of one minor accident - the day was perfect, as well as a huge, well organized success. The final race of the day were the three fastest cars, No. 70, 96 and 161. In the 3rd lane car, Nicole B. (70) braked and lost control near the finish line, trying to stop, she veered into the second lane, hitting car No. 96, Danny N., she then plowed into the hay bales. Thankfully there were no injuries, and both drivers were removed safely off the track, unscathed.

A special champ, 12 year old Tyrell Magel (No. 21), was the first *deaf* driver to compete in the twelve year history of the Kitsilano Soap Box Derby, one of North America's premier soap box events. Tyrell received all safety inspection, racing commands and rules from Christianne and Candice, two sign

language interpreter students from the Douglas College Interpreter Program.

MEMBER TO MEMBER CONT'D

believe me there was lots of that -- even this year) and ensuring the right kid got out to bat and that everyone knew their positions before running on the field. Deaf people heard about the team and came to support us. The majority of their teachers from South Slope came out to games. Doug Lambert hardly ever missed one, and was named that years Ultimate Fan. It

Tyrell's homemade derby car, **Blue Lightning**, built and engineered by his Dad, Terry, raced down West 4th Avenue at fast speeds, with the top cars reaching speeds of 41 km/h as recorded by the Vancouver Police Dept. using radar guns. All cars were built to certain specifications for height and weight. In a total of four heats, he finished 1st in one, tied in one, and in the final two heats placed 2nd. Tyrell also had an opportunity to meet and 'sign' to Premier Gordon Campbell and he wished Tyrell good luck and gave him a 'high-five'. Premier Campbell raced against David Rutledge, a local race car driver from West Vancouver, who was Driver of the Year in the 2001 Cart Toyota Atlantic Championship. Tyrell's next race will be at the Clover Valley Soap Box Derby September 14, 2002 (9am-4pm).

THE STORY OF THE DEAF WHITE SOX submitted by: Kim Sanderson

The Deaf White Sox team is so much more than just a baseball team. It is a community, a family in the true sense. It was an experience that will not be forgotten by anyone that was there for the ride. It began as an "idea" in our kitchen in the Spring 2000. Cole was hesitating about going back to a sport he loves - baseball. He was the only deaf person on the team the last few years and he felt isolated and lonely. He has great passion for the sport and was willing to give it up because he didn't feel he fit in. He asked, "could we start a Deaf baseball team?" Initially, Paul and I weren't confident that it could happen. In previous years we had been turned down for other deaf kids to cross boundaries to play on sports teams. We presented our case and surprisingly were given the go ahead not only to draw from out of boundary, but also to allow players that were younger and one that was a year older to join the team. Phone calls were made to families we had known for years and surprisingly every single kid that was contacted wanted to join and had the support of their parents to do so. The first season we had 12 deaf and hard of hearing kids. It wasn't until May 19th (Paul's birthday) that we won our first game - that was almost 2 months of straight loses. There was so much for the team to learn. The majority of our players possessed athletic skill, but lacked any real knowledge of the sport. The parental support was truly amazing. Cathy Chow and Cecelia Klassen drove car loads full of kids to practices and games. Parents drove from all over to attend and support their kids. Ashley Sanderson (our daughter) was our manager. Ash had the difficult job of organizing the dug-out, stopping all squabbling (and was felt by all that our first year, in the age group of 11/12, was a huge success and there was no doubt we'd do it again.

In 2001, we were required to move to the 13/14 age division. We maintained the same team with one or two changes. But the size of the field, and the rules changes dramatically. Steals happen. The diamond is considerably larger, so pitching is much more difficult. Also, many of the more inexperienced players on other teams dropped out, so our challengers were

all that much more skilled. We struggled through that year. We experienced some really deflating loses. Paul and I thought seriously whether this was good for the kids' self-esteem, as we knew it was definitely hard on ours! There didn't seem to be any question that the Deaf White Sox would continue in 2002 in our kids minds. Our team again returned with one or two changes. We added a hearing girl, Kandis, (so now have two girls on the team -- there is only one other girl in the entire league). We were now in the top of the 13/14 age category, although we continued to have three 11/12 year olds on the team. This year the team was skilled! We were now an equal force for any team we met. Whether we played the first place team or last, the games were challenging and the Deaf White Sox often came out on top. Near the end of the season, things started to slip. After coming off a 7 game winning streak, we lost, then we continued to lose 4 more, for a 5 game losing streak. The team was getting down on themselves just as we were about to start play-offs. Paul and I had thought before that we could possibly be in the final this year, but suddenly that dream seemed to be slipping away. We began the play-offs in 7th place. Our first game was against the 10th place team - the Yankees - a team we had bet every time we met them. On a rainy Monday, we lost in a 4-3 squeaker. Considering this tournament was a double knock-out, we could possibly just have one last game. Paul and I both really didn't want to end our career with a 6 game losing streak. Friday night rolled around. We had to play the Red Sox, a team we had beat every time we'd met them. We played our hearts out and won! Then Saturday morning, we were to meet the 2nd place team, a team we hadn't beaten before. Again, we won! We went on to a game that afternoon, and again we won! On Sunday morning, we knew that we could face 3 games in a row. The first against the Pirates, we had played them twice before, winning once and losing two. We won again and went to the semi-final. The pitching arms on the team were sore, we had only 9 players for the morning game, so no breaks for anyone. We met the Dodgers, the #1 team and started out down 9 runs in the first two innings. Things weren't looking good. Our team had numerous injuries. Our pitchers, Cole, Carlo and Isaac were all hurting. Dalong was injured, so was Joey. Tracy had shingles (but wasn't diagnosed at that time) but continued to play even though she was in great

MEMBER TO MEMBER CONT'D

Tracy Chow Tracy Chow shocked the guys. She would get up to bat, the fielders would sometimes move in and she would knock one over their heads on more than one occasion. She had a great game in the finals and was an asset to the team.

Brian Sawyer Sadly Brian missed the final weekend, cause he was off winning golds and collecting the best swimmer trophy in his age category in Penticton, while we were slugging it out on the ballfield. Brian had a couple of outstanding hits this year and played a strong left field for the team.

In the third inning, we came back strong and continued to battle for the remainder of the game. We ended up losing in the bottom of the 7th, but it certainly could have gone either way (although if we had won, it would have been extremely difficult to play another game immediately after). The final score was 17-19 - and when we went out for the last time, we stranded two tying runs on the field. When it was all over, and the final game was played. They called our team onto field. Four bleachers full of parents, mostly from other teams, put their hands in the air to cheer our team. The coordinator announced that the Deaf White Sox were by far the fans favorite and finished in third place -- to achieve this we had won five straight games in 2 days. There are times in your life that you know you are part of something really, really special. The baseball team is just that. When Paul and I are old and we look back on our experience as parents, this will stand-out as a highlight. Having Ashley involved as Manager, Cole as a player and Paul and I together coaching a group of children that we are closer to than any nieces or nephews, and most of whom we have known since they were babies and plan to know for a long time, and parents that we consider family, it is truly a gift and something to be cherished and thankful for. Finally, we want to share with you just one or two highlights of member of the Deaf White Sox: **Tyrell Magel** Tyrell wasn't our strongest hitter, but one day his hit was the one that turned the game and made it so we could continue on in the May Long Weekend tournament. He went up to bat, two people were on base, and Tyrell connected with that ball and it flew to right field and knocked in a run. Tyrell is an extremely enthusiastic guy that loves being part of the team. **Carlo Gris** Carlo is the fastest kid in the entire league. He is such a pleasure to coach as he gives it everything. Carlo was probably the most consistent hitter, smashing out to centre field on more than one occasion. He got an infield home run the play-offs. He also pitches and caught and is such a talented athlete.

Dalong Huang Dalong was by far the most improved player. He started with the team last year and had no previous baseball experience. Dalong just oozes with athletic talent. He played second base and often the ball would be smashed to him, he would scoop it up, twirl around and fire it off with perfect accuracy to first base to get the guy out.

Joey Wideski Joey is amazing! For such a wee guy, he sure can knock that ball a mile. He had our first home run and a couple of triples. Joey also played short stop and did an outstanding job - as one our youngest players, age 11, playing against 15 years olds, he certainly held his own. He does owe Ashley a bit though for putting up with him in dug-out all these seasons. **Isaac Hampson-Thorp** Isaac joined the team last year. He is a hearing boy that has played soccer with Carlo, Cole and Mike for years. He also plays basketball with a group of deaf kids. Isaac played first, and as the tallest on the team he often stretched far to pull in the ball and get the out. **Kandis**

LewichewKandis was our other female and hearing player. Last year Kandis hung around our dug-out and took and interest in the team. When the departure of one our deaf players happened she stepped in and was so flexible and multi-talented. Kandis caught, played second and third and centre field. She did a great job and we will welcome her back.**Michael Gowenberg**Mike was catcher for most of the year. He did an excellent job of stopping that ball and snagging it. Mike also had some fabulous hits this year as he certainly has the power and probably the strongest arm in the league. In the final game, after a dry spell up to bat, Mike pulled in two great hits to score some runs.**Cole Sanderson**Cole is a wonderful skilled pitcher, who also plays a great short stop and along with Dalong was involved in some trick plays and double plays. He also was catcher for the final games and did an excellent job. During the first year when we were getting creamed and I wondered if he regretted his choice to play on deaf team instead of moving up to majors, Cole told us he was much happier playing with his deaf pals and losing, than winning and playing with other kids! We are always very proud of him and honoured to call him son.

Jeffrey ChowJeff is another one of our youngest players, who turned out to be one of the strongest hitters during the play-off weekend. He has such power when he connects with that ball and knocked in numerous runs to score for us. Jeff was also an extremely dedicated and passionate player - I've known him since before he was born and have never seen him care as much about anything as he has about this baseball team.**David**

MEMBER TO MEMBER CONT'D

LANGLEY BLUE JAYS

Submitted by: Sandy Rasmussen, Langley

In a picturesque baseball field in Langley, two Deaf kids stand signing to one another from a distance about the next days activities. What's wrong with this picture? My daughter, Marina, is one of the kids and she's supposed to be running to second base.

The Deaf White Sox are a major league team to our kids but there working their way to the majors alright. The Langley BlueJays have three Deaf and one Hard of Hearing children on the team. The Deaf part of the team started about three years ago with two children, grew buy one the next year and grew by one more player this year. The children range in age from 6 to 8 years old and the team also includes hearing kids.

Since all of the Deaf children attend Upland's Elementary School in Langley it was a smooth transition onto a team. The coach is a fluent signer and the assistant coach is learning along with the hearing children on the team.

Our "minor league" BlueJays are aspiring young White Sox but there is much to be learned at this level of baseball especially for Deaf players; "Pay attention," is the big thing because occasionally the ball goes by without notice into the outfield

McGregorDavid was third baseman and did a great job there all season. He established that position early at a game that saw many outs at his base, and also when a line-drive was nailed at him on third, quick thinking snagged the out. As third base man he was involved in a couple of run-downs between home and third and did a great job of getting the guys out.**Mario Gris, Asst. Coach**Mario was a great addition to the coaching staff. His ASL explanation of things was such a gift when we were struggling with how to explain certain plays clearly. Mario is an extremely positive and encouraging guy and dedicated coach.**Ashley Sanderson, Manager**Ashley has more patience than all the coaching staff combined. She did an incredible job of managing a group of kids, that act often like siblings and squabble and pick at each other in the dug-out. We were so thankful to have her be part of the team and come along to make this a family experience.The Deaf White Sox players deserve so much credit. Not only did they finish the season third, but really. what does that matter, what they did was change attitudes about deaf children. They proved by example, to themselves and to others, that they are equal to hearing children, on and off the diamond. They also created an experience that is truly unique and magically for all that was part of it.

while one of our players is signing to mom or dad about urgents matters such as ice cream or video rentals.

Our season, like many, draws to a close soon but be ready for the 2002/2003 schedule. Many thanks to the two Deaf people who came to watch.

We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere. *-Tim McGraw*

IN THE NEWS

'I'm quite pleased with my life' **Marlee Matlin jokes about life as a deaf actress and other matters.** Jeremy Sandler Vancouver Sun

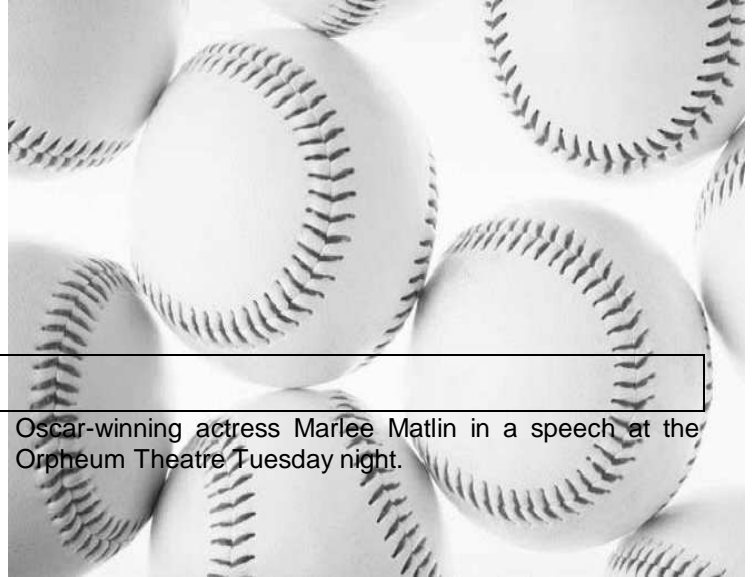
Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Reprinted with permission from: The Vancouver Sun
Deaf lesbian couples conceiving deaf babies and jokes about living as a hearing-impaired person were both addressed by

IN THE NEWS CONT'D

Speaking as part of the Unique Lives and Experiences lecture series, sponsored in part by The Vancouver Sun, Matlin, the deaf actress who earned an Academy Award in 1987 for her performance in the movie *Children of a Lesser God*, was not afraid to weigh in on controversial topics during her talk.

During the audience question period, several people asked Matlin's opinion about the lesbian parents who successfully had a deaf baby after seeking a deaf man's sperm. Expecting her third child in July, the very pregnant Matlin said through her interpreter that her opinion was simple. "My first reaction, as a mother to be and mother of two kids [is] I like God to decide," she said. "It's not something I personally would agree with." While quick to say she understood the request and felt people should make their own choices, Matlin said parents wanting a hearing-impaired child to share their own deaf culture could always consider adoption. "The point is there are a lot of deaf kids out there that need to be adopted, looking for a home," she said. On another controversial topic, cochlear implants, which can allow deaf people to hear but have been the target of criticism from the deaf community, Matlin said if she were offered them for free, she would not accept them.



Oscar-winning actress Marlee Matlin in a speech at the Orpheum Theatre Tuesday night.

"I lived my life like this and I'm quite pleased with myself and what I've done," she said. Matlin, who lost her hearing at 18 months, credited her parents for enabling her to experience everything other children in her hometown of Morton Grove, Illinois, did. The first hearing-impaired actor to win an Academy Award, Matlin advised one mother of young deaf baby to do the same for her child. "Pay attention, do whatever she might need," Matlin said. "Don't let anything stop her from experiencing life." Arriving at the lectern in the centre of the Orpheum stage and eyeing the microphones set up, Matlin displayed her sense of humour by remarking: "I don't need these." The actor got another round of uproarious applause when she told a story about a network executive visiting the set of a show she was working on who asked: "Is she going to be deaf the whole television series?" A fixture in Hollywood, Matlin once appeared on the hit show *Seinfeld* and has a recurring role on the NBC drama *The West Wing*. She told numerous famous-person encounter anecdotes and even managed a slight dig at Halle Berry's tear-filled acceptance speech at this year's Oscars. "At least I was able to stop crying long enough to give my speech," she said, quickly adding: "I hope [Berry's] not Canadian or anything like that." Among the audience were numerous hearing-impaired people, including several teenagers. Among them was 14-year-old Tracy Chow, a student in a special hearing-impaired program at Mountain Secondary in Langley who attended with her mother, Cathy Luther. While

Tracy shied away from questions about why she came to the lecture, Luther said it was because they admired Matlin. "I think that's why we're here, all of us, for Marlee," Luther said. © Copyright 2002 Vancouver Sun

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

CAREGIVER FOR DEAF SON

We are looking for an assistant for 10 yrs. deaf son, who have ADHD. Starting with after school, once a week to take him swimming or park for a hour or so and possible through the summer if we are in town. Also, we need someone to assist him through the DYT program (3 weeks total). Will pay you through "agreement". Must have a car and be reliable. First Aid, any experiences, ASL and can handle any challenging behaviors. Please contact us through email SeanKaren@shaw.ca If it goes well, we may will ask you to continue throughout the year.



CAREGIVER FOR HEARING DAUGHTER

I'm also looking for a reliable mature, nonsmoking caregiver who knows how to look after my 1 1/2 yrs. old daughter in Sept. It will be regular part-time weekly. Must be available for Tuesdays and Thursdays..sometimes Fridays. Must have a car and must know basic ASL. May ask for extra days/evening as needed. First Aid and experiences are required. Contact me through email SeanKaren@shaw.ca



BULLETIN BOARD

Vancouver Community College offers Summer ASL

Ready to learn more ASL?

Come to Vancouver Community College
During the month of July, the Department of ASL and Deaf Studies offering 2 courses:

- PREP 1 & PREP 2 Combined or
- PREP 3 & PREP 4 Combined

Have fun learning with Deaf instructors.
Call 604 871-7443 to find out more

THE PORTACOM SYSTEM AND MADE BY MOM CREATIONS HAS MOVED!

Our new address and contact information is below, please make note of this information.

Our website is still at the same address, but now has many more strategies and examples for parents, educators and support workers to help bridge communication for people requiring symbol and scheduling assistance.

Check out our strategies page at [/www.portacom.bc.ca/id137.htm](http://www.portacom.bc.ca/id137.htm). Or check out our home page at www.portacom.bc.ca
Our new mailing address is: Made by Mom Creations -

The Portacom System P.O. Box 179
Rock Creek, BC V0H 1Y0 Phone (250) 446-2952 Fax (250) 446-2981
email to info@portacom.bc.ca

MAGIC SHOWS -- SPECIAL SUMMER PRICES

A winning-award deaf magician assures to bring your children amazing memories during the Summer. For birthday parties or any children parties. Please contact Neil Marshall at 604-522-1634 TTY or marshallnjm@hotmail.com

Book a magic show and receive a 30% discount off the regular show fee--\$100.Thanks,Neil

Surrey Annual Picnic for Families with Children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing: We Make a Difference

Submitted by: Laurie Jeffrey
District Hearing teacher, Surrey School District

Three years ago I began as a Teacher-On-Call in the Surrey School District. On my third day of work I accepted a vague assignment at the Student Support Centre. When I arrived, I was introduced to a district hearing teacher, and handed a map of Surrey and a box of assistive listening devices.

Now, three years later, I am a qualified teacher of students who are deaf and hard of hearing. I am still working with the same hard of hearing students I was given on my first day. This coming December I will be finished my Masters in Special Education (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) and then I plan to pursue American Sign Language. I have endured many obstacles in order to continue working as a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing; however, I have to admit that I am pleased that the profession found me.

I know that my situation is not ordinary, but neither am I. Fate introduced me to the field. Former Director of Instruction, Elaine Friesen, gave me a challenge and I accepted it with open arms and determination.

Working full time as well as attending school is not an easy task; however, I still had some time to do something unique for my students. During my first year of teaching I recognized a need for my students to meet other students with hearing loss. Often, these students are the only ones in their school and they feel isolated. May is Speech and Hearing Awareness Month and I organized a picnic for a few students and their parents in an effort to form connections within the community. Approximately 40 students and parents brought lunches and we had a wonderful day visiting and playing

BULLETIN BOARD CONT'D

games. After the picnic was over, I realized that this event was more important than I had initially realized. At our next meeting, I proposed to the department that we make the picnic an annual event in the Surrey School District – all agreed.

Last year we had approximately 130 in attendance. The highlight of the 2001 picnic was the parachute game. It was moving to see all the students playing together, bonding and forming friendships. This year the Surrey School District held the third annual picnic for students who are deaf and hard of hearing and their parents on May 23, 2002. We had an outstanding turnout of 180 people. This year's highlight was a get-to-know-you game. Everyone had to find someone at the picnic that had the same pattern on his or her nametag. For example, some had a green dot and others had an orange square with a blue dot in the middle. There were four people with the same pattern so you potentially could meet three new people. I had allotted ten minutes to play this game and a half hour later connections were still being made.

What started out as a casual picnic in the park has transformed into a spectacular annual event in the Surrey School District. This year we not only fed everyone hotdogs, pop, chips, and donuts, but we had prizes and goodie bags for every student. The picnic has become an event that has connected the whole community. Local organizations have contributed generously, Audiologists and Technicians from local clinics have volunteered their time, parents lend a helping hand, Special Education Assistants help transport students and run the event, and high school students gain community service hours when they volunteer their time. Lastly, I need to thank our new Director of Instruction, Dr. Dave Carter, for his generous donation and the Surrey District Hearing Teachers for their time and support.

My vision to bring students who are deaf and hard of hearing and their parents together has become a reality and I am delighted with the results. Parents are making connections, new parents and students are welcomed into the district, students see other students with hearing aids, we form greater connections with local clinics and personnel, and overall the community support team has been strengthened.

I feel honoured to know that we make a difference in the lives of our students and their families.

CAR DEALERSHIP OFFERS SIGNING

Submitted by: Sensible Solutions

Preston GM in Langley is pleased to announce that effective immediately someone will be available to sign for the deaf. If you are buying, selling or needing your car serviced, Prestons is ready to assist you. Please fax a request for an appointment to 604 534-1717, attention Don or email daffleck@prestongm.com Don's daughter, Christine, will be available evenings and weekend by appointment to assist you. We hope that the deaf community will support our efforts to extend a helping hand. Please feel free to contact us about any of your automobile needs.

Preston GM, 19990 Langley By-Pass, Langley

Phone: 604 534-4154 Fax: 604 534-1717

WANTED!!!

Fisher Grove Ranch, Center of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons in the beautiful Salmon River Valley, near Salmon Arm B.C. has opened its doors again this year. We have a wonderful dedicated hard working staff, all very excited and working to make things happen in a very short amount of time. One of the things we need desperately is a volunteer base to help make all of our plans and programs take shape and get going. If you're an interested party, and want to see something wonderful happen, please contact us. Fundraising is one of the first things on my mind, and we have a lot of exciting events in the planning stages. If you live in one of the following areas and want to help us see our dreams become realities, I would love to hear from you.

Kelowna, Vernon, Armstrong, Enderby, Salmon Arm, Kamloops or any of the nearby communities in the area, we need you!!! And with enough volunteers, all you need commit is a small amount of your time.

We have some wonderful exciting events planned for the coming yr. including a Raffle, a Diminishing Coffee Party, our Summer Sunset Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Fair in August, a Cross Country Team Relay, Winter Fest, Ski-a-thon, Bowl-a-thon, Curling Bonspiels, and our ongoing Book of Hope. We also have small events such as Car Washes and Hot Dog Sales during the summer months in various communities. If you think you would like to help us with any of these fundraising events, to see how you can become involved, please contact Leanne. For information on upcoming youth programs contact Lori, Shirley or Claire.

Fisher Grove Ranch, Center of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons (250) 832-9994 or TTY (250) 832-7575 Fax (250) 832-9580 or email: fishergroveranch@telus.net. Help us

meet our goals for the coming year and become a part of something wonderful.

DOUGLAS COLLEGE UPDATE

DOUGLAS COLLEGE UPDATE

submitted by: Cheryl Palmer

The Program of Sign Language Interpretation is happy to announce that eleven students graduated from the program this spring. The graduates are:

Robyn Albert
 Sarah Coupe
 Emily Drew
 Brenda Erlandson
 Anita Gock
 Kathy Keple
 Brenda Pitcaim
 Karli Thomas
 Jennifer Till
 Leah Venechuk
 Jill Yates

Nine of the graduates are planning to stay and interpret in the Lower Mainland and two have returned to Vancouver Island. Winding down from a hectic semester, the graduates held an Appreciation Evening on June 5th to thank instructors, mentors, friends and community members for the support and encouragement they have provided over the past two years.

June 6th marked the last official undertaking the students had with Douglas College, as their friends and families attended the college graduation ceremony. We hope, however, that this does not mark an end to the graduates' relationship with the college; as a means of continued contact with these students, we hope they will consider contributing to the field by helping foster current and future students in the program.



A few changes in the program faculty will be evident in the fall as Jan Humphrey returns in August, having finished a one-year leave during which she attended Trinity Western University. Jan also took advantage of her time off and traveled to several destinations, including New Zealand and China. Other faculty members will leave us this fall to pursue exciting professional opportunities that will surely enhance their teaching at Douglas College upon their return. Nigel Howard is moving to Tokyo for one year to teach English and ASL as a second language to Deaf Japanese students. Karen Malcolm has accepted a temporary position as a visiting professor in the Master of Arts Program in Interpretation at Gallaudet University. We're going to miss them, but we want to wish Nigel and Karen the very best as they head off on these exciting adventures.

Due to these changes, the department in 2002/2003 will consist of Jan Humphrey, as coordinator; Dave Still; Cheryl Palmer; and Tanis Doe. We are currently in the process of hiring an ASL instructor and determining who will be the program technician for the 2002/2003 year.

If you require volunteer interpreting services during the summer, students who are entering the second year of the program will be available to interpret on a volunteer basis. Students will screen all volunteer requests and handle the assignment arrangements. If students are unsure whether or not an assignment is appropriate for them, a faculty member is available to help them determine suitability. Please direct requests to 604-527-5552 #1 or 604-527-5133 tty. Note that requests need to be received two weeks prior to the event in order to check student's availability.

REMINDER
NEED A VOLUNTEER
PHONE 604 527-5552 (#1) (voice)
or 604 527-5133 (tty)

WHAT'S UP

FROM RUSSIA TO GALLAUDET WITH LOVE

submitted by: Selena Lohan

Max Fomitchev is a talented deaf Russian Mime, but he is also my hero.

Born in Moscow, Max began his mime training at age thirteen where he was the only deaf student in his class, but in one year, he surpassed his peers, and advanced to the adult mime studio at Moscow Government University Lomonosov. He then found a new challenge at the Mirror Mime Company of Moscow, a completely deaf studio under the tutelage of Yosif Schneiderman where he acquired the acclaimed, **National Mime Award**.

Standing out in a national talent search Max received a scholarship to Schukin University, Moscow (the Julliard of Europe) where they enlisted the first, last, and only deaf class at the all-hearing university of the arts. Max received his Master of Fine Arts Degree in Drama and graduated at the head of his class. After university, this graduated group of deaf performers formed **Zakutok Theatre** with whom he performed around the world. This performing troupe was invited to **DEAF WAY** in 1989 at Gallaudet University in Washington DC. The experience changed Max forever -- 2 ½ years later he escaped Russia to live in Vancouver, Canada.

Now, thirteen years later, Max is honored to be invited back to Gallaudet to **DEAF WAY II**. This time he is not only a solo act, but he has been asked to perform as the star of the Deaf Way II opening ceremony. He will spend three weeks in Washington performing and teaching Mime workshops to delegates from around the world. The best part will be the old deaf friends from every corner of the world with whom he will reunite. One especially he is excited to see again is his old mentor Yosif Schneiderman who was his teacher and biggest influence on his life as a Mime.

Max has accomplished a lot in his life, and faced a lot of adversity. His journey was to be a self-employed entertainer was a long and hard one. He spent years in poverty and being held in limbo by Canada immigration. He has faced endless prejudice and fear from main stream society. Now he is the only deaf Russian actor to break into the Vancouver film industry landing roles in TV series, commercials, and a feature film "**Saving Silverman**".

Max creates his own destiny. He recently made a short film called "**Supermime**" edited by fellow deaf artist Forrest Smith. He truly is an example of not letting anything get in

the way of his dreams. And that makes him my hero.

Max continues to perform at festivals, parties, and schools across the nation. He also teaches mime, drama and stage combat to actors, children and comedians joyfully bringing his education and performing passion to his many students. For more information and performing schedules check out www.maximime.com

FISHER GROVE RANCH FOR DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING PERSONS

submitted by: Claire LeBlanc

B.A., M.A. (English), Teacher On Call -- School District 83, and mother of 16 year-old Deaf daughter, Victoria.

Fisher Grove Ranch is situated in Salmon Arm, and is a twenty minute drive from Vernon. The last week of May saw the beginning of a new, ten month contract at Fisher Grove Ranch and they have hired an excellent and enthusiastic staff. This staff is composed of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Hearing people and they truly make a great team and I am very impressed with them and their efforts so far. FGR has completed the construction of a new office and boardroom, and a bathroom addition will be completed shortly. There are presently two outhouses on site and a large outdoor 'cookhouse.' FGR is planning on hosting a five-day, overnight Youth camp this summer from July 29th to August 2nd. The focus on this camp will be Deaf and Aboriginal culture and will include counsellor-training activities for those youth who wish to be involved in future camping experiences.

A local native band has promised to donate some teepees for the camp to use this summer for the camping activities that are planned. FGR is planning to host some day-camps this summer as well. A Deaf and Hard of Hearing fair is currently planned for August 17th, and will be held for the first time on the grounds of Fisher Grove Ranch. Several fundraising activities are planned for the summer and volunteers are needed to assist in these activities. Anyone who is interested in any of these events is asked to contact Fisher Grove Ranch at the following:

(250) 832-9994 (Voice)

(250) 832-7575 (TTY)

(250) 832-9580 (FAX)

email: fishergroveranch@telus.net

WHAT'S UP CONT'D

Please note the following staff:

Office Manager/Head of Events and Fundraising:
Leanne Klassen

Head of Programs and Services: Lori Michon

Administrative Assistants: Mel Riddle and Margaret Oxley

Outdoor Workers: Tapio Pikkarianian; Kevin Simpson;
 Steven Tyler; Kelly Dodsworth, Rod Gerow, Jim, Janice

Summer Student Workers: Paula Doreer and Leah

NEW WEBSITE FOR MSS

This is Scott Jeffery, I am in grade 11, I am the website maker for Deaf and Hard of Hearing website at MSS.

Check-out the new website for MSS

www.sd35.bc.ca/mss/Dhh/WelcometoDHH.html

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

2002 SUMMER OUTREACH

July 14 - 19, 2002

Family and Community Development Services (FCDS) previously known as Family Support Program, will be offering our first Outreach Program this summer.

Summer Outreach is a social and educational program designed for the entire family (siblings and extended families) with school age children/youth who are deaf or hard of hearing, and who use sign language to communicate.

The program is held at the Victory Hill Residential site in Burnaby. It is a 6-house complex where families can stay for the week. Adjacent to the complex is a park with a playground and wading pool. We are close to Metrotown Centre for shopping.

Families will arrive on Sunday, July 14. The scheduled program begins on Monday morning and will end after lunch on Friday, July 19. Besides the variety of workshops being offered, there will be a wonderful opportunity to meet and socialize with other families. Local families are also welcome to join.

Daily Education Workshops: informal/formal workshops in topics related to Deaf culture, resources for families, etc.

Sign Language Classes: are designed to help develop sign language/communication skills

Story-Telling: story tellers will give tips on how you can enhance telling stories in visual language

Panels: *bringing different topics together in the form of a panel is a wonderful way to share and exchange information and experiences. The week's program will include a panel from the Deaf community sharing their experiences.*

*If you are not on the Family & Community Development Services mailing list and want more information about **Summer Outreach** please contact us at:*

Voice: (604) 660-1800

TTY: (604) 660-1807

Fax: (604) 660-1859

For families that live outside the Lower Mainland you may contact us through Enquiry BC at no charge: 1-800-663-7867

Note: Sign classes are open to local Lower Mainland families, depending on space availability.

FUNDRAISERS

ALLISON CAMPBELL RAISES MONEY IN THE "GREAT WALK"

Here's the follow up information on the Great Walk that raised funds for our 9th annual Family Deaf Camp on Hornby Island. The donations towards the camp keep the costs down to make camp more affordable for families.

The walk itself was more than ever a personal challenge for me because of lack of training but was I able to beat my goal of 8 hours -- I finished in 7 hours 55 minutes. Cutting it pretty darn close!! Many thanks to the families who sent donations, I was able to raise just over \$900.00.

Thank you to the Chan's, Caldicott's, Walterhouse's, Bill Howich Chrysler, various friends in the Comox Valley and many family members who sent donations in memory of Gord's Gramma - Nancy Eshom. We look forward to seeing many of you at camp July 4 - 7th.

Thank you, Allison Campbell

FAMILY NETWORK FOR DEAF CHILDREN'S 1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FNDC's first ever golf tournament was a great success. This was our first attempt at a fundraiser by way of a golf tournament and we all agreed that it was so much fun that we want to do it every year. All the proceeds from this year's tournament will be used for the upcoming Deaf Youth Today summer program.

We had many golfers out enjoying a beautiful spring day on June 3rd. Country Meadows Golf Course in Richmond was our host for the day. The course was laid out beautifully and the greens, I heard, were in perfect shape. After a day of golfing everyone enjoyed a steak and chicken barbeque.

FNDC was able to reward all the golfers with a prize and we also had some fantastic raffle prizes. Congratulations to Kristen Pranzl who won the 1st prize. Lets just say, we all know where Kristen will be spending her holiday this year.

FNDC would like to thank some very special people, David Still volunteered his interpreting for the evening, along with three students from Douglas College: Rebecca Froese, Brianne Sullivan and Rhys McCormick. They did a wonderful job ensuring that communication flowed during the entire Lazy Gourmet

Mad Dog Sports

McDonald's Restaurants Canada

Nicki Horton

Nike Canada

Orca Bay

Purdy's Chocolates

afternoon/evening. They did a wonderful job.

This tournament would not have happened without the incredible organizational skills of Janice Feanny. Janice is on FNDC's board and we are so lucky to have her. She can take an event like the golf tournament and make it look like it runs itself. Thank you Janice for all your work because we all know these things *don't* just run themselves. I would like to thank the staff of FNDC. Bella Magel put a lot of her own time into organizing the administration end of the golf tournament. Thank you Bella you doing such a great job on this fundraiser. Cecelia Klassen was again the wind beneath our wings, as she was everywhere and into everything to make sure the day and evening was a great success. I would also like to thank our DYT staff, Kristen Pranzl and Melissa Campbell for representing Deaf Youth Today and giving the group a sense of why we were there.

Last but surely not least are the golfers and diners that came out to support FNDC and DYT. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated. We hope you all had a good time.

We already have Janice in "think mode" for next year's tournament. So if you were unable to attend this year, please try for next year because it's loads of fun and a great way to support our Deaf Youth.

We would like to thank and acknowledge all the individuals and companies who donated goods and services to the tournament. The following is a list of donors:

Avison Young Commerical Real Estate

BC Lions Football Club

BCIT

Burnaby Village Museum

Charlie Don't Surf

CKNW/98

Costco

Country Meadows Golf Course

Deb Janzen

Famous Players Theatres

Fish House in Stanley Park

H.R. MacMillan Space Centre

Jimmy Mac's Pub

John Horton/Fever Investments Ltd.

Knowledge Tech Consulting

Red Robin Restaurants

Royal Bank

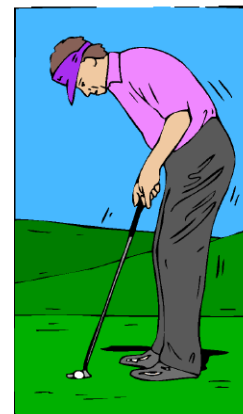
Shark Club

Still Interpreting

Susi Bolender

Thompson-Okanagan
Wilderness

Hyak



Tommy Hilfiger
 Trisha McGregor
 Vancouver Zoo
 Vancouver Aquarium
 Vancouver Playhouse
 Vancouver Sun/Province
 Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
 Vancouver Art Gallery
 Vancouver Canadians Baseball Team
 Westin Resort & Spa
 Westburne Supply

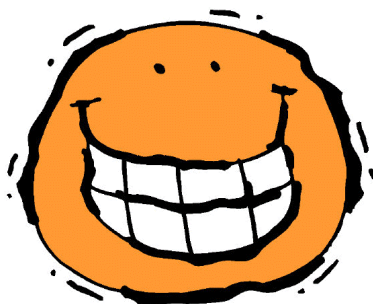
THANK YOU!

THE GREAT WALK: DARLENE LANE RAISES \$715.00 FOR FNDC

Submitted by: Darlene Lane, mom of a Deaf son, Tim Lane

Wow ... it was tough but I did it! I walked 63.5 kilometres from Gold River to Tahsis via a logging road.

It took our group (three of us) 14 hours and 7 minutes and a whole lot of encouragement from each other in order to complete the race. We each said that had we been alone, there was just no way we could have done it! Friendship and support, eh! There is just nothing like friends to get you



FUNDRAISERS CONT'D

through a tough time.

The scenery was spectacular. It felt like the Rocky Mountains on Vancouver Island. We started off in a group of about 1,000 people - in the dark of 4:00 am, standing on a bridge with the river rushing below. As the walk started, we shuffled like a bunch of ants making our way up the gravel hill. As the sky became that deep twilight blue with a bright half moon shining on the white peaks above, slowly the crowd stretched out along the winding road.

Eventually the rising sun caught the mountain tops and lit the world for some breath-taking views - lush mountain valleys, clear rushing rivers and lots of company. Many people of all ages, from children to elderly, came from near and far, trudging along in various stages of weariness driven by comments of comraderie from total strangers.

All types of colors of gear and footwear, each person displaying their unique "walker number". Two young women, obviously friends, walking together displaying the numbers 666 and 999. With registration done via the net and by mail during the previous months, how did they do that?? hmmmmm?

The day wore on, the sun beat down and our "highlight" became the thought of the next welcome checkpoint. All the friendly people offering snacks, drinks and minor safety supplies.

There were downhill of 18% and uphill that stretched on for 6 kilometres. Sore muscles, blisters, and general fatigue ... but there is something very powerful that happens in the mind - with its positive thoughts and invaluable humour to overcome such physical ailments.

The last 15 kilometres ... we were the only ones on the planet ... then, around the corner was the little town of Tahsis with its streets lined with balloons and streamers. People were sitting in lawn chairs banging pots and cheering us on - instilling a burst of new energy that fed our weary souls, strengthened our legs, and quickened our stride to cover the last 500 meters to the finish line! WOW! What a day trip!

With pledges collected from family, friends and local businesses, I was able to generate \$715.00 for FNDC this year. In the meantime, check out this website: www.greatlakewalk.com

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 2002

Hester Hussey, Director
Anna Lesko, Member at Large

Deaf Indo-Canadian Organization Picnic

July 14, 2002

Burnaby Central Park - 3:00 - 9:00 pm

Admission: \$2.00 (includes prizes, East Indian Games, delicious samosas).

Contact: deafdico@yahoo.ca or 604 708-8639 fax

AUGUST 2002

ROLLERBLADING AT STARDUST

August 3, 2002

5:00-7:00 pm

Admission: \$4.50 per person

[see attached flyer]

DEAF EXPO 2002

August 28, 2002

Burnaby South in the Student Commons

4:00-8:00 pm

Admission: \$5/family or \$2/person

[see attached flyer]

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Colleen Peterson, President
Janice Feanny, Vice President
Kathy Caldicott, Secretary
Blair Flink, Director
Nicki Horton, Director
Tracy Epp, Treasurer
Teresa Parent, Director
Karen Jackson, Director

FEEDBACK

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

STAFF

FNDC

Cecelia Klassen, Executive Director
Bella Magel, Executive Assistant

DYT

Susi Bolender, DYT Co-ordinator
Kristin Pranzl, DYT Sr. Leader

DYT SUMMER STAFF LEADERS

Jolene Copp
Richie Dyck
Jennifer Edgar

Scott Jeffrey
Jascine Peterson
Kristen Pranzl

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.

programs for deaf children, Deaf community organizations, and the list goes on.

WHAT FNDC IS ALL ABOUT?

upcoming workshops and courses and videos presented by FNDC.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

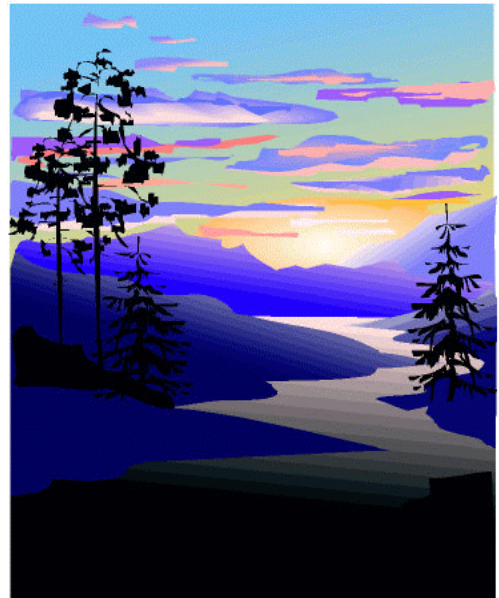
- FNDC believes that families are vital in ensuring that deaf children reach their full potential through a supportive home environment.
- FNDC believes that families have the right to make informed choices based on the needs of the deaf child and the family.
- FNDC believes that deaf children have the 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.



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

Attached flyers:

- DYT - Rollerblading at STARDUST (August 3, 2002)
- DYT - DEAF EXPO 2002 (August 28, 2002)
- Signing Video order form
- Fisher Grove Ranch Youth Camp July 29-August 2, 2002
- Vacation Bible School July 22-26 (Surrey) and August 11-15, 2002 (Okanagan)

2002/03 MEMBERSHIP

**FNDC FAMILY NETWORK FOR DEAF CHILDREN
P.O. Box 50075, South Slope R.P.O
Burnaby, BC V5J 5G3**

[] I want to become a member of the Family Network for Deaf Children, a non-profit society, providing support and information.

Memberships are valid April 1, 2002 - March 31, 2003

Please select the membership category which applies to you:

- Family membership for families of Deaf children \$15.00
Any parent or legal guardian of a Deaf child is entitled to vote. One vote per family.
- Individual membership ** \$15.00
- Organizations/School Districts/Service Providers ** \$25.00
** non-voting

Please check: [] NEW MEMBERSHIP
 [] RENEWAL

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$_____.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROVINCE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ voice TTY both

WORK TELEPHONE: _____ voice TTY both

CHILD'S NAME: _____ /AGE: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____ /AGE: _____

CHILD'S NAME: _____ /AGE: _____

Please indicate which child is d/Deaf with a *.

Receipts for Membership dues

If you would like a receipt of your payment mailed to you, please let us know.

IN ADDITION TO MY MEMBERSHIP I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION OF \$_____.
Registered charitable #: 88622 5655 RR0001

Please make your cheque payable to FNDC Family Network for Deaf Children and return to the above address

Thank you for your support!