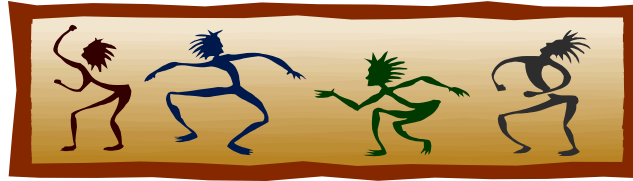




Youth Vibrations



A Publication of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association-Newfoundland and Labrador (CHHA-NL)

Our Mission Statement: To provide leadership, advocacy, information and peer support to hard of hearing youth (ages 12-18) and young adults (ages 19-30) across Newfoundland & Labrador.

Our Youth Committee



(Front) Tim Noel (Back L-R) Andrea Augot, Myrtle Barrett (youth advisor), Olivia Heaney, Erika Breen, Jessica Connors, Sharon Tarrant

Words from Andrea Augot

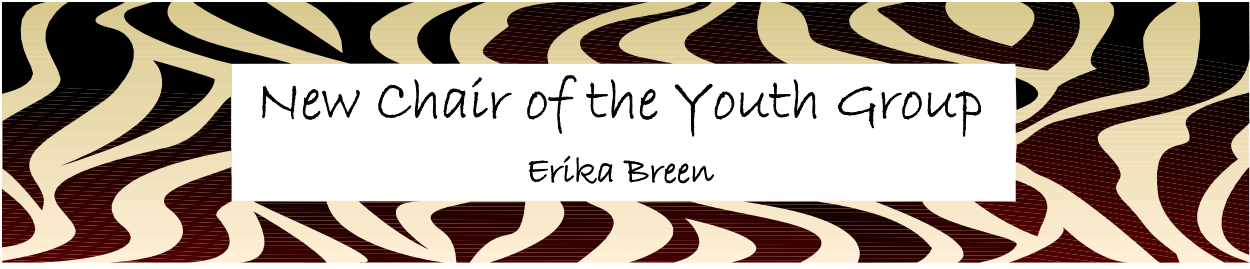
Welcome to another exciting edition of our newsletter! You will find lots of really great information on hearing loss issues and supports in the community. I would like to take this opportunity to let you all know that I stepped down as Chairperson (yes, I have grey hair!) and Erika accepted the role. I chose Erika to take the lead on the Youth Group because she has shown excellent leadership and I know she will support the group in making their voices heard, LOUD and CLEAR! I will remain a part of the group as a member so that you're not all on your own. Congratulations Erika!!!

Stay Tuned!

Our youth blog should be up and running really soon! In the meantime, check out our youth Web site at:

www.chha-nl.nl.ca/supportgroups-youth.html

See past newsletters, check out the links & read more about our youth group.



New Chair of the Youth Group

Erika Breen

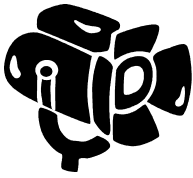
Another year, and more changes. The CHHA-NL Youth Group is actively growing. From our Meet and Greet on February 3, to our discussions of post secondary support groups, this group is developing very fast. In the past 2 months, we have said a huge thank you to our past Chair Andrea Augot for her time and dedication over the years, we have met new members, and we are working stronger than ever. I am taking this chance as Chair of this group to provide an update on what's happening.

As many of you know, I was acclaimed Memorial University Student's Union (MUNSU) Students with Disability Representative. As the Disability Representative, I am a part of the MUNSU board of directors which is composed of 40 elected members, 5 of which are Executive members. This group is the student's voice at Memorial. Together the Student Union advocates on various issues important to the students of Memorial University. In addition, MUNSU provides services such as "The Attic", Campus Clubs, CHMR-FM, Food Bank, Legal Aid, Health and Dental Plans, Various Resource Centers, Walk Safe and Drive Safe, just to name a few. As a society under MUNSU, the Memorial University Disability Information Support Center (MUN DISC) is a student-run information center for students with disabilities. I am currently in the process of arranging meetings with this group, in hopes of gaining insight into the issues surrounding other types of disabilities, as well as the idea of a Support Group for Hard of Hearing (HOH) Students at Memorial.

There has been some discussion over the past few months about the potential need for a social/educational support group for hard of hearing students and supporters at Memorial. There was progress made on discovering what the exact needs of HOH students at Memorial were, however due to time restrictions this was unable to develop. Therefore I ask for your input into the development of such a group. The CHHA-NL youth group is attempting to figure out if there is a need for this group and what kind of group is needed (i.e. educational workshops, technology workshops, peer support, self advocacy, and social group). Therefore I invite everyone to contact me at ebreen.chha@gmail.com with feedback on this idea, or other issues that you feel need to be looked into.

On another note, I am also a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Advisory Committee (NLYAC). This committee is an organization of 15 youths all across Newfoundland and Labrador who come from different backgrounds and make recommendations to the government on behalf of all youth. Since the beginning of my term a year ago, I have been advocating for the rights of youths with disabilities and especially hard of hearing students in the K-12 school system. Therefore I encourage all of you to keep in touch with me about various barriers, gaps in services, and places where you feel there needs improvement. The more information I have when it comes to services across the province, the more prepared I am to advocate for these changes. So please feel free to contact me, discuss the issues. In addition, if you know of anyone who would benefit from being in contact with the CHHA-NL Youth Group, please feel free to pass along our contact information, and encourage the individual to get involved.

Editor's note: Since this article was written, Erika has resigned her position of MUNSU Student's with Disabilities Representative, because of conflicting schedules.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Each month we will share information with you on community resources and what they can do for you!

Would you like to have your community group profiled in the “Spotlight On” section? Contact us with a brief description of your programs and services!

SERVICES OFFERED BY THE NEWFOUNDLAND CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL ON DEAFNESS

The Newfoundland Coordinating Council on Deafness is a non-profit organization that has been in existence for more than 35 years. During this time, NCCD has been actively involved in both advocacy and service provision for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Prompted by concerns regarding employment, education, and other opportunities for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the province, NCCD has been engaged in the development and delivery of services to people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in order to facilitate, promote, and realize their right to access employment, education, social, recreational and other opportunities available to the general public. One such program is the provision of **Educational Support Services**.

NCCD established Educational Support Services for students who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in this province in 1986 and continues to this day to provide services to students. The establishment of Educational Support Services was accomplished after much consultation with leaders in Deafness throughout North America and the services were tailored to best meet the needs of students attending post secondary programs in Newfoundland and Labrador.

NCCD provides the following Educational Support Services:

- .. Vocational Counseling Services - both pre-entrance and follow-up.
 - .. Assistance in gaining access to post-secondary education/transitional support.
 - .. Orientation and in-servicing of faculty and/or instructional personnel - orientation and In-servicing to students.
 - .. Personalized Assistive Listening Devices (FM Systems) and accessories.
 - .. Maintenance of Assistive Listening Devices.
- Tutorial Services (arranging/monitoring)
 Note-taking services and the provision of note-taking paper (arranging/monitoring)



Educational Support Services are based on several guiding principles:

- Focus on individual needs* – educational support services are tailored to the student’s individual needs and based on the premise that the student knows what he/she needs.
- Direct support of education and eventual employability* – educational support services reduce barriers to education and increase a student’s access to post-secondary education and thus increase his/her employability.
- Flexibility in the delivery of educational support services* – services will be adjusted to meet the individual needs of each student who avail of them and will be monitored and adjusted, where appropriate.

See the next page for contact information for NCCD!

The services listed on the previous page are available at no charge to people with a hearing loss. The only requirement is that they are in attendance at a post secondary program within the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. Persons wishing to access the services of NCCD can do so by contacting us at the contact points listed below.

Jack Jardine
Consultant, NCCD
Newfoundland Co-ordinating Council on Deafness
14 Forbes Street, P.O. Box 26076
St. John's, NL
A1C 5T9

Email: jack.jardine@gmail.com or
nccd@nl.rogers.com
Phone: (709) 747-5397 (voice and TTY)
Cell: (709) 728-3941
Fax: (709) 747-0161



Meet and greet a Success!

By Sharon Tarrant

On February 3rd 2007, just after the big snow storm hit, the Youth Group had the privilege to introduce new faces to our "Meet and Greet" meeting. The Meet and Greet was open to all Hard of Hearing young adults between the ages of 18-30 local and outside of St. John's, Newfoundland. Even with a small number in attendance, it became very successful in terms of gathering new Hard of Hearing youth and for those seeking interest in the program. The Youth Group had the opportunity to meet with both the young and older adults and to receive information from their perspectives. This helps the Youth Group to reach out and connect with Hard of Hearing young adults. Both Stephanie Earle and Trevor Pomroy were the new members who helped us understand the needs of HOH youth.

Two nursing students, Stephanie Needham and Melissa Ivany are volunteering to connect with the Hard of Hearing to better understand the obstacles and issues we face. Their goal is to explore and specify the issues that each Hard of Hearing youth experiences. To share and enjoy the company of new members/interns will definitely benefit our program. It will allow HOH youth to feel more confident about themselves. I encourage all HOH students and young adults to join the program and discover a whole new self image.



The CHHA National 2007 conference will be held in Edmonton from May 24-27.
A representative from the youth committee will be attending. Look for information from
the conference in our next edition!



Ask Muddled Myrtle



Dear Muddled Myrtle:

I have a hearing loss and my mom tells me to "watch the loud music" I tell her that it won't hurt my residual hearing because I already have hearing loss. Who is right, me or my mom?

Concerned Hard of Hearing

Dear Concerned:

Here's what Muddled Myrtle has to say, thanks to the help of Bernadine Kielley, Audiologist and Sharon Tarrant. Everyone's hearing is at risk in noise, in fact, people with hearing loss are at larger risk than hearing people because our ears are already damaged. Our ears can't recover as well from being around loud noise.

When you go to concerts or noisy places, it's a good idea to wear your hearing aids. Your hearing aids will limit how much sound gets amplified and will protect your ears. Taking them out might make things sound quieter, but the same noise level is getting into your ears and without your hearing aids, your ears are unprotected.

Welcome New Members!

Stephanie Earle

My name is Stephanie Earle; I go to Newfoundland School for the Deaf. This is my last year of being a full time student and I'm looking forward of going to CONA to take up Early Childhood Education. I love to travel and hang out with my friends. I am dedicated towards my education, school work always comes first. When I meet new people I tend to be shy yet I am very kind and caring. Once I get to know you I'll open up more easily. I'm proud of being Hard of Hearing; a part of me that has never let me down, I believe I can do anything that hearing people can do. My goal is to let other Deaf and Hard of Hearing people know that they are not the only ones out there going through hard times and that it can be better.

Trevor Pomroy

If you are well, I am well. Hi! I'm Trevor Pomroy, A strange soul and a student of Language arts at Memorial University of Newfoundland. In a word, I study and I enjoy the act of passing on knowledge; the act of teaching. I've learned as much as possible just about everything and take every opportunity to teach what I've learned to others. I read, I write, I sing, and I listen. Yet, I don't hear... much, anyway. I believe that the worst tragedy of hearing loss is the loneliness and separation it can bring. My hope is to work with the Youth Group to lessen the impact of this in the lives of everyone I meet.

Vibration from Labrador

a poem by Abby Way

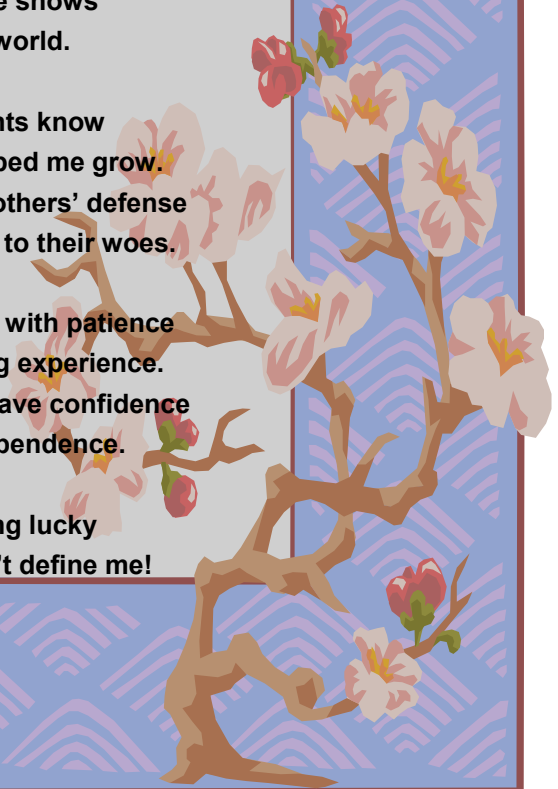
I Am

I am many different girls
I wear strength like others wear pearls
In my face my resilience shows
Every day, I love my world.

As a daughter, my parents know
That I love them, they've helped me grow.
As a friend to all, I'm quick to others' defense
And my ears are always open to their woes.

As a supervisor, I help others with patience
And direct them with growing experience.
As a hearing-impaired teen, I have confidence
I go about my day in independence.

I think of myself as being lucky
And my hearing loss doesn't define me!



FUNNY MOMENTS

Humorous hearing loss moments from our youth group!



My 8th grade teacher was wearing the FM Phonic Ear system for the first time, he excused the class to use the washroom and after he had finished his business he walked back towards class and realized that he had forgotten to turn off the FM System and so he sang "you are my sunshine my only sunshine". Finally, when my teacher returned I sang back to him "you make me happy, when skies are grey".