

# The Communicator

*South-East Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Inc.*

### Special points of interest:

- SEDHHS 4th Annual Golf Tournament
- Newspaper article on Newfoundland & Labrador advocate for the deaf Laurie Cashin
- SEDHHS Community Summer Picnic and Games
- Memorials/Obituaries

## SEDHHS 4th Annual Golf Tournament **Thursday, July 24, 2008**

We are now accepting registration for our golf tournament from anyone who would like to participate. Registration forms are available at the agency or you can contact us and we will be more than happy to email or mail you a registration form.

Our 4th Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Country Meadows Golf & Country Club located at 149 Catamount Road, Thursday, July 24th.

We are very excited to have Scotiabank as our partner again this year. With their "Matching Fund Program" the tournament is sure to be another success.

Last year, we raised just over \$5,000.00, which Scotiabank matched with another \$5,000.00 bringing our grand

total to \$10,385.00.

The golf tournament is our "BIG" fundraiser of the year, so we hope to exceed last year's total by bringing in more teams, sponsors and donations.

We hope you are able to come out and enjoy the day with us, either by golfing with a team or you can golf as a single and we will place you with three other players to make a team. If you are not a golfer you can show your support by donating prizes for the teams and Silent Auction or volunteer your time to help on the day of the tournament.

If your schedule does not permit you to do any of the above options, you could always just stop by to say, "Hello" or put a bid in the Silent Auction.

This fund raiser is for your community, so come on out on July 24th and show your support.

The money raised will go into our programs, projects, and workshops.

SEDHHS would like to take this time to thank Sarah Duncan, our summer student, for the time and effort she puts into organizing our golf tournament. Her work ethic and organizational skills are a big reason for the tournaments success every year.

With her graduation from ABU in 2009, Sarah will move on to the next step of her life journey. We wish you the best of luck and hope you realize how much you will be missed by SEDHHS.

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## SEDHHS Cookbook Update

The SEDHHS Cookbook is now completed and is being sold at the agency for \$10.00 each.

They will also be available for sale at our Golf Tournament on July 24, 2008.

We were very happy with how many of the cookbooks sold at our Roast Beef Dinner and at our Yard Sale that occurred in

May.

The SEDHHS Cookbook holds many recipes, but it also has the ASL alphabet and numbers for our hearing friends to learn. It also has jokes, poems, communication tips and a few facts about the Deaf culture to help raise awareness.

We want to thank Bonnie for all

the hard work she put into this cookbook. We greatly appreciate her dedication to supporting the agency and to helping raise awareness.

Thank you to the volunteers who came out to help sort and bind the cookbooks. The books are a **SUCCESS** because of all of you !!

## Executive Director's Message

Well it is hard to believe, after the long, long, long, snowy winter we had, but SUMMER is finally here. YEAH! SMILE!

I can not believe I have been with SEDHHS for two years now. The time goes by so fast. I am enjoying my work and the busy pace of this job. I like meeting with you, the clients, and I am always happy to see your smiling faces at the workshops and around the city; if I happen to see you.

I would like to say , "Thank you" to all of you for supporting me as the

new Executive-Director this past year and for accepting me into your community. Also, for your continued support of South-East Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. It makes my job very rewarding!!

We know you appreciate all the time and effort we put into the programs, workshops, interpreter services, meetings, etc because of the support and encouragement you give to us. Again THANK YOU!!

I would like to also send out a

"thank you" to BayTech College, Kevin Horsman for volunteering to build our new front step with a secure railing.

We have been trying for many years to replace the step and now it is finally done. :)

For those of you who did not attend our Roast Beef Dinner, Kevin Horsman was presented with our Volunteer of the Year Award, representing the Hearing Community, for their volunteer hours with our agency.

I hope to see many of you at our

Community Picnic on the 21st of June and at our Golf Tournament on July 24th.

I hope you have a wonderful and safe summer. If you are traveling for your vacation or to visit family please take care.

Laurie V.

SKSK



## Community Workshop Updates

We are very pleased with how many of you attended the Community Workshops this year.

Tobie works very hard on finding topics that you want to learn about, finding guest speakers to volunteer their time, and to organize the room with Camden Park Terrace.

After summer is over, Tobie will be on maternity leave getting ready to have her new baby, but

we will continue to provide the workshops for your community.

If you have any new ideas of people you would like to have as a guest speaker or topics you would like to know more about then contact the agency or stop by and see us to tell us your ideas.

We will be working during the summer months planning the workshops for September, Octo-

ber, and November. We need your ideas!

SEDHHS would like to thank Angie Gregan, RN for the workshop she provided in March on health issues. As well, thanks goes out to Oulton's Community College, Dental Education Center, for their interesting workshop on dental hygiene.

Good luck to Tobie and we look forward to her return in 2009.

## SEDHHS Summer Picnic



Instead of having a workshop with a guest speaker for June, Tobie and I decided to have a "Community Picnic."

We are hoping for sunny weather on Saturday, June 21 from 2pm— 5pm at Centennial Park in Moncton, at the picnic tables close to the toddler playground and water park. We hope all of you are able to join

us for some "fun in the sun."

This will be a good opportunity to see everyone outside of the office/agency. We will have a few organized games for the young and the old. :)

SEDHHS will be providing barbequed hamburgers, hotdogs, and a drink (courtesy of Sobeys and Superstore). If you think this will not be enough food to

fill up your family then please bring extra food to serve to your family.

Remember to bring lawn chairs, blankets, sunscreen, and any outdoor toys you may have i.e. soccer ball, frisbees, etc.

If it rains we will cancel and reschedule for Sat., Aug 30th.

Hope to see you there!!

# He was the fix-it man of Newfoundland and Labrador

Possessing a natural genius for thinking around corners, he was described by his Grade 4 teacher as 'a most excellent boy.' He later proved to be a consummate problem-solver

BY J. M. SULLIVAN ST. JOHN'S

Laurie Cashin was Newfoundland's fix-it man. He could conclude any negotiation, solve any problem and repair any gadget. With careers in private business and public policy, he also pursued personal interests that led to breakthroughs in such diverse fields as emergency planning and aids for the hearing impaired.

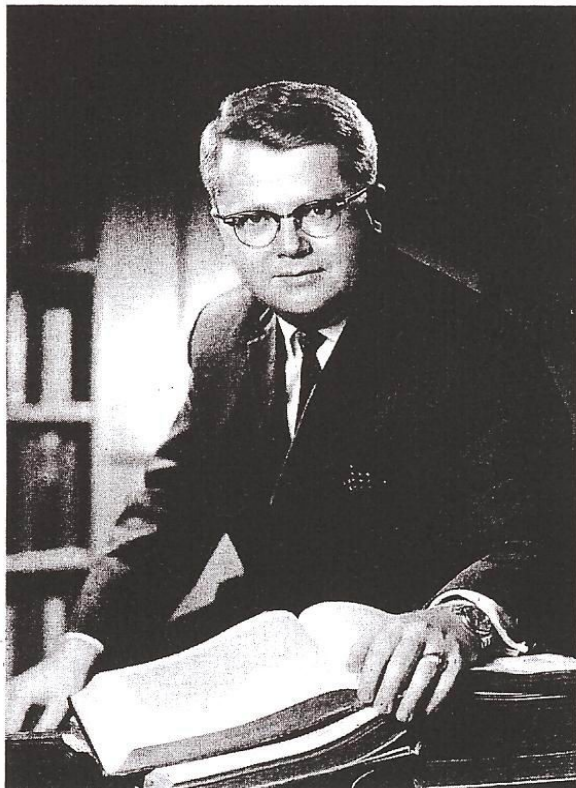
His achievements can be traced to an innate skill in all manner of mechanical and electronic gadgets that went far beyond the level of a hobbyist. He did everything from mending small toys to importing Canada's first closed-caption television decoders to manning an emergency centre set up in St. John's in anticipation of a possible Y2K meltdown on Jan. 1, 2000.

Laurie Cashin was the younger of two boys born to businessman Laurence Cashin, from Cape Broyle, and Anna Hearn, of Bay Bulls. The Cashin family was most prominent in Newfoundland commerce and politics. His grandfather, Sir Michael Patrick, served as prime minister of Newfoundland in 1919, while his uncle Peter John was a First World War veteran and a politician who later became premier Joseph Smallwood's most ardent and determined opponent in the fight against Confederation. His father, meanwhile, ran several successful businesses, including the Bennett Brewery (later bought by Carling O'Keefe) and distribution rights for the conglomerate that became Gulf Oil.

By contrast, Mr. Cashin may not have made headlines, but he knew how to make things happen. Ever an inquisitive young fellow man with a natural genius for thinking around corners, his Grade 4 teacher described him as "a most excellent boy." He attended St. Bonaventure's College in St. John's and graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland with a science degree in 1962. After that, he went to Harvard to earn a master's degree in business administration. In addition to studying physics and chemistry, he had the instincts and insights of a trained engineer.

"He was always very focused on intricate technical things," said his brother, Richard Cashin, a St. John's lawyer, politician and labour activist. "Even as a boy, he had his own dark-room."

From a young age, his pro-



Laurie Cashin devoted the bulk of his volunteering energies to the hearing impaired. CASHIN FAMILY PHOTO

**He was there in case everything crashed.**

**We were in good hands.**

**I slept well.**

Richard Cashin, brother

jects included making his own television set as well as the usual model planes and boats. (He also made furniture and hooked a mat.) He wired his own house and would turn up at family dinners, toolbox in hand, ready to cure various electrical maladies.

There are many stories of his aptitude for effecting mechanical repairs. For example, in 1974, the Fogo Island Co-operative Movement asked him to review their finances. While there, he went aboard a fishing boat and noticed it had a bad knock in the engine. It had been there since the boat was purchased, he was told, and the manufacturer had tried and failed to mend the thing.

Mr. Cashin requested a set of old clothes, went down in the bilge and set the motor to rights.

A few years later, on another boat, he saw that the radar was not working. The technician had visited five times, to no avail. Mr. Cashin asked for the manual. He soon realized the compass was set to the vertical and not the horizontal, and had it working in no time.

His other positions included working with Labatt's Brewery in Manitoba as assistant to the company president, and then in Toronto with Atlantic Fish Processors Ltd. In 1966, he returned home to St. John's and it was there that the first of his three boys was born. By that time, Mr. Cashin had joined the provincial department of regional economic expansion, where one of his major accomplishments was to oversee the 1984 sale of Bowaters pulp- and paper mill in Corner Brook to Kruger Inc. of Norwalk, Conn. He was also the key person who managed the tricky, prickly process of transferring the U.S. naval base at Argentia to Canadian hands.

While Mr. Cashin was, in one way or another, a consummate fixer in his career, there was one thing he was unable to fix in his private life. His eldest son, Anthony, was born deaf, a fact that wasn't discovered until he was a year old. A visiting aunt remarked that the child was unusually quiet. When Mr. Cashin fired a pistol, Anthony made no response. While Anthony's condition could not be fixed, Mr. Cashin resolved to do his best to remove all man-made impediments. From that moment on, he engaged his considerable energies in improving the lot of the deaf community.

Over the next four decades, he helped found, or served on, such groups as the Newfoundland branch of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Organization, the Canadian Co-ordinating Council on Deafness, plus a provincial service that trains sign-language interpreters. And, while a text-telephone device (TTY/TDD) already existed for hearing-impaired telephone users, there was no equivalent to 911, so Mr. Cashin pressed the provincial government to assume financial liability for one. Not content with that, he also got the RCMP to set up a national 1-800 emergency service for all TTY/TDD users.

He later arranged for a cable-TV company to provide closed-caption (CC) service on a special channel for the deaf. In 1981, he went one further and saw to it that CTV and CBC provided CC service. However, technology was still required to make it all work. To this end, he organized the importation of Canada's first CC decoders and persuaded Sears to sell them.

All the while, he pursued a variety of educational enhancements, including the 1987 relocation to new facilities of the St. John's School for the Deaf. Long after his own soon had left elementary school, he made sure students from remote areas – some as young as 5 – got home to their families. He raised funds to finance a charter bus that took them back on weekends. However, this still left some students stranded, especially those from the south coast, where settlements clutch against the rocks and are inaccessible by road. In place of a bus, he arranged for donations of helicopter time by the likes of Don Jamieson, a local MP who became minister of transport, and Craig Dobbin, CEO of CHC Helicopter Corp. At Christmas,

and during other holidays, students flew home in grand style. Sometimes, Mr. Cashin went along for the ride.

He was completely at home with any technology. In his retirement, he became a serious amateur radio operator. At the height of the Y2K fears, he manned a fully equipped radio station supplied by the federal government. "He was there in case everything crashed," said his brother Richard Cashin. "We were in good hands. I slept well."

The work on Y2K led him to the attention of Public Safety Canada, which was in the process of setting up an emergency network against the day when satellite-based communications might fail. As it turned out, he based the new system on the ham radio network already in place.

"It has proven itself many times over. It's been adopted all over the country," said PSC regional director, Len LeRiche, who added that none of it could have happened without Mr. Cashin's input. "We relied on him quite heavily. His analytical skills and his ability to problem solve were quite considerable."

As was his forthrightness. "Laurie never minced his words," Mr. LeRiche said. "His biggest frustration was with the pace the government operates, which is very slow."

By all accounts, Mr. Cashin even assembled the radio kits himself, all the while working as a management consultant and senior public servant across Canada.

Forced to take early retirement in 1991 because of a heart attack, his health deteriorated nine years later when he was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary thrombosis. In 2004, he underwent a lung transplant only to learn that he had cancer in his other lung.

But this did not stop his advocacy. In 2005, he was awarded the Governor-General's Caring Canadian Award. It was in his character to keep trying to make things work and make them better.

## LAURENCE CASHIN

Laurence Martin Cashin was born in St. John's on Nov. 25, 1940. He died in St. John's on March 18, 2008. He was 67. He is survived by his wife, Carmel, and by his sons Anthony, Peter and Martin in Halifax. He also leaves his brother Richard.

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**A United Way Agency**

Web page: [www.south-eastdeaf.nb.ca](http://www.south-eastdeaf.nb.ca)

*We are a non-profit, charitable agency. We serve and advocate on behalf of the Deaf, deafened, and hard of hearing community in South Eastern New Brunswick.*

***Our Mission:** is to provide services, programs and advocacy to individuals who are Deaf, deafened or hard of hearing and their families.*

***Our Goal:** is to empower our clients to live independently and productively with full access to all opportunities.*

## Community News & Memorials

Barbara Mae Robertson

Feb 13, 1921— Mar 31, 2008

Barbara was born in Douglas, NB, she was the daughter of the late Harold and Greta (Hawkins) Stephens and the wife of the late Everett Robertson. Her death occurred at her home in St. John, NB.

Mother to daughters, Gail and her husband Gregory Hughes and Deborah and her husband Owen Stilwell, both of St. John; grandmother to Bradley, Kurtis, Martina and Thomas Hughes, Jeremy, Cassandra and Nicholas Stilwell.

“Mae” worked for Red Rose Tea Co. in St. John, retiring after 40 years having never missed a day of work. She was an active member of the St. John Assoc. of the Deaf. She enjoyed many activities and hobbies: Dingo, cats and puzzles.

Mae will be missed by all, condolences to her family.

David V. Kirkpatrick

July 8, 1923—May 25, 2008

David Kirkpatrick of Riverview, NB, passed away at the Moncton Hospital at the age of 84. Born in St. John, NB, he was the son of the late James Albert and Mary Ellen (Booker) Kirkpatrick. Mitchell, Allison, and Quin-Li Kirkpatrick. Besides his parents he is predeceased by his sister, Eileen Earle; also by brothers, Ensley, Llyod and Robert Kirkpatrick.

David worked as an engineer for CN Rail for over 30 years. He was a member of The CNR Pensioners and The Royal Canadian Legion. He served with the navy during WWII participating in “Convoy” runs across the Atlantic and down the East Coast. He spent much of his retirement with family and friends at his cottage in Pugwash, NS. Our condolences go out to the Kirkpatrick family, as well as, Bill Fox and Anne MacDonald for the loss of their brother-in-law.

He is survived by his beloved wife Francis (Fox) Kirkpatrick; daughter, Linda (Don) Vandenburg of Knoxville Tennessee; son, Ian (Cindy) Kirkpatrick of Barrie, Ontario; grandchildren, Stephanie Vandenburg,

Donovan Alester Purney

July 27, 1931—May 27, 2008

Donovan Alester Purney of Riverview, NB passed away at the Moncton Hospital at the age of 76. He was born in Yarmouth, NS, he was the son of the late Willard and Gertrude (Baker) Purney.

Don was in retail management for over 25 years. In his retirement years he was well known for his love of gardening and spending time with his family, especially with the grandchildren.

He is survived by his loving family; wife, Doreen (Goldman); two sons, Harry (Sue) of Moncton and Arthur of Riverview; daughter, Lee Ann Lambly of Miramichi; grandchildren, Leah and Evan Purney.

Our condolences go out to the Purney family.