

# **Canadian Hard of Hearing Association- Newfoundland and Labrador (CHHA-NL)**



**SERVING THE HARD OF HEARING**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Dr. Norah Browne Room  
CHHA-NL Centre  
7:00 PM**

## Table of Contents

Agenda .....	3
AGM Minutes 2005.....	4
President’s Report .....	9
Executive Director’s Report .....	13
Programs and Services & Regional Outreach Report .....	20
Special Projects Report .....	27
CHHA National Board of Directors Report .....	28
Parents of Hard of Hearing Support Group Report .....	29
Hard of Hearing Youth Group Report .....	31
Meniere’s and Tinnitus Support Group Report .....	33
Seniors Support Group Report .....	34
Cochlear Implant Support Group Report .....	36
CHHA Gander Branch Report .....	38
CHHA Exploits Valley Branch Report .....	40
 <u>List of Appendices</u>	
Amendments to CHHA-NL By-Laws .....	43
Audited Financial Statements .....	44

# **CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION- NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (CHHA-NL)**

## **CHHA-NL Annual General Meeting**

### **Dr. Norah Browne Room**

**July 6th, 2006**

#### **Agenda**

1. Call to Order - Myrtle
2. Welcome by President - Myrtle
3. Adoption of the Agenda - Myrtle
4. Adoption of AGM Minutes for June 29, 2005 - Myrtle
5. President's Report - Myrtle
6. Executive Director's Report - Leon
7. Treasurers' Report - Bernice & Deborah Muir (Auditor)
8. Appointment of Auditor for 2006-2007 - Bernice
9. Other Reports (Presented as a Group) - Myrtle
10. Election of Officers – Elizabeth
11. Amendments to CHHA-NL By-Laws - Leon
13. Presentation of CHHA-NL Awards for 2005-2006 – Myrtle & Lynda
14. Presentation of Certificates and Gifts – Myrtle & Lynda
15. Any Other Business - Myrtle
16. Date of 2006-2007 AGM - Myrtle
17. Adjournment of Meeting - Myrtle

**CHHA-NL Annual General Meeting**

**Dr. Norah Browne Room**

**June 29, 2005, 7:30 pm**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**1. *Call to Order***

Leon Mills brought greetings to everyone in attendance. He thanked Keith Hancock from the Exploit's Valley Branch for attending the meeting. The Gander Branch was not in attendance this year

**2. *Welcome by President***

President Elizabeth Noseworthy welcomed everyone and officially called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**3. *Adoption of the Agenda***

The agenda was adopted on a motion by Ricky Dalton and seconded by Brian Marshall.

**4. *Adoption of AGM Minutes for June 25, 2004***

The minutes for the 2004 AGM were approved on a motion by Mel Durdle and seconded by Mrytle Barrett.

**5. *President's Report***

Elizabeth gave her report for the past year, noting the highlights and the fact this was the end of her term. She also outlined the proposed By-law changes for tonight's elections. The report was accepted on a motion by Brian Marshall and seconded by Art Norris.

**6. *Executive Director's Report***

Leon gave a brief overview of his report distributed to everyone at the meeting. The report was accepted on a motion by Judy Rogers and seconded by Brian Marshall.

**7. *Treasurer's Report***

Debra gave a brief overview of her report distributed to everyone at the meeting, noting that the association had another very good with fundraising year and was in excellent financial position. The report was accepted on a motion by Debra Collis and seconded by Jim Kelly.

**8. *Appointment of Auditor for 2004-2005***

It was moved by Debra Collis and seconded by Mel Durdle that Deborah Muir and Associates will remain as our accountants for 2005-2006.

**9. *Director of Programs and Services Report (Acting)***

Alison gave a brief overview of her report distributed to everyone at the meeting. The report was accepted on a motion by Debbie Collis and Brian Marshall.

**10. *Director of Special Projects Report***

Terry gave a brief overview of his report distributed to everyone at the meeting. The report was accepted on a motion by Brian Marshall and Todd Tilley.

**11. *Committee Reports***

The committee reports were not presented but accepted together on a motion by Debbie Collis and seconded by Judy Rogers.

**12. *Election of Officers***

Before the election of officers, several amendments related to the election were introduced by the President. These were:

**AMENDMENTS**

7.1.e All Directors shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Chapter and each Director shall hold office until the close of the third annual meeting following his or her election. In the event that an election of Directors is not held at an Annual General Meeting of the Members, the Directors then in office shall continue in office until their successors are elected.

The amendment was accepted on a motion by Brian Marshall and Debbie Collis. There were no abstentions or opposed ballots.

**NEW**

7.1.j A Director who misses more than one Board of Directors Meeting without a valid reason as determined by the Executive Committee will be removed from office.

The motion was accepted on a motion by Judy Rogers and Debbie Collis. There were no abstentions or opposed ballots.

7.1.k A Director may hold office for a maximum of two (2) terms, after which he/she must step down. The position of Past-President is the one position exempt from this requirement.

The motion was accepted on a motion by Debbie Collis and Brian Marshall. There were no abstentions or opposed ballots.

### **PROCESS MOTION**

In implementing the new terms of office and in support of retaining experienced members on the Board of Directors, during the election in June 2005, four (4) positions will be one-year terms, three (3) will be two-year terms, and the remainder will be three-year terms.

Notwithstanding the above, the positions of the Past-President, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer would be for three-year terms.

The motion was accepted on a motion by Debbie Collis and Todd Tilley. There were no abstentions or opposed ballots.

The Election of Officers was then held. The offices for President, and Treasurer were unopposed, thus were acclaimed as election. The new President is Myrtle Barrett, the Treasurer is Bernice Millan; the Secretary's position was not filled so it will be filled by appointment. There were two nominees for the position of Vice-President, Lynda Cobb and Art Norris, which was won by Lynda Cobb. It was moved by Max Crane and seconded by Dr. Norah Browne to destroy the ballots. Motion Carried.

This was followed by the Election for Directors of the Board. Elections were held to elect those elected to a two-year term included - Andrea Augot, Brain Marshall, and Judy Rogers while the two elected to a one-year term included – Max Crane and Todd Tilley. It was moved by Art Norris and seconded by Dr. Norah Browne. Motion Carried.

### **13. *Presentation of CHHA-NL Awards for 2004-2005***

The annual awards were presented in four categories:

Founders Award - Brain Marshall, T & M Chair  
Long Service Award - Glen Learning  
Volunteer of the Year -- Myrtle Barrett  
Presidents Award - Lynda Cobb

Appreciation Certificates were presented to long serving volunteers, Jim Kelly and Steve McCarthy.

A Recognition Certificate from CHHA National was presented to volunteer Anna Bragg for her efforts on behalf of CHHA-NL over the past year. Anna is moving to Winnipeg during the summer and was wished the best of luck.

It was also announced that CHHA-NL had received a number of awards at the CHHA National Conference in Kelowna B.C. in June and included:

Bette Moulton Award -How Loud is Too Loud Project  
Andrea Augot -Young Adult Award of Excellence  
Winfred Cory Award of Merit - Parents of Hard of Hearing Children  
Support Group  
Presidents Club Award – Mel Durdle

Congratulations were extended to all the winners for their excellent efforts and awards.

**14. *Presentation of Certificates and Gifts***

All board members were presented with Certificates of Appreciation from President Elizabeth Noseworthy.

**15. *Any Other Business***

Myrtle Barrett, as the NL representative on the CHHA National Board gave a brief report on the activities of CHHA.

Keith Hancock, representing the Exploit's Valley Branch gave a report on their activities and also made a presentation of flowers to Dr. Browne from his Branch for all her help through the years.

Elizabeth gave gifts of appreciation to departing board members – Debra Collis and Glenn Learning in appreciation for their contributions.

Leon, on behalf of the association, presented Elizabeth with a gift to recognize the end of her terms of office and the significant contribution and leadership she has made to the overall growth of CHHA-NL under her tenure.

**16. *Date of 2005-2006 AGM***

The date for the next Annual General Meeting will be June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at CHHA-NL Centre.

**17. *Adjournment of Meeting***

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Todd Tilley and Keith Hancock.

Note: A reception and refreshments was held after the meeting.

**Minutes Recorded by: Lynda Cobb, Secretary for 2004-2005**

## **President Report 2006**

I am very pleased to be able to present my first President's report to you. The past year has been a busy but very rewarding one. The focus of our strategic plan set some great goals and we are getting closer to reaching our objectives everyday. The reports from our very busy staff and chairs of our support groups will show you just how much we have accomplished over this past year. We have done a great job and I won't take up any time by talking about those accomplishments. I will leave that to the appropriate people. I do want to applaud the fact that CHHA NL is growing rapidly and that growth will continue as we expand into various areas associated with Advocacy, Awareness, Accessibility and Hearing Loss Prevention. I am so proud of our success and being able to be a part of it! The best part of all - we are getting closer to building our new CHHA Resource Center. It is truly a dream come true.

The past year has had many highlights and for me some of them were very close to heart. I grew up as a hard of hearing person and am very aware of the struggles and the challenges faced by children, teens and young adults. As my fellow board members are aware I am very committed to the hard of hearing youth of this province and take great pleasure in their accomplishments. I congratulate Philip Rogers for the role he plays in the Youth Advocacy Network as Youth Representative on the National Board. Erika Breen for being awarded the Young Adults Award of Canada for all her work for hard of hearing youth and being such a role model, Stephanie Earle for the Rotary Award for Student Volunteer of the Year and Tim Noel for all he does for our Youth Group and his determination to rise above all the barriers he encounters at Memorial and sharing those experiences with the Youth Group. Jessica Connors for always being there for the Youth Group. You are all truly an inspiration to our hard of hearing youth.

Over the past year there were several significant events related to youth which really brought home the message that our hard of hearing young people are the voice and future of CHHA NL . Thus, much emphasis is being put on creating programs and services which will allow them to reach their potential and take their rightful place in the community. We need to start as soon as possible in nurturing and developing their potential. We need to build future Board Members!

One such event happened in the spring. It was my great pleasure to work with the CHHA NL Staff, CHHA NL Youth Group and the Department of Education to present a 3 day workshop called Youth Vibrations and Career Explorations. The

feedback from this workshop was awesome and has demonstrated that there is a need for future workshops especially in the areas of self-esteem, self-advocacy and awareness. This workshop plus our Hush Ups program has definitely created a bond with the Dept of Education which will hopefully evolve into a very successful partnership.

Also, back in April I was invited to be a guest speaker at the Allied Youth Conference in Gander. The Group was basically interested in having a person with a disability present to them on a related topic. I talked to them about the challenges of being a teen with a hearing loss (I was one a long time ago!!) and the importance of protecting one's hearing. The response was amazing and even more important was the impact that it had in terms of creating an awareness of the need to have hearing loss prevention programs in our schools. There were 100 students from schools across the Province and many of them are already displaying signs of hearing loss. It was an eye opener for them and hopefully they will spread the message Protect Your Ears!! I also managed to meet with the Gander Branch prior to the Conference and it was a pleasure to be able to meet the membership.

I must mention the Living with a Hearing Loss Workshop in Central! Thirty five people showed up to obtain information on coping with hearing loss, programs and services, outreach and Menieres /Tinnitus. Allison and Brian did a fabulous job. Since this workshop I have received many emails from some of the participants sharing their frustrations with me about hearing loss and how it affects their lives. They told me that it was nice to be able to hear someone's story and the message that there is life after hearing loss. The evaluation results definitely imply a great future for the Branches and demonstrate the need for Outreach. I congratulate the Branches for a job well done!

CHHA NL is very fortunate in that it has a Resource Center funded by our Dream Home and serviced by a very competent and dedicated staff. We have Leon, Terry, Kim, Alison, Irene, Susan and Lola and of course our volunteers. You are the heart of this organization. Thank you all for your cooperation and hard work over the past year. We would not be CHHA NL without you! Then there is my fellow Board Members.....Commitment, hard work and time away from family.

**Elizabeth.** Thank you for making the transition from Vice-President to President so easy for me and for being there for advice and support. I hope you enjoy your retirement and that CHHA-NL benefits from all those extra hours you have to spare!

**Art .** Thanks so much for all your support to Leon in developing a great budget and your work with the seniors.

**Lynda.** Thanks for all your support to the Parents Group and the Hushh-Ups program and of course for filling in for me when I am not able to be there.

**Bernice.** You are a great Treasurer and I have enjoyed working with you this past year. Thank you for all you have taught me about budgets!

**Judy.** You bring so much wisdom to the parents group and you are always willing to volunteer

**Brian.** The Menieres/Tinnitus group is so lucky to have you and thank you for the great job you did in Central. Despite your protests you are one awesome speaker.

**Max.** Thanks for your Committee work. You have been with us for a long time!

**Todd.** If there was an award for perfect attendance you would win it. Thanks for your commitment.

**Andrea.** The Youth are so fortunate to have you as Chair. Your experience and vision for the future of the youth of this province is a great benefit to CHHA NL

**Rod.** Thank you for your contributions to CHHHA –NL during your brief time on the Board.

**Cathy Eastwood.** While not a board member, Cathy Eastwood, Chair of the Cochlear Implant Group contributes her time, energy and skills to this group. Thank you for doing a great job.

Last but not least **you** the **Membership** for all the ways you support us at CHHA NL. Also, how can I forget the families of our staff and board members who keep the home fires burning while we are out and about at CHHA business. **Thank You!**

You have all been so helpful to me over the past year and as we move on to even greater accomplishments I feel blessed knowing that I am working with such a

team of experienced and dedicated people who support the CHHA vision of Better Hearing for Everyone Everywhere!

Once again, fellow board members, staff, Chairs of our support groups, volunteers and our memberships thanks for the skills and talents and time you bring to CHHA -NL

Have a safe and happy summer!

**Myrtle**

## **Executive Director's Report**

I am very pleased to present the Executive Director's Report on the activities of CHHA-NL for 2005/2006. My report will focus on the key activities of the association's operations. Other reports from the President, chairs of support groups, volunteers, branches and staff will provide a detailed overview of the various and extensive activities of CHHA-NL. Overall, it has been another excellent year of growth for the provincial chapter as we complete our fourth year at CHHA-NL Centre and the first year of our new Strategic Plan.

### ***CHHA-NL Centre (Administration & Operations)***

The Centre is extensively used for the delivery of educational workshops, speech reading and as meeting space for the CHHA-NL Support Groups and various community agencies who have ties to CHHA-NL. All equipment and facilities are fully operational and in excellent condition. While the Centre has had a number of rentals this year by businesses, associations and other community groups, the number was not what was anticipated. A new marketing effort will be considered for this fall with a view to increasing the number of rentals.

### ***Staffing***

There were several staffing movements this past year. Kim Pratt Baker, after completing maternal leave, returned as Director of Programs and Services. Her replacement, Alison Day, was hired in March 2006 as the new Rural Outreach Coordinator. Susan Hand was hired temporarily to replace Gertie Martin who assists Terry with the Ultimate Dream Home Draws. Unfortunately, Gertie was injured in a traffic accident earlier this year and it is unknown if or when she will return. With the completion of Dream Home 13, Susan has left our employ to accept a full-time, permanent position in the private sector. On behalf of all of us at CHHA-NL, I wish to thank her for her excellent work while employed with us and wish her every success in her new position. Lola O'Neil was hired in May for a period of one year in the position of part-time Receptionist. This move is an effort to allow Irene to work with me as my assistant to help me with an ever increasing workload and to make my time as efficient as possible. This position will be evaluated to see if it will be made permanent or full-time. Abby Rockwood was

hired for eight weeks under the 2005 SWASP program for general office duties and summer relief. Janette Anthony was also hired for eight weeks under the Summer Career Placement Program (SCP).

### ***Programs and Services***

The programs and services being offered by the association are continually being expanded and new initiatives being developed. Alison worked on pilot project this year that saw increased travel and interaction to rural areas under the umbrella of the Eastern Health Region. She is now working on extending this effort to other areas of the province. Please see the Programs & Services and Rural Outreach Report from Kim and Alison for a complete overview of what's been happening this past year. Now that the association has two full-time staff devoted to the Programs & Services area, I am not as involved directly with program delivery. Instead, most of my efforts now are with the provision of administrative support and supervision for the association's programs and services. However, I still have some involvement with delivering Speech Reading Courses, Living with Hearing Loss Workshops and with some client work.

### ***Awareness***

Awareness of hearing loss issues and the programs and services of CHHA-NL were created through requests for information, client contacts, presentations to a variety of groups, public displays, participation in focus groups and workshops, support group meetings, and networking opportunities. Some of the other key events in this area included:

- Display and Booth at the CHHA AGM in Charlottetown
- Presentations to MUN Medical School Students
- Article Published in The Hearing Journal re. Improving Customer Service
- Article Published in the 50 Plus Newsletter for Seniors

### ***Accessibility***

Accessibility to public facilities is extremely important for hard of hearing consumers. Good accessibility creates better communication opportunities that contribute to a hard of hearing person's confidence and enjoyment of life in general, but most importantly, it creates equality of access. Some of the key events included:

- ❑ ***Building Accessibility Advisory Board (BAAB)*** - this year CHHA-NL completed a two-year term as a member of this board which is responsible for reviewing the Buildings Accessibility Act for Persons with Disabilities. Recommendations were made over a year ago regarding the Act and the board is still waiting for the Minister to comment on the recommendations or to release the report.
- ❑ ***Empire 12 Theatres*** - We have been in contact with Empire 12 Theatres and requested that they install Rear Window Captioning (RWC) in local theatres, however, our efforts to date have been unsuccessful. They have informed the association that they are waiting on a newer technology that will be better, easier to use and more cost-effective to install.

### ***Advocacy***

Advocacy is often closely linked to accessibility and awareness issues and sometimes, they are separate actions. Some of the key issues for this year included:

- ❑ ***Letter to Aliant*** - a letter was sent to Aliant regarding the inability of consumers to purchase special phones for hard of hearing persons at their retail outlets. While still waiting for official word, the association has been informed that these phones are now available for purchase from retail outlets.
- ❑ ***Husky Energy Diversity Program*** - the program is designed to encourage the hiring of persons with disabilities by Husky Energy and while some progress has been made with the hiring of women other minorities, very little new hires have occurred of persons with disabilities. A meeting was held with representatives from CNOPB and Husky Energy expressing our concerns that more hires have not taken place as promised. Work in this area is ongoing.
- ❑ ***Department of Education Students with Special Needs***- the association was invited to join this committee that considers issues related to the needs of students with disabilities in the secondary school setting. A presentation on hearing loss issues was made to the committee.

- ❑ ***Mayor's Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities*** - Our President, Myrtle Barrett, is serving a second and final term. The committee's mandate is to discuss issues related to improving accessibility at city facilities and within the City of St. John's in general. I have represented Myrtle and the association at several meetings.

### ***Special Projects***

The association is also developing or considering the development of a number of special projects to further enhance the lives of hard of hearing consumers or to prevent hearing loss.

- ❑ ***Adopt A Classroom*** – see Kim's and Alison's report for details.
- ❑ ***How Loud is Too Loud?*** - this program was developed last year as a hearing loss prevention program targeted at Junior High Schools students in the St. John's area. It was developed with a grant in the amount of \$ 10,000 from Health and Community Services St. John's Region (HCSSJR), now known as the Eastern Regional Integrated Health Authority. The project has now been adopted as one of the core programs and services of CHHA-NL and the program has been offered by Alison to rural schools as part of her rural outreach program and it has proven to be a popular program with the students.
- ❑ ***Universal Infant Screening Program*** - A donation of \$10,000 was made in January to the Western Regional Health Foundation toward the purchase of an Otoacoustic Emissions Unit (OAE). This unit is used to screen the hearing of newborn infants as soon as possible after birth so that appropriate interventions can be initiated as soon as possible. This is the latest in a series of donations to birthing hospitals in NL that have seen donations to date to hospitals in Corner Brook, Stephenville, Grand Falls-Windsor, Gander, and Burin. The ultimate goal is to have all newborn children in the province screened as part of a Universal Infant Hearing Screening Program.

### ***Committees***

Assistance and ongoing support was provided to the association's various support groups and a number of active committees. A Seniors Group, which works very closely with the Seniors Resource Centre, was started this year under the

direction of Art Norris and a Cochlear Implant Support Group was formed under the direction of Cathy Eastwood. Both have submitted reports which are included in this document.

### ***Financial***

The Financial Report will be presented at the AGM, however, I will briefly mention that our Fund Raising, under the leadership of Terry Martin, Director of Special Projects, and with the involvement of various staff and volunteers, has seen excellent growth again, this past year. A new Dream Home 11 for the spring season was implemented called Summer Dream'n which had an excellent outcome. As well, the winter draw, the Ultimate Dream Home 12 Draw was again a sell-out. These fundraisers are the association's main source of income and are very important to the ongoing growth and success of the association. The association also approved the development of a Planned Giving Program this year and hired an external consultant, Mr. Gord Dinney, to help design and implement the program which will be formally launched this fall. Our association lawyer, Mr. Liam O' Brien of the law firm Curtis Dawe, has agreed to chair this committee. Over time, it is hoped that this program will bring in significant revenues annually and help to diversify the association's revenue streams.

### ***Awards and Recognition***

I am very pleased to report that Newfoundland was well represented when the annual CHHA Awards were presented at its AGM and Conference earlier this month in Charlottetown, PEI. The association was nominated in five categories and won in two. These were the Charles Laslzo Award for Assistive Technology and the Hard of Hearing Youth of the Year Award which was won by Erika Breen for her work with CHHA-NL Hard of Hearing Youth Committee. This is the second time that these awards have been won by the association and a CHHA-NL member. Congratulations on both awards.

### ***Volunteers***

Please see Kim's and Alison's report for an overview of the association's volunteer program which continues to expand. Special thanks are also extended to all board members who served on various committees, either as chair or a committee member. The association would also like to thank all our corporate and other supporters without whom, the work of the association would not be as

successful as it has been. We value all your efforts on behalf of the association, its members and the general public who access its program and services.

### ***Professional Development Activities***

The association supported a number of professional development activities this year for both board members and staff and these included the following:

- ❑ ***Annual Planning Retreat*** - this year's annual retreat took place in April and focussed on issues related to Board Governance. The association is slowly moving from a Management Board (without staff) to a Governance Board (with staff). Under a governance model, the board develops policy only and leaves the operations to staff. By this time next year, it is hoped to have this process completed.
- ❑ ***Meniere's/Tinnitus Workshop*** - Brian Marshall travelled to Central NL with Myrtle and Alison and presented a workshop as part of a full one-day workshop with the CHHA Branches. Both of these events were very well received.
- ❑ ***Youth Vibrations Workshop*** - Myrtle, Kim and Alison organized a workshop for hard of hearing high school youth in an effort to assist with their transition from high school to post-secondary and the world of work. This was held in partnership with the School for the Deaf and the Department of Education. Approximately 40 students came from all over the province for several days of tours, workshops, displays and networking. The feedback received from all participants gave the event very high ratings. Thanks are extended to everyone who helped to make it a success.
- ❑ ***Conferences Attended*** - Terry attended the Association of Fundraising Professionals Conference. Leon attended the Canadian Society of Association Executives Conference. A number of Board Members, Youth Group Members and Leon attended the CHHA AGM. This spring for the first time, Myrtle attended the Hearing Loss Association of America (formerly SHHH) Conference in Florida and Kim Pratt-Baker attended the Alexander Graham Bell Conference (which was attended previously by Vice-President Lynda Cobb, Director Rod Forsey and their families).

## ❑ *Ongoing Education and Professional Development*

Staff have attended a number of other workshops related to program evaluation, program development, and fundraising.

## *CHHA-NL Strategic Plan*

In April, the association completed the first year of its second strategic plan. Progress on the plan to date has been excellent. A report was provided to the board and staff at this year's Annual Planning Retreat, also held in April. If we continue to reach our goals, the association will continue to grow and be successful. A mid-year review will occur in October. If anyone would like a copy of the report (power point presentation format), please contact the office.

## *Closing*

Overall, it has been another wonderful, challenging and productive year for the association. As always, special thanks go to all our board members, volunteers and staff who help to make our association successful and to be recognized as one of the best in Canada in the hard of hearing field. Special thanks are extended to our new President, Myrtle Barrett. She has been an enthusiastic and inspiring leader for the association and the staff and we look forward to another year of working with her. She makes working at CHHA-NL a lot of fun.

This year also marks an election of several officers for our association and, with the departure of Rod Forsey and Todd Tilley, there will several new board members joining the fold this year. I wish to thank both for their efforts on behalf of the association. I know that all of you, both returning and new board members, will continue to ensure that our association will carry out its mandate to serve hard of hearing and late deafened consumers in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I also wish to extend my personal thanks to our wonderful, hard working, enthusiastic and dedicated staff. They are always willing to go 'the extra mile' to help get the job done. Everyone has their own job descriptions but are always willing to help whenever needed. I believe the staff at CHHA-NL are the best that any person could have; they have proven that to me time and time again.

Finally, and always, my final and heartfelt thanks go to my wonderfully supportive and understanding family, my wife Jacquie, and my children, Madison and Sydney, who patiently put-up with my often long hours and absences. With good luck and hopefully, in good health, I look forward to seeing you again next year.

## **Programs and Services & Regional Outreach**

Kim Pratt Baker -Director of Programs and Services

Alison Day - Coordinator of Outreach Services

It is hard to believe I have been back to work as Director of Programs and Services for just over four months now.....and I thought my year of parental leave went fast! It was certainly a great “welcome back” to find I now have a fellow programs and services mate, Alison Day. Alison is driven, energetic and committed to the ideals & goals of CHHA-NL and is an excellent asset to Programs & Services. It is great to be back and part of the great team of staff, board members and volunteers that make up CHHA-NL!

Over the past 4 months, I have observed a rising demand for our Programs and Services, particularly client services and assistive devices loans. I expect demand will only grow further as we develop and implement a comprehensive communications plan over the next year. Also, while we have always tracked client calls, characteristics, etc., Alison and I plan to develop a more efficient and quantitative way to track client statistics so that we may use this data to further improve programs and services.

As with the tracking of “client characteristics”, all programs and services will strive to include evaluation. This will help insure all future initiatives will be evidence-based. Information collected through these methods will provide direction for both the improvement of existing Programs and Services as well as the implementation of additional initiatives based on our members/clients suggestions.

We will continue to work towards meeting the goals of priority areas identified in the strategic plan.

While it is impossible to cover all that has been accomplished in Programs and Services over the past year, Alison and I have included short summaries on key areas of programs and services. They are as follows:

### **Volunteer Program**

We have interviewed more than 21 potential volunteers in the last year. Currently, outside of the board, we have 12 active volunteers (soon to be 14). We have tried

several methods to recruit volunteers including; envision, MUN volunteer Centre, cable channels, volunteer fairs, PSA's and personal invitations. The two most successful methods of recruitment have been the envision Web Site and by personal invitation. Students accounted for most of the 8 volunteers who did not continue to volunteer with us. Reasons for not continuing included; achieved required "volunteer" course hours, lack of free time, and found a job. Alison conducted one volunteer training session in the Fall of 2005 for four volunteers. Kim will continue with the training of volunteers this coming Fall where she will cover levels 1-3 with current and new volunteers. With regard to ongoing administration development CHHA-NL has joined the local committee of the Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources (NLAVR).

### **External Committee Work**

Along with CHHA-NL committee work, Alison and Kim served on several external committees. These included the Newfoundland and Labrador Administrators of Volunteer resources (NLAVR), Regional Caregiver Network (RCN), Aging Issues Forum & Subcommittee on Caregiving Issues, Elder Abuse Committee, and Friendly Visiting Advisory Committee. Through these committees we are able to assist in areas of concern for the hard of hearing, advocate for hard of hearing issues, play an advisory role in services provided to the hard of hearing and inform professionals about hard of hearing concerns as well as the scope of services we offer. Alison was also accepted to join the Volunteerism Institute (VI), an initiative of the Community Services Council. The VI is a network of participants from all over Newfoundland and Labrador.

### **Adopt-a-Classroom**

The Adopt-a-Classroom has had a successful year. Original efforts to raise money used a "coffee break" campaign. CHHA-NL printed brochures and posters to promote this campaign and mail outs were sent to members, the newsletter mailing list, local business, other nonprofits and potential corporate sponsors. An insert was also included in the St. John's Board of Trade magazine. However, this campaign did not raise as much money as originally anticipated. In the summer of 2006, coins from CHHA-NL coin boxes were counted and rolled and this money also went towards the Adopt a Classroom program. Over \$1,000.00 went towards the program from coins alone! Over the past year we have received donations allowing for the provision of Hushh-Ups in forty-one Classrooms. Six funding proposals were written, of which one was successful. In October 2006, Ronald

McDonald House will grant the project over \$14,000. This amount will provide Hushh-Ups for over 100 classrooms across the province! Itinerant teachers have submitted applications for all their remaining K-6 classrooms and we expect all of these applications will be filled by the end of September, 2006.

### **May Month Activities**

May was a very successful and busy month this year. The increased activities and advertising assisted in raising community awareness contributing to increased client calls that have continued into June. Activities during May Month included:

- Seniors Program Tour of The Rooms
- The Grade 5 Speak-off
- Hearing Accessible Church Service
- Open House and Lunch & Learn
- Display at the Home Show
- May Month Draw
- Grade 4 poster contest
- Hard of Hearing Essay Contest
- Awareness Presentations
- Mall Information Display
- Youth Conference
- Living With Hearing Loss Workshop in Central Newfoundland
- Interview on Out of the Fog
- Hearing Loss Prevention Public Display

### **Newsletters**

We now have a full slate of newsletters covering all age categories. Programs and Services developed and circulated 3 editions of Sound Waves, 4 editions of Sound Ripples, 2 editions of Youth Vibrations and 2 editions of the Parents Group Newsletters over the last year. Sound Waves and Sound Ripples were also distributed via email to a growing circulation list. In future we hope to further develop Sound Ripples into a Web based page format that could then be easily circulated by our email recipients to others on their email list.

### **Seniors Programs**

For its first program activity for the year, the Seniors Program held a social/meeting. This event included music, food and education on assistive devices

but unfortunately was not well attended. This prompted the program to look for different ways to provide support to hard of hearing seniors and the resolve to look to other seniors groups for insight, alliance and partnership. After discussing the issues with seniors groups, the Seniors Group Advisory Committee was formed and met for the first time in early June. The committee includes representatives of CHHA-NL, the Seniors Resource Centre and Mount Pearl Seniors Independence Group. The next meeting will be held in September when we hope to have an additional seniors group involved. Other activities of the seniors group this year included a free income tax clinic and a Tour of the Rooms that included 44 seniors.

### Needs Assessment

2 Nursing students worked with us on a needs assessment for the Cochlear Implant Support Group from January to April 2006. The students completed a focus group and surveys to determine the needs of parents of children with cochlear implants and look at how CHHA-NL can best meet those needs. We will be having students from the Centre for Nursing Studies at Memorial work on a similar project for another support group in Fall 2006.

### Displays, Presentations & Client Contact

<b>Category</b>	<b>Alison</b>	<b>Leon</b>	<b>Kim</b>
Displays	1	1	10
Presentations	1		5
School presentations (local)	17		2
Client Consultations	95	65	82

**Note:** Other presentations and displays held outside the metro area are listed under the regional outreach pilot program and the outreach categories.

## **Living with Hearing Loss/ Speech Reading Program**

A Living with Hearing Loss workshop was held at CHHA-NL in November 2005 with greater than usual turnout as a result of newspaper advertising for the event. A Living with Hearing Loss workshop was also held in partnership with the CHHA-EVB and CHHA Gander branches on May 6, 2006 at the Mount Peyton Hotel in Grand Falls-Windsor. Over 30 people were in attendance at this event. Board members Myrtle Barrett and Brian Marshall accompanied Alison to this workshop to act as guest speakers.

Leon held a Speech Reading Level 1 class in Fall 2005 and Speech Reading Level 2 in the Winter.

## **Regional Pilot Project**

The regional pilot project took place in Eastern Newfoundland in the Fall of 2005 and encompassed the area (s) of the Eastern Health Region, including the Avalon Peninsula, Burin Peninsula, Bonavista Peninsula and Clarenville. This project was the beginning of efforts to expand programs and services Provincially and to create awareness of the association “beyond the overpass”. The results of this project are provided below.

	<b>Number Targeted</b>	<b>Number Reached</b>
Regional Health Offices	7	4
Elementary Presentations	36	17
How Loud is Too Loud?	31	11
Seniors Groups	6	3
Malls	4	4
Nursing Homes	3	1

To support outreach efforts, evaluation forms have been developed for all types of presentations in order to obtain feedback. Follow-up evaluations were sent to schools at the end of May 2006 in order to measure the level of retained learning

several months after a presentation was given. The results of this follow-up feedback are still coming in, as schools are currently returning evaluations. Results of this feedback will be available in the coming months, and in next year's report. We will continue to target 10% of students in the future for follow-up evaluation approximately 6 months following a presentation by CHHA-NL staff.

## **Regional Outreach**

Outreach was conducted in **Central Newfoundland** from May 5-12, 2006 and May 15-17, 2006. The trip included a health and safety presentation to Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro, a full day "Living with Hearing Loss" workshop and Meniere's/Tinnitus workshop, school presentations and presentations to health professionals. The travel area was quite large, which resulted in less time for presentations, however the main areas reached include: Grand Falls-Windsor, Springdale, Lewisporte, Gander and the New-Wes-Valley region, with stops in many smaller communities in between. A summary of presentations given is listed below.

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number Given</b>
Health & Safety Presentation	1
Living with Hearing Loss Workshop	1
Meniere's/Tinnitus Workshop	1
Elementary Presentations	10
How Loud is Too Loud Presentations	5
Presentation to Health Professionals	1
Public Presentation	1
Seniors Presentation	1 * no attendees

An outreach trip was held in **Western Newfoundland** from June 5-9, 2006 and included Stephenville, Stephenville Crossing, the Port au Port Peninsula and Corner Brook. This was a shorter trip and another trip is planned for Fall 2006 which will include a Living with Hearing Loss Workshop and meetings and

networking events with professionals in order to establish more of a presence in the area. A summary of outreach is included below

<b>Type</b>	<b>Number Given</b>
Elementary Presentations	7
Presentation to Health Professionals	2
Public Presentation	1
Presentation to Essay contest winner	1

As you can see there has been a lot happening in the area of Programs and Services over the last year. We are very excited about the next year and look forward to improving and expanding programs and services to better serve our clients and their families.

## **Report from the Director of Special Projects - Terry C. Martin**

This past year has been very busy and successful for CHHA-NL.

Both The Ultimate Dream Home 12 and The Ultimate Dream Home11 ‘Summer Dream’N” campaigns were quite productive in financial terms and in raising the public profile of CHHA-NL. I think the financial position that these campaigns place the association in is perhaps the strongest of any of the Non-Profit organizations in this Province. Safe to say that The Ultimate Dream Home campaigns are the single most important revenue generator for the association. Your continued support and promotion of both the summer and Christmas campaigns is crucial.

This past year did see some changes in the administration of these campaigns. It has changed in that Gertie Martin was injured in a car accident this past December. She has been off work for an undetermined period of time. I have had to hire someone in the mean time. Get well soon Gertie!!.

The Ultimate Dream Home 13 Summer Dream’N has just concluded (June 28, 2006) and its final result will not be ready for inclusion in this report. The next campaign is getting underway and should be ready for a soft launch in early October 2006. This home will be located in the new subdivision in Southlands (not far from where UDH11 was located).

The association has undertaken a new initiative for fund development. Although it is new to us it is not a new idea, Planned Giving. Planned Giving is in fact the act of planning for the future of your favorite organization or charity. Mr Gordon Dinney has been contracted to put the finishing touches on this initiative. Much work has been done to date an we should be able to launch this fall. The details will be forwarded to all through the newsletter once all work has been completed.

By all accounts this has indeed been a very successful year.

## **National Board of Directors Report**

I am now into the last year of my three-year term as the NL Representative on the CHHA National Board of Directors. The experience continues to be interesting and rewarding as I work with a team of people who are dedicated to creating policies, which will enhance the lives of all Canadians who are hard of hearing and late deafened.

The year 2006 was a new beginning as we entered into the second phase of our Hearing Awareness Survey. We recently published the Survey Reports with recommendations from consumers and professionals. The Project Coordinator, Michel David and his 15 member National Advisory Team of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association National Board of Directors plus the National staff, (CHHA National) as well as representatives from the Canadian Academy of Audiology (CAA), the Canadian Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists (CSLPA) and the Canadian Hearing Instrument Practitioners (CHIP) are to be commended for great teamwork and awesome results!

Now we start the final phase of this survey which is implementing the recommendations. They were many and they are possible ! Actually, the works has begun. At the PEI AGM we released the findings and distributed copies of the report as roundtable discussions called Team Awareness, Team Policy and Team Research. The audience was excited and look forward to the results.

Thank you all for the role you played in making this report a reality. Have a safe and happy summer . See you all in September.

Myrtle Barrett  
Director  
CHHA National

**Parents of Hard of Hearing Children's Support Group**  
**CHHA-NL Annual Report**  
**2006**

This past year was a year to remember for the Parents Group. This year the children enjoyed events that were family oriented. From the Summer Picnic at the North Bank Lodge, Rock Climbing at Wall Nuts, and Glow Bowling at Pearl Gate Lanes.

Parents decorated the Christmas tree at the CHHA-NL office. Thank you to the parents who helped decorate it.

Our Annual Afternoon Christmas Tea at Waterford Manor was a "huge" success. Although it is probably the end of this event, as Waterford Manor is being sold. The group has enjoyed hosting this event for the past 6 years at the Manor. A huge thank you to the Manor and to everyone that supported this event. The group does have another great idea in mind for this Holiday Season.

We had our biggest turn out ever at the Breakfast with Santa. This year there was about 100 people in attendance. Santa was certainly busy that morning. Once again many thanks to Mr. Penny who is Lyndon Cobb's Grandfather and a personal friend to Santa.

The Adopt-a-Classroom Project is a project which was started by the Parents Group some years ago and has taken on a life of its own this past year. We were the proud recipient of the Ronald McDonald House Charities Foundation this year. We were given \$14,600 in funding which CHHA-NL will match up to \$12,000 for the project. This coming September the Adopt-a-Classroom Project together with the CNIB will be involved in a joint presentation from McDonald's. Hurray to the success of this worthwhile project.

There was a "Feelings" Workshop held at the CHHA-NL office with Miranda Pond from the Janeway as the guest speaker for the evening. This session was one of interest to parents and teachers alike.

The Dr. Norah Browne Speak-Off was held at the NSD Auditorium this year. The children that spoke this year by far surpassed our expectations. The speak-off this year heard two hard of hearing students speak. This is the first year that we have had hard of hearing children participate. The winner this year was Charlie Price

from St. Francis of Assisi. His speech was titled "Fourth". It was a wonderful speech about being the number fourth child in a family and the do's and don't's of that.

This year was the first year that the parents group has had funding to send children to the CHHA National Conference. This year the conference was held in PEI. The CHHA-NL provided funding for Bill and William Sears, and Tim and Lyndon Cobb to attend.

The children attended the Young Daily Workshops. They enjoyed the one on one session with Sue Thomas, Keynote Speaker of the conference. Doctors Sam and Janet Trychin, both of whom are Psychologists. They also enjoyed a tour of Charlottetown and a boat ride in the harbour and the making of a film that was played at the banquet. The fathers attended the daily sessions and gained valuable information. Some of the highlights of the weekend were both of the boys playing frisbee with Sue Thomas in the hotel lobby and when Lyndon won the ticket draw of the last huge dB Bunny. It seemed quite fitting that the youngest child in attendance would win it.

As the mother of Lyndon I am very thankful to the CHHA-NL for providing this wonderful experience for my son. As the Chair of the Parents Group I feel very proud that the CHHA-NL has been providing and will continue to provide services to the hard of hearing children in our province.

This past year has been a busy year for the group. We look forward to the coming year with more families, the CHHA-NL Board and membership being involved with the group's activities.

The manual of services of hard of hearing children in Newfoundland and Labrador will be ready for print in early September.

Thank you to the office staff; Kim, Irene and Alison for all your help. To Terry for all the advice and chats in his office and to Leon for making it all happen with the office. To the Executive and Board who have always supported the Parents Group. Thank You.

See you in September!!!

Lynda Cobb , Chair

## **Hard of Hearing Youth Group Report**

What a wonderful year it has been for the Youth Group. I'm very happy to say that I left the youth group in very capable hands of our President while I was away on maternity leave. Myrtle encouraged the youth to become involved in many new projects this year. I have to say that the most mentionable project is the Youth Vibrations Career Explorations Workshop held in April 2006 at the Newfoundland School for the Deaf in partnership with the Department of Education. I was excited to see so many hard of hearing students from across Newfoundland and Labrador attending the two day workshop. There were many guest speakers discussing various topics including Self-Advocacy by Brad Gash of the ILRC; Succeeding at Post-Secondary by Jack Jardine of the Newfoundland Coordinating Council on Deafness; You and Your Audiologist by Bernedine Keilley of The Janeway Audiology; Unheard Voices, a one-woman play by Gael Hannan of the CHHA National Board of Directors; and tours of Memorial University of Newfoundland and College of the North Atlantic. During the presentation by Jack Jardine, two students of Memorial University of Newfoundland, Erika Breen and Tim Noel shared their experiences. After reviewing the participant evaluations, the 2 day workshop was well received by all and many felt much empowered. Many also left with many new friends. It is our hope to continue this workshop on an annual basis.

I recently attended the CHHA National Conference in Prince Edward Island. The conference once again this year had a youth program for youth ages 18 to 29. In total, there were 20 youth, including four from Newfoundland and Labrador and Phillip Rogers as the National Youth Representative. As many of you may know, I was the recipient of the CHHA National Young Adult Award of Excellence in 2005 and this year, I am proud to say that Erika Breen from St. John's, NL was presented with the Award. Congratulations Erika! This award is to recognize an individual who demonstrates outstanding personal, community, and/or professional activities in the area of hearing loss. To view the requirements for the Young Adult Award of Excellence, please go to [www.chha.ca](http://www.chha.ca) or call our office.

CHHA-NL also offers a Dr. Norah Browne Bursary and Glenna Stone Scholarship each year. It is unfortunate that we do not receive many applications for these scholarships, so if you are an hard of hearing student or know someone who is, please visit our website or call our office for more information on how to apply.

The Youth Group continues to be involved in many local projects such as the “How Loud is Too Loud?” presentations to schools educating students about hearing loss and the effects of noise. Many hearing professionals are very concerned about iPods and their detrimental effects on hearing.

I look forward to another exciting year with the Youth Group. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Respectfully Submitted By:

Andrea Augot

Chairperson

Youth Group

## **Meniere's & Tinnitus Support Group Report**

The Meniere's And Tinnitus Support Group has had a very successful year. The monthly meetings have consisted of a mix of guest speakers and round table discussions. For the Christmas season we had a very enjoyable afternoon tea. Our guest speakers included chiropractor, Dr. Randy Follett, lifestyles and wellness coach, Carmalita Bruce and two sessions with audiologist, Valerie Parrott, one on Tinnitus and one on Meniere's.

We had over thirty members attend various meetings with numbers ranging from as low as six to as high as 18 members attending. Many thanks to Jim Kelly for helping the meetings run smoothly.

In May Brian went to Grand Falls with Allison Day and Myrtle Barrett to do a presentation and round table discussion on living with meniere's and tinnitus. There were 30 people in attendance. We were very well received and our presence was much appreciated. There were a lot of questions and answers and exchanges of stories and advice. The discussion went on until we had to adjourn - it could have lasted longer. The evaluations indicated a positive response to our presentation. We are very excited to have gotten to areas outside the capital city and hope to do more in the coming months.

Submitted by Brian Marshall

## **CHHA-NL Seniors Support Group Report**

A Seniors Program was started at CHHA-NL in September, 2005. Since that time the program has organized a meeting/social, sponsored a volunteer income tax clinic, coordinated a tour of The Rooms, and had a meeting with the executive director of the Seniors Resource Centre and the chairperson of the Mount Pearl Seniors Group to discuss issues pertinent to seniors who are hard of hearing.

In October 2005 a meeting/social was held at the CHHA-NL Centre for hard of hearing seniors. Leon Mills, Executive Director of CHHA-NL gave a presentation on Assistive Listening Devices, Mr. Glad Dalton and Mr. Steve Knight provided some musical entertainment, and this was followed by a tea and sandwich social. Sadly, the event was very poorly attended with only five members turning out. We strongly encourage our senior members to get out and participate in our events. Any success we might have depends on your support. You might just surprise yourself by having a good time and meeting other hard of hearing seniors who share common issues with you.

In March we sponsored a volunteer income tax clinic. Three volunteers from the Canada Revenue Agency came to our Centre and prepared, FREE OF CHARGE, personal income tax returns for eleven of our seniors. We hope to make this an annual event, so watch for it again next year.

In May, in conjunction with the Friday Friendship Club of the Seniors Resource Centre, we sponsored a tour of The Rooms. Forty four seniors and eight volunteers turned out for the tour. A number of hard of hearing seniors tried our new Tour Guide Hearing System, a system that allowed them to hear clearly the voice of the Tour Guide. It was very rewarding to hear their comments on how much more easily they could hear the tour guide, and how it made their tour so much more informative and enjoyable. It just goes to show what a little technology can do if you only give it a chance. It's a good thing to remember this next time somebody suggests trying an assistive listening device. Needless to say, a grand time was had by all.

In June, a meeting was held between Art Norris, Chair of the Seniors Program, Kim Pratt-Baker, Director of Programs, CHHA-NL, the Executive Director of the Seniors Resource Centre and the Chair of the Mount Pearl Seniors group. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss ideas for seniors programs and ways in which our organizations can work together to deliver programs to hard of hearing

seniors. It was a very productive meeting with a good exchange of ideas. The group agreed to have a follow up meeting in the fall.

The Seniors program needs input from hard of hearing seniors to be successful. Please send us your ideas and suggestions. Call Kim at the office at 753-3224, or Art at home at 364-1968. Let's all get involved, get active, and have some fun.

Art Norris

**2006 Annual Report for CHHA- NL  
Cochlear Implant Support Group  
As of June 20, 2006**

The Cochlear Implant (CI) Support Group was founded in February 2006 for adult cochlear implant recipients and parents of children with CI's. A parent group had gathered monthly since the summer of 2005 to support each other and to resolve common issues until it became affiliated with CHHA-NL in February. This newly formed group aims to facilitate the sharing of information and emotional support among its' members. The group will work towards informed choices regarding a CI surgery, assist people to live well with the device, and to address gaps in services and resources pre and post implant. The principle objectives of this group are to:

1. provide hope and support to parents and those with cochlear implants;
2. promote services that enhance speaking and hearing;
3. advocate for equipment availability; and
4. increase awareness of this group.

Late in 2005, parents and professionals launched a joint lobby effort. As announced by Chris Murphy, Director of the Janeway Audiology Department at the February 2006 meeting, the lobbying resulted in significant funding being awarded by the province for replacement CI components and CI upgrades for school age children.

To help identify the needs of parents with children with a CI, CHHA-NL supported nursing students of MUN School of Nursing to complete a needs assessment. Needs identified included a handbook for parents on what to expect pre and post implant, a website for the group, enhanced public awareness, support with teaching children to responsibly care for and troubleshoot their equipment. For those residing outside of St. John's, the cost and inconvenience of frequent appointments in St. John's is a great problem. Finally, the group is concerned regarding the unfilled position for auditory-verbal therapist who is needed to facilitate screening pre-implant and therapy for speaking and hearing post-implant for both adults and children.

The CI Support Group's goals for 2006 focus on communication with all parents and CI users in Newfoundland and Labrador, ensuring adequate and accessible AVT and audiology services, affordable and easily accessible CI equipment for all, and a website and resource package for current and prospective CI candidates in Newfoundland. Several members of this group will travel to the AG Bell Convention in Pittsburgh late in June to bring back the most current research on the CI technology, educational and social issues experienced by

recipients of hearing loss and cochlear implants. We look forward to a productive year together.

The group has met monthly since February and has not spent any money. The group requested \$3500.00 from the board to purchase a loaner CI to be managed by Audiology, which was approved and is yet to be purchased. Cathy Eastwood was awarded \$2500.00 to attend the AG Bell conference as CI Group and a CHHA-NL representative.

Cathy Eastwood, Chairperson

## **CHHA - Gander Branch Annual Report - 2005/06**

### **Meetings:**

There were six Chapter meetings held over the past year and two general meetings. The general meetings were well attended. Guest speakers were Reverend Stephanie McClellan, a United Church Minister and Rod Clarke, Fire Inspector, Town of Gander.

Rev. McClellan gave an inspiring talk on the challenges she has faced as a person in a wheelchair. She described her experience of hand cycling 9018 kms across Canada to deliver a message to communities about the Abilities of Persons with Disabilities. Mr. Clarke spoke on the issues of fire safety for the hard of hearing. He also showed an enlightening video.

### **Activities:**

1. **CHHA National Conference:** Gordon attended the National Conference in Kelowna, BC.
2. **Gander Branch Pamphlets:** Thanks to the Newfoundland Chapter for copying 750 copies of the chapter pamphlet. These have been distributed throughout the town and region. They also reorganized , updated and copied information on Tinnitus and Meniere's Disease. These have also been distributed upon request.
3. **Hushh-Ups:** Hushh-ups were installed in schools in Lewisporte, Summerford, Fogo and Gambo. One of the branch members made a presentation to one of the schools with some public relations coverage in the local paper. To the best of our knowledge, all children who need hushh-ups in our district have been equipped with same.
4. **Dream Home Tickets:** There were 350 Dream Home #11 tickets sold for which the Branch received \$2.00 for each ticket for a total of \$700.00. There were 625 Dream Home#12 tickets sold for which the Branch will receive \$2.00 per ticket for a total of \$1250. The sale of these tickets is the primary fundraiser for the Branch.

5. **Senior Citizen Home visits:** Two senior's homes were visited in the district by members to present and discuss issues of the hard of hearing.
6. **Assistive Listening Devices:** The Branch received a request from the James Paton Memorial Hospital Surgical Floor for an assistive listening device.  
  
**Two Pocket Talker Pro Personal Listening Systems:** These were purchased and donated; one to the surgical floor and one to the social worker. The cost of these devices was \$518.00.
7. **Sign language:** One of the branch's members started sign language lessons offered through the United Church.
8. **Sound Systems:** Ongoing discussions are held with local churches on sound systems. Four churches have FM systems installed to date. There is one other currently looking into installing same.
9. **Adopt A Classroom:** Information developed by the NL Branch has been circulated in the district.
10. **Annual retreat in April, 2005:** Gordon Baker and Gordon Chaulk attended the annual retreat held in St. John's.
11. **Socials:** In lieu of a year end barbecue, a brunch was held in September at Hotel Gander. The annual Christmas Social also took place at the hotel in the form of a dinner.
12. **Filing Cabinet:** The Chapter purchased a filing cabinet and supplies in the amount \$226.03.

The Gander Branch acknowledges, with much appreciation, a donation in the amount of \$2000.00 from CHHA - NL. This is just one of the many ways the NL Chapter has been a tremendous support to our Branch. The ongoing communications have strengthened our working relationship and we are very grateful for your support.

Thank you very much.

Submitted by: Gordon Baker, Branch President      Date: April 29, 2006

**CHHA Exploits Valley Branch  
576 Main Street  
Bishop's Falls, NL, A0H 1C0**

CHHA – EVB'S Annual Report for CHHA-NL'S AGM July 6<sup>th</sup> 2006.

What our branch has accomplished since the last AGM:

We were involved with a very special project with the Gideon's bible society. We made a donation of \$500.00 for Bibles printed especially for the Hard of Hearing children in our area attending the school for the deaf in St. John's. Each cover was engraved with the words " For the HOH child." This was done has a follow up on the HOH children who had to leave our area to attend the school for the deaf. Each Bible written in story form costs approx: \$40 to \$50 per Bible.

Helen Tulk Elementary School just completed their special project with our help for their F.M. system for the library. CHHA–EVB donated the last \$400.00 to complete the project.

We donated three Pocket Talkers (Assitive Listening Devices) to groups that showed interest.

Legal Aide Commission  
Senior's Citizen's Recreation Centre  
Local Church  
We kept one as a loaner and there is a great need for more.

Our Branch ordered 20 dozen Hushh–Ups to help out two schools in the Central Area. Cost was \$554.07

Our branch recently purchased business cards, mugs, magnets, and pens as an ongoing part of our Community Awareness Campaign. These items not only promote the Exploits Valley Branch but they also promote CHHA – NL.

In closing, our branch has recently attended the free Living with Hearing Loss Workshop on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> sponsored by CHHA – NL. It was a great learning experience for all who attended. There was a large turnout, we have received a lot of positive feedback regarding the workshop.

CHHA – EVB would like to give a great big Thank You to Myrtle, Allison, Brian, and also Anne Griffin for doing such a wonderful job.

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to CHHA NL for their continual support to our area and our group.

Thank you once again for standing by our side. Between the chapter and branches working together we will make a difference for the good in our communities and across our province.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lillian Menchenton, President  
Keith Hancock, Vice-President

## **List of Appendices**

## **Amendments to CHHA-NL By-Laws**

## **Audited Financial Statements**