

Peter

Aan



Whereas some people's hearing was never lost, others, lost and then found and yet others, lost and not yet found.

Here's where I see myself fitting in

Oblivious to my subliminally declining hearing from childhood, there was never any point when I considered it as lost; therefore, when I walked out of the acoustician's office into the street, I discovered hearing. Somewhat like receiving a substantial amount of money in the mail from a forgotten, deceased relative.

Excitement with all its nuances overwhelmed me. I was saddened in a strange perverted way for those who have not experienced this audio-metamorphic high.

I am composing this expose because I feel this high every morning when I insert my hearing aids.

Path to Euphoria

In my late pre-teens, my parents became concerned that I was not hearing well. That was a long time ago; nevertheless, some of the symptoms bandied about were: hard-of-hearing, 'distracted', 'indifferent' and a normality associated with pre-teen boys. I felt an odd comfort with the latter and embraced it.

Further along

I had no particular concern about my level of hearing (although, thinking back, I should have) until ten years ago. The moment was when I was confronted with an accusation of racism upon apparently ignoring the solicitations of a client at my workplace. The person had addressed me clearly, but from behind, and I didn't hear him.

“I had no particular concern about my level of hearing (although, thinking back, I should have) until ten years ago”

Hearing Journey



Peter Allan was born in Montreal (1943), lived and educated in Ottawa (1953-1972) and returned, married, to the province of Quebec in 1977. Employed mainly in civil engineering planning and residential renovation counseling. He Retired in 2017. His past volunteer experiences include Big Brothers - United Way- Optimist Club and most recently, Hear Quebec His interests are Photography and Biographies, Geography, Model aircraft assemblage, social bridge and chess.

My manager, who had been unhappily involved, and who doubted that I would deliberately ignore anyone, helped me realize that I had extreme difficulty hearing from behind. That led to my first hearing test.

Biting the bullet

At that time in my career, proper hearing at work was essential. I was entitled to a pair of economy hearing aids from RAMQ. The acoustician may well have brought that to my attention; however, with the backing of my family I decided to go for higher-quality devices. I ended up paying a substantial amount out of pocket for higher-end hearing aids. I was thrilled with the immediate results, the guarantee and after-sales services.

Wear and tear

Over the next two or three years mishaps occurred. My daughter's dog chewed one; one was run over by a truck; all were replaced at no cost. It finally came to a point when all guarantees had exhausted and I had only one hearing aid in operation. Happily, my new audiogram showed very little measurable decline in four years. I was by then retired and was offered and accepted an economy model for one side

at no cost to me. As time went on, I was eligible to replace my RAMQ device. As the one I had was still working, we had the new one fitted for the other ear. This allowed the associated streaming device to be more effective.

Devices status stabilized

Now, my expectations for my hearing health are such that I am motivated to obtain maximum results from the level of technology I possess.

I have graduated from that time-honoured school of 'Hard Knocks' with an undergraduate degree in "Listening to Hear" and am presently doing post-grad work in the field; my thesis is "There is Life After Deaf".

Field work

Several years ago, I became associated with Hear Quebec. I arrived during an amazingly fortuitous era as some of the original organizers of the association were still here and 'hands on'. Their industry and social and organizational skills seemingly belied any apparent hearing impairment. Over time I began to perceive and appreciate their coping skills. Timing was also propitious, because hearing device technology was just beginning to proliferate and be more available.





“There is **LIFE** after deaf”

Among many, I shall mention one with which I was more intimately connected. FM Looping is a technology involving wireless transmitting from an on-stage microphone directly into a headset furnished to you for the occasion; furthermore, certain (most nowadays) hearing aids can receive the sound directly.

High tech

One particular concept that took me an inordinate amount of time and effort to comprehend was “Bluetooth”. It turned out that it basically meant “wireless”. We have been living with wireless for well over a hundred years (Marconi and his Radio, for example). Bluetooth allows one to receive sound directly from the TV, Radio or sound system amplifier. Also, Bluetooth allows receiving from a remote microphone/emitter in the center of a table. In addition, there has been a breakthrough in the availability of quality voice-to-text cell phone applications.

Key to success

Success in optimizing our hearing enhancement is only partly dependent on present and upcoming technology; it is heavily dependent on our understanding of our auditory status and actively seeking strategies and practical high-tech offerings.

Lest we forget. We must continue to advocate for recognition and accommodation for an increasingly larger percent of our population who do not hear well.



We are fortunate to be partners with



Centre de réadaptation
**LETHBRIDGE-
LAYTON-MACKAY**
Rehabilitation Centre

Together we support people
with hearing loss.