



In the Spring of this year, FNDC had a Parent Education Forum to talk about the current education system for signing deaf students. We compiled a list of educational goals and changes that parents would like to see for deaf students. I thought I would share some of those with you.

We talked about the differences between placements, the types of services offered in these placements, and the funding that is currently in place.

The two options for placement for signing deaf students in British Columbia are:

- A deaf student may attend a provincial resource program (PRP). Current PRP's serving deaf students are: BC School for the Deaf (Burnaby), Uplands Elementary (Langley), Mountain Secondary (Langley). Some students living outside the Lower Mainland may live in the Victory Hill Residential Program (Burnaby)
- A deaf student may attend a school in their local school district with the support of a sign language interpreter, and an Itinerant teacher of the Deaf. Each school district set its own policies. Support varies between districts. Note: This placement also includes the support of the BCSD Provincial Outreach Program if the individual school district requests support.

If a deaf student also has a cochlear implant, they may also receive the support from the Cochlear Implant PRP. Support and services from the Cochlear Implant PRP are available upon parent request. This PRP offers support 12 months a year, including language support outside of the school system.

A Summary of the Forum is as follows:

### **What do parents of deaf signing children want?**

A **quality education** for all signing deaf kids in the Province of B.C. regardless of placement and where they reside

### **What does a *quality education* include?**

#### A. Access and Equity

1. Access to the full curriculum at grade level; work to their potential – leading to Dogwood Certificate, post secondary & employment.
2. Access to everything a school offers (including extra curricular).
3. Opportunities for leadership, sports, drama programs .
4. Secondary Teacher's of the Deaf should have a specialty to ensure equal access to secondary curriculum.
5. access to full time or itinerant Teachers of the Deaf and full time, qualified interpreters (including emergency back up re: interpreters, Teachers of the Deaf).

B. Language and Literacy

1. Visual language foundation beginning as early as possible and ongoing.
2. Speech, lipreading, phonemic awareness (spoken language)
3. Instruction and analysis in ASL (grammar, poetry etc.).
4. Development of creative and critical thinking skills in ASL.
5. Literacy Program (English labs – all signing deaf students “hooked up” to an English lab, Ready Recovery Program).
6. Literacy training for professionals and others to administer tutoring program in student’s community.

C. Assessment and Accountability

1. Educational Psychologist (with expertise in assessing deaf students: Regular assessment of students .
2. Assessments offer "snapshots" of students as they progress, year to year.
3. IEP’s: Meaningful, clear, reviewed continually, and accountable to students, parents and the Provincial Deaf Resource Centre.
4. Clear understanding of modified v. adapted programs.
5. Central coordination. Consult with successful models (ie. Texas, Maryland, Colorado) that fit B.C.’s population/demographics.
6. Advisory team – similar to a School Planning Council.

D. Strong Families, Skilled Professionals, Healthy School Communities

1. Regular assessment of signing/working skills of Teachers and Interpreters: best practices and professional development.
2. Role models who are Deaf: modeling Deaf and hearing working together (Bi/Bi); traveling offering support to all student placements.
3. Collaboration/communication between parents & educational team.
4. ASL for hearing students (advice re: setting up ASL credit courses or sign clubs) in school where deaf student attends – inclusion.
5. Sharing of professionals between school districts/PRP’s.
6. Provincial Resources: handbook, lending library/computerized resources for parents and professionals; would include centralized curriculum, tools.

**What would the model we envision look like?**

The development of a **Provincial Signing Resource Centre**:

Provide a 12 month student centered development program which enhances the student’s current placement.

1. PRP "on wheels" for signing deaf kids (centre of resources, expertise, professionals) – this would include an enhanced Outreach Program
2. After-school/Summer tutoring in student’s community.
3. Funding is tied to and available for ALL signing deaf students based on student’s needs.
4. Resources should be shared without boundaries – portability of service.
5. Services should be available by student, parent, teacher, school and/or district request.
6. Deaf education should be monitored by professionals with expertise in Deaf Education (signing). A key success factor is that professionals are hired based on merit.

7. A Chief Financial Officer should be available to oversee expenditures (with freedom of information to the public).
8. English upgrading programs (successful at post-secondary level) should be introduced much earlier (at elementary and secondary level) – models such as Vancouver Community College and Douglas College.

Thanks to all the parents for great brainstorming and sharing of ideas!

Thank you to Shelly Arthur for providing captioning for us!

For more info on real time captions –

[info@VisualVoiceCaptions.com](mailto:info@VisualVoiceCaptions.com)  
[www.VisualVoiceCaptions.com](http://www.VisualVoiceCaptions.com)

Toll Free: 1-866-219-4414  
 Voice: 604-533-6558  
 Fax: 604-533-6631

\*Remember to constantly check out our website,  
 as we are  
 updating continually so that you have lots of  
 information!

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## **Do you need a Volunteer Interpreter??????**

### **Douglas College Student Volunteer Interpreters**

If you would like a volunteer student interpreter please contact us at  
[intr@douglas.bc.ca](mailto:intr@douglas.bc.ca) or at 604-527-5133 ty

Please place your request at least 2 weeks in advance and include all the information below so we can promptly process your request.

- Date and time
- Place
- Length of appointment
- General location - municipality
- Type of event you are planning to attend - family reunion, birthday party, etc.
- Contact information – please provide an e-mail address or name and phone number

All requests are checked by department faculty to ensure the request is suitable for a student interpreter to provide service.

We look forward to helping with your interpreting needs.



## BCSD OUTREACH NEWS

### From the Outreach Office ...

Karen Taylor Outreach Administrator, BCSD

Here in the Lower Mainland, the leaves are turning a brilliant orange and red colour. Fall is making its grand entrance announcing that yet another school year has begun! The warmth of the summer sun has not cooled reminding us all that we live in one of the most beautiful provinces in Canada.

On that optimistic note I will take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Karen Taylor and I have been a deaf educator of the deaf and hard of hearing for 29 years. In June, Susan Van Gorp was hired as the new Vice Principal of the Secondary BCSD program at Burnaby South Secondary replacing Joe McLaughlin who moved to an exciting new administrative position in California. This left the Outreach position vacant in July. When I first noticed the ad in the Vancouver Sun I recognized immediately this position was an exciting opportunity to connect with families, with deaf and hard of hearing children and with professionals working with children who have significant hearing losses throughout the province. Like the seasons, the winds of change influence us all. It is my fervent hope that we can collectively respond to global, provincial, and community changes in positive and proactive ways to provide healthy choices for our deaf and hard of hearing children in the province.

I first became a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing children in 1975. I began my career in the North Vancouver school district working both as a district resource teacher and as a part-time itinerant. This afforded opportunities to work with children whose primary mode of communication was sign language and with children who had strong auditory/verbal skills enrolled in both elementary and secondary programs in the district. More importantly, I recognized I was able to share skills I had learned as an oral deaf individual educated in mainstreamed hearing classes. After my brief stint in North Vancouver, I moved to the Peace River region and bought a 133-acre hobby farm just outside Dawson Creek. It was there that I organized and ran summer camps for deaf and hard of hearing children from all over the province. I learned a great deal about rural education, the value of community involvement and the power of the individual to effect positive change. It truly does take a 'village to raise a child'!

After seven years in the north I moved to the Sooke School District just outside Victoria where I taught and coordinated programs for elementary/secondary deaf and hard of hearing students and with deaf and hard of hearing adults. I worked extensively with Community Education in the district to afford opportunities to bridge the deaf community with the hearing community. Deaf community members were encouraged to teach ASL to families, to children and to interested professionals and community members. In 1995 I co-produced an educational video series *Deafness and Learning* to help create awareness of the challenges children with a significant hearing loss face in their journey through life. This video series has been distributed to countries throughout the world.

I began my work as the Outreach consultant on August 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year. As a strong proponent of the value of community, I recognize families and individuals are the building blocks of strong communities. In my role as the Outreach consultant I intend to continue the work of providing support and consultation to teachers, administrators and to parents throughout the varied and vibrant communities in British Columbia. In this venue, I will be travelling to two northern communities as well as to the Interior before mid November.

Since August I have managed to complete 12 hours of auditory-verbal instruction given by a Certified Auditory Verbal Therapist, Tina Olmstead. The workshop held at UBC on September 1 and 2 was informative and practical in enhancing the development of spoken language. This workshop was a collaborative effort between the Outreach program and the Canadian Association of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CAEDHH). I also attended an excellent workshop at the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre. The skilled and always organized presenters (both experienced teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing) were Maureen Clarke from North Vancouver and Terry Parson-Tylka of the BC

Family Hearing Resource team. The topic "Introduction to Cochlear Implants" covered a range of subject matter: Candidacy, Surgery, Hardware, Mapping and Habilitation.

Collaboration with community partners: the BC Family Hearing Resource Outreach team, CAEDHH- BC, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, Family Network for Deaf Children, the Western Association of Visual Language Interpreters (WAVLI) and other Provincial Outreach programs (i.e. deaf/blind, autism, integration support, SET-BC, the Vision Outreach Program and the Cochlear Implant PRP) will continue to be an area of emphasis. In addition, the Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing provide a range of valuable programs supporting families: Consultative Services, the Deaf Access Office, Services for Family and Community Development (SFCD) and the Victory Hill Residential Program. The Ministry of Children and Family Development funds these services located at 4334 Victory Street in Burnaby. SFCD, for example, provides instruction to enhance sign language development, educational workshops, a learn together program focussing on family essentials and a buddy program as well as a wealth of other crucial services to families. They can be contacted at 604-775-4008 (voice) or 604-5509 (tty). The web site is [www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/psdhh](http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/psdhh)

The Outreach position will continue to manage the Provincial Resource Library/Center and to organize the Provincial Educational Review Committee meetings.

Contact Information: Outreach Administrator  
604-664-8560 (v)  
604-664-8563 (tty)  
604-664-8561 (fax)

Email: [ktaylor@south.sd41.bc.ca](mailto:ktaylor@south.sd41.bc.ca)

**Upcoming events of great interest to parents/families:**

What: **Canadian Hard of Hearing Association's 2005 National Conference**

When: June 1 – 4, 2005

Where: Grand Okanagan Lakeside Resort in Kelowna, B.C.

Contact Information: 1-800-263-8068 or Email [chha2005@chha.ca](mailto:chha2005@chha.ca)

Webpage: [www.chha.ca](http://www.chha.ca)

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• ***A Parent Guidebook: ASL and Early Literacy (2004)***

A beautiful book for parents designed for both Deaf and hearing parents of infants and preschool-age children who use American Sign Language (ASL). This book is "full of ideas for fun activities focussing on language facilitation; language games, ASL rhythms and rhymes; ASL storytelling, sharing books using ASL and art."

This book has recently arrived at the Provincial Resource Library. It will be catalogued and available on loan by the end of October.

You may contact the Outreach Office for further information:

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## IN THE NEWS

### **GREETINGS EVERYONE FROM GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY!**

Reprinted with permission from the author Paul Filiatreault

([pmf@ualberta.ca](mailto:pmf@ualberta.ca))

Student Ambassador

I want to tell you about my weeklong visit to Gallaudet University in February 2004 as a student ambassador for the University of Alberta (U of A). Located in Washington, D.C.,

Gallaudet holds the distinction of being the world's only post-secondary educational institution primarily serving deaf and hard of hearing students. When I found out that the U of A had over a hundred student-exchange links with various institutions around the globe but not with Gallaudet, I wanted to see if that could be changed. I wondered if it would be possible for such an international linkage to be created between the U of A and Gallaudet so that deaf students at both institutions could exchange for one or two semesters. So I proposed the idea to several people at the U of A, including the Director of Education Abroad, and they liked it. In fact, Marion Vosahlo, Director of Specialized Support & Disability Services (SSDS), liked the idea so much that she appointed me student ambassador of SSDS and funded in part my trip to Washington, D.C. The Alberta Association of the Deaf also provided generous financial support towards this endeavour of seeing how interested Gallaudet would be in having a student-exchange relationship with the U of A. Other purposes for my trip to Gallaudet also included experiencing first-hand the unique cultural and educational environment that over 2000 deaf students benefit from.

My first day at Gallaudet University was February 13, 2004. Although it was Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, no bad luck happened at all. It was a very nice day as it was only slightly cold and most of the snow had melted away. Gallaudet hosted a Spring Open House on that day. I learned some facts and legends about the school while being led on a walking tour throughout the campus. It is a beautiful university populated with several thousand deaf people and it was amazing to see a whole bunch of deaf students bustling about the campus and to socialize with them. I felt very lucky to be visiting Gallaudet.

Over the weekend, I met many deaf people, including those who shared similar interests in filmmaking. It felt so good to know that there were others like me who also aspired to create movies as a career. Email addresses were exchanged and friends were made. The weekend was a ton of fun and way too short.

On Monday and Tuesday, I was a "Student for a Day" and observed several classes. Not all the professors were deaf, but all of them communicated through ASL. It was wonderful to see what it was like to be taught at Gallaudet and to sit there in a classroom with deaf peers. The last time I experienced something like that was when I was in high school at the Alberta School for the Deaf. That was over five years ago. I am currently a fifth-year student at the University of Alberta and am accustomed to relying on an interpreter to translate whatever the teacher is saying. So it was quite a refreshing experience for me to not have to depend on a third-party to relay academic information. At Gallaudet, teacher-to-student communication is direct and 100% sign language.

On Wednesday I met with Bunmi Aina, Director of the Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS) and asked him what he thought about Gallaudet becoming a student exchange partner with the University of Alberta. He was very enthusiastic about the idea and mentioned that OIPS had been looking to form international linkages with more universities for some time now. At this time, Gallaudet has one student-exchange link and it is with Orebro University, in Sweden. Aina advised me to meet with his boss, Sharon Hayes, to discuss my idea in greater detail.

On Thursday I met with Hayes, International Program Specialist of OIPS, and talked to her about considering the possibility of Gallaudet having an exchange partnership with the U of A. I had prepared a portfolio of facts and general information about the University of Alberta for her to read over and she was impressed. Hayes liked the student-exchange idea very much. She saw it as a great opportunity for Gallaudet students to experience real-world challenges and to gain invaluable insight in their academic potential while studying in a foreign country. However, before Hayes could officially initiate the formal process of exploring the idea, her boss, Jane Fernandes, would need to approve the idea.

Later that same day, I had the honour of meeting with Fernandes, Provost of Gallaudet. She read over the portfolio of the U of A and was just as impressed with it as Hayes was. Fernandes expressed positive support toward the proposal of Gallaudet University having a student-exchange relationship with the University of Alberta. She said she would definitely get in touch with Hayes about further exploring the student-exchange idea. The Provost mentioned that the formal process of establishing an exchange program with a foreign educational institution is a complex one and takes a very long time. The Director of Education Abroad at the University of Alberta International, Barry Tonge, acknowledges this. Countless details have to be worked out and agreements reached. Even if all goes well, it could be two years before everything is finalized. Right now the idea is just a seed and it is up to the two institutions to mutually decide whether or not they want to plant it and start adding water. It is quite an ambitious task and it will take some time before the idea can fully take root and grow until it finally ripens. So although both the University of Alberta and Gallaudet University are absolutely interested in the idea of having an exchange relationship with each other, no promises have been made that this idea would prosper and reach complete fruition.

On Friday, a short film that Davin Bell and I directed was shown to a bunch of students at Gallaudet's Student Academic Center's multimedia theatre. I LOVE YOU (five minutes long) was shown every ten minutes between Noon and 1 PM. It was free to get in the theatre and everyone was invited. Audience reaction to I LOVE YOU varied, but it was mostly positive. After each showing, a brief Q&A session followed. The audience asked questions about the short film and I answered them with great pleasure. I am so thankful for the two Gallaudet students who came up with the idea of screening the short film in the first place. They were instrumental in arranging the event and making it a success. It was yet another excellent Friday for me.

My last weekend at Gallaudet was even shorter than the previous one because I had to leave early Sunday morning to catch my return flight. Nevertheless, a fun-filled time was had with the new friends I made and it was with bittersweet happiness that I left Washington, D.C. for home.

It was a fantastic and eye-opening experience to visit Gallaudet as a student ambassador for the University of Alberta. I felt so welcome there and had the time of my life making new friends and meeting with important people such as the Provost of Gallaudet. It was culturally and educationally enriching as I got to see what it was like to be a student at the world's only university for the deaf. I really hope that both Gallaudet and the University of Alberta see how promising the student-exchange idea will be and that they take it further and work together to make it happen. I would really appreciate a show of support from the community and from anyone who believes in this idea. I believe that if we show the U of A and Gallaudet how much we support the proposal of having an international linkage between the two institutions, which would enable students from both schools to exchange for up to a year, then they would realize that this would have a very positive impact on many deaf people.

If you believe that this student-exchange idea is a great idea and would like to express a show of support, then, with "Gallaudet University & U of A Student Exchange" in the subject heading, please email:

(1) Barry Tonge, Director of Education Abroad of University of Alberta International ([barry.tonge@ualberta.ca](mailto:barry.tonge@ualberta.ca));

(2) Marion Vosahlo, Director of the University of Alberta Specialized Support & Disability Services ([marion.vosahlo@ualberta.ca](mailto:marion.vosahlo@ualberta.ca));

(3) Jane Fernandes, Provost of Gallaudet University ([jkfonline@gallaudet.edu](mailto:jkfonline@gallaudet.edu));

(4) Sharon Hayes, Gallaudet University International Program Specialist of the Office of International Programs and Services ([sharon.hayes@gallaudet.edu](mailto:sharon.hayes@gallaudet.edu)); and

(5) Bunmi Aina, Gallaudet University Director of the Office of International Programs and Services ([olugbenga.aina@gallaudet.edu](mailto:olugbenga.aina@gallaudet.edu)).

Thank you very much.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the U of A Specialized Support & Disability Services and the Alberta Association of the Deaf for their financial contribution toward my trip to Gallaudet University. It was greatly appreciated.

## TRAINING DEAF CHILDREN TO RIDE

By Clinton Smout, Chief Instructor  
Canadian Motorcycle Training Services.

[Reprinted with permission from the Motorcycle Mojo Magazine-Spring 2004]

Imagine teaching someone to ride. You can't talk and they can't hear. I have been teaching strangers and friends (and some strange friends) how to ride motorcycles for over thirty years. Helping someone safely enter our sport is very rewarding. Witnessing the light go on when someone finally masters the clutch release, or getting the 3<sup>1</sup> passed my riding test hug<sup>2</sup> from the person who was going to quit the training course and go home, keeps me teaching. Part of my great job is teaching kids how to ride safely off road. I am lucky to help Lino Zecca teach three or four weeks of motocross camp to kids on their own bikes. The incredible camp is held at The Ontario Camp of The Deaf in Parry Sound. After riding all day, the kids can enjoy all the normal summer camp activities like swimming, tubing, and lots of eating. One of the positive aspects of motocamp (see [www.motocamp.ca](http://www.motocamp.ca)) is that the hearing children from our training program interact with deaf and otherwise challenged kids who are also staying at the camp.



The deaf kids love motorcycles. The flashy paint, decals and cool riding gear are a magnet for them. Their councilors struggle to keep them away from the motocross part of camp. Five years ago we came up with the idea of bringing mini bikes up to camp to teach the deaf campers how to ride.

The concept was welcomed by Derek Rumball, Camp Director and ex-pro atv racer and by Lino who offered to help. Yamaha Motor Canada gave us mini bikes and an atv and we did it.

To be a good instructor you need lots of patience, a structured lesson plan, and an ability to verbalize that plan to a motivated student. I have helped teach hundreds of instructors how to teach and being able to talk a lesson is one of the main components for getting hired. You could be faster than Jordon Zoke on the track but, if you can't verbalize a simple gear shifting lesson to a nervous novice ... then don't try to teach.

So, here I was about to put hundreds of deaf children through a basic rider training course and none of them will be able to hear a thing I usually say. Yikes!

Imagine trying to move off in gear for the first time if you could not hear the engine.

Yes, I was run over more than once that first summer. It was a very good thing that I had seen bull fighting on T.V. The trick is not to jump too soon, or the wide eyed rider will become fixated and simply follow you. Shouting stop, and then shouting it much louder didn't help! How much is a little bit of throttle if you can't hear? I remember as a last resort, putting my hands up in what you or I would consider to be the universal hand signal to stop. It might work for traffic police all over the world but, the little deaf person bearing down towards you will think it quite funny that you are giving the sign for clapping. Yikes!

With experience, I learned some basic sign language (although the kids still howl with laughter when I get things wrong). Some kids can't balance safely enough to control the bike by themselves. Our staff will give them a ride or send them over to Derek's side of the operation for an atv lesson and ride. It was with the atvs that Derek thought of getting the paraplegic kids out of their chairs. What a hoot they have! The hardest thing is getting them to stop when their turn is up. Most kids love motion and speed. Riding or even running fast is a rush for most of us. I wish you could all witness the look of exhilaration, fun, and freedom when someone experiences riding for the first time.

Humour, patience, a non-intimidating approach, a few good mime routines and a trimmed mustache (so your lips can be read) are what work. The training is the most rewarding teaching I have done. The kids go crazy for what they call motocross. It is an honour to share our sport but, to help kids feel like any other kid if only for a day, is a gift from them to me.

I would like to thank Yamaha Motor Canada for supporting our training efforts at the camp, my fantastic staff (who all refuse to be paid) for teaching the deaf kids, and the deaf and otherwise challenged kids who have helped me learn how to teach. Every summer we teach over four hundred deaf campers how to ride. There are now thousands of deaf children out there who love our sport so, if you meet one, smile and make the sign of holding the grips and revving up.

Now it is a regular occurrence at camp to see dozens of kids buzzing around the training tracks on little blue Yamaha minibikes and all kinds of children sized atvs. The coolest part is you wouldn't be able to tell which kids are deaf, or otherwise physically challenged. Unless, you saw which kids laughed at my poor sign language.

## **EXTREME MAKEOVER HOME EDITION.**

[Editor's note: The date for the airing of this show has now been changed to November 7, 2004]

Oak Parkers' home gets 'Extreme Makeover'

By Christy Strawser

Daily Tribune Staff Writer

PUBLISHED: August 8, 2004 Reprinted with permission

OAK PARK - It's not easy to be the only person in your house who can see and hear, so Stefan Vardon, 14, could have played the sympathy card to get a big-screen television, flashy leather furniture, or high-tech recreation room.

Instead, he wrote to "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," asking the show's designers to make life better for his deaf parents and blind, autistic little brother.

And he got it.

"I didn't want anything for me, just something to make things safer for my parents and my brother," said Stefan Vardon, a Berkley High School football player who serves as the eyes and ears for his



family.

Stefan's plea was so touching that the ABC-TV team of star remodelers swooped down Thursday on the Vardons' quiet LaBelle Street neighborhood, just off 11 Mile near Berkley and Huntington Woods. At 7 a.m., designers, carpenters, caterers and the crew arrived in huge buses, and heartthrob carpenter Ty Pennington banged on the front door to give the family the surprise of their lives.

The family knew Stefan wrote the letter, but the show kept it under wraps that they were chosen.

"They deserve it," said Karol Gagacki, a Vardon family member. "They're very good parents. They're really great people."

Crying, laughing and hugging, parents Judy and Larry Vardon and sons, Stefan and Lance, 12, had more surprises later when a dozen or so members of their family appeared at the door, invited and assembled by the show.

Then the family was whisked away in a limousine to the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, where ABC will put them up until the "Extreme Makeover" team and builders from Fairway Construction in Southfield finish remaking the home.

The designers expect to do a total renovation of the 980-square-foot white brick ranch by Thursday; the show featuring the Vardons will air in October.

"They are all just darling, we really love this family," said Constance Ramos, show designer. "Every one of them is just amazing. Lance ran right up and gave me a hug."

Ramos and her team could not reveal what exact changes will be wrought on the unassuming house until the show airs, but local builder Adam Helfman said they'll focus on making the house "smart." Fairway will work for free.

"It will be a high-tech home," said Helfman, whose 150 workers volunteered to work 24 hours a day until the home is completed. "We know about this family, and we just can't wait to do this for them. It's beyond exciting. Everybody's pumped."

Helfman said this will be the most extreme renovation his firm has ever been involved in. It will mean four to six months of work compressed into seven days. When the house is done, the neighbors won't believe it, he said.

"We're talking outdoor waterfalls, pools; the whole property is involved," Helfman said. "The technology inside the house will be amazing. Their lives are about to get a whole lot easier."

Interior designer Michael Moloney agreed, adding that the Vardons' episode will be unusual because the renovation isn't about cosmetic improvement.

"Just look at this family. This will be about their story, how great we can make life for them," Moloney said. "We're really going to change the way they live."

The way the Vardons live now involves tireless work for the parents. Larry is a welder, always available to help fix neighbors' cars, and Jean teaches sign language as a volunteer with blind and deaf children.

They come home from long days of work to communicate with their son the only way they can.

Jean Vardon has taught young Lance enough words in sign language that she "talks" into his hand, forming words into his palm. He can't see her sign and she can't hear him speak.

She also gets his school work from Oakland County Intermediate School District on the family's computer and translates it herself into Braille - something Moloney hinted the show will change with new technology.

Lance is a piano prodigy who has been autistic and blind since birth and the Vardons went through a double dose of heartache trying to make their lives together easier.

Both parents became deaf with childhood illness, Jean through Asiatic flu when she was six weeks old and Larry because of rheumatic fever. They signed Lance up for an experimental corneal transplant a decade ago, hoping he could see and the whole family could communicate by sign.

Insurance didn't cover the procedure, so their extended family and friends held fund-raisers to garner enough money. Then the procedure didn't work on Lance.

Unwilling to give up, they went through the procedure a second time - and again it failed to help their youngest son see.

"She taught him sign language," Jean's sister Mary Ann Olmsted said. "She spends every second with him, working with him, teaching. She doesn't want him to miss out on anything."

The whole family is involved in Lance's care. Grandparents Paul and Rose Manik live just a couple streets away from the Vardons and are regular babysitters.

Grandpa Paul remembers the way he taught Lance to spell, going over and over certain words until, out of the blue, Lance said the word "chocolate" and launched into its spelling.

"He spelled chocolate on the computer," Manik said, shaking his head with incredulity. "All on his own."

Many members of the family said they hope the "Extreme Makeover" team finds a way to bring more music into Lance's life. He loves to play the piano and can replicate almost any tune by ear. He dances and laughs whenever he hears a tune.

"He jumps and has such a great time when music comes on," Rose Manik said.

Rumors abounded about what the makeover team planned, including talk that they might raze the house and rebuild on the lot; and rewire the whole house for sound so Lance can hear his favorite music with the touch of a button

Stefan Vardon said he doesn't care what the team does as long as they make the house more safe and friendly for his family.

"We're a different kind of family - we need a different kind of house," Stefan said.

Even though professionals will do the work, plenty of volunteers are raring to go if the need arises.

"I could drive a nail if they'd let me," grandpa Paul Manik said. "It might take me 20 times to hit it, but I'd do it."

## UPCOMING EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

### INTERNET SAFETY FOR PARENTS OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING CHILDREN

Last fall, SFCD\* and WBP\*\* provided a workshop on the topic of Internet Safety for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children. Now it is the parents' turn! New parents are also welcome!

Both presenters, Melissa Campbell from \*Services for Family and Community Development, and Lisa Anderson, from the \*\*Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind Well-Being Program, are Deaf and will facilitate the workshop with an interpreter. Their experience and insight with the topic will provide valuable learning experience for parents.

Is it a concern for you with your children always on your home computers? Do you feel you have no idea what your child is looking at on the Internet when using the computer? Are you computer illiterate and do not have much knowledge about the powers of the Internet and MSN Messenger? Want to catch up to your children in their Internet-know-how? No problem! The workshop coming up was MADE FOR YOU!

In the workshop that is planned for late November, the team of presenters is planning to cover the topics of:

Introduction to the Internet

Internet Safety Fundamentals

Guest speaker: A police officer with an expertise in the Internet Safety field will cover some safety issues when it comes to protecting your children.

Hands-on opportunity with computers in the computer lab(s)

Parents will learn how-to:

- Block e-mails, senders, and chat people
- Learn how to use MSN Messenger
- Check the History in Internet browsers
- Reality Check! Learn about the different kinds of things your children can actually see on the Internet

And, there will be an opportunity to discuss:

- Trust issues with your children and the Internet,
- How to decide how much supervision they need, privacy, and should you know their passwords, etc?
- Different types of Internet or computer use monitoring tools and software for your computer

At this time, we are planning to host one workshop in New Westminster, at Douglas College – New Westminster campus. The confirmed date for the workshop is for the evening of Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The time the workshop will start is: 7:30pm. ending at about 9:30p.m. Please see the flyer advertising the workshop in this newsletter.

This workshop is proudly co-hosted and provided by the partnership between Services for Family and Community Development & the Deaf, Hard of Hearing, & Deaf-Blind Well-Being Program.

Any questions or interested to register, by the **November 18<sup>th</sup>** deadline, please contact Melissa Campbell at: [Melissa.Campbell@gems7.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Melissa.Campbell@gems7.gov.bc.ca), Voice 604.660.5507, or TTY 604.660.5509.

## Building Bridges Inclusive Leadership Adventures

We will be welcoming three Deaf participants (and 3 ASL interpreters) at our upcoming Inclusive Leadership Adventure November 11 to 14 and we have space for up to 4 Deaf participants at our Spring Break Camp! Check out [www.island.net/~bridges](http://www.island.net/~bridges) for more information. We are raising funds to pay for interpreters and other costs involved in putting on these intergenerational diversity education camps by selling a unique assortment of 3-D inspirationally inclusive greeting cards and World Play Packs - perfect for bringing play back into recess or party favours or stocking stuffers! So if you support Inclusive Leadership and/or if you LOVE collecting greeting cards and/or if you are curious about Tangrams, Chegi, and Khamsa and other toys and games from around the world then send your tax deductible donation to:

CVIIAS (Cowichan Valley Intercultural and Immigrant Aid Society)  
Box 156  
Duncan, BC  
V9L 3X3

You will receive an assortment of cards and games (suggested donation is \$2.50 per item or \$25 for a diverse dozen).

FUN is a great way of bridging different languages and cultures - so lets get skillful at playing for peace.

Linda Hill, Coordinator  
Inclusive Leadership Adventures  
Sponsored by CV Intercultural Society and CMHA - CV Branch  
Phone and fax 250-746-1529  
Email [bridges@island.net](mailto:bridges@island.net)  
Website: [www.island.net/~bridges](http://www.island.net/~bridges)



*"Provides you with an experience for fun amateur, drama or film/TV"*

### Gordon P. Hoepner's SERIES OF WORKSHOPS

[www.members.shaw.ca/gphoepner/Whats\\_up.html](http://www.members.shaw.ca/gphoepner/Whats_up.html)

#### Acting classes   Drama Workshop   Innovative tales for Children's programs   Out of Town

Gordon P. Hoepner is offering unique kinds of classes / workshops of the performing arts. These classes in ASL for all are being setting up to start in fall 2004 / winter 2005. If you are interested and consider taking any of the courses in drama classes, you can browse his website for details and fees. The classes and workshops will be based in the Lower Mainland of Vancouver and out of town is also available. These courses will encourage and motivate you to appreciate the theatre and your talent for your future. Discover the fun and creativity of the performing arts and yourself. Also, he presents performing shows, innovative tales in ASL and other workshops for children's programs. Please see the above website for details.

Contact Gordon for booking or further information at 604.734.2413 voice/TTY: Fax: 604.734.2423 E-mail: [gphoepner@shaw.ca](mailto:gphoepner@shaw.ca)

**A hop, skip and a jump from Vancouver ....**

## **Seattle Children's Theatre Interpreted Performances**

We here at Seattle Children's Theatre would like to announce the sign language interpreted main stage shows for the 2004-2005 season.

I also want to let you all know that the interpreters for this season are once again Bobbie McGee and Paul Bert. They are a treat to watch and work very hard to do our plays justice.

OK, I'll stop babbling and get on with the shows...

All shows are on Saturdays at 2:00. Tickets are available at our box office at (206) 441-3322 voice or (206) 443-6938 or online at [www.sct.org](http://www.sct.org)

Bunnicula - November 6, 2004

The Secret Garden - December 11, 2004

The Red Badge of Courage - February 12, 2005

Glittra's Mission - March 12, 2005

A Year with Frog and Toad - April 30, 2005

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day - June 4, 2005

**Deaf Kids Drama Festivals will be held on January 8, 2005 and June 11, 2005.**

Come support the kids and see a fun show.

And last but not least, the Paramount asked me to spread the word about an upcoming interpreted performance of the Lion King...here you go...

### **The Lion King**

Mon Dec 20, 2004 7:30pm

Tickets are available for \$70.00 plus \$2.50/ticket facility fee and may be purchased through The Paramount Theatre Box Office only by calling 206.812.1111 or in person at the box office, open Mon - Fri 10am - 6pm. Please note that the box office does not sell non-ASL seats over the phone.

Deaf Youth Drama Program

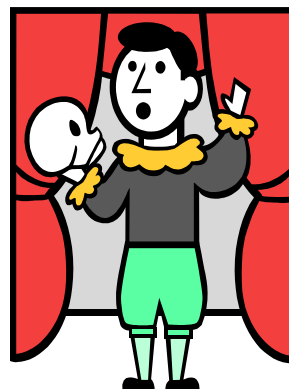
Seattle Children's Theatre

201 Thomas Street, Seattle WA 98109

[lisam@sct.org](mailto:lisam@sct.org)

(206) 443-0807 ext. 143

TTY: (206) 728-1638



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION (FYI)

### JOB POSTING

#### Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Come Grow With Us! Due to recent changes at WIDHH, our receptionist has been promoted and we are looking for a dynamic and energetic person to fill the following position:

Receptionist (Full-Time)

Duties include greeting clients, administering the telephone and voice mail system, processing financial transactions, and other duties as assigned. Multi-tasking, strong organizational skills, and clear communication are essential for this position.

The Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is a bilingual environment (ASL/English). Knowledge of American Sign Language and Deaf Culture is required.

The application deadline for this position is 9:00 am, Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Reply in confidence to:

Caroline Leadbetter, Executive Secretary  
WIDHH  
2125 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6K 1X9

Fax: (604) 736-4381  
E-mail: [cleadbetter@widhh.com](mailto:cleadbetter@widhh.com)

### 15th Annual Christmas Craft Fair '04 Hosted by BC Association for the Deaf - Blind

\$2.00 admission for door prizes

When: Friday, November 26, 2004 (1:00-8:00 pm)  
and  
Saturday, November 27, 2004 (10:00 am - 4:00)  
Gift Giving, Bake Sale,  
Crafts, Refreshments

Where : CNIB - Auditorium  
5055 Joyce Street  
Vancouver, BC  
(Nearby Joyce - Joyce Station)

For more information about renting tables contact  
Noella Walkey at (604) 874-6876 TTY/FAX or Email :  
[n\\_walkey@telus.net](mailto:n_walkey@telus.net)

Deadline : November 17, 2004 for table rentals.



### CHILDCARE WANTED

I am looking for a sitter who can commit to childcare for two children, ages 9 and 11 years for after-school care about three times a week for up 2-3 hours in my home (currently in New Westminter), later on I will be in Coquitlam. Occasional evenings and Saturdays will also be needed.

This person ideally has sign language skills, has own car, and is not allergic to cats or dogs. If interested, please call at 604-522-1634 (TTD) or via Relay operator or email at [eemarshal@hotmail.com](mailto:eemarshal@hotmail.com)

## Board of Directors

Colleen Peterson, President  
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Kathy Caldicott, Secretary  
Tracy Epp, Treasurer  
Blair Flink, Director  
Nicki Horton, Director  
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Anna Lesko, Member at Large  
Sandy Rasmussen, Member at Large

## Staff

### FNDC

Cecelia Klassen, Executive Director  
Bella Poato Executive Assistant

### DYT

Susi Bolender, DYT Co-ordinator

## 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.

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

## What is FNDC 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.

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 upcoming workshops and courses and videos presented by FNDC.

## 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.

## Attached Flyers

- Pagenet PerComm e80 pager
- Youth Drop-in Bby South
- Family Date at Science World
- Workshop: Do you know what your child is doing on the internet?
- Community Based Reading Night
- BC Association of the Deaf Blind 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Craft Fair



# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2004/05

I would like to become a member of the Family Network for Deaf Children, a non-profit society, providing support and information. Members receive newsletters, bulletins and reduced workshop fees.

**Memberships are valid April 1, 2004 - March 31, 2005. Please select the membership category, which applies to you:**

- Family membership for families of d/Deaf or hard of hearing children. Any parent or legal guardian of a d/Deaf or hard of hearing child is entitled to vote. One vote per family \$15.00
- Individual membership. \*\* \$15.00
- Organizations/School Districts/Service Providers \*\* \$25.00
- I am a parent of a deaf child, and am unable to pay my membership fees at this time, but would like to continue receiving the newsletter. \*\* non-voting

Please check:  NEW MEMBERSHIP  RENEWAL

Method of Payment:  Visa   MasterCard   Cheque \*

(Charge card #) \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY DATE [MM/DD/YY] \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please make your cheque payable to **FNDC Family Network for Deaf Children** and return to the address below.

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 or hard of hearing with a \*.

### Receipts for Membership dues

If you would like a receipt of your payment mailed to you, please indicate here   
 IN ADDITION TO MY MEMBERSHIP I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION -- SEE NEXT PAGE.

**Thank you for your support!**  
**FNDC FAMILY NETWORK FOR DEAF CHILDREN**  
 PO BOX 50075, South Slope RPO Burnaby, BC V5J 5G3

# DONOR COUPON

**ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT B.C.'S DEAF CHILDREN**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY NAME (if corporate donation): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please accept my donation of:  \$25  \$50  \$100  \$200 Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make my donation by:

Cheque \*

Visa



MasterCard



\_\_\_\_\_  
(Charge card #)

\_\_\_\_\_  
EXPIRY DATE [MM/DD/YY]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\* Please make your cheque payable to **FNDC Family Network for Deaf Children.**

Tax receipt name (if different from above):  
\_\_\_\_\_



- Please mail your donation to:  
Family Network for Deaf Children.  
**PO Box 50075, South Slope RPO**  
**Burnaby, BC V5J 5G3**
- Official Charitable Registration No. 88622 5655 RR0001.
- B.C. Non-Profit Society #S-33351
- Please allow three weeks for a tax receipt.
- Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$10 or more.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**