

**Special Points
of interest:**

- Christmas Open House Update and Photos
- Disability Awareness Week
- Newspaper Article by Margaret Patricia Eaton
- Community News

Inside this issue:

Christmas Open House	1
Exec Dir's Message	2
Disability Awareness Week	2
Newspaper Article	3
Community News	4

South-East Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Inc.

Christmas Open House Tuesday, December 23'08

We were very happy to see those of you who came out for the Christmas Open House.

Unfortunately, we had to postpone it by a day because of a winter storm, so the attendance was a little lower than last year.

Thank you to the Presbyterian Church for allowing us to have our Open House at their Church hall. We had much more room and fun was had by all.

We had a surprise visit from Santa Claus and

more than enough food. Thank you to everyone who made food donations.

Next year we plan to have the event a week earlier to accommodate everyone's Christmas plans and possible storms. I'm sure we'll have fun in Dec'09.



Executive Director's Message

It has truly started off as a "Happy New Year" for SEDHHS. You must be wondering "why"; well let me tell you...SEDHHS has received a UPS Community Grant. ☺

Last summer we applied for the grant to help improve the technology at our agency, as well as, to be able to have safety equipment installed, and to purchase new supplies to update the programs and services at SEDHHS.

We are very grateful to the UPS Foundation for their generosity. It is because

of companies like UPS that non-profit agencies are able to grow and improve.

In other news, for those of you who don't know, the show "The Amazing Race" started a new season on Feb. 15th with a special mother-son team.

The son Luke is 22 yrs. old and Deaf. On the first show Luke and his mother were the first team to cross the finish line and last week they came in fourth. Be sure to tune in to the show on Sunday nights at 9:00pm on ATV to cheer Luke and his mother on.

This new year SEDHHS continues to offer Sign Language classes to our hearing community, our Community Workshops on the last Saturday of every month, and our Parenting Program.

We are busy planning fundraising events for 2009, so be sure to watch your email and mail for those updates.

SEDHHS hopes to have a community lending library in the near future, as well as, a Deaf Cultural Centre. We will need the community's help to make

this a success and we look forward to your support and input.

SEDHHS is now on Facebook, so search us out, become our friend, and look at our photo albums of events. Our Facebook name is:

Se Dhhs

I look forward to seeing all of you over the coming months and look forward to a successful 2009.

Laurie V.

SKSK

Disability Awareness Week Sunday, May 31 – Saturday, June 6th, 2009



Walk and Roll June 2008 for Disability Awareness Week

Raymond Dupuis, Albert Budd, and
Jerry Daigle



Bonnie Swan at SEDHHS booth inside
Moncton City Hall

In New Brunswick, 2009, marks the 22nd Annual Disability Awareness Week. This year's theme is "Disability Supports-Create Self Sufficiency." There are many events held provincially to celebrate Disability Awareness Week, which can be found on the Premier's Council on the Status of Disabled Person website: www.gnb.ca/0048.

On Tuesday, June 2nd, in the morning until lunch, in Fredericton, NB at the Fredericton Inn the Legislative Breakfast will take place. On Friday, June 5th is the Walk & Roll event across the province. In Moncton, the Walk & Roll is hosted by CCRW, the Moncton Accessibility Committee, and the city. Be sure to come out and join in the Walk & Roll at noon on June 5th outside Moncton City Hall on Main Street. There will be BBQ hotdogs, beverages, and prizes.

How we can learn from the deaf community by Margaret Patricia Eaton SEDHHS Board Secretary

(FOR BRUNSWICK NEWS: HERE MONCTON MAGAZINE)

When viewers watch the new season's Amazing Race, they will meet Margaret and Luke Adams from Colorado. What makes this mother-son team unique isn't that Luke is a college graduate, but that he's been deaf since birth and uses American Sign Language to communicate. He says he hopes to be a role model for deaf people everywhere, proving that the deaf can do just about anything.

Laurie Vincent, executive director for the South-East Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Inc. (SEDHHS) at 1690 Main St. in Moncton, seconds this opinion. Since 2007 she's been the guiding hand of this Non-Profit United Way Partner Agency which provides services, programs and advocacy for deaf, deafened and hard of hearing individuals and their families, and reports to a Board of Directors, using a governance model.

Laurie's enthusiasm is obvious as she talks with positive energy about her work, including the "Baby Sign Language Class" taught by a certified sign language instructor, to hearing mothers of hearing infants. But what's the point of teaching sign language to hearing babies one might wonder.

"This program assists mothers to communicate with their babies at a very young age using simple sign language," Laurie says. "It reduces frustration, builds trust and

promotes positive emotional development. Moreover, it's becoming very popular: there are books on the topic and even packages of Huggies come with basic instructions. However we're the only agency in the area which offers this course to mothers and babies.

The instructor, Tobie Martin, is currently on maternity leave, caring for three-month-old Vianna, a cuddly and contented baby and her two-and-a-half-year old brother Peter, who both signs and speaks in complete sentences. While both of the children are fully hearing, Tobie has been deaf since birth. Without her cochlear implant she has 10 per cent hearing; with it she has 90 percent.

A certified sign language instructor, Tobie started teaching "Baby Sign" to Peter at birth. She says, "He recognized the "milk" sign at four months, two weeks later he could use it, and then gradually learned other basic signs. By one year he had a sign vocabulary of 12 words, Laura Peters, then executive director of SEDHHS, was so impressed that she asked me to teach the program to new mothers."

It's no wonder that she was impressed, as most children of one year have

a much smaller spoken vocabulary and at four-five months have none, and so have to resort to screaming to get what they want – perhaps something as simple as teddy bear that had been put away. With baby sign, the infant can make the sign for "teddy" and Mom will understand – no need for a tantrum.

So how does Tobie begin instruction?

"It's really important to be at eye level with the baby," she says, "and for the mother to be in a position that allows the baby to see her facial expression. The first sign word I teach is 'milk'. I show the mothers how to make the sign and then they feed their babies. Next is the sign for 'hungry', at which time the baby will be fed cereal. With repetition several times a day, baby will associate the sign with having a basic need met, will eventually imitate the sign and then use it on his own if he's thirsty or hungry. And then we move on to the next word, showing an object first, followed by the sign."

If Peter hadn't been using spoken words at 12 months and now speaking in complete sentences, parents might be concerned that signing would slow a child's speech development. Obviously it doesn't.

In fact, Tobie says, "Among the benefits of baby sign language are earlier and better oral speech communication skills; improved reading skills, since the child learns to associate the word with a sign; and a boost to IQ development."

With so many benefits, some young mothers may be asking "How soon can we start?" Tobie plans to offer the program this spring, limited to five mothers and babies per group.

"That's the maximum number for optimal learning," says Tobie. She's passionate about teaching and wants time to provide on-on-one instruction.

Internet websites indicate that American Sign Language also has applications for daycares and for children with special needs, including Down's Syndrome and Autism. How liberating for non-verbal children to end the frustration of being unable to communicate and how helpful to the parents and other care providers.

So Luke Adams from Amazing Race is correct that the deaf can do just about anything. More than that, they enrich the lives of the hearing community by teaching important communication skills.





1690 West Main St Moncton NB E1E 1G9
 Tel: (506) 859-6101 - TTY: (506) 384-8260 - Fax: (506)856-5060
 Email: seds@nb.aibn.com www.south-eastdeaf.nb.ca
 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

(Kay) Kathleen Reynolds
 RN

Peacefully passed at The Prince Edward Home on Thursday December 18, 2008 of Kay Reynolds R.N. of Charlottetown. Wife of the late George (Buster) Reynolds. Dear mother of Elayne McLaine (the late David McLaine) and Carol (John) King. Beloved grandmother of Cathy Jean Cairns, and Karla (Tim) Jenkins, **Jamie Thomson** and David Thomson. Great grandmother of Samantha, Baby David Paul (predeceased) and Jamie Layne. "Special mother" of Judy, Ken, Deb, Libba, Barb and Connie.

Our condolences to Jamie Thomson our (SEDHHS) Board President.

Lloyd Evans Clark
 (1935 – 2008)

The death of Lloyd Clark, husband of Sandra (Wadman) Clark, of Ellerdale Street, Saint John, NB, occurred at the Saint John Regional Hospital on Sunday, November 23, 2008. He was born in Saint John on November 7, 1935 son of the late Fred and Ethel (King) Clark. Lloyd was employed at Lingley Printing for over 40 years.

He attended school for the deaf in Halifax for over 11 years, and was involved in scouting in Halifax. Lloyd was a member of Forest Hills Baptist Church for many years. Besides his loving wife, Lloyd is survived by Kelsy Wadman of Saint John NB and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Saturday, March 28th, 2009

1 to 3 pm People's Park Tower

Guest Speaker: TBA

Topic: **Telecare Helpline**

Saturday, April 25th, 2009

1 to 3 pm People's Park Tower

Guest Speaker: Mr. Bun Veysey

Topic: **Go Ahead Seniors**

Saturday, May 30th, 2009

1 to 3 pm People's Park Tower

Guest Speaker: TBA

Topic: **Deaf Cultural Center for SEDHHS**

Saturday, June 27th, 2009

2:00 to 5:00pm

**SEDHHS Community Picnic
 Centennial Park**

Hope to see you there.