

## Special Points of interest:

- January 2011 SEDHHS Membership News
- Community Celebrations
- Winnipeg Free Press Article
- Maritime News
- Community News & Memorials

## Inside this issue:

SEDHHS Membership	1
Exec Dir's Message	2
Community Celebrations	2
Winnipeg Free Press Article	3
Other news...	3
Maritime News	4
Community News	5

South-East Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Inc.

## SEDHHS Membership News

January '2011



We would like to take this time to make the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities aware that as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 we will be accepting membership to SEDHHS at a new price.

At the November Board of Directors meeting, it was voted on and decided to change the current fees from \$15/person or \$25/family **to now be \$5.00** for all whether you are an individual or a family.

We hope that this new fee of \$5.00 will encourage more of you to become members of SEDHHS.

We want to see our membership numbers grow. SEDHHS provides programs and services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and we want you to become members so that you can have a "voice" in what we do here at SEDHHS.

If you are a member you can be actively involved with SEDHHS by bringing your thoughts and ideas forward to the Board of Directors as well as be able to vote at our Annual General Meeting in June on any ideas that may be brought forward, changes or additions to our By-Laws, and you can nominate and vote for new Board members.

**Please** consider becoming a member to SEDHHS in January 2011 or anytime after that. You can stop by the agency, or call, or email to request a membership form. Once the form is completed and the fee is paid you will receive a membership card. Your membership will only need to be renewed once a year.

***We value your opinion and look forward to having you as a member in the New Year!***

**Reader's Digest Funny Christmas Story:** My niece Hilary was an elementary-school teacher and produced the Christmas play one year. She told her students that if they forgot their lines they should ad-lib instead of just standing there. All went well until the three Wise Men made their entrance: "Baby Jesus, here is your gold," said the first.

"Baby Jesus, here is your frankincense," offered the second.

The third Wise Man forgot the name of his gift and froze. "Say anything," whispered Hilary from the wings.

The boy peered into the manger and exclaimed, "**Ooh, doesn't he look just like his dad!**"

--Ellis Mossley (from *Reader Contributions*, 1991)

## Executive Director's Message

2010 has been a very busy year at SEDHHS and it has gone by very quickly.

We were very sad to see Raymond and Cheryl Dupuis retire this past June as instructors of our Sign Language classes, after many years of service. We appreciate all of their hard work over the years and are thankful they took the time to teach our new instructors: Tobie Martin and Pat Oulton.

SEDHHS is now taking registration for our January classes.

We also had to say good bye to Jamie Thomson, our past President and former Board member for many, many years.

Jamie moved to PEI this past fall; we wish you all the best on your new journey.

Before leaving, Jamie presented SEDHHS with a cheque for \$500.00 from RBC Royal Direct in honor of all of Jamie's volunteer hours with SEDHHS. Thank you, Jamie these dollars will be put to good use.

In the New Year, we hope to have our Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities become more involved with SEDHHS. The first step is to have more of you register as members of SEDHHS. We're looking forward to having more feedback from you our clients and the communities we represent. It's important for you to have a voice!

Our Fundraising Committee has many events planned for the coming year. SEDHHS will keep you posted once everything is finalized. We are looking forward to all the fun!!

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please take care over the holiday season.

Laurie V.



## Community Christmas Celebrations

December 2010

### Christmas Breakfast with CCRW

CCRW Employment Services would like to extend an invitation to come by the office and share a continental breakfast with us. Come have something to eat on your way to work or drop by anytime in the morning to share some Christmas Cheer.

Friday December 10, 2010  
7:30am until 11am  
529 Main Street Suite 100  
RSVP 858-1650 ext. 103  
By December 7

Merry Christmas to all the clients, partners and employers who have contributed to CCRW's mission of supporting Canadians with disabilities in securing meaningful and equitable employment.

Breakfast:

Coffee, tea, apple cider, muffins, croissants, cheese and fruit



**Mega Christmas celebration for you and your family!  
All new show!**

Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm will be **interpreted by church signers**. Do not order tickets online, please call or go to the Wesleyan Church to be sure get into the right seating section. Phone #: 857-2293

December 1st-5th. Southern New Brunswick's most enduring Christmas production in its 38th year! Dazzling lights, dance, drama, laughter, children, 80 voice choir & live orchestra. In 2009, over 11,000 people attended!

## Modern messaging a godsend for deaf... And now a BlackBerry texting interview

By: Melissa Martin

To interview Sheila Montney 15 years ago, we might have needed an interpreter, or a pen and paper. Today, all we needed was our BlackBerrys. Montney, executive director of Manitoba's Deaf Resource Centre, was born deaf into a family of hearing people. More than a decade ago, she settled into a career working with and for Manitoba's deaf community. Because it truly is a community, one that has long flourished out of the view of the hearing mainstream.

The only problem: Deaf people still had to live in a world largely built by and for people who can hear.

That's changing. At the turn of the millennium, the sudden flood of mobile technology shifted how the world communicates. We phone less and text more; we gab on our webcams and videophones. For deaf people, this means that instead of stilted TTY (a device that sends text-based messages through traditional phone lines), they can and do talk to each other on the go or from afar with all the nuance of American Sign Language or the convenience of text messaging.

And things are getting even better: On Tuesday, a new Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission rule made it mandatory for Canadian phone providers to offer IP Relay service, where an operator translates a conversation between a hearing person on the phone and a deaf person typing messages on their laptop or smartphone. Video relay service, where operators translate sign language into spoken English, is due out by the end of 2012. Now, days before international Deaf Awareness Week closes on Saturday, we talked tech with Montney -- via BlackBerry text messaging, no less.

**Q: (Cellphones and videophones) have changed the world, but I imagine they've made a big impact in the deaf community.**

Yes, it is a big impact. Without it, we will feel lost and have to depend on TTY only to communicate. TTY doesn't show any emotion, but BlackBerrys have symbols to show emotions like happy or angry. (Also) for example, iPhone 4 has a big advantage for deaf mothers, like Baby Cry Identify, which I learned that tells hungry, or attention, or tired... Right now, Canada doesn't have video relay services, so deaf community now relies on BlackBerry / iPhone 4 or emails on computer. Recently, Rogers set up IP relay. That thrills us so we can use IP relay through websites to place order like pizza. :)

**Q: You remember life before this stuff. How does it compare to now?**

My past and now are very different!! I think right now we are lucky to have wonderful technology. I'm sure hearing ppl feel the same -- earphone while driving. Also in the past we use TTY to make an arrangement to meet friend in some place, but now using BB we communicate via pager then meet in person.

**Q: It seems like eventually there will be very little difference in how deaf and hearing ppl interact with world at large -- everything will be text, IM, video.**

Yes that's true. For example, I go to McDonalds through drive thru. I use my BlackBerry to show my text of what I want. It's easier than have paper and pen. Or use BB to communicate like "where are u exactly in mall" to find that person. In the past, I have to find a TTY somewhere in mall to make a phone call for cab. With BB, it's easier as I can ask someone to make a call for me. Quicker way than find TTY.

When I was on the Canadian Association for the Deaf board, 10 yrs ago, the board was wondering what happened to me as I missed the flight. I had to ask someone to call the hotel to pass the msg. Now I can use BB to inform the board if I'm running late, it's very handy!!

**Q: (And videophone) allows for much more nuanced conversation with ASL than TTY I imagine... better human connection.**

A: Yes that's correct! Deaf community's first language is ASL so it's easier to express in sign language with each other.

**Q: Does tech change career opportunities? 20 years ago it would be very hard to be deaf and a journalist, all phone... now it could be done, for instance.**

A: That's true. For example, at Deaf Centre Manitoba, the building manager want to talk with me about serious issue right away. I can't get interpreter on short notice, so we can communicate via BlackBerry or through videophone (with voice-recognition software). At Boeing, there were many deafies in the past without BB but now everyone at Boeing has BB to communicate between hearing and deafies. It's a lot different in past and now.

WINNIPEG FREE PRESS Sept 24, 2010

### Other events...

- November 2010 SEDHHS now accepting registration for Jan'2011 classes of ASL Levels I to IV.
- Saturday, November 27, **10:00am to 12:00pm (please note new time)**, SEDHHS Community Workshop, Lewisville Lions Club. Topic: BayTech College, Carpentry program for the deaf.
- MAD Christmas Party, Saturday, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, see page 4 for more details.
- Friday, December 3, United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons.
- Wednesday, December 15, SEDHHS Christmas Open House, see pg 4 for details.
- **Please note: SEDHHS office will be closed at 12:00pm on Dec 24<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Closed: Dec 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Jan 1, 2, & 3. If need interpreter for EMERGENCIES ONLY please call: 878-3279. Call 850-2790 to book interpreter for regular appointments.**

## News Across the Maritimes

### Moncton Association of the Deaf

#### Christmas Party

**Where:** Moncton Lions Community Centre, 473 St. George Street

**When:** Saturday, November 27/10

#### What Time:

Cocktails at 4:30pm  
Dinner at 5:00pm  
Entertainment from 7:30 to 9  
Friendly chat after 9pm.

#### Cost:

Tickets: \$18.00/person

**Contact:** Irv MacDonald for tickets at: [erwin75@rogers.com](mailto:erwin75@rogers.com) or Albert Budd at [ambudd@rogers.com](mailto:ambudd@rogers.com)

Hope to see you there!



### SEDHHS T-shirts for sale

Now available at the agency are white t-shirts with the SEDHHS logo. The cost is \$10.00 each and all money from the sale of the t-shirts will go into the continuation of programs and help to develop new programs for our clients.

If you would like to purchase a t-shirt please contact the office or stop by to see the shirts and try on to be sure it fits!!

The t-shirts would make a great gift or Christmas stocking stuffer (Christmas is only 1 month away ☺)

Help support your community & SEDHHS. Thank you!

### SEDHHS Christmas Open House



**When:** Wednesday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

**Where:** Lewisville Lions Club  
156 Pleasant Street  
Moncton, NB

**Time:** 1pm to 3pm

**Cost:** FREE

*Come and stop by during our Open House!*

*There will be plenty to eat, games and prizes!!*

*Come and share in our Christmas Best Wishes to you and your family!*



### Texting changes life for the deaf

Times & Transcript, Moncton Area Newspaper  
Associated Press  
Sept 20/2010

TALLADEGA, Ala. – Quietly over the last decade, phones that make text messaging easy have changed life profoundly for millions of deaf people.

Gone are the days of a deaf person driving to someone's house just to see if they are home. Wives text their deaf husbands in the basement, just as a hearing wife might yell down the stairs. Deaf teens blend in with the mall crowd since they're constantly texting, like everyone else in high school.

Visit the Alabama School for the Deaf, and it's impossible to miss the signs of a revolution that many hearing people simply never noticed. Most everyone at the school in Talladega has at least one handheld texting device, and some have two. At lunch, deaf diners order burgers and fries by text: Punch in the order and show it at the counter.

For the first time a generation of deaf people can communicate with the world on its terms, using cellphones, BlackBerrys or iPhones, of which some 260 million are in use in the United States.

Matt Kochie, who is deaf, has been texting his entire adult life and has a hard time imagining a day without it. "We'd have to go back to pen and paper," said Kochie, 29, a teacher at the school. "We'd have to write back and forth to communicate."

Without his handheld, Walter Ripley said he would be back to relying on others for even basic communication. And texting is less work, said Ripley, 54.

"I don't have to depend on hearing people. It makes me a lot more independent. I don't have to ask people to call for me. Asking for people to call can be very frustrating," said Ripley, the school's athletic director.

Kochie and Ripley both used sign language and interpreters during interviews and deaf people still generally favour signing when talking face-to-face. It's faster and more expressive than pecking out letters on a tiny keyboard.

For generations, deaf people communicated mainly by sign language, gesturing, lip-reading and writing.



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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

Fredericton Playhouse presents

**Christmas @ the playhouse:  
 Carol of the Bells – A sign  
 interpreted performance**



*Christmas @theplayhouse* is proud to present *Carol of the Bells*, the latest edition of Fredericton's favourite holiday show. With a host of colourful characters, vibrant musical numbers, and a talented ensemble of local performers and musicians, audiences will be taken on a journey of discovery – a journey where the true meaning of Christmas is found and celebrated.

Drawing strongly on the theme of time, and adapted from the world's most beloved Christmas classic, *Christmas @theplayhouse: Carol of the Bells* is the perfect way to get your family into the Christmas spirit. Filled with joy, laughter, heartbreak, and lots of music, this new adaptation has something for everyone, both young and old!

This year, for the first time, the Fredericton Playhouse will present a **sign interpreted performance** of *Christmas @theplayhouse: Carol of the Bells* on Saturday, December 18 at 3 PM.

Seats have been reserved for members of the deaf and hard of hearing community, and will be **available exclusively to you until Tuesday, December 7, 2010**. To purchase tickets, please call the Playhouse box office at 458-8344 or 1-866-884-5800.

*Ask for seating reserved for the deaf and hard of hearing community.*

**In person or relay service available.** Please note: these reserved seats are not available online.

Performance dates are:  
 Thursday, Dec 16, 2010 - 8:00 PM  
 Friday, Dec 17, 2010 - 8:00 PM  
**Saturday, Dec 18, 2010 - 3:00 PM**, 8:00 PM  
 Sunday, Dec 19, 2010 - 3:00 PM

Ticket Prices: Regular - \$26.00, Student - \$18.50, Member - \$23.00  
 eyeGO and Student Rush programs apply.

For more information, please contact Amani Wassef, Education and Outreach Director at (506) 459-6212 / [amani@theplayhouse.ca](mailto:amani@theplayhouse.ca)  
 For media inquiries, please contact Jill Scaplen, Marketing Director at (506) 459-6210 / [jill@theplayhouse.ca](mailto:jill@theplayhouse.ca)