



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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CHHA Sudbury welcomes new Exec Board Director



Christine Meyer is the newest member of the CHHA Sudbury Branch. She was appointed by attrition during the AGM in early May.

By Gwen MacGillivray

During the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on May 6th, the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) Sudbury Branch appointed a new Director to the Executive Board by attrition.

Christine Meyer, of Sudbury, will come on board as our newest Director for the 2026-27 term.

Newly retired, Christine brings with

her a vast knowledge of Marketing as well as personal experience with hearing loss and will be a valuable addition to the Branch.

As there were no additional nominees running for a position, Christine was automatically appointed to the position left vacant when Director Anne Proulx-Seguin stepped down in March.

Other members

were also appointed by attrition during the meeting.

President, Lorraine O'Brien; Vice President, Maureen Spec; Treasurer, Jean Gregoire Roveda; Secretary, Erica Thibault and Director John Lalande will serve another term with the Association with no opposition. Welcome back all!

Welcome to the family, Christine.

5050 Dream Lottery gives away \$119,000+

By Gwen MacGillivray

CHHA Sudbury's 50/50 Dream Lottery came to a conclusion on May 20th with the final Jackpot prize of \$119,430 going to Doug Myrden of Oakville.

This is the first time the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association

(CHHA) Sudbury Branch has tried a stand-alone 50/50 draw outside of it's annual Ultimate Dream Home Draw and 50/50 draw.

In the hopes of raising funds to help with the renovation of a new facility where the

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Audiologist addresses AGM

Shares her personal journey of becoming an Audiologist while coping with hearing loss herself.



An intimate group of CHHA Sudbury members enjoyed a story of persistence and flexible determination from Audiologist Erica Thibault on May 6th following the CHHA Sudbury's AGM. She shared the personal story of her journey to becoming an Audiologist and how she deals with her own hearing loss every day.

Imagine struggling to hear and then choosing a career built on hearing.

Audiologist Erica Thibault M.Sc.S, spoke to an intimate crowd of about 30 people at the CHHA Sudbury AGM in May.

She shared her personal story about her own hearing loss journey to becoming an Audiologist and what she continues to cope with on a daily basis as a hard of hearing (HOH) person.

Born and raised in Northern Ontario, Erica pursued her studies in Ottawa, receiving her Masters of Health Sciences Degree in Audiology from the

University of Ottawa and was certified as an



Audiologist, Erica Thibault addresses a group of CHHA members at the Annual General Meeting

Audiologist in 2022.

She now proudly offers hearing health care services in her "home" community for both pediatric and geriatric patients.

Erica wears two hearing aids and utilizes (like most HOH do) lip reading skills to get through the day. And has done so for several years.

"Living with hearing loss as an Audiologist is not a contradiction, it's a unique perspective that brings both challenges and deeper understanding to patient care", She said.

"I don't just treat hearing loss," she

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Board of Directors:

President
Lorraine O'Brien

Vice-President
Maureen Spec

Directors:
Jean Gregoire Roveda
John Lalande
Erica Thibault
Christine Meyer

Staff:

Executive Director
Kim Scott

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

Tea Party

2026



Photos by Joe Stacknik and Susan Arthur

5050 Dream Lottery will help boost funding for CHHA Sudbury Branch's new office location

(Cont'd from page 1)

organization hopes to offer even more programs and services in the near future, the 5050 Dream Lottery also offered 3 early bird draws, the first of which was drawn on April 15th and won by Sudbury man Gary Slobodian (ticket #13049309) who took home \$5,000 cash. It came as a surprise to him but it didn't take him long to decide he just might use it to "take a trip next year".



Gary Slobodian of Sudbury won \$5,000 on the first early bird of the Dream draw.

The second Early Bird draw took place on April 29th for \$10,000 cash and was presented to Ron Cayer of Wahnapiatae.

"This is a pretty good prize", he beamed.

The third and arguably the most popular Early Bird of the lottery was a



Ron Cayer of Wahnapiatae is shown here as the winner of the 2nd Early Bird draw for \$10,000.

\$50,000 travel voucher from Canada Rail Vacations to be used on a luxury train trip anywhere across Canada (including \$8,000 in cash for spending money or for transport to and from the train). The lucky winner of that prize was Ron Fairhill from Hanmer, ON. After some deliberation, Ron decided to take the \$35,000 cash option instead.

As the first venture like this, the Sudbury Branch was pleased with the results, according to Executive Director Kim Scott.

"Once again the Sudbury area came through for us and we appreciate their continued support", she said.

"In fact, we had wonderful support from people all over

the Province", she added. "Thank You to all who purchased tickets for our cause, and congratulations to all our winners."

Hopefully if we do this again, we can count on the same fabulous support.

Next up for the organization is the 26th Ultimate Dream Home fund-raiser plus 50/50 Extra Draw that will begin in October.



Pictured above is the winner of the 3rd Early Bird draw, Ron Fairhill, of Hanmer, ON. Ron decided to take the cash option of \$35,000.



Shown here is Doug Myrden, the winner of the 50/50 Dream Lottery from Oakville, ON, who took home \$119,430.00.



Seen, Heard, Understood, Appreciated and Connected: SHUAC in Hearing Loss

By Gael Hannan

What do a bad haircut and poor communication with hearing loss have in common?

In a recent [FaceBook reel](#), Mo Barrett, a humorist, corporate strategist, and author, spoke about the terrible haircut she had just endured. I thought it looked fine, although I would not have chosen that particular highly spiked, crispy-gelled look.

Neither did she, apparently. The cut was her *stylist's* choice. Yet her video wasn't so much about the haircut – hats are apparently working well until the hair grows out – but the *experience*. Her stylist didn't listen to her or appreciate her requests, before, during or after. The stylist defended her decision to cut and style the hair in a particular way, because *she* considered it the best course of action.

Mo felt she wasn't *seen, heard, understood, appreciated or connected*. These words form SHUAC (pronounced *shwack*), a

framework for human-centric leadership and connection created by Mo Barrett herself. SHUAC focuses on fostering genuine human interaction, particularly in workplace, leadership, and event scenarios, often opposing “autopilot” interactions. (Wikipedia). While SHUAC is generally used in leadership and workplace situations, its focus on fostering ‘genuine human interaction’ is what Mo, on her Bad Hair Day felt was missing with her stylist.

The same principles of being seen, heard, understood, appreciated, and connected are necessary for people with hearing loss who strive for more effective and enjoyable communication with others. It might look like this:

Seen. We are acknowledged as contributors to the conversation and deserve to be:

Heard. When we express our needs to engage in the

conversation, we are actively listened to and are:

Understood. The accommodations we are asking for – speaking up, seating change, a request for something to be repeated – make sense and are:

Appreciated. Honoring our needs also benefits our communication partners, because human interaction is a two-way action. We are in this conversation for a reason, making us:

Connected. Our conversation becomes more purposeful and inclusive.

Communication success starts with accepting our right to participate and to be heard, but there is another, just-as-important step. We can't be seen, heard, understood, appreciated or connected until we say, “This is what I need in order to participate in and enjoy this conversation.”

Thank you, [Mo Barrett](#), for showing how a Bad Haircut Experience has much in common with poor hearing loss-related communication – and for your stated mission to SHUAC the world!



Hands & Voices Day another triumph



Students gathered May 14th for the annual Hands & Voices Day in Sudbury. The Day started at Nickel City Ninja where the students participated in obstacle-type activities, then it was on to KUPP for an afternoon of laser tag, mini putt and playground activities. Shown here from left (back row) are: Jessica Limarilli, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing; Brianna; Lilly-Anna; Olivia; Aiden; Cameron; Avery; Paul; Bryden; Kai-Phoenix; Hilary Brisson, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing; Middle Row, from left are: Julie Landry, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing; Bryce; Jack; Georgia; Nic; Riyasha; Lincoln; Emmett; Joey-Lynn Henry, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing; Maisie; Front Row (left to right): Sylus; Samantha; Violet; Linda Cecutti, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

The Rainbow District School Board's annual Hands & Voices Day for students with hearing loss, once again went off without a hitch with financial assistance from CHHA Sudbury Branch and much to the delight of the students and teachers alike.

On May 14th, the day began at Nickel City Ninja, where 22 students ranging from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12, took on a variety of exciting obstacle challenges.

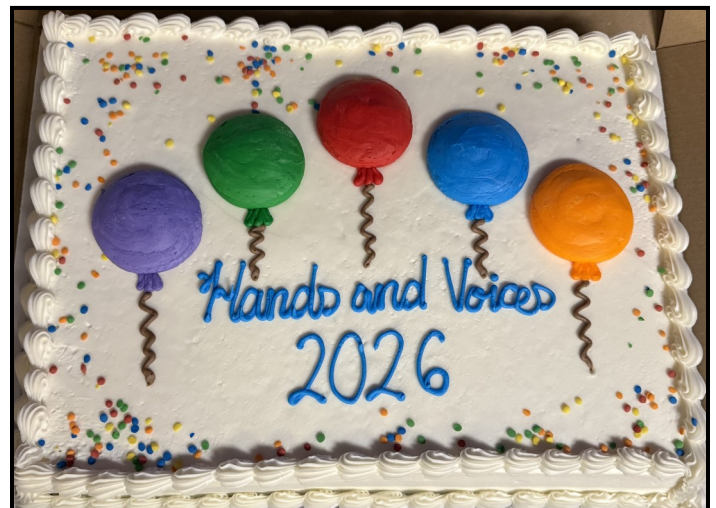
After working up an appetite, everyone enjoyed delicious pizza from the local Colonial Inn.

The fun continued in the afternoon with bowling at the Plaza Bowl, where some friendly competition and lots of laughter were followed by a special cake treat.

As the day came to a close, students headed home with smiles on their faces, loot bags filled with goodies and their hearts filled with

memories of old and new friends and looking forward to

doing it all again next year!



A special cake commemorating the day was enjoyed by all.

Did you know? You Can Track a Lost Hearing Aid

To find your lost hearing aid, use the manufacturer's dedicated app (like myPhonak, my Starkey, Bernafon, Oticon Companion, Philips HearLink 2, or Thrive app) which connects via Bluetooth to show the last known location on a map and uses signal strength to guide you as you get closer, requiring location services and Bluetooth to be on for this feature to work.

How to use the "Find My Hearing Aid" feature:

Open your app:

Launch the specific app for your hearing aid brand (e.g., myPhonak, my Starkey, Bernafon App).

Navigate:

Find the "Find my Hearing Aids" or similar option in the app's settings or device menu.

Allow Location:

Ensure location access is granted to the app (often needs to be set to "Always").

Locate:

The app shows the last paired location on a map; once nearby, use

the signal strength indicator (like a proximity meter) to pinpoint the exact spot.

Important tips:

• **Download**

Early: Download the app before losing

them, as it needs to be set up to work.

- **Power is Key:** The feature only works as long as the hearing aids have battery power.

My Hearing Loss journey to becoming an Audiologist. . .

(Cont'd from page 2)

added, "I live it. Hearing loss is a part of my life, but it does not define who I am."

Her top priority,

she says, is building trust and working collaboratively with each client to enhance their hearing health and overall quality of life.

Erica volunteers with the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association in Sudbury as a sitting Director on it's Executive Board, in the hopes of promoting awareness and advocacy within her community.

She believes as an Audiologist, she should be advocating for people with hearing loss.

"Don't just hear — listen, understand and include" is something she lives by.

It was a very informative and interesting presentation. The CHHA Sudbury members send a big thank you to Erica for taking the time to visit us.

What a Winter it was!



Where were you during the big snow storm of 2026? CHHA Sudbury member Gary Desabrais is pictured here taking a little rest while he digs out of the more than 40cm of snow that fell over a 48 hour period. Obviously, he had a little help keeping warm.

Join us for a

MOVIE

FREE!

matinee

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July 16th, 1 p.m. Song Sung Blue

Drama. Based on a true story. Mike & Claire are down on their luck musicians who form a Neil Diamond tribute band, gaining unexpected home-town stardom. Starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson. 2025 (2 hrs. 13 mins)

August 20th, 1 p.m. Remarkably Bright Creatures

Drama. While working at a small-town aquarium, a widow bonds with a clever octopus and an adrift young man in this moving drama. Starring Sally Field, Lewis Pullman and Alfred Molina. 2026 (1 hr. 53 mins)

September 17th, 1 p.m. Hamnet

Drama. Hamnet tells the powerful story of love and loss that inspired the creation of Shakespeare's Hamlet. Starring Emily Watson, Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal. 2025. (2 hrs. 8 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

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