



The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association was formed to give visibility to an invisible disability. It promotes self-help among hard of hearing and deafened persons and encourages support for individual and collective action.



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Resonance

Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, Sudbury Branch

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Dream Home #25

Tickets go on sale Oct. 17th, Home Opens Nov. 14th

By Gwen MacGillivray

October will mark the 25th anniversary of The Ultimate Dream Home campaign for CHHA Sudbury Branch.

The main source of funding for the registered charity, the Dream Home Draw changed the organization in more ways than can be counted.

"We've come such a long way," says Executive Director (ED) Kim Scott. "We've put our hearts and souls

into this campaign and it's paid off, thanks in large part to the people of Sudbury — and, indeed, Northern Ontario — who have supported us and our cause for 25 years."

Scott, who has been Executive Director since the beginning of the campaign and says the organization has seen many changes over the years — all for the better. "It's just continued to get better and bigger every year," she added.

The campaign runs

each year from mid-October until early January, culminating with the draw in early February. Because tickets are distributed and available for purchase at various locations throughout North Eastern Ontario, it is a herculean effort to have them all returned, counted, deposited and audited before the draw date, while maintaining regular every-day business around the office — especially when you consider there are just 4 employees, including Scott.

Gwen MacGillivray, Susan Arthur and Joe Stacknik have been part of the team for 20 plus years.

One thing that hasn't changed — and it's an important one — is the price of the tickets. They are still just \$20, which is a feat in itself.

The cost of actually building the

Level 2 Speech Reading will begin September 23

CHHA Sudbury Branch will offer Level 2 of Speech/Lip Reading beginning Tuesday, Sept. 23rd from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The class will be offered weekly for 10 weeks. (You must have completed Level 1)

Level 2, picks up where Level 1 left off, going a little more into detail about hearing loss and how to cope with the daily challenges, at the same time offering a refresher on the technique of lip reading.

Space is limited. Register early to reserve a seat by calling 705-523-5695.

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Hearing Loss Lessons We Must Learn for Ourselves

By Gael Hannan

When do we finally *get* what it means to have hearing loss? When it happens to us.

When do we learn how to live well with it? When we're ready and when we really *want* to. Which may be very soon, sometime soon, or never.

Recently I gave a presentation on hearing loss in the community where I live. Basic stuff – types of hearing loss, how many of us have it, how many of us are *going* to have it, what to do when we suspect we *might* have it, what hearing aids can and cannot do, and other assistive technology and behaviours that can help.

I worried that the audience would be bored – I mean, *surely*, they must already know at least some of what I was talking about. You can't open a newspaper or social media without seeing a hearing aid advertisement or go to a social event without seeing half the people

sporting hearing aids or at least *needing* them.

I also knew most of the 20 audience members, and suspected they had come to the presentation, sponsored by the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, just to be nice to me.

I was shocked – at how *not* bored they were and their limited knowledge of strategies that would improve their life. Many had their hearing aids with them, although not necessarily in their ears. A few were in the

early stages of exploring hearing aids and gripped by classic denial. *"I'm not sure if I really need them."* *"I've heard they make social situations even worse, with the noise and all."*

One woman told me that she had a lot of questions for me. All of them boiled down to *"Which hearing aid brand should I get?"* She was in knots, thinking she had to arrive at the audiologist with her choice already made, as if she were choosing a brand of toilet or flooring and only

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Executive Director
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Office Manager
Susan Arthur

Events Co-Ordinator,
Newsletter Editor
Gwen MacGillivray

Public Awareness
Joe Stacknik

435 Notre Dame Ave., Suite 101,
Sudbury, ON P3C 5K6

Voice/TTY:
(705) 523-5695

Toll Free:
1-866-300-2442

Fax:
(705) 523-8621

email:
info@chhasudbury.com

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All Opinions and/or
recommendations that appear
in this newsletter are not
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recommendations of the
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Hearing Association.

CHHA National Virtual Conference, Oct. 4th

CHHA Sudbury to give away FREE registrations to first 10 members who wish to attend

By Gwen MacGillivray

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) National Virtual Conference (Raising A Collective Voice — To Hear and Be Heard) which had been cancelled earlier this spring, is back on and set to take place on Saturday, Oct. 4th

As a special gift to our members, the CHHA Sudbury Branch will cover the registration costs of the first 10 members who wish to attend the virtual conference.

According to Kim Scott, ED of the CHHA Branch, it's a "great opportunity for our members to take part in this informative and entertaining event."

CHHA National would agree! They are advising that participants should get ready for an inspiring day filled with Dynamic speakers, a keynote that will knock your socks off, and a fun-filled silent auction (new this year) and much more.

Comedian, Abby



Comedian Abby Stonehouse will host the CHHA National Virtual Conference on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Abby wears two hearing aids herself, so has a personal perspective of the world of hearing loss.

Stonehouse will act as host and is thrilled to add her unique perspective to this CHHA event.

Abby, who lives with moderate hearing loss herself, wears two hearing aids and faces multiple challenges daily. Especially while at work on stage in front of an audience.

She also hosts a podcast called **The House of Stone**, in which she and her guests discuss various

life issues and challenges — all with her special brand of humour. [House of Stone was featured in the Montreal Gazette and was part of The Just For Laughs Festival in 2023].

Abby is an advocate of self-advocacy and will make the perfect host for this conference.

This year's Keynote Speaker is Dustin Giannelli, CEO

and Founder of **HearsDustin LLC**. A company he started after being diagnosed with profound hearing loss at the age of five.

Dustin never let this life-long challenge define him. Instead, it motivated him to launch his business (certified Disability-Owned Business) that is committed to building more inclusive and connected workplaces. Today, he is a full-time motivational speaker, well-known across the

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Dustin Giannelli, Motivational Speaker from Boston and this year's Keynote Speaker at the CHHA National Conference. "The word "ability" is in "disability" for a reason", he says.

Ultimate Dream Home celebrates 25 years . . .

(Cont'd from page 1)

home, furnishing it, advertising and printing the tickets, brochures and posters every year has continued to soar, but the ticket price (along with the organization's determination) has never wavered.

"It's a challenge," Scott admitted, citing the rising costs of everything — especially building supplies such

as lumber. "But we are committed to keeping the tickets at \$20 for as long as we possibly can", she added.

In fact, it's what sets this campaign apart from every other house raffle out there. Compared to the prize package, it's an unbelievable price point.

As always, the grand prize includes the home, furnishings

and brand new car in the garage.

Secondary prizes include Cash, Grocery Gift Certificates, Home Hardware Gift Certificates and Giant Tiger Gift Certificates in various denominations.

There are 10 prizes in all.

Like last year, tickets will be available at the Dream Home Kiosk in the New

Sudbury Shopping Centre, online at the website:

Ultimatedreamhome.ca at participating Giant Tigers, Your Independent Grocers, Home Hardware stores and at the Dream Home itself.

Tickets go on sale everywhere Friday, Oct. 17. The Dream Home will open to the public Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. beginning on Friday, November 14th.

Hearing Loss Lessons We *MUST* Learn for ourselves . . .

(Cont'd from page 3)

needed a bit of advice from a salesperson.

This was the first time anyone in the audience had attended a talk on hearing loss. After 30 years, and even in this age of mass information and social media and widespread hearing loss, I was answering the same questions asked by any person facing hearing difficulties. Some people just never ask the questions out *loud*.

Why am I still struggling to hear? My audiologist said I don't have to wear them all the time. Should I get a different brand, or go to a different clinic? People leave me out of conversations.

The hearing loss

journey is personal. It starts when it starts and the direction it takes is up to you.

True understanding of what it's like to have hearing loss occurs only when it happens to you.

Learning how to live the best possible life with hearing loss only occurs when you *want* to learn... because you sense that *something* could be better or different with your hearing landscape.

Hearing care professionals (backed by science, training and expertise) will serve you best when you ask lots of questions, when they listen to you, answer your questions, and you listen to them. Also, when they ask *you* lots of

questions and when you listen to *them*. THEN, it's a good idea to compare notes and make sure you're on the right path.

Other people with hearing loss are great companions to commiserate over the crap that hearing loss

can dish up.

Other people with successful lived experience can be a positive force - if you let them.

These are the hearing loss lessons we learn on our own schedule. They all start with asking a question.

Device Lending Library has been replenished

CHHA Sudbury Branch has recently replenished its Assistive Listening Device Lending Library.

Those with hearing loss — especially those who wear hearing aids — often need the extra assistance of a external device that enhances their hearing experience. Whether it's a phone designed with volume, pitch and tone control or an alarm clock that shakes you awake or a door bell that flashes your lights or a fire detector that has a strobe light, there are a multitude of options available to help. For more info or to make an appointment, call the CHHA Office at 705-523-5695.

CHHA National Virtual Conference Oct. 4th

(Cont'd from page 3)

United States, who transforms corporate culture through authentic storytelling, lived experience and a new perspective on **accessibility, inclusion and mental health** in the workplace and beyond.

Through his consultancy, **HearsDustin**, he is shaking up corporate culture and higher education by pushing the conversation on DEI, disability inclusion and accessibility forward — and we promise, you'll end the conference feeling inspired and empowered.

For more information or register for the event, contact the CHHA National Office at 1-613-526-1584, toll free at 1-800-263-8068 or visit the website **chha.ca**

For those wishing to take advantage of the free registration please contact the Sudbury Branch at 705-523-5695.

Note: You must have an email address to participate.

LIVING WITH **TINNITUS**

Ringling, buzzing or chirping sounds in your head?
It could be Tinnitus. Join us to learn more.

It could be Tinnitus. Join us to learn more.

Wednesday, Oct. 22nd
1-3 p.m. & 7-9 p.m.

523-5695

Hearing Help Centre, 435 Notre Dame Ave., Suite 101, Sudbury
Refreshments provided. Limited Seating. Register early.

Made possible in part by the funds raised through Delta Bingo & Gaming Sudbury

CHHA National receives \$2.5 million grant

Fostering Inclusive Communities for Seniors

In July of this year, the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) National Office announced that they had received \$2.5 million in funding to launch a five-year initiative: ***Fostering Inclusive Communities for Seniors (FICS) with Hearing Loss.***

The FICS Project is devoted to supporting a demographic often marginalized in health discourse: seniors with hearing loss from underrepresented communities. This includes a diverse and vibrant spectrum of individuals: immigrants who have made Canada their new home, newcomers still navigating the complexities of resettlement, BIPOC individuals who face the intersection of racial and age related disparities, Indigenous peoples carrying the weight of historical injustices, LGBTQ+ seniors who often confront social stigma, and seniors living with disabilities who encounter multifaceted barriers in their daily lives. “Canada is a better country when pillars of our communities are adequately supported.

That is why the New Horizons for Seniors Program is so important in helping seniors across the country access services they need. Local organizations like the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association know best what their needs are, to ensure seniors are connected, supported, and included in their communities.

“This program promotes social inclusion, enhances quality of life, and supports seniors to age with the dignity they deserve,” said the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Jobs and Families and Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario.

This \$2.5M initiative will involve working collaboratively with nine (9) not-for-profit community partners who serve the senior community. By acknowledging and addressing these multifaceted barriers, the FICS Project seeks to create pathways for these seniors to re-engage with their communities, access necessary resources,

and enjoy the social connections that enrich human life.

According to Ann McSweeney, CHHA National’s Executive Director (ED), the aim is to restore opportunities for interaction, collaboration, and contribution, reinforcing the fabric of an inclusive society that values all its members. “This funding is a significant recognition of the challenges faced by seniors with hearing loss,” she said. “It

allows us to create targeted, sustainable solutions that foster genuine inclusion. We are deeply grateful to the Government of Canada and the New Horizons for Seniors Program for partnering with us to ensure the voices of hard of hearing seniors are heard and their needs are met within communities.”

The FICS Program began in March 2025 and will conclude February 2030

CHHA Sudbury gave free tickets to see Marlee Matlin documentary: *Not Alone Anymore...*

Members of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Sudbury Branch had the opportunity to see this critically acclaimed documentary about the first Deaf person to ever win an Oscar for best actor.

Marlee Matlin was just 21 years old when she won the Oscar for her performance in Children of a Lesser God, opposite William Hurt. She shattered all expectations and went on to star in stand-out roles in projects such as The West Wing, and CODA, all while relentlessly advocating for greater inclusion and accessibility both within Hollywood and beyond its borders. Matlin opens up about her personal and professional struggles. Brought to Sudbury by the Sudbury Indie Cinema, the documentary ran from July 31st thru August 26th at it’s location at 162 MacKenzie Street in Sudbury.

CHHA Sudbury was proud to be a community sponsor and offer free tickets to the first 50 CHHA members.



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association
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ALD'S

Learn about the technical devices that can help you cope with your hearing loss. There are dozens that no-one ever tells you about — but we will!

Thursday, Nov. 6th 1:00 p.m.

435 Notre Dame Ave., Suite 101

NO CHARGE. LIMITED SEATING. REGISTER EARLY!

705-523-5695

Refreshments provided. Personal FM systems available.

Join us for a

MOVIE

FREE!

matinee

*Brought to you in part by funding from
Delta Bingo & Gaming*



Sept. 25th, 1 p.m......**Wicked**

Musical. Starring Jonathan Bailey, Cynthia Erivo, Arianna Grande, and Jeff Goldblum. 2024. (2 hrs, 40 mins.)

Oct. 23rd, 1 p.m......**The Penguin Lessons**

Drama/Comedy based on true events. Starring Steve Coogan., Jonathan Price. 2025. (1 hr. 51 mins)

Nov. 20th, 1 p.m......**Superman**

Action. Starring: David Corenswet, Nicholas Hoult, Rachel Brosnahan, Nathan Fillion. 2025. (2 hrs. 10 mins)

CHHA Sudbury Office 435 Notre Dame Ave., suite 101

All Movies shown with subtitles. Venue is Looped for those with telecoils. Snacks provided.

Seating is limited, reserve your seat early.

WARNING:
Some movies
may contain
strong
language

523-5695