

# HERE, HEAR!!

Sept 19, 2009  
Volume 4, Issue 3



Hamilton Branch, Canadian Hard of Hearing Association  
Linda Baine, 1459 Brock Road, R.R. #4, Dundas Ont. L9H 5E4

COME JOIN US FOR  
ANOTHER GET  
TOGETHER

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## CANADIAN HARD OF HEARING ASSOCIATION Hamilton Branch *Presents*

### Neuro-Compensator: A **NEW** approach to hearing aids

Real Time Captioning & Infrared Hearing System provided

**DATE:** Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**TIME:** 7:00 pm:

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Sue Becker, PhD

**LOCATION:** SOUTH GATE Presbyterian Church  
120 Clarendon Ave., Hamilton, L9A 3A5  
East of Upper James, between Mohawk & Fennell  
Parking at rear of the church

**ADMISSION:** **FREE** but pre-registration required

For further information phone 905-659-7347, 905-575-4964

[www.chha-hamilton.ca](http://www.chha-hamilton.ca)

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I trust that you have all managed to have some fun over the summer in spite of the rain storms, and can enjoy a bit of sunshine as the kids go back to school.

Your executive has been busy though and I thank them very much for their efforts. In partnership with Rotary Club of Hamilton Sunset, we had a successful golf tournament. We raised some much needed funds which will be used to continue our speech reading classes in the fall and spring each year. Two courses are due to start now and will continue until the beginning of November. It looks as if we may have a waiting list as the response has been good, indicating the needs of the hard of hearing public.

Our last seminar in June was well attended, and it was great to hear the latest news about Cochlear Implants both from a professional perspective and from a recipient. The topics for our fall and winter seminars will interest everyone, so please plan to attend to hear about a new concept in hearing aid technology and tax implications. News from the conference this spring is that CHHA National is working on a proposal to help the branches train additional speech reading instructors. This should help greatly with the funding, but it may take a while to implement so we look to your continued help in support of your local branch. Most local branches have to raise their own funds for the programs they wish to maintain. The response to our request for volunteers has been huge. Hopefully those interested will come to our meetings, introduce themselves, become members and be available to help with the various commitments as we move into the future.

Our latest fundraising project is the inspirational calendars for 2010. They are being printed now and will be available for sale at the October and December seminars. The cost is only \$5.00 . . . so get your orders ready. They will come in handy for Christmas presents. I thank you all for your continued support, with a reminder that memberships are due now.

Linda Baine President

What have you done with your old hearing aids?  
Why not recycle them . . . and bring them to the next CHHA general meeting. We can arrange to have them refurbished to be used by those less fortunate.

**1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNEY FUNDRAISER**  
**ROTARY – CHHA, HAMILTON**

The afternoon started well with 52 players having lunch and getting acquainted with one another and the tourney rules. They all briefly inspected a dazzling display of prizes and silent auction tables. Then after we all got into the first fairway of the modified shotgun, down came the rain. Fortunately the rain was brief and all carried on with their game. Along the way were many activities such as Hamilton Bulldogs closest to the hockey net with a demo club supplied by Callaway, Hole in one of \$10,000 by Investors Group, Hamilton TiCats chipping contest, putting contest and the usual closest to the pin and longest drives. Every hole had a sponsor. After the game and a welcome cold one, we had a very tasty dinner of chicken and beef with all the trimmings, washed down with wine graciously supplied by VINCOR. Then the real fun began. Prizes were awarded, draw tickets called for other prizes, 50/50 draw, and the grand finale of the silent auction where many items were purchased. We all left with a sense of pride that Rotary and CHHA had completed a very successful first year golf fundraiser, which was professionally organized. Already looking forward to next year's 2010 tourney.

Arthur Rendall, Golf Tourney Co. Chair

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**WANTED VOLUNTEERS . . . CAN YOU VOLUNTEER FOR THE**  
**HAMILTON BRANCH OF CHHA?**

Could you volunteer a couple of hours now and then for CHHA if needed? The Executive plans to display tables at Health Fairs, sell hotdogs and pop for fundraising ventures and would welcome members to give a hand for a couple of hours.

What about helping at the meetings, manning a table or greeting people? We are also looking for someone who would like to become a Board member. You know the old saying "Many hands makes light work." well here's your chance to support your CHHA organization and meet people to let them know that they are not alone with their hearing loss. After a successful Golf Tourney in partnership with the Hamilton Sunset Rotary Club, we know that there are members out there who would be willing to volunteer and give us a hand when such a fundraising project is planned. If you would like to give it a try phone Linda Baine 905 659 7347 or Jacquie Reid at 905 575 4964. They will be glad to take your information. Believe you me it's a lot of fun and very satisfying to know that you have helped the support group that has helped you.

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### *IT'S A NOISY PLANET . . . PROTECT THEIR HEARING*

Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is 100 percent preventable. Yet approximately 26 million Americans & Canadians between the ages of 20 and 69 have high-frequency hearing loss from overexposure to loud noises at work or during leisure activities. More than 30 million Americans & Canadians are exposed to dangerous levels of noise on a regular basis. Children also are frequently exposed to noise levels that could permanently damage their hearing. Noise levels generated by activities as common as doing yard work, playing a band instrument, and attending sports events can result in NIHL. Research suggests the NIHL experienced at an early age may accelerate age-related hearing loss later in life.

In October, 2008, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), part of the National Institute of Health (NIH) launched "It's a Noisy Planet. Protect Their Hearing". The Noisy Planet campaign is designed to increase awareness among parents of children ages 8 to 12 (tweens) about the causes and prevention of NIHL. With this information, parents and other caring adults can encourage children to adopt healthy habits that will help them protect their hearing for life. NIDCD is focusing its campaign on

the parents of tweens because children at this age are becoming more independent and developing their own attitudes and habits related to their health. They also are beginning to develop their own listening, leisure and work habits, or soon will do so. Consequently, the tween years present an open window of opportunity to educate children about their hearing and how to protect it. Parents still have a great deal of influence over their tween's behavior and the Noisy Planet campaign provides them with resources that they can use to educate their children about the causes and prevention of NIHL. The campaign Web site at [www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov](http://www.noisyplanet.nidcd.nih.gov) provides parents with facts about NIHL, tips on how to encourage their tween to adopt healthy hearing habits, and other steps they can take to protect their tween's hearing. The site also offers information specifically for tweens, such as interactive games about noise and hearing.

NIDCD, Bethesda, MD

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### *CHHA RACE CAR DRIVER MEETS HOLBROOK SCHOOL KIDS*

Just prior to the end of school this past June, CHHA members Kris Martin, Cathy Peterson and Jacquie Reid had an opportunity to visit Holbrook Elementary School. Children from grades 1, 2, and 3 were in attendance. Three of the children wear hearing aids. As we all know, wearing hearing aids can be a challenge for adults, little lone for children. Kris is probably the only severely hard of hearing race car driver in North America. He brought his gear and ALL of the kids delighted in trying his helmet on. He explained that he communicates with his crew through his helmet, which hooks into his cochlear implant. The children were thoroughly impressed. We also discussed how many people wear glasses to see better . . . and some people wear hearing aids or cochlear implants to hear better. There were some students and teachers in the audience who wore glasses and the kids were better able to understand this comparison. Cathy, through the generous donations of Unitron & Phonak hearing aid manufacturers, were able to give each child a lunch bag, stickers, books & a slap bracelet relating to this topic. We believe all the children left school that day with an improved understanding of the kids who wore hearing

aids . . . and those three no doubt enjoyed a much better summer. As Kris explained to them . . . NEVER give up, believe in yourself. If you want something badly enough . . . you can do it.

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Hi there,

My name is Jamie and I wear two hearing aids. I want you to know how great it is to have hearing aids! Only with hearing aids can you turn people's voices up or down. Many of my friends think my hearing aids look like really cool ipods or high tech cell phones which everyone wished they had for themselves. Lots of friends think that my FM system is actually the coolest thing ever! And most of all, when people see me wearing hearing aids, all my friends admire me because I am not ashamed to improve my hearing with these special gadgets on my ears. Without a doubt, you will have a normal life with hearing aids just like me . . . just as long as you let people know that you are proud to hear better with them on. If you are really shy and embarrassed about your hearing aids, your friends might think you are embarrassed for some other reason since they think that your hearing aids are pretty neat! Find other kids who wear hearing aids and talk to them about how they feel . . . you are not alone. CHHA is the Canadian HARD of HEARING Association and it has youth groups you might want to check out. Best of luck, Jamie Grew

Jamie Grew, M.Cl.Sc., Aud(C), Reg. CASLPO  
Audiologist, The Canadian Hearing Society

### *PRAYING FOR LEROY*

"Anyone with needs to be prayed over, come forward, to the front at the altar," the Preacher says. Leroy gets in line, and when it's his turn, the preacher asks: "Leroy, what do you want me to pray about for you." Leroy replies: "Preacher, I need you to pray for my hearing."

The preacher puts one finger in Leroy's ear, and he places the other hand on top of Leroy's head and prays and prays and prays, he prays a blue streak for Leroy. After a few minutes, the Preacher removes his hands, stands back and asks, "Leroy, how is your hearing now?"

Leroy says, "I don't know, Reverend, it ain't til next Wednesday!"

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## AIR CANADA WORKER COMPENSATED FOR HEARING LOSS

Michael Honeker, aged 49, has worked for Air Canada since 1977. In 1998, he was transferred to the ramp baggage area. He was exposed to excessive levels of noise when handling baggage and working in the vicinity of aircraft, the engines of which were still running. Mr. Honeker says: "My hearing loss has gradually crept on me. I suffer from noises in my ears. It sounds like water running and sometimes there is some ringing. When noises are present, I find it more difficult to hear." Representing Mr. Honeker, Paul Meehan partner at Pattinson & Brewer accident claims service says: "Mr. Honeker worked in an area surrounded by noisy conveyor belts. The noise was contained because the ceiling was very low. He also was required to meet aircraft to load and offload. He worked close to the aircraft's engines. His employers could and should have taken precautions to protect his hearing." The compensation was secured by Britain's General Union, GMB, through its specialist personal injury solicitors Pattinson & Brewer Accident Claims.

World Without Hearing News

**WIN**  
**BULLDOGS HOCKEY TICKETS**  
**A chance to win 2 pair of tickets**  
**For any of the Oct/Nov 2009 games**  
**at Copps Coliseum**  
**Draw tickets: \$5.00**

**Tickets are worth \$50/pair \*\*\* Donated by the Bulldogs  
Foundation - Draw on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

## **This is what your CHHA membership is doing for you**

Below you will see an application to renew or become a new member of CHHA. We ask that you fill it out and send it to the address printed on the form.

Memberships for the year 2009 to August 31, 2010 are now due. To keep our association strong we have to know that *you* are supporting us by becoming a member.

The *answer* to What is CHHA doing for you?

Speech reading classes already have a waiting list. CHHA has representatives at CRTC for Text Emergency Services for those of us who have trouble hearing on the phone. We have representatives at the local City Committee for barrier free accessibility in public buildings. Meetings are held with excellent guest speakers presenting information to help the hard of hearing. Real time captioning at CHHA meetings to help us hear what is being said.

All of these projects help us to fulfill CHHA's mission to make the community a better place for the hard of hearing. Please renew your membership or join us for the first time and find out what CHHA is all about.

Joan Miller, Membership Chair

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**CHHA-Hamilton Membership Application & Renewal Form**

Your Membership is now due for September 1/09 – August 31/10

**Please mail this form with your payment to:**

CHHA, c/o Joan Miller, Treasurer, 90 Stirling Street, Caledonia, ON N3W 1J5

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby apply for one of the following memberships (please check one):**

- Individual Membership: \$30.00 / year       Family Membership: \$50.00 / year  
 Lifetime Membership: \$300.00 plus \$5.00 / year

*Make cheques payable to: CHHA-Hamilton*

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*Donations to CHHA-Hamilton may be made in memory of loved ones and friends. Tax receipts will be issued, and announcements sent to the family*