

**Special Points of interest:**

- Volunteers
- Workshops Sept & Oct
- SEDHHS BBQ
- Newspaper Article from the Times & Transcript
- Community News & Memorials

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

## UPS and RBC Royal Direct Volunteers Support SEDHHS

SEDHHS would like to recognize and thank very supportive volunteers from our community.

In October, for Volunteer Awareness Month, two UPS employees volunteered their time, on a Sunday, to paint one of our upstairs offices. We

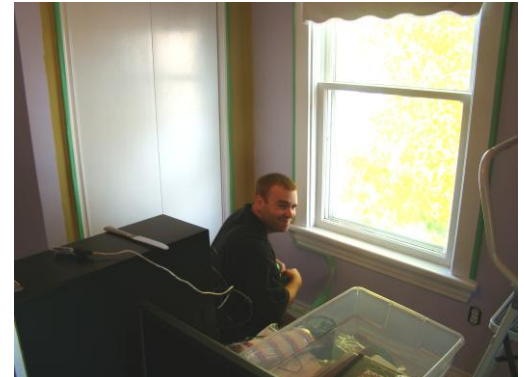
appreciate the time they gave and want to let Janice and Ryan know that the office looks great and much more professional. Thank you for your support!

We would also like to express our appreciation to Jamie Thomson for all

the volunteer hours he provides to SEDHHS. As an RBC employee Jamie's volunteer hours are recognized by RBC with a \$500.00 donation to the charity of his choice. Thank you to Jamie for choosing SEDHHS. With the donation we were able to replace the back step.



UPS volunteers Ryan Brown & Janice Cooke (Janice also sits on SEDHHS' Board of Directors) preparing to paint upstairs office.



Ryan Brown, UPS employee and volunteer, taping the moulding in preparation for the paint.



Jamie Thomson, SEDHHS Board President & RBC Royal Direct Moncton volunteer.



Jamie Thomson's volunteer hours with SEDHHS provided a donation of \$500.00 from RBC.

## Executive Director's Message

Well I'm sure everyone says this at the end of every year, but "It really is hard to believe the year is almost over. It has gone by so fast!" ☺

I would like to thank everyone who helps to make the office run so smoothly. Thank you to Sarah for all the work she does and for taking on the task of becoming our Admin Support and learning Sign Language as well. Sarah has really made an effort in the past six months to become a part of the SEDHHS team.

Tobie, thank you, for all

the hard work you do for the community. I value your judgment and have gained a better understanding of the Deaf culture because of you. The Deaf community is lucky to have you.

Ginnie, thank God for you, we at South-East and the community appreciate your professionalism and your constant positive attitude.

Raymond and Cheryl, thank you for continuing to agree to teach our Sign Language classes. I receive nothing but positive feedback from the students. You are helping

to bridge the gap between the deaf and hearing communities and educate the hearing community about Deaf culture. Thank you for this.

Thank you to our eleven Board members who volunteer their time and expertise.

Also, thank you to the many volunteers who help out at SEDHHS. We appreciate you!!

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please take care over the holidays.  
**Laurie V.**

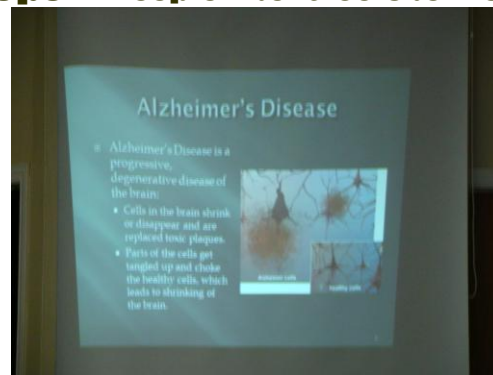


## SEDHHS Community Workshops

September & October 2009



September Workshop: Be Active



October Workshop: Alzheimer's Society

After the summer holidays we began our monthly Community Workshops again. We have been extremely happy with the number of people who attend from the deaf community. In September our presenter was Bun Veysey from Go Ahead Seniors. He did a very "active" presentation on teaching us how to be active and stay healthy. We had fun trying out the exercises Bun shared with us. ☺

In October our presenter, the Alzheimer's Society of NB, did a very informative presentation on the affects of Alzheimer's disease. Many of you asked very important questions and I hope that you learned everything you wanted to know about this disease. It is important to watch for the warning signs in our family members and friends from the community. Also if we know someone with the disease we need to be patient with them and support them during this difficult time.

November's workshop was our biggest turn out, 47 community members attended the RBC's RRSP for persons with a disability workshop. WOW!! We hope to see all of you in the New Year at our future workshops.



## SEDHHS 2nd Annual BBQ Picnic Saturday, Sept 12, 2009



SEDHHS held its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual BBQ Picnic in Centennial Park, Moncton this past September 12<sup>th</sup>. The picnic is normally held in June but because of a thunder and lightning storm on our scheduled day in June we decided to postpone it to September. And what a great day we had!! The weather was beautiful and we had many, many people come out to join the fun. Thank you to Superstore in Riverview for donating the hot dogs and hamburgers, as well, thank you to Sobeys in Riverview for donating the beverages. Community minded businesses like yours are very much appreciated!

Thank you also to Tobie Martin for organizing the event after only being back to work, from maternity leave, for 2 weeks. GREAT JOB!! Also big thanks to Raymond Dupuis and Mike Vincent for their superb BBQing skills. We hope to see everyone again next year and be sure to check out the rest of our BBQ Picnic pictures on our Face Book page (Moncton Deaf).

### Other events.....

- MAD Christmas Dinner/Party, Fri Dec 11, 5:00pm to 12:00am, Beausejour Curling Club
- SEDHHS Christmas Open House, Wed Dec 16, 1:00 to 3:00pm 156 Pleasant Street, Lewisville Lions Club. Storm date: Fri, Dec 18 1 to 3pm.
- Community Workshop January 30, 1 to 3 pm **Topic:** Dispute Resolution Process (DRP)  
Presenters: AVLI-NB interpreters, 156 Pleasant Street, Lewisville Lions Club.
- **PLEASE NOTE: SEDHHS office will be closed at 12:00pm on Dec 24<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Office not open Dec 24<sup>th</sup> afternoon, closed Dec 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Jan 1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. If need interpreter for **EMERGENCIES only** please call: 878-3279. If need book interpreter for regular appts call: 850-2790.**

## Medical student displays quiet confidence by Shamona Harnett Published Saturday, October 17, 2009

(The Canadian Press: FOR BRUNSWICK NEWS: Times & Transcript)

WINNIPEG-Megan Jack hoists a hefty black backpack over her petite frame and carries it like a pro.

The first-year University of Manitoba medical student is like most other aspiring doctors. She lugs textbooks around. She survives marathon study sessions. And she attends classes all day.

But during lectures-while other students concentrate on the professor's words-Jack, 23, focuses on two figures positioned at a podium in the front of the classroom.

They are interpreters who speak to Jack with their hands, translating into sign language everything her professor says.

The interpreters are there specifically for Jack, who is completely deaf and communicates using American Sign Language (ASL). Jack is the first deaf student in the history of the U of M's MD program.

Jack, a modest young woman, blushes, smiles and tilts her head down when it's suggested that she is a pioneer of sorts.

"Well, not really, but thank you," she says during an interview through two interpreters at the U of M's Bannatyne campus.

If she completes medical school, Jack will be one of the first completely deaf medical doctors in Canada, says Dr. Bruce Martin, associate dean of the U of M's faculty of medicine. (Official statistics about deaf medical doctors in North America do not exist, though there are more in the United States than in Canada.)

Jack, who grew up in Altona, Man., and can't ever remember hearing, says that she's wanted to be a physician since she was a kid. She looks forward to taking care of patients who are deaf so

they can finally have a doctor they can "communicate directly with."

While critics may question how hearing patients will react to having a doctor who can't hear, Jack doesn't seem to worry about that.

"Obviously, I haven't tried this yet," says the student, who loves reading, travelling and in-line skating. "I think that for the most part people will accept me for the way I am. Obviously it might be a little awkward at first. That's often what happens. And I'll say to them, 'You know, I'm not going to bite you or anything.'"

She realizes that there will be complications to becoming a deaf doctor. She will need to use a stethoscope with a visual output to detect a patient's heart rate. Clinical training in an emergency room situation that requires a keen sense of sound will be tricky. ASL doesn't have words for most medical terms, so her interpreters must spell them for her during class.

The U of M currently covers the costs of Jack's three part time interpreters, with the help of provincial grants. While other practicing deaf doctors use ASL interpreters (often paid for by their employers), Jack hopes to avoid the need for an interpreter when she goes into practice. "There's a shortage of interpreters here in Winnipeg and across Canada, so I don't want to be partly responsible for the shortage," she says.

Jack says her determination is a result of her upbringing. Around the house, her mother and father treated her as "normally" as her two brothers, who can both hear. Her parents made sure she was never behind in class and provided her with speech therapy and extra lessons.

Jack's parents didn't always know she was deaf. They suspected something was wrong at a young age when she wasn't responding to her name and her vocabulary wasn't at the level it should be.

After years of visits to specialists, she was finally diagnosed at age four with "profound to severe" hearing loss. The cause was unknown but due to nerve damage, says Jack's mother, Kathryn, who still lives in Altona, 115 kms south of Winnipeg, with her husband and Jack's father, Brian.

Kathryn recalls anticipating that once Megan began Kindergarten that she and her husband would need to do everything they could to help their daughter stay ahead. "In Grade 3 she was working on Grade 5 English," says Kathryn. "By the time she reached junior high she was doing pretty well and she was going to do well regardless."

Jack says growing up in a small town with people who knew her from childhood was comforting. Many of her friends, she says, know ASL. She can communicate with the ones who don't though lip reading, text messaging and email. She uses her voice with close friends and family. Jack, who has a 4 yr. bachelor's degree in biology from the U of M, admits that moving to Winnipeg away from her family was a big transition. Now, she loves it and is touched by many of her medical school peers, who voluntarily take an ASL course recently introduced to her faculty.

Do people have misconceptions about her? "I guess sometimes they think that they have to speak really loud," says Jack, who wears a hearing aid to help detect significant noises though she cannot make out words and specific sounds. "I guess sometimes people think that I'm dumb. But that doesn't happen today very often at all."

Martin says that U of M's decision to accept Jack as a medical student is a testament to how far society has come in accepting people with disabilities. He adds that her deafness may serve her well as a doctor, exposing to her patients her human side. It might also make her a more compassionate caregiver.

"One would think that she would have a greater understanding...as a result of her own life experiences," says Martin. "Being deaf is part of my life. It's part of who I am. I don't really feel like I'm missing anything," says Jack.





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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



Odilon Goguen  
1937-2009

Odilon J. Goguen, 72, of Dieppe, passed away on Wednesday September 30, 2009 at Residence Notre-Dame-du-Sacre-Couer where he resided. Born June 26, 1937 in Notre-Dame, he was the son of the late Robert and Lina (Poirier) Goguen

Odilon worked as a

Linotypist for the newspaper L'Evangeline until end of publication in 1982. He was a past member of the Moncton Curling Association and the Moncton Lawn Bowling Club.

He is survived by his wife, Claudette (Brun) Goguen of Dieppe; his son Robert (Yvette Melanson) of Dieppe; two sisters: Sr. Zelma Goguen of Elsipogtog and Zita Goguen of Moncton. He is predeceased by three infant brothers: Jean-Lois, Edouard and Jean-Philippe.



Floyd Eldon Geldart  
1934-2009

Floyd Eldon Geldart, 75, of Edgett's Landing passed away suddenly on October 22, 2009 at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

He will be deeply missed by his daughter, Suzanne Geldart of Moncton; special niece, Jodi Painchaud (Dennis) of Edgett's Landing whom Floyd and Marilyn lovingly raised; cherished granddaughter, Paula;

he was also like a grampy to Rachel and Adam and great grampy to Griffin who will miss him dearly. He will also be sadly missed by sisters, Phyllis Hicks (Harold) of Dawson Settlement, Janet Black of Cannan, Helen Tilley of New Castle and Carletta Corey (Fred) of Petitcodiac; brothers, Vincent Geldart (Diane) of Edgett's Landing and Merlen Geldart (Carolyn) of Hillsborough; brother-in-law, Richard Steeves (Jean) of Edgett's Landing and Fred Steeves (Doris) of Sparta, Wisconsin; several nieces and nephews and by his special friend, Janet Wilson.

Besides his parents he was predeceased by his beloved wife, Marilyn (Steeves) Geldart and by son, Kenneth.