



CHHA Vancouver 2012-13 Annual Report: Highlights

Issues

2013 began with the positive announcement of CRTC enhancements to 911 services for Canadians with hearing or speech impairments. Telephone and wireless companies are being required to upgrade their networks to support this new feature by January 24, 2014. As the service becomes available in different municipalities, Canadians with hearing or speech impairments must register their mobile phone number with their wireless service provider, and ensure that they have a compatible mobile phone. In the event of an emergency, they must first dial 911, and the emergency call centre will automatically receive notification to initiate a conversation by text message.

Program

We offered three educational events in 2013 and posted presentation files for two of them on our website.

- January 17, 2013
- Featured speaker: Dr. Amir Soltani, Certified Clinical Audiologist, Hearing Aid Specialist, Clinical Instructor, University of British Columbia.
- *"What's new in hearing aids?"*
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- March 16, 2013
- Featured speaker: Susan Clarke, Certified Audiologist, Vancouver Hearing Centre
- *"Everything You Wanted to Ask About Hearing Aids"*
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- June 6, 2013
- Featured speaker: Julie Cheng, Physiotherapist at St. Pauls' hospital
- Topic: "Treatment of balance and dizziness disorders"

As well, we participated in two hearing wellness fairs, one offered in the spring by the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and another one, offered by Mainland Hearing in the fall, 2013.

Media

Marilyn Dahl's excellent article about Age-related hearing loss ran in a special supplement to the VANCOUVER SUN on Thursday, Aug 15th, 2013 and is now posted on the website for CHHA Vancouver.

Our website, www.chhavancouver.ca, achieved 5,217 as of this week, which is extremely good for the size of our membership. The web site began in 2011. This year we started a Walk2Hear FaceBook page and Twitter page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Walk2Hear-Vancouver/267862736649141>

<https://twitter.com/Walk2HearVan>

Bette Moulton Award given to CHHA Vancouver

The Branch was awarded the Bette Moulton Award at the CHHA National Conference in Edmonton in May, 2013. Bette Moulton, one of CHHA's founding members and second President (1984-1986), was particularly aware of the importance of grassroots involvement for the organization as represented by the Branches. She is honoured by this award, which is presented to the Branch or Chapter which contributes the most innovated idea, significant event or outstanding achievement which benefits hard of hearing persons. The award consists of a plaque for the winning Branch or Chapter, and a scroll with the names of recipients kept on display at the CHHA National Office.

The award recognized the CHHA Vancouver Branch as "... a thriving, active branch at a time when many branches are in decline. With committed individuals and a program of interesting activities CHHAVAN is one of the healthiest branches in the country."

Youth Initiatives in conjunction with the CHHA National Conference

CHHA Vancouver sponsored nine hard of hearing youth to attend the Youth Leadership Retreat at the CHHA National Conference, providing 5 awards OF \$285 for students in the Lower Mainland, 3 awards for \$100 to in-province hard of hearing youth and one award of \$500 to a hard of hearing youth in a remote location. The total expended was \$2,225; in addition CHHA Vancouver contributed \$4,000 to the Young Adult Network that made possible the leadership seminar for hard of hearing youth in conjunction with the CHHA national conference.

CHHA Vancouver had the largest contingent of hard of hearing youth of any province. We also provided a volunteer opportunity for a young adult who was the successful winner of the CHHA National youth competition to represent Canadian youth at the Hearing Loss Association of America Conference in Portland, Oregon in June 2013. This person was none other than Rosalind Ho who provided valuable administrative assistance to CHHA Vancouver Branch including revising our brochure.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Caldor Foundation, in particular, for providing the funding that made the foregoing youth initiatives a reality in 2013!

Walk-to-Hear

Please see separate report by former President Marilyn Dahl attached as Appendix A.

CHHA Executive Changes

In September, Marilyn Dahl stepped down as President of the Branch due to assuming the Presidency of the CHHA B.C. Chapter. We owe her a debt of gratitude for revitalizing the branch and are glad that she continues to provide leadership to our community.

Our thanks to CHHA Vancouver Executive Committee Members:

Miron Gazda, Treasurer

Shirley Coomber, Secretary

Suzan Zagar, Member-at-large

Ruth Warick, Vice-President (As of September, Interim President)

Report respectfully submitted on November 16, 2013 – Ruth Warick on behalf of CHHA Vancouver Branch Executive

Appendix A

WALK2HEARVANCOUVER 2013 REPORT

For the third year in a row, we were blessed with good weather, for our annual walkathon held on September 21, 2013. CHHA-BC Chapter and CHHA Vancouver Branch again partnered in organizing the walk. Out of 100 registered participants, 85 walked in Vancouver, and one in Kelowna. The grand prize draw of two Air Canada Foundation economy class tickets to anywhere in North America that Air Canada flies, was won by Linda Franchi of Vancouver. Some notable other prizes included a lovely signed floral print by artist Carling Wong-Renger, Vancouver Branch, and kitchen equipment from the Pampered Chef.

We appreciated the support of sponsors and donors. Profits from this year's walk were designated to support BC hard of hearing youth, to attend the Young Adult Leadership Retreat, as was done last year. However, this year, both pledges raised, and sponsor funding were considerably reduced in amount. The financial statement will not be available until January, when all pledges will have been received in the National office. However, it is clear that, this year, there will not be any profit, and possibly even a loss.

The organizing committee extends our grateful thanks to those who supported and participated in the walk. We are fortunate to have some wonderful volunteers who donated their time on walk day, including the First Aid attendant, the photographer, the UBC students and new grads, who returned for a second year to help, and Accurate Realtime Reporting whose President once again donated her time to CART, and not least, the staff of the CHHA-BC Resource Centre whose support made the Walk2Hear2013 possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Dahl, Chair Organizing Committee
Walk2Hear2013
November 16, 2013