

The Communicator

Special Points of interest:

- Christmas Open House
- Hands Up Expo at the Coliseum
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South-East Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Inc.

Christmas Open House Monday, December 22

You are invited to join us for the South-East Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Christmas Open House on **Monday, December 22nd** from 1:00pm until 3:00pm.

SEDHHS will be having this exciting event at the **Bethel Presbyterian Church**, 600 Coverdale Road in Riverview, NB (it is on the transit bus route).

We had so many people attend the Christmas

Open House last year that it was much too crowded at the agency. It was hard to move around, see everyone, move our arms to sign ☺, and it was a fire hazard.

We are very thankful for the generosity of the Bethel Presbyterian Church community. It is a very busy time of year for the church and they still agreed to let us use their church hall for our Open House. Thank you!

There will be tea, coffee, light refreshments, door prizes and more.

All are welcome and we hope to see you there! Come help us celebrate the Christmas spirit.



It's A Girl! Born on Saturday, October 4th, 2008

*Congratulations to Tobie, Guy, and Peter Martin
Vianna 6lbs 2 ounces*



Executive Director's Message

Well, another year is drawing to a close...2008 has been a very busy year for SEDHHS.

In 2008, SEDHHS continued to offer its programs and services for the deaf and hard of

hearing, Sign Language classes for the public, its Parenting Program, the Community Workshops every month, and much more.

The year 2009 is promising to be just as busy and

productive. We look forward to continuing to offer all our programs and services.

In January, the RCMP will speak at the Community Workshop on how to prevent fraud and identity theft from happening to

you or your family. Hope to see you there!

From my family to yours, I wish you a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year that is filled with peace, happiness, family, friendships-old & new, and good health.

Laurie V.

SKSK

Hands Up Expo Update

On October 24th and 25th SEDHHS was a part of the 1st Hands Up Expo held at the Moncton Coliseum. This Expo gave non-profit agencies the opportunity to meet with the public, raise awareness about the services each agency provides, and to gain volunteers to help out with the agency of the volunteer's choice.

The Expo was a huge success and SEDHHS really enjoyed being there. Thank you to those of you from the deaf and hard of hearing community who came out to visit and to support the SEDHHS booth. Also I would like to thank Bonnie, Geraldine, and the Board members who were able to put in the extra work to make the booth beautiful and to volunteer to help "man" the booth. Your efforts made this experience run more smoothly and made it successful. Thank you!



Deaf adults have lifetime literacy needs

by Kathern B. Lawrence

(FOR THE TIMES AND TRANSCRIPT)

Emerging through the awakening phase of their adulthood, some deaf people face difficulties with literacy and feel inferior when using English. Their English skills are not equal to those of some hearing students receiving a Grade 12 diploma when they have graduated.

I often hear the statement, "I have poor English," made by the deaf adults with minimal literacy, and they don't feel confident to write sentences to communicate with the hearing.

They feel intimidated by the idea that the hearing may think they are stupid. They recognize the need to improve their literacy skills.

The Deaf Adults Literacy Program can help achieve this and is an essential part of the provincial Community Adult Learning Network (CALNet).

Deaf adults, born deaf or deafened at an early age, naturally assimilate information visually from their social environments. In the first five years of their lives, some deaf children have successfully developed their ability to communicate before they are ready for the literacy learning that takes place in the home or school.

Their literacy successes are based on the effectiveness of parental commitment and diligence in raising their children in friendly ways through role modeling, planned educational programs, involvement in

social communities, communication in the home and community, cognitive capabilities, highly visual stimulation to social environments and placements in educational systems.

In the absence of the necessary support and encouragement some children will experience only minimal language before they enter preschool or primary school.

Without strong communication skills, they don't readily absorb the language, and from there, they continue struggling with learning throughout their school years.

Medical and educational professionals don't always recommend alternatives for communication and language opportunities to dismayed parents when they discover that their children cannot hear.

The professional, familiar with the needs of the speaking population, usually recommend speech and hearing development for children.

Some deaf children, placed in oral settings, acquire the language successfully due to the commitment and diligence of their parents. But some children, being more visually oriented, may continue to miss essential information through oral

ways.

Parents should be aware of other options to meet the visual-oriented, deaf children's communicative needs.

For instance, American Sign Language (ASL) is a natural visual language used in deaf communities, and children usually find it helpful for communicating. But it requires a dynamic interaction from family members and friends who also know sign language. It is a form of non-written language, different from the spoken English language we use when learning to read and write.

Today, a bilingual approach, including a blend of ASL and the English language, is used in schools for the deaf in most provinces across Canada. It also works well for deaf adults taking deaf adult literacy programs. Some deaf adults sign fluently and vividly, but they have trouble putting words into their essays and comprehending passages.

That shows the need for improving their literacy skills. As I recall from my past experiences, most of their teachers were not fluent signers as they signed, finger spelled a little bit, but spoke words mostly. As a result, they did not really give the deaf much information through signing and writing as they

could have. Some of the students had trouble lip-reading, but they could have received information through fluent signing.

ASL is an effective communication tool for deaf adults in the deaf literacy program. It helps them learn how the English language works. They need time to understand word meanings, main ideas of passages, structures, phrases and idioms through different levels of reading and writing.

Literacy and related skills are necessary for deaf adults. All visual media require them to read and to respond verbally or in writing. The deaf have to read captions on TV news, documents and movies while hearing people are listening. Newspapers are an essential source for understanding what has been happening locally, nationally and internationally. Some adults are denied the opportunity to participate in community events because they don't know about them as they don't or can't read newspapers.

Novels or stories are read for pleasure. Non-fiction for further learning and information. The deaf often find reading complicated to follow therefore need to upgrade in all skills through the adult literacy program. With improved literacy skills there is a corresponding improvement in self-sufficiency.

We are all lifetime learners like hearing people, for there is no limit in learning our language. With improvement in our literacy skills, we can continue to assimilate information independently through printed language.



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 A United Way Agency

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

SEDHHS Cookbooks

If you are still looking for a gift for the person who is hard to buy for or you just need an extra giftRemember you can pick up the SEDHHS Cookbook for only \$10.00 each.

There are over a 164 pages of recipes that include entrees, breads & muffins, desserts, fish, meats, salads, soups, sweet breads and miscellaneous items. The cookbook also includes poems, jokes, deaf culture facts and much more.

What a great way to support SEDHHS and to give a loved one a gift they will cherish.

MAD's Annual Christmas Festive Dinner and Entertainment

Friday, Dec. 5th

6:00pm – 10:00pm

Swiss Chalet

Main Street

Upper deck of Swiss Chalet has been reserved for our group. You will pay for your own dinner, drink, and tip. Come join in the fun!

There will be songs, skits, and storytelling.

Wear something festive.

Confirm with Kathern Lawrence

kblaw@nbnet.nb.ca

1-506-859-4011 (TTY or VP)

Deaf Adult Learning Program (NBCC Moncton)

Classes begin the week of January 5th, 2009.

Register as soon as possible seats are limited!

THE CLASSES ARE FREE!

If you are interested in upgrading your reading and writing skills, improving your comprehension skills (understanding what you are reading), upgrading your math skills, or would like to complete your GED (high school equivalency) program then this is the course for you.

Improving on all of these skills will help you to find long term employment, or help you to find a better job. If you are thinking about attending college or trade school, in the future, this program will help to prepare you.

The program is taught by a deaf adult using ASL. You, the student, can set your own schedule (day of the week, time of day, and hours per week). You can also choose to be taught one-on-one or be in a class with a few other deaf students.

To register please contact Kathern Lawrence at kblaw@nbnet.nb.ca or 859-4011 (TTY or VP) or 902- 664-2602 (BB Text).