

SJDHHS NEWS

Winter 2011

SJAD Christmas 2011



Santa was there and he sends love to everyone. Children of all ages got a chance to sit on his knee.



The Agency received a lovely gift of hand made Snowman and Snowwoman from Mona Leahy

Christmas Open Houses

SJDHHS Open House

Dec. 16, 2011
11 am to 2 pm

324 Duke St. West
Saint John, NB

Options Open House

Dec. 13, 2011
12 pm to 2 pm
165 Union St., Saint John, NB

Fredericton Works Open House

Dec. 15, 2011
11 am to 2 pm

420 York St

(506) 633-0599
(506) 634-8037 TTY
sjdhhs@nb.sympatico.ca
www.sjdhhs.com

Saint John Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Inc.
324 Duke St. West
Saint John, NB
E2M 1V2

Christmas Party Fredericton

FDDC Christmas Party

December 10, 2011

5:00pm-1:00am

Y's Men and Women's Club

(Near the old Cotton Mill off of Bridge St.
in Marysville)

11 McGloin Street,
Fredericton NB

Turkey dinner, chat, draws, & a visit from
SANTA CLAUS

Admission is \$ 10.00

Hockey Pool, 50/50

BRING SWEETS TO SHARE

**Deadline to pay tickets is on
November 26, 2010**

Pay Ruth Read or Judy Kilbride at Darts
or can mail it to Ruth Read, 13 Downing
St, Fredericton, NB E3A 4M7

Gift exchange draw on Nov 12th at
Darts. Non-members can contact Ruth or
Judy on Facebook or email before Nov
26th if you want to draw names for gift
exchange.

ruthannread@hotmail.com

**Please bring can food or dry food
item for the Food Bank
MONEY BOARD**

GAMES



PRIZES

Christmas Party Halifax

Catholic Deaf Community Halifax Chapter 82

Is Hosting

Christmas Dinner 2011!

Who: Everyone welcome!!!

When: Saturday, December 10, 2011

Time: 2 P.M to 7 P.M

Where: St. Theresa Church Hall
6351 North St, Halifax, NS

Cost: \$15 per person (**One Price for all:
Adult, Seniors, Student, & Deaf Blind**)

**Family of 4 or up-\$35.00 (children
under 16 of age)**

Deadline: Monday, December 5, 2011

What: You can bring your own sweets;
**we will provide hot turkey, vegetables
and dressing**

Why: Enjoy and get together for Christmas
Spirit! and chat with old friends/new friends

• **Please bring gift for your
children - Santa Claus will hand
the gift to each child* and also,
don't forget to bring food for
needy people**

Contact us:

Betty MacDonald -
bmd@accesswave.ca
or phone number 466-4335

Alan Williams -
awilliams@ns.sympatico.ca

Thanks for Being a Sponsor

Dear Lynn;

World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) held a conference in Durban South Africa in July this year was a special event for everyone who was there. We believe it was a really special event for the 10 interpreters whose attendance was funded by you and other like-minded people.

We are writing to you to say a special THANK YOU as you were one of those individuals or organizations that contributed money to the cost of flights, accommodation and conference fees for those to whom sponsorship funding was allocated.

Sponsored by SJDHHS



Awoii Patrick Michael—Uganda, Africa

Patrick previously attended the inaugural 2005 conference at Worcester, South Africa. He has maintained strong links with WASLI and was elected WASLI's secretary for 2011-2015. Like many at the conference he enjoyed the Country Report sessions which "bring our the experiences and interpreter situation from the different countries". Another highlight for Patrick was the "presentation from the keynote speaker, which clearly brought out the conference theme and a good learning note to adopt in our work."

Three things he wants to achieve arising from the conference:

- Strengthen the capacity of Uganda National Association of Sign Language Interpreters (UNASLI) using the experience from the already well established associations example Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID, USA)
- Meeting with the Kyambogo University as interpreter training institution and sharing a possibility of introducing BA in interpreting.
- What will I do differently to see WASLI grow into a big organization.

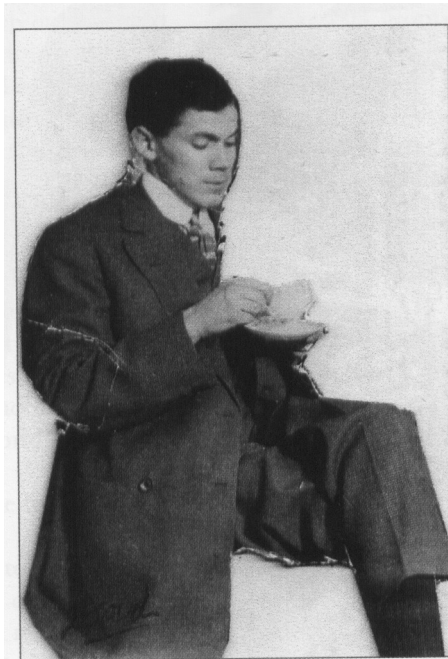
When asked how he would share his conference experience with colleagues and what actions/outcomes they might seek to achieve together, he replied:

- Sharing: Shared a report with the executive/board of UNASLI and I intend to visit the interpreter trainees at Kyambogo University to share with them the different topics/presentations from the conference.
- Actions/Outcomes: Together with the executive of UNASLI, Deaf association UNAD and other partners lobby to the government to employ/pay for services of sign language interpreters. This is already in progress.

Thank you again for your support for the 2011 conference.

Deb Russell
WASLI President

Sowerby scholarship benefits Canadian students Gallaudet Today FALL 2011



Robert Elder Sowerby(1893-1971) of Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada sips tea in a vintage photo. His son, Robert Charles Sowerby, established a Gallaudet Scholarship fund in honor of his father. (Photo courtesy of Robert Charles Sowerby.)

The Robert Elder Sowerby Scholarship for Canadian students enrolled at Gallaudet an invaluable source of support to continue their educational goals at Gallaudet University

The endowed fund was established in 2008 by Nova Scotia residents Robert Charles and Minnie Sowerby, and is named for Robert's late father, Robert Elder Sowerby, a great supporter of Gallaudet and the deaf community. Since its inception, the fund has grown to \$50,632 and provided three scholarship to outstanding Canadian students.

“Dad spoke highly of Gallaudet. He saw it as a way for deaf children to improve their education

and, by extension, their ability to provide for themselves,” said Sowerby.

Sowerby, who lived from 1894 to 1971, was an important figure in the Canadian Deaf Community. A resident of Moncton, NB, he was known as the “grand old man of the Maritimes.” the Atlantic provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. He was involved with many organizations, principally the Maritimes Association of the Deaf, of which he became a director at age 17. Sowerby next became vice president, and finally secretary for the organization., a post he held for 25 years. He also worked with the newly founded Eastern Canadian Association for the Deaf , which actively promoted the cause of equal pay for equal work for Deaf people.

Known as a man of many talents, Sowerby apprenticed as a tailor but settled on a career with the Canada Post, where he worked for 42 years and boasted the largest route assigned to any postal worker in Moncton. Sowerby put his apprenticeship to work. He was also a professional photographer.

**Christmas Closure
SJDHHS will be Closed
December 23 at noon
And will Reopen
January 3 at 8:30 am**

**Emergency Interpreter Services
Will be in effect
See next page for
Contact Information**

NOTICES

**Please write down
on your calendar**

**Emergency
Interpreter Services**

**1-800-0644 TTY
1-800-442-9799 Voice**

After Hours (4:30 pm - 8:30 am)

**Holidays (24 hrs)
(Dec 24 to 27 and
Dec 31 to Jan 2)**

**All other days
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
Text or call 506-333-4515**

**SJAD DINGO
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm
PLACE TO BE
ANNOUNCED**

**Jan. 7, 2012
Feb. 4, 2012
March 3, 2012
April 7, 2012
May 5, 2012
June 2012—TBA**

2012 Workshops

**Deaf Culture
Workshops**

Presenters

**Noni Warner, NSCC
and**

Amy Parsons, APSEA

January 21, 2012

9 AM to 4 PM

March 24, 2012

9 AM to 4 PM

UNB-SJ Campus

Saint John, NB

Lunch Provided

February 11, 2012

April 14, 2012

9 AM to 4 PM

UNB— Fredericton

Fredericton, NB

Lunch Provided

French school for deaf improves, parent says

From The Ottawa Citizen newspaper

French school for deaf improves, parent says

Protests led to review by ministry
By Claire Brownell, Ottawa Citizen September
24, 2011.

The atmosphere at Ontario's only French school for the deaf has improved significantly since the start of the school year after a provincial review recommended sweeping changes, a parent said.

The Ministry of Education ordered a review of the Centre Jules-Léger after students staged a strike in February, saying their education was suffering at the hands of teachers who didn't speak sign language, had no experience or qualifications with deaf students and responded aggressively when challenged. After interviewing staff, students and parents, members of the independent review team found many of the students' claims were substantiated.

In June, Education Minister Leona Dombrowsky said she had ordered staff to follow through with the review's recommendations, including professional ethics training for staff, opportunities for deaf education and sign-language training and forming partnerships with Ottawa's other French schools. The school hired a new principal, Jean-Marc Sauvé, and replaced superintendent Lillian Patry.

Stephanie Rousseau said parents and students were especially happy about the replacement of Patry, who had no deaf education qualifications or experience and was unable to communicate with students without a sign language interpreter. Rousseau's 16-year-old son has been attending the school since daycare.

Marie-France Ricard, the new superintendent, was a teacher at CJL years ago and has worked as a principal since. Rousseau said Ricard and Sauvé had gone out of their way to introduce themselves to students and parents and make them feel welcome.

"We are really happy. The students this year, the ambience, like the feeling at the school, it's really different. More calm and more easygoing, more open to each other. They listen more to what the needs are," Rousseau said.

Rousseau said the staff were also happier after much of the stress and tension had been relieved. "It was a really hard year last year. Now they're really happy to have a better place to work."

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clabrow

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Read more: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/life/>

**AVLI-NB will be hosting
SKIP-BO night
January 28, 2012
Join us for Supper at 6:30pm
Games from 7:30-9:30pm
Location: NECC
AVLIC Board will be there
Come and meet the
National Board**

Finding good health info a challenge for those born deaf

Angela Mulholland



Imagine you have just been diagnosed with a new health condition or are trying to figure out what's causing that new ache -- where do you start? Googling for info can be a challenge for some.

But when you're deaf, it's often not that easy.

Many Canadians who were born deaf have trouble communicating with medical providers, and while searching the Internet for answers might seem good, work around that can often be just as frustrating.

For many Canadians born deaf or hard of hearing, reading English and other spoken languages is not simple. While some have little trouble, many never learn to read English beyond the level of a 10-year-old. And most health information on the Internet is not written for 10-year-olds.

The reason why those who are born deaf often have trouble with complex reading is because reading itself draws on our hearing skills, explains Connie Mayer, an associate professor in the Faculty of Education at York University in Toronto, and a literacy specialist and former deaf educator. If you've never been able to hear, where do you begin with sounding out letters and words?

"You might think of reading as a visual language, because you look at it. But reading is really an auditory process," Mayer explains.

The most commonly used sign language in Canada is American Sign Language, or ASL, and while it can convey all the same meanings as English, it is not a "translation" of English.

"ASL is a gestural language with its own grammar, syntax and lexicon and very distinct from English," she says. For someone whose first language is sign language, it can be difficult to understand the grammar and syntax of English, and even harder to learn how to read it.

"There are significant numbers of deaf and hard of hearing individuals who learn to develop age-appropriate literacy," Mayer says. "But I would suspect there is a group that would have trouble reading complex text like you might find on a website with health information."

Language often too dense

Lance Rintamaki, a health communication researcher at the University at Buffalo, has been studying how culturally deaf people -- that is, those who are born deaf or who lose their hearing very early in life -- seek out medical information and care.

He's found that many in the deaf community report it can be hard to distinguish what is reliable health information and what isn't. And even when they do find reliable sources, such as government websites, they're often filled with dense and confusing language.

Finding good health info a challenge for those born deaf

Angela Mulholland (Continued)

"You often come across many of the same issues with English as a second language in the deaf population that you are likely to come across in the hearing population who are learning English," he says.

As one deaf participant in Rintamaki's study told him: "I really wish there was a web design that would allow you to be able to read the English, but give you the ASL so I can understand the English I'm trying to read."

That's exactly what the Canadian Hearing Society would love to see.

Jo-Anne Bentley, the director of the Communication Devices Program at the society, says deaf Canadians should be entitled to unrestricted access to health information on the Web. And yet, very few health websites offer ASL translation on their pages.

The Hearing Society's own website is an example of what she'd like to see more of on the Web: a site with both text and videos of interpreters "translating" the pages into ASL.

"Our ideal would be to have all information on websites in ASL and LSQ (Quebec Sign Language, the sign language used most often in francophone Quebec)," Bentley says.

When Web searches fail to yield answers to our medical questions, most of us turn to health care providers. But many within the deaf community find doctor's visits frustrating too.

Not surprisingly, few doctors in Canada know sign language. So deaf Canadians sometimes need to bring along a family member or professional interpreter to act as a liaison. But that's hardly ideal when discussing embarrassing and private medical issues.

Without an interpreter, it can be difficult for many deaf and hard-of-hearing to make themselves understood or to understand what their doctors are saying, Rintamaki reports.

Interestingly, the Internet can actually offer a solution.

Rintamaki found in his conversations with culturally deaf people that many prefer emailing their doctors over the frustration of trying to talk face to face during a rushed appointment.

"The reason why is that some are very conversant in written English, so for them, typing it out is easier than writing it on a piece of paper or trying to communicate verbally, which sometimes leads to confusion and frustration on both sides," he said.

It's not just people who are profoundly deaf who find medical appointments taxing; so do patients who are hard of hearing, says the Canadian Hearing Society's Jo-Anne Bentley.

She notes that in hospital and clinic settings, there can be a lot of background noise and those who are hard of hearing can have difficulty communicating.

**Finding good health info a challenge for those
born deaf
Angela Mulholland (Continued)**

"If you can't hear accurately, you can't respond accurately. So the information and diagnosis can be skewed," she says.

Bentley says she knows of situations where hard-of-hearing people have misunderstood directions from their doctors about prescriptions, for example, and have taken the wrong dosages.

Solving this issue first requires training health professionals about how to interact with hard of hearing and deafened patients, by bringing them into quieter areas to talk, for example, speaking slowly and clearly, and writing instructions down.

Her group also works with hospitals about using technology that can ease communication for the deaf. A key tool is something called Video Remote Interpreting, which allows the deaf to have use of an interpreter through a video feed over the Internet.

Bentley says this tool is already proving indispensable for deaf Canadians living in remote areas.

So while the text of the Internet can often present frustrating barriers to the deaf community, its ability to offer video services actually has the potential to solve many of those problems and perhaps transform the way the deaf access health care.

http://news.sympatico.ctv.ca/home/finding_good_health_info_a_challenge_for_those_born_deaf/75cf5678#.TqQEgLXF5VU.email

**Public Forum on
Employment & Education Issues
For People with Disabilities**

The Premier of New Brunswick has recognized that people with disabilities are not represented fairly in the workforce.

Because of that he has a new plan for training and hiring people with disabilities being developed by government, service agencies, and people with disabilities.

To make sure the Deaf and Hard of Hearing issues, concerns, wants and needs are covered we need your input.

**There will be a public forum on
January 18, 2012 from 1 pm to 4
pm and 6 pm to 8 pm at District 8
school board.**

Interpreter Services will be provided
please come and share your
frustrations and dreams with the
government.

Letters of Support for VRS in Canada Needed

If you want Video Relay Services (VRS) in Canada Please check out these Vlogs and send in your letter of support, Deaf, Interpreters and Organizations.

<http://vimeo.com> (Linda Cundy, AAD)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWw-Y52skjA&feature=related> (CAD)

SJAD Halloween Party

Halloween Party was a big success with young and old alike



Hand
Made
By
Wally
Jenkins



A proud Grammy with her Tigger!



Posing for the best costumes

Winners: Loïc as Luke Skywalker and
Jocelyn with her colorful wig.
Congratulations !!