

Annual Report 2018-2019 of the CHHA Vancouver Branch

CHHA Vancouver is a self-help, consumer group which provides advocacy, support and educational activities for successful living with a hearing loss. During the past year we continued our active engagement in hearing loss issues at national and local levels as well as offered a range of educational and awareness activities for our membership.



Walk2Hear

We held our ninth annual Walk2Hear campaign on September 22, 2019 at Jericho Beach Park. Approximately 50 walkers participated in the community engagement and fundraising event. A light drizzle did not deter participants – this was the first time we actually have had rain. This was the third year we have used the CanadaHelps platform for the Walk2Hear fundraising, which helped us to save significantly on web costs and enabled us to retain most of the close to \$3,000 raised. Accurate Realtime Inc. sponsored captioning services and two travel tickets were donated by the Air Canada Foundation. Lisa Dillion Edgett was the winner of this grand prize. Ruth Warick, Rosalind Ho and Marilyn Dahl were top individual fundraisers and top teams were from the Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility and the UBC School of Audiology and Speech Sciences. Our thanks to Mark Johnston for the Walk2Hear photo above and taking other photos shown on the following pages. Also our thanks to route marshalls who steered us in the rain: Rod McLeod, Michelle Rondeau, Melody Sawad, Yassman Shahbakhski and Clovis Bernard

Earlier in the year the Wavefront Centre for Communication Accessibility honored Walk2Hear organizers with a Award of Merit at their annual meeting.



Walk2Hear organizers Miron Gazda, Teresa Hemsing, Ruth Warick, Rosalind Ho, Naghmeh Samenirad, Marco Chiaramonte. Below is winner Lisa Dillon Edgett and walkers in the rain!



Educational Programs

Our public event was scheduled from February 23 to March 3 due to a snowstorm.



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
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VANCOUVER BRANCH

Aging Well with Hearing Loss

Research suggests connections between hearing loss and age-related physical and psychological health issues, including dementia, social isolation and loneliness. Finding explanations for these connections could help individuals, clinicians and policy makers to find solutions to promote healthy aging for people who are hard of hearing. One hypothesis is that hearing loss increases a person's risk of social isolation which in turn



increases risk of cognitive decline. Data from the Canadian Longitudinal Study of Aging shows a connection between hearing and cognition, a connection between social engagement and cognition, but only weak support for the hypothesis that social engagement explains connections

between hearing and cognition. Early data from the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging for older adults seen at memory clinics shows differences in cognition depending on hearing. The discussion will explore what this research may mean to CHHA members, goals for future research, and possible implications for healthy aging.

Kathy Pichora-Fuller is a Full Professor of Psychology at the University of Toronto. Previously, she taught Audiology at the University of British Columbia. She combines clinical experience in rehabilitative audiology with experimental psychology and has earned an international reputation for her interdisciplinary approach linking research on auditory and cognitive processing during communication in everyday life. She is the audiology expert for the Canadian Longitudinal Study of Aging and a member of the sensory-cognitive-communication team of the Canadian Consortium on Neuro-degeneration in Aging.



Sunday, March 3, 2019 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
2125 West 7th Avenue Vancouver, BC V6K1X9

Governance

CHHA Annual Meeting and Conference – Montreal, May 31 to June 2, 2019

CHHA Vancouver was represented by President Ruth Warick and Rosalind Ho, Vice-President, at the 2019 CHHA National AGM and Conference. CHHA Vancouver and CHHA BC were recognized for their On-Line Mentoring Program by the Bette Moulton Award (Ruth and Rosalind are shown with Gael Hannan and Jessica Niemela, CHHA BC Board members and mentors.)



CHHA Vancouver contributed to three youth to attend the CHHA National Conference in May 2019 (Rod McLeod, Jessica Niemela and Clovis Bernard shown in the photo on the right with Ruth Warick (2nd from left, back row) and Rosalind Ho (first on the left in the first row). Clovis is on the far right in the first row.



Membership was at 21 persons, up from 13 the previous year. An annual report was submitted to CHHA BC and members attended the Chapter's AGM and Meeting on May 11th, 2019. Members of the CHHA Branch Executive are:

Ruth Warick, President

Rosalind Ho, Vice-President

Naghmeh Samenirad, Secretary

Miron Gazda, Treasurer

Marco Chiaramonte, Member-at-large

Teresa Hemsing, Member-at-large

(Elissa Robb served as Secretary from July 1, 2018 to April 1, 2019.)

Thanks goes to my colleagues on the CHHA Board and Walk-to-Hear Committees for their commitment and awesome work. A special thanks to Accurate Realtime Inc. for continued excellent captioning for us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruth Warick".

Ruth Warick, President CHHA Vancouver Branch

Report respectfully submitted on November 18, 2019