

THE COMMUNICAIDER



A Magazine for People with Hearing Loss and the Professionals Who Work with Them

SPRING 2016

Ken Tatebe Fund

Annual General Assembly
June 1st, 2016

GRAND UNVEILING
of the new & improved
Lily Bernstein Resource Centre

Serving hard of
hearing people for
35 years



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Communicaid for Hearing-Impaired Persons (CHIP) • Communicaide pour adultes avec problèmes auditifs (CAPA)



President's Message

I would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to our volunteers and staff. We are now through our initial transition, due to careful planning and the hard work of our personnel.

In the Fall 2015 issue of *The Communicaid*, we announced some important upcoming events and some planned enhancements to our programs and services.

Our first Annual Conference was a resounding success. It was well attended and our keynote speaker, Gael Hannan, in her address to the conference, demonstrated to us



CHIP has introduced a number of changes to make our organization even more welcoming to members.

some of her personal insights into life with hearing loss, with the humour and charm that have made her such a sought-after speaker.

As part of our programs and services, we have given speechreading courses at both the beginner and intermediate levels at our satellite sites in the West Island. The CHIP Board of Directors has just authorized courses at the Advanced Level in the West Island, as well.

CHIP has introduced a number of changes to make our organization even more welcoming to members. Foremost among these was to expand our Film Program into our new CHIP Social Club which not only includes scheduled screenings of superb movies (captioned) but also games and events along with refreshments and snacks. Our apple-picking trip to Quinn's Farm was a real treat. The Social Club has had an enthusiastic response from the members. CHIP members enjoy each other's company! Come along and join the fun.

At the end of the Fall session, the customary pot-luck lunch was not just for the students and teachers of

the courses, but was opened up to all members of CHIP. It was a very enjoyable event.

In the Spring we will be opening the upgraded and reorganized Lily Bernstein Resource Centre. In this centre CHIP will maintain a library of books and DVDs as well as our computer lab. The assistive listening devices included as part of ALD Program will also be housed in the Resource Centre. When CHIP does outreach sessions, demonstration of these ALDs by experienced volunteers will help to educate the wider community.



CHIP is a self-help organization. **If you are not yet a CHIP volunteer, why not become one?** You will be among like-minded individuals, where your talents will be valued, your efforts will be appreciated and you will find your work both rewarding and enjoyable.

David Tait, President.

THE COMMUNICAIDER



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Martha Perusse,
MSc, PCC

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some changes
to your life? ...*

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CHIP Communicaid for Hearing Impaired Persons

Communicaid for Hearing-Impaired Persons (CHIP), is a non-profit, self-help, registered charitable organization, which, for over 35 years, has been providing programs and services to people with hearing loss, their families, professionals in the hearing-health field and the general public.

CHIP believes in making the most of the hearing we have.

COMMUNICAIDER TEAM

Heidy Wager - CHIP Executive Director, Editor in Chief
Danya Morris - CHIP Administrative Assistant, Publication Assistant
Nina Chen - CHIP Executive secretary, Publication assistant
Martha Perusse - CHIP Speechreading Instructor, Editor
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Accessing Sound Through TECHNOLOGY:

How Mobile Devices Can Help



by **Martha Perusse**

Use of hearing aids or a cochlear implant is a necessity for many people who want to improve communication when diagnosed with a hearing loss. Feeling cut off and isolated from the world of conversation, entertainment, culture and learning through sound is one of the greatest impacts of hearing loss.

Both listening in noise and at a distance are improved when hearing aids or implants are used in conjunction with assistive listening devices through loops or Bluetooth technology (see p. 14, 15). Some hearing aids have accessories that can be purchased and might also prove helpful in these situations. Many people have streamers that work with their hearing aids to allow music, podcasts or phone calls from their mobile device to be heard directly via their hearing aids. But what about the mobile device itself—can it help?

For face-to-face communication over the phone or tablet, there are apps that can allow one to see the person to whom one is talking.

This allows the listener to speechread as well as listen, which can really enhance communication. Facetime, a video chat app using the device's built-in camera, is included with such Apple devices as the iPhone, iPad, and Macbook, and both sound and video quality are good. Of course, the other person must have an Apple device too.

There are mobile device functions that can help visualize in written form what another person wants to say.

Google Hangouts and Skype are two other options that can also be used with Apple devices, Android phones or a computer, making them possibilities for people who do not have an iPhone.



There are also mobile device functions that can help visualize in written form what another person wants to say. Texting back and forth with a friend or family member can sometimes be much more efficient than trying to understand spoken language over the phone. If your typing skills are poor, you can even dictate your message (using the little microphone button on the keyboard) and read the other person's responses back to you. You can also do this in a group with people using their different devices and be part of a discussion that you can read!

Speech-to-text functions on your smartphone can provide you with a transcript of voicemail messages too, although accuracy of the transcript is dependent on noise level, speed, and the accent of the speaker. You need to contact your service provider to set this up and there are costs. However Apple is on the verge of adding this function to their virtual assistant Siri. Keep an eye out for that!

Using writing can also help when you are in a noisy environment for short periods of time. Let's say for example you are chatting with your pharmacist and you simply cannot make out what it is he/she is saying. You could certainly ask the person to write down what they want to say, OR you could ask that person to dictate to your iPhone using either the Notes function or the Dragon app. You can then read what the person has said, and even keep the information if it is important. Since voice recognition can be affected by ambient noise too, the person speaking should check to make sure that what was said has been recorded in print accurately, although the voice recognition on mobile devices can be remarkably accurate.

Larry Medwetsky has written two interesting and pertinent articles in *Hearing Loss Magazine*, both of

which are easily available online. In *Mobile Device Apps for People with Hearing Loss* (parts one and two in September and November 2015, respectively), Dr. Medwetsky describes apps for various functions and offers some critical evaluations of how they work. There are amplifier apps (e.g. TV Louder, HearYouNow, and others) which would perhaps work best for those with a mild/moderate loss who may just be beginning to explore amplification possibilities. Medwetsky cautions, though, that a professional hearing evaluation is always best.

Medwetsky discusses alerting apps (Braci Pro, My Eardroid, Otosence) that can help the user to be alerted to important environmental sounds. There are also apps for relief of tinnitus

(ringing in the ears) which can be a problem for a number of people with hearing loss. Though individuals with tinnitus should seek medical consultation for this condition, apps such as Phase Out, Phonak Tinnitus Balance, Tinnitus Masker and Whist can help to make tinnitus more manageable to live with.

There are also ways to help educate others about what it is like to have a hearing loss. A hearing simulator app, states Medwetsky, such as the one provided by Starkey is a powerful way to demonstrate in

general how people with hearing loss hear. You can even personalize the experience by finding an audiogram in the program similar to your own to show how you hear!

Medwetsky mentions some promising new apps that can offer captioning in real time on mobile devices (e.g. RogerVoice) or capture a lecture or speaker in captions on your phone. He also discusses recreational apps for music lyrics and movie/TV subtitles.

I would urge you to research the topic of technology for hearing loss further (start with using the links below for Dr. Medwetsky's articles) and to continue to seek out information as it unfolds over time.

As a not-so-tech-savvy person myself, and given the huge growth of this field, I'm certain some of our readers are aware of solutions not covered here. Please share with us the functions and apps you have found most useful in your own lives!

For more insights on how a Smartphone can work for you, see Esther Rosenberg's article on page 16.

Further reading:

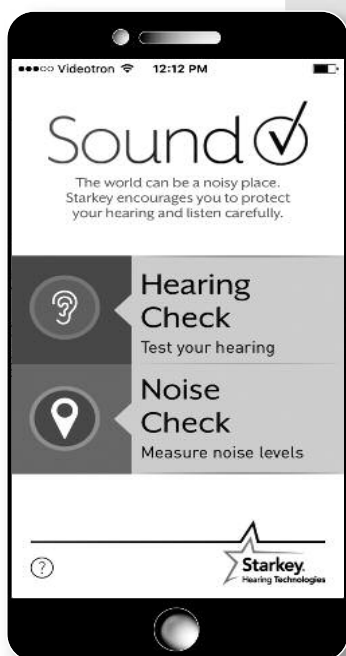
http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/HLM_SeptOct2015_Medwetsky.pdf

http://www.hearingloss.org/sites/default/files/docs/HLM_NovDec2015_Medwetsky.pdf

About the Author

Martha Perusse is a Professional and Personal Coach and Speechreading Instructor at CHIP. She will be offering a workshop *What can coaching do for YOU?* on May 4, at 10 am, MAB site

A hearing simulator app can demonstrate how people with hearing loss hear.





Executive Director's Message

When I first started planning this issue of the *Communicaid* there was one thing on my mind: our members want information about hearing health technology. In addition the CHIP office had been undergoing lots of technological changes. It is clear that CHIP has a role to play in supporting its members with technologies.



At the CHIP office, we are in the middle of upgrading all of our communication systems with cloud computing. You can see among the staff, board and volunteers, that the younger generation has already been using cloud computing, while the older staff and volunteers struggle with understanding and actually using the technology. There seems to be a generational gap, between understanding and acceptance of this new technology.

Technology is changing rapidly and sometimes it is intimidating to “keep up with the Joneses”. It is hard to decide what to invest in, what to learn about, what is helpful, what is worth our time and what we should use.

Recently my grandmother, who is over 80 years old, was diagnosed with hearing loss and fitted for a hearing aid. As a family, we had begun to work on adapting her environment for her hearing loss, when I started to research other technologies available to assist in maintaining independence, staying connected and helping with safety. I can see CHIP, our members and their families working together to help bridge this technology gap.

CHIP has a role to play in supporting its members with technologies.

One of CHIP's priorities, going forward, will be to offer members up-to-date information on the latest technologies for hearing health. Both the Lily Bernstein Resource Centre, with a library and computer lab, and the ALD Program will be opening officially on June 1, 2016. Thanks to all of our exhibitors at the conference in October, many of whom showcased ALDs. A special thank you goes to Dany Lasablonnière for supporting us in developing our ALD Program.

We can also help the older generation adapt to new technology that could help

It is hard to decide what to invest in, what to learn about, what is helpful, what is worth our time and what we should use.

simplify or enhance their lives, like email, texting, Facebook and Skype, as communications tools to help members stay connected with their loved ones. We will have two workshops in our new tech lab this Spring on Facebook and Skype.



Dany Lasablonnière from Oreille Bionique

The coming months will be busy ones at CHIP. The AGM will be on June 1st, with a Board and staff retreat shortly after that. We are working towards having our speechreading instructors accredited by the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) which will entail some training as well. In September we are planning to launch our new and improved website.

We all have a lot to learn about technology and it can be scary and intimidating. But it can also be very helpful, so let's embrace it!

Heidy Wager

CHIP

ANNUAL General Assembly

OPEN MEETING



SAVE the DATE
June 1st, 2016
5:30 - 8:00 pm

Layton Hall Gym

7000 Sherbrooke St. West • Montreal, QC H4B 1R3

You are cordially invited to
the Annual General Meeting / Open Meeting

Dinner will be served
Special Guest Speaker • Awards Ceremony

Doors open at 5:00 pm for registration

Captioning will be provided (ASL available upon request)

PLEASE RSVP by May 26, 2016
Danya Morris 514.488.5552 Ext. 4500
Info@hearhear.org

Suggested donation of 10\$



**Serving Hard of Hearing People
for over 35 years!**

What's New.....



This fall we launched our new and improved film program, with a new name, the **CHIP SOCIAL CLUB**. We now offer the program on Mondays from 12-3 pm. Along with captioned films, we offered outings and group discussions.

The members were genuinely very happy with the changes. Apple picking was so much fun, and the group discussion was the highest-attended social club event of the year. We learned from our members that they really enjoy coming together, sharing their experiences and doing fun things

as a group. We have updated our activities for the Spring 2016 calendar. The group will still meet Mondays from 12-3 pm and we will still be offering outings, movies and group discussions, but we have also added such new activities as scrapbooking, cooking and Bingo. You can pick up our spring 2016 registration form for the CHIP Social Club by contacting the office, from the instructors in our classes, or by going on the website.

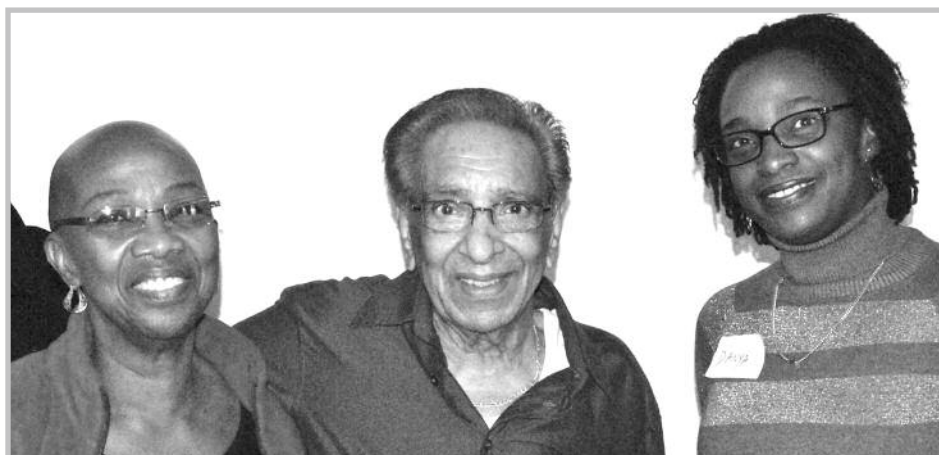
CHIP OUTREACH PROGRAM

CHIP has provided a lot of outreach in the past to

synagogues, churches, community organizations, CHLDs -- all types of organizations. We know that it is not always easy for our members to come to us, especially in the winter months, so we are taking CHIP on the road and reaching out to people with hearing loss, the general public, and professionals working with people who have hearing loss.



The goal, ultimately, is to raise awareness about hearing loss-- in effect, to make hearing loss visible, through various types of workshops, as well as training and information sessions. We are currently booking sessions for 2016. If you would like more information or wish to book a session, please contact Danya Morris at 514-488-5552 ext 4500 or email her at danyamorris@hearhear.org.



CHIP • Spring 2016 Program

REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY for ALL students before attending any of the classes/workshops. Please register early, as places are limited. Priorities will be given to previously registered students. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Please note that if there are less than 5 students registered per class, that class will be postponed to the next session.

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES / WORKSHOPS: Complete the registration form and return it by mail, fax, email (danyamorris@hearhear.org), or in person at the CHIP office. Registration forms are available at our office or on our website: www.hearhear.org

Please inform us if you need an assistive listening device, or any other accommodations for classes / workshops



SPEECHREADING (Lip reading)

Without realizing that most individuals with hearing loss do speechread to a certain extent, most people may not know it is a skill that can be learned. We offer Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced classes.

MAB site: 7000 Sherbrooke St. W.
FEE: \$10 for CHIP members

Beginners

Every Tuesday, 10 am - 12 pm (12 classes)
March 22 - June 7

Intermediate

Every Thursday 1 pm - 3 pm (12 classes)
March 24 - June 9

Advanced

Every Thursday 10 am - 12 pm (12 classes)
March 24 - June 9

West Island Satellite Sites

FEE: \$25 for CHIP members

***NEW* Beginners**

Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre
1335 Lakeshore Dr. Dorval (room 202)
Every Tuesday 1 pm - 3 pm (12 classes) March 22 - June 7

Intermediate

Centre Bayview (6th floor conference room)
27 Lakeshore Dr. Pointe-Claire
Every Friday 10 am - 12 pm (12 classes) March 18 - June 10

Advanced

Sarto Desnoyers Community Centre
1335 Lakeshore Dr. Dorval (room 202)
Every Wednesday 1 pm - 3 pm (12 classes) March 23 - June 8



SIGNED ENGLISH (MAB site) --- TO BE CONFIRMED

Not sign language but simple hand/finger signs to fill in the blanks caused by hearing loss.

FEE: \$10 for CHIP members.

Every Tuesday 1 pm - 3 pm (12 classes) March 22 - June 7



CHIP SOCIAL CLUB (MAB site) • Please complete a registration form for the Spring sessions 2016

Social club is open to CHIP members free of charge. We go on outings, have discussions, watch closed-captioned films, and participate in fun activities, like scrapbooking, cooking and bingo. Please contact the office or check the CHIP website for a full list of activities and for registration forms.

Every Monday 12 pm - 3 pm (11 weeks) offered from March 14 to June 13

CLOSED - March 28 and May 23 for holidays



WORKSHOP SERIES (MAB site) Wednesdays from 10 am -12 pm in room A314

April 6 - Melanie Bernard (Lawyer) *Your Rights as a Person with Hearing Loss*

April 20 - Matthew Paquette: *Assistive Listening Devices*

May 4 - Martha Perusse *What can coaching do for YOU?*

May 18 - Mathieu Barbeau *All About Hearing Aids!*



LILY BERNSTEIN RESOURCE CENTRE

Library opens in Jan 2016:
call 514-488-5552 ext 4500, check website or email
resource@hearhear.org for hours of operation.

ALD Program

grand reopening June 1st, 2016.
See page 17 for more details.

Computer Lab - Open for workshops: B134, 10 am-12 noon

April 8 Friday - **A how-to guide for using FACEBOOK** on the new computers with hands-on instruction.

April 15 Friday - **A how-to guide for using SKYPE** on the new computers with hands-on instruction.



CHIP • Spring 2016 • Calendar

MARCH

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
CHIP Social Club Discussion with Eva Basch 12 noon - 3 pm. 14	15	16	17	Intermediate Speechreading Bayview site 10 am - 12 noon 18
CHIP Social Club Cooking / Baking with Dale Bonnycastle 12 noon - 3 pm. 21	Beginners Speechreading MAB site 10 am - 12 noon 22 *NEW* Beginners Speechreading Dorval site 1 pm - 3 pm 29 Signed English 1 pm - 3 pm TBC	Advanced Speechreading Dorval site 1 pm - 3 pm 23 30	Advanced Speechreading MAB site 10 am - 12 noon 24 Intermediate Speechreading MAB site 1 pm - 3 pm 31	CHIP OFFICES CLOSED for GOOD FRIDAY HOLIDAY NO programs 25
CHIP OFFICES CLOSED for EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY NO programs 28				

APRIL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				Intermediate Speechreading Bayview site 10 am - 12 noon 1
CHIP Social Club Sugar Shack at Famille Constantin 9:30am - 3 pm. 4	Beginners Speechreading MAB site 10 am - 12 noon 5 *NEW* Beginners Speechreading Dorval site 1 pm - 3 pm 12 Signed English 1 pm - 3 pm TBC 19	WORKSHOP Your Rights as a Person with Hearing Loss MAB site 10 am - 12 noon 6 Advanced Speechreading Dorval site 1 pm - 3 pm 13 WORKSHOP Assistive Listening Devices MAB site 10 am - 12 noon 20 27	Advanced Speechreading MAB site 10 am - 12 noon 7 Intermediate Speechreading MAB site 1 pm - 3 pm 14 21 28	WORKSHOP A how-to guide for using FACEBOOK Computer Lab 10 am - 12 noon 8 WORKSHOP A how-to guide for using SKYPE Computer Lab 10 am - 12 noon 15 Intermediate Speechreading Bayview site 10 am - 12 noon 22 29
CHIP Social Club Film Screening 1: St. Vincent 1 pm - 3 pm. 11				
CHIP Social Club Scrapbooking 1 12 noon - 3 pm. 18				
CHIP Social Club Show & Tell 12 noon - 3 pm. 25				

PULL - OUT CALENDAR



MAY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
CHIP Social Club BINGO for Mother's Day 12 noon - 3 pm.		WORKSHOP What can coaching do for YOU? MAB site 10 am - 12 noon		
CHIP Social Club Discussion with Dale Bonnycastle 12 noon - 3 pm.		Advanced Speechreading Dorval site 1 pm - 3 pm	Advanced Speechreading MAB site 10 am - 12 noon	Intermediate Speechreading Bayview site 10 am - 12 noon
CHIP Social Club Scrapbooking 2 12 noon - 3 pm.	*NEW* Beginners Speechreading Dorval site 1 pm - 3 pm Signed English 1 pm - 3 pm TBC	WORKSHOP All About Hearing Aids MAB site 10 am - 12 noon	Intermediate Speechreading MAB site 1 pm - 3 pm	
CHIP OFFICES CLOSED for VICTORIA DAY WEEKEND NO programs				
CHIP Social Club Film Screening 2: <i>12 Years a Slave</i> 12 noon - 3 pm.				

JUNE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	Beginners Speechreading MAB site 10 am - 12 noon *NEW* Beginners Speechreading Dorval site 1 pm - 3 pm Signed English 1 pm - 3 pm TBC	Advanced Speechreading Dorval site 1 pm - 3 pm	Advanced Speechreading MAB site 10am-12 pm Intermediate Speechreading MAB site 1 pm - 3 pm	Intermediate Speechreading Bayview site 10 am - 12 noon
CHIP Member Appreciation Summer BBQ				
CHIP Social Club Botanical Gardens / Insectarium 12 noon - 3 pm				

PULL - OUT CALENDAR

What does the Quebec Medicare Program offer?



by **Saidah Adisa**

La Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ) also known as Medicare, is the Quebec government health insurance board. RAMQ is responsible for administering the public's health and prescription drug insurance plans. On November 1st, 2015 RAMQ updated the list of hearing aids (HA) and assistive listening devices (ALDs) that will be covered by your health insurance. Since you are a valued member of CHIP, we are providing some information concerning who is eligible for a hearing aid or an ALD covered by RAMQ and the processes that need to be followed in order to acquire these devices.

Who is eligible?

- Persons of any age who have an average hearing loss of at least 35 decibels (dB) in their better ear.

Since you are a valued member of CHIP, we are providing some information concerning who is eligible for a hearing aid or an ALD covered by RAMQ.

- Persons aged 19-64 who have an average hearing loss of at least 25 decibels (dB) in at least one ear and who are pursuing studies leading to a diploma, certificate or attestation recognized by the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports.



Services Covered

- The purchase and replacement cost of one hearing aid (analogue, digitally-controlled analogue or digital)
- The purchase and replacement cost of an ALD
- If an individual is 19 and over, a second hearing aid will be covered by the government. *However this is only for persons for whom improved hearing is essential to pursue recognized studies or to hold paid employment.*

Procedures to follow to obtain a hearing device (HA or ALD)

If you are an adult requiring a hearing aid, you will require the following documentation and will need to follow these procedures:



1) A medical certificate from an Ear Nose and Throat specialist (ENT) attesting to your permanent hearing loss.

2) An audiogram from an audiologist.

3) An attestation of need for a hearing aid from an audiologist (at any age) or an ENT (if under age 65).

4) In the case of a request for a second hearing aid, if appropriate (and if you are working or studying and aged 19-64), an attestation that you are pursuing recognized studies, or that you are working.

5) After you have gathered all necessary documentation, you will need to consult a Quebec hearing-aid acoustician and provide them with the required documents mentioned above.

If you are an **adult** who requires an ALD, you will require the following documentation and will need to follow these procedures:

**Both hearing aids
and ALDs play an
essential role in the
lives of individuals
with hearing loss.**

1) A medical certificate from an ENT attesting to your permanent hearing loss.

2) An audiogram from an audiologist.

3) A recommendation for an ALD from an audiologist.

4) You will then need to consult a distributor of ALDs and provide the required documents mentioned above.

Both hearing aids and ALDs play an essential role in the lives of individuals with hearing loss.

Both devices make it easier or possible to use a product or be in an environment, or to accomplish a task that would otherwise be impossible or at least more difficult. It should be noted that if you feel as though you require a hearing aid or an ALD and, are not yet eligible for one under RAMQ, you can still purchase one or both of these hearing devices yourself.

At CHIP, staff and volunteers are working hard to acquire and provide our members with a program that will help them understand and use the ALDs on the market more effectively. Stay tuned for more information!

*This article is intended for CHIP members. For additional information on the changes made to the hearing device list, please refer to the RAMQ website at <http://www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca>.

About the Author

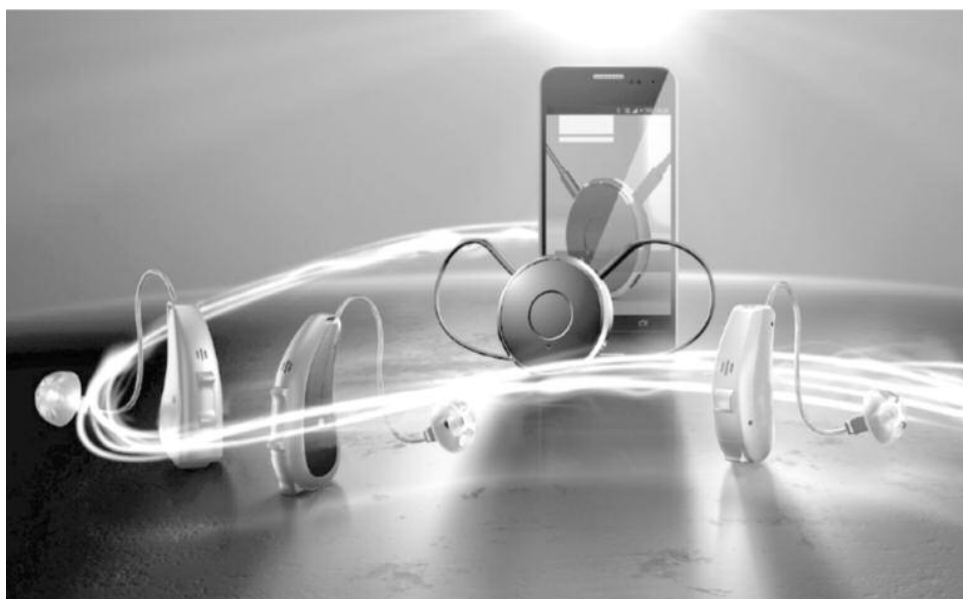
Saidah is an undergraduate student at Concordia University. Hoping to pursue a career in Audiology in the near future, Saidah began volunteering with CHIP to learn more about the hearing-impaired population with whom she intends to work. Currently, Saidah is working on getting the Assistive Listening Device (ALD) room up and running for CHIP members!



Wireless Technology for Hearing Aids

by **Marc Lafrance ap.**
Mathieu Baribeau ap.

Clinique auditive
Baribeau-Lafrance audioprothésistes



Since November 2015, all hearing instruments, including those covered by Québec Medicare (RAMQ), are equipped with technology that allows the user to connect to a multitude of electronic tools that facilitate communication without the need for wires.

Although Québec Medicare does not directly reimburse the cost of these accessories, you can get them from your hearing health specialist. The following are some of the options available:

For the Television

People with hearing difficulties who enjoy watching television will be happy to know that certain hearing instruments that are equipped with wireless capabilities can now be connected to their televisions. Using a Bluetooth remote and transmitter, sound emitted from the television is sent directly to their hearing devices.

This function has the advantage of eliminating the sense of distance and therefore improves sound perception without disturbing others in the room. It is as if one is using headphones but with the added advantage of not being closed off because you can still hear what is going on in the room.

Telephone or Cellphone

Most hearing instrument manufacturers now offer the ability to connect your wireless system either to your residential phone, thanks to a Bluetooth module, or by an electronic signal that can be sent directly to the hearing instrument. Using this type of system allows people with hearing difficulties to hear the voice of the person speaking to them in both their hearing instruments at the same time. This greatly improves comprehension, and reduces the fatigue and frustration that can result from the level of concentration required to have a

phone conversation.

A Bluetooth communication module (some manufacturers refer to this as a “streamer”) that can also be used as a remote is sold by the hearing health specialist. Most cellular phones sold today come equipped with the Bluetooth connectivity function and can be used in conjunction with hearing instruments that are equipped with wireless connectivity.

Listening from a Distance

Most hearing instrument manufacturers also offer the option of a microphone, so that sound can be transmitted directly to the hearing instrument. This is practical when one is seated at the end of a long table so that what is being said at the other end can be heard. This function is particularly useful for conferences, training courses, or when studying in a group. When you participate in such events you can ask that the speaker wear a small microphone that can be worn on a tie or lapel.

for People with Hearing Loss

Most cellular phones sold today come equipped with the Bluetooth connectivity function and can be used in conjunction with hearing instruments that are equipped with wireless connectivity.

The microphone captures the voice of the wearer, and a speech signal is transmitted directly to the hearing instrument (via the Bluetooth remote). By doing so, the quality of the signal is greatly improved because it eliminates all problems caused by noise in the room or problems due to bad room acoustics (too much reverberation or echo).

Advanced Technical Features in Hearing Aids

Technological improvements in recent years have given hearing instruments the ability to better identify the environment of the user. This is the most important factor in determining how sound will be processed in different situations. For example, we do not require the same thing from a hearing device when we are driving as we do when we are in a restaurant. When we drive a vehicle we want to be able to hear what the passengers behind us are saying. In contrast, when we

are in a restaurant we usually want to hear what the person we are looking at is saying.

The most recent hearing devices have an environment identification system that allows them to make decisions for the wearer. The main systems that are activated in the hearing device according to the environment are:

Directionality of the microphones: Microphones are activated in such a way as to form a directional zoom towards the desired source of speech.

Noise reduction is activated when instruments detect noise from a nearby source. For example: the sound of a running motor inside the car (low frequency noise) or noise made from dishes (impact noise).

Wind noise reduction is activated when the instruments detect wind. They act by reducing the noise caused by wind on the microphones.

All these systems function more effectively when two hearing devices (the left and the right) exchange incoming information from the environment. Each hearing device interprets the information that is picked up by the two microphones (front and behind) in addition to using the acoustic signal of the two microphones of the second instrument.

High Definition Sound Resolution (HDSR)

HDSR allows two hearing instruments to make decisions together regarding which

sounds to process, just as our brains do when naturally combining the input from our ears in order to increase our understanding of speech in noisy environments. Thanks to wireless transmission from ear to ear and HDSR, hearing instruments can offer 3 advanced functions.

Narrow Directionality: This automatic function puts the emphasis on the sound coming from the front by increasing the signal-to-noise ratio, thereby reducing the impact of sound coming from elsewhere. This facilitates the ability to carry on a conversation in noisy environments (restaurants, parties, receptions).

Spectral voice analysis: This function allows the system to put emphasis on the voice no matter where it is coming from. For example, in a vehicle, the directional microphone is activated towards the back or towards the side, according to the position of the speaker.

Noise reduction of bilateral wind: In noisy weather, this bilateral function automatically transmits the audio signal from the hearing device that best captures the sound (without distortion from the wind) to the hearing aid that has too much distortion due to wind.

To find out more about what capabilities your hearing instruments might have, contact your hearing aid acoustician.



Inspiration



by **Esther Rosenberg**

Before I tell you all about my Smartphone (cell), I would like to thank my wonderful teachers at Speechreading. They taught me so much: how to cope with the challenges of hearing loss, extensive theory, discussions about people, interesting places, with each class carefully planned and so enjoyable. I really look forward to Thursdays. It's the highlight of my week.

I love my Smartphone. It's my best friend. It literally brings the world to my fingertips. As a

non-hearing person who can no longer use the phone, the most important feature for me is texting. It's a direct chat back and forth, no delay. There is even a tiny microphone icon where you can speak and it will type itself, for short messages; a long one might take in background sounds and need editing.

Then we have email to anyone you might want to reach, anywhere in the world. Using Facetime, you can talk to a person, face to face. We recently had a family dinner and we were able to talk to and see my daughter in Toronto. We passed the phone around and everyone spoke. It felt like she was there with us! Of course, you need a Smartphone at the other end too.

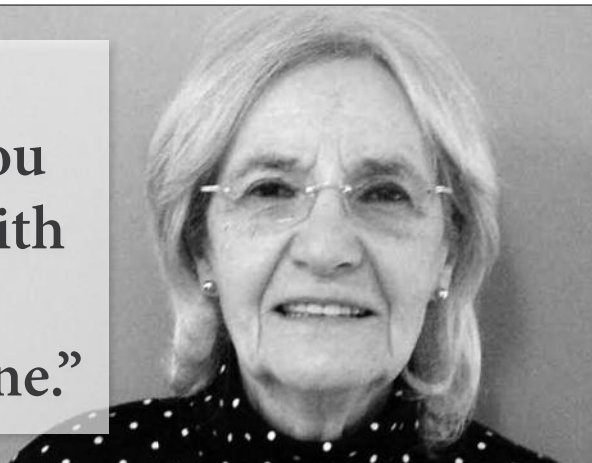
There are dozens of icons, a camera, maps that can show you where you are and where you are going, the weather anywhere in the world and a calculator. You can also store photos and videos that are sent to you. You are able to use Google to look up anything and, for people who can hear, there is the assistant Siri: you can ask it anything, I know

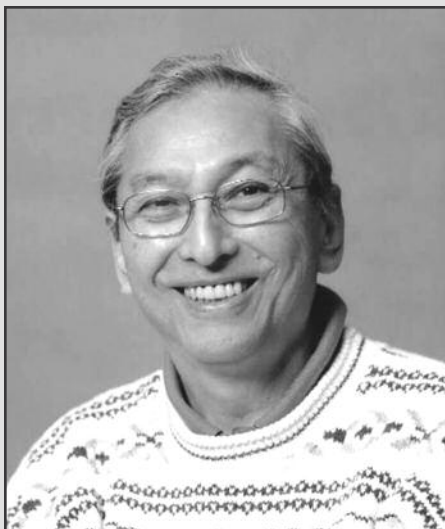
someone who told Siri to put up the heat in the house! That needs a bit of technology to arrange but what I am trying to relate is this: there is nothing you can't do with your Smartphone.

There are loads of free apps. I like the News; I have CTV Go and CN. I get alerts from all over the world, keeping me informed with up-to-date happenings. I'm told the music apps are excellent and there are games which one of these days I might learn how to play. I learn something new everyday, it's a lot of fun. Be careful though-- it's so easy to get addicted to this phenomenal way of communicating.

I would like to
thank my
wonderful
teachers at
Speechreading.
They taught
me so much:
how to cope
with the
challenges of
hearing loss.

**"There is
nothing you
can't do with
your
Smartphone."**





Ken Tatebe Fund Launched

CHIP has been fortunate to have had some amazing volunteers over the years. Ken Tatebe has been an outstanding inspiration to CHIP. He was an extraordinary volunteer and board member. He was deeply committed to CHIP's mandate, well versed in Assistive Listening Technology and monumental in creating and running the Lily Bernstein Resource Centre.

After speaking with his family and receiving their blessing, we

announced, at the CHIP conference in October, 2015, that we would be creating the *Ken Tatebe Fund*. Our goal was to raise \$5000.00 to support the development of the Lily Bernstein Resource Centre, specifically the new computer lab and ALD Program. We first launched the Campaign in December 2015, with great success and we have passed the half-way mark. We continue to need your support to reach our goal.

Inspiration

Ken Tatebe has been an outstanding inspiration to CHIP.

We are looking toward our members to encourage our efforts with a substantial donation. In recognition of your kind support, we will acknowledge our gracious funders in one of several ways (see chart below).



Your donation will be used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment, provide training to our volunteers and hire specialized animators who will offer computer

courses for our members. We will reopen the Lily Bernstein Resource Centre in June 2016.

You can make your donation at the CHIP office, or by completing the membership form and checking off the box for Ken Tatebe Fund and sending it back with a cheque. For more information please contact Heidy Wager, Executive Director, 514.488.5552 ext: 6440 or by email at heidywager@hearhear.org

	DONATION	RECOGNITION
Platinum Donors	\$501.00 and more	Special plaque with your name listed as a platinum level donor in the resource centre. Personalized plaque awarded during the AGM. Invitation to the grand reopening & listed as a donor in the AGM report.
Gold Donors	\$251.00 to \$500.00	Special plaque with your name listed as a gold level donor in the resource centre. Certificate awarded during the AGM. Invitation to the grand reopening & listed as a donor in the AGM report.
Silver Donors	\$101.00 to \$250.00	Special plaque with your name listed as a silver level donor placed in the resource centre. Invitation to the grand reopening & listed as a donor in the AGM report.
Bronze Donors	\$25.00 to \$100.00	Invitation to the grand reopening & listed as a donor in the AGM report.

The Hankuk Lipreading School

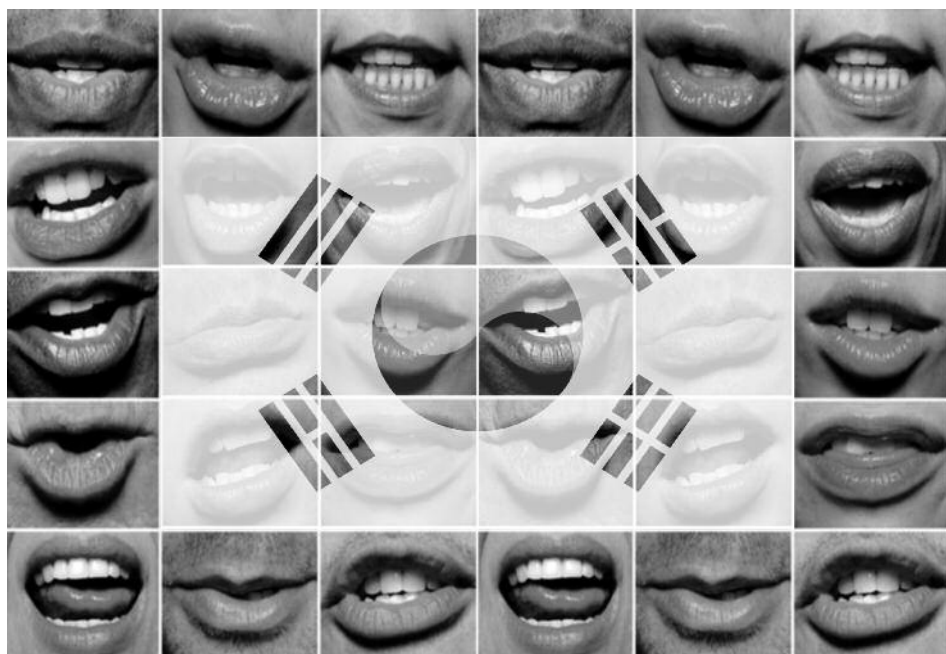


by
Father John Walsh

In the early 1970s, I met Byong Moon Choi, known as “the Teddy Bear”, the principal and founder of the Hankuk Lipreading School in Seoul, Korea. I was introduced to him by a mutual friend, Francis Han, a social worker with whom I had worked.

As a young man, Byong Moon Choi wanted to set up a school for children with hearing or intellectual challenges, and knew he needed to leave North Korea, where he lived, to do it. What ensued was a treacherous trip that involved passing through the demilitarized zone (DMZ) between North and South Korea, an area filled with fencing, mines and troops. Thankfully, Byong Moon Choi made it to Seoul.

With no government funding, Byong Moon Choi set out to raise money to build his school. He first built a chicken coop and eventually raised 1500 chickens. With money from the sale of the chickens, he began to build the Hankuk Lipreading School. He gathered teachers together and the education of the children began. As the children needed to rely on their eyes and their sense of touch rather than their ears, they learned to imitate speech



by touching the cheek of the teacher. With much love and devotion to the students, the school rapidly grew and needed to enlarge.

When Byong Moon Choi and I met to discuss a possible project, we bonded immediately. With Francis as our interpreter, we planned a student exchange, to help with the school's expansion project.

At the time, I was coaching the Football Team at John XXIII High School in Dorval. One day after practice, I asked the students if they wanted to go to Korea. Over the next couple of weeks, student and parental enthusiasm for a visit to Korea grew exponentially. Each student needed to raise \$550.00 on her or his own, without any money coming from the parents. The

ingenuity of these teenagers was incredible! Francis Han and Vincent Siano, then vice-president of CP Air, were our guardian angels arranging flights plans and billeting for what would be the trip of a lifetime.

I called my sister, Marlene, in Vancouver and asked her to prepare for 35 visitors, on a stopover to Korea. The whole group was billeted on her street. After a huge street party, a tour of Vancouver and a visit to the Korean Community Centre, we were on our way. During another stopover, in Japan, Father Roland Jolicoeur welcomed us to the Kokoro NoTomishibi Centre and we participated in the feast of the dead, lit lanterns floating on the river, and had a memorable dinner in Tokyo.

Next stop, Korea, and our work

began. Seventy-five Korean teens joined us to clear a mound of rubble and level the ground for the heavy equipment to have access and build the Canada-Korea extension to the school. Two weeks of heavy labor meant we were tired every night and welcomed sleep. The first night was so memorable when the students, some hearing impaired, others mentally challenged, sang and played music for us. Surprise and happiness caused tears to run down our cheeks.

In Seoul, we were all billeted with Korean families. One week the hosts were rather wealthy and the second week, the homes were those of the lower middle-class. We had articles written about the group. One of our chaperones was a professional singer who turned the group into a half-decent choir and we appeared on radio and television. The last count was 72 occasions, newspaper interviews or media, over two weeks. The Canadian government, with the great support of the Honorable Paul Martin, Senior, was most generous in funding the trip and contributed a

sizeable amount of money to complete the building. In Korea, we were able to raise over \$200,000 for materials. The group was saddened as we left our new-found friends.

Seventy-five Korean teens joined us to clear a mound of rubble and level the ground for the heavy equipment to have access and build the Canada-Korea extension to the school.

The rest of our itinerary took us to Manilla (a tour, a pipe organ made of bamboo, great hospitality and a look at poverty in the Philippines), then to Taiwan (an incredible museum of artifacts from China) and finally to Hong Kong, a very memorable part of the trip (climbing to the top of Kowloon and visiting the Monastery). Back to Vancouver with a brief stopover, and home sweet home after a 26-hour flight.

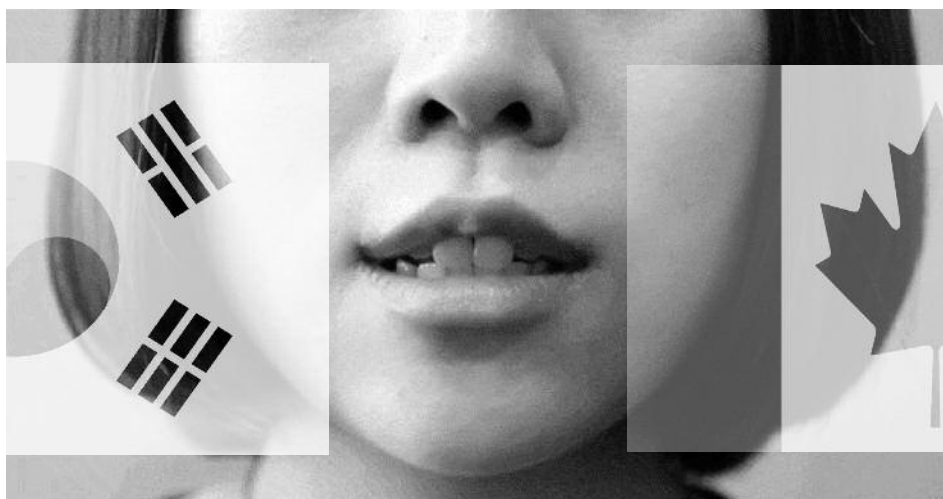
The 32-day trip passed quickly and without any serious incident. The highlights were innumerable.

Joey Smallwood, Premier of Newfoundland, and local Montreal television star, Jimmy Tapp personally delivered to the school the first two audiometers which modernized the way children would begin to process sound, leading to their being able to express themselves better in speech.

Today, the students have achieved great success with one being the President of a very large corporation, one serving as the Chaplain-General of the Canadian Armed Forces, several with PhDs, a dentist and a family physician, to name but a few of the many success stories. For the Canadian students, the trip proved that travel is the best education. Even more so, travel helps forms young people to accept responsibility for themselves and for the future of the world.

About the Author

Born in Montreal, Father John Walsh has been a priest for over 45 years, spreading his ministry to schools, and police and fire departments. He has also taught at Concordia University, been a CJAD radio talk-show host, and is a published author who has lectured in the United States as well as Canada. Currently, he is a blogger and co-founded, with Muslim and Jewish colleagues, the interfaith blog, faithblender.com. Father Walsh studied at the Université de Montréal as well as the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Hebrew University in Jerusalem.





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