



*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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## Ultimate Dream Home Raffle ticket sales to begin Oct. 18

24 years later and it's still just \$20!

It's time again folks! The Ultimate Dream Home will soon be open for business. For the 24th year, the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA) Sudbury

Branch, will open the doors of it's main fundraiser on Friday, October 18th.

Built by SLV Homes this year, the house (located at 27 Tera Vista in Sudbury) will offer several new exciting surprises that we think ticket buyers will love!

The tickets are still just \$20!

The Home will be open for viewing 4 days a week (Thursday through Sunday) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., until the final day of ticket sales on Monday, January 6th, 2025.

Alternatively, tickets will also be available at the CHHA Kiosk in the New Sudbury Centre as well as at participating Your Independent Grocers, Giant Tiger, Home Hardware and Valu-Marts across North Eastern Ontario.

The Grand Prize includes the Home (retail value of

\$900,000), a 2025 Elantra Essential from Sudbury Hyundai (valued at (\$27, 954), all the furniture from Ashley HomeStore (valued at \$57,000), all the appliances by Bianco's Supercenter (valued at \$21,127) for a total grand prize value of **\$1,012,081**.

Second Prize consists of \$5,000 cash and \$5,000 Loblaw grocery gift cards.

Third Prize consists of grocery gift cards in the value of \$3,000.

Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Prizes consist of Home Hardware gift cards in the amounts of \$1,000 each.

Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth prizes consist of Giant Tiger gift carts valued at \$1,000 each.

Visit our website [UltimateDreamHomeSudbury.com](http://UltimateDreamHomeSudbury.com) for more information and to see our virtual tour beginning in October.

## HearNow Fund Depleted

Since April 1st of this year, the HearNow Fund has given out more than \$200,000 through our HearNow Fund, which helps purchase hearing aids for those in need.

A small portion is still available for Children under the age of 18.

The fund will become available again beginning in April of 2025 from proceeds of the Ultimate Dream Home draw.



# A HoH Travels

## By Air and Wheelchair

By Gael Hannan

(Note: This is a longer-ish article, but it's not boring and contains important stuff. Also, HoH means hard of hearing a person with hearing loss.)

A couple of weeks ago, I did something I swore I'd never do. I allowed myself to be pushed through the airport in a wheelchair even though my ability issue is profound hearing loss.

I can walk. I just can't *hear* very well — especially in a noisy airport with unintelligible public address announcements and gate change or boarding announcements that don't always appear in a timely manner on my smartphone.

I had never understood why, when self-identifying with hearing loss when boarding a flight, there would often be a wheelchair waiting for me at the other end. Which I always refused. Once, a young airport staffer was distressed by my refusal and

followed me through the terminal, *with* the wheelchair, to make sure I reached the gate of my next flight.

Recently I learned why the airlines provide a wheelchair for any disability. There is no code that says, "passenger needs someone to help in navigating the airport because of hearing loss". *Everyone* gets a wheelchair.

But I didn't know this when I arrived at the airport in Atlanta, where I'd been attending the American Academy of Audiology convention with my co-author Shari Eberts. I was due to present the next day at another conference, in another country. I was flying to Edmonton, via Toronto and the timing was very tight. Every plane on my trip had to leave and land at the scheduled time, if not earlier. To make it worse, I had a terrifyingly short connection in Toronto, where I had to pass both security and Canadian customs to reach my next flight. If I missed it, I would not

be able to keep my commitment to present at 9 a.m. the next morning.

I had been worrying about it for days.

Checking in at Atlanta, staff already knew I was DEAF — that's how it read on my boarding pass — and offered me a wheelchair. Because, you know, I was DEAF! They may also have seen my tight timelines.

"Oh gosh, I can walk," I replied. The two staff members gave me a look that I translated as, "So what?"

I said, "Do you think it's OK, I mean, I travel on my own all the time and usually I just take advantage of early boarding. You really think it's OK?" I felt like a nervous first-time passenger rather than the seasonal traveler that I'm supposed to be.

They both said yes, do it, and I agreed, partly because it would be a new experience and I am after all, a

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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.

# Speech Reading Classes begin Sept. 24th in Sudbury for 10 weeks — Register now!

CHHA Sudbury will offer level 1 Speech Reading workshop every Tuesday beginning Sept. 24th from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The workshop series will

run for 10 weeks, ending Tuesday, November 19th.

classes! People who have taken speech reading with CHHA-Sudbury are pleasantly surprised to find there is much more going on than just speech reading in our classes.

Over the 10 classes a wealth of information on other communication strategies are covered. These may include listening in difficult situations, telephones, assistive listening devices (ALDs), hearing aids and much more. Speech Reading classes are fun and a wonderful opportunity to meet others with hearing loss.

If you, or someone you know struggles to hear and are interested in learning more about the “art” of lip reading, please register today. Seating is very limited.

For more information or to register, call the CHHA Sudbury office at 705-523-5695 or by email: [info@chhasudbury.com](mailto:info@chhasudbury.com).

Often referred to as “lip reading”, speech reading is the ability to understand speech by observing visual cues such as the movement of the lips, tongue, jaw and facial expressions. Less than half of spoken language is actually visible on a speaker’s lips. Speech reading is the more accurate term as it also involves observing other cues such as body language, gestures along with situational and context clues. It takes practice, but it can also be very rewarding. Anyone with a hearing loss will greatly benefit from speech reading classes.

The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association (CHHA), Sudbury Branch currently offers level 1 and level 2 classes. Each level consists of ten classes that are two hours each. They are available at no cost.

Be prepared to have some fun in our

Join us for a

# M<sup>FREE!</sup>OVIE

matinee



**September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m.**  
**West Side Story**

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**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 1 p.m.**  
**A Family Affair**

*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.**

# 523-5695

# Survey shows GenX and Baby Boomers struggle to hear but not likely to seek help

According to a recent survey conducted by one of the larger US hearing aid manufacturers a substantial number of people aged 44-78 are experiencing hearing loss and its associated impacts, yet many are not taking proactive steps to address it.

*[Just for reference: Baby Boomers were born between 1946 & 1964. GenX was born between 1965 & 1980 and Gen Y, more commonly known as Millennials were born between 1981 & 1994.]*

The data reveals that about 75% of respondents have encountered hearing

difficulties within the past year, and 21% have definitively experienced hearing loss. Despite 84% expressing personal concern about hearing loss and 99% acknowledging the importance of addressing it, there remains a widespread lack of action.

Notably, more than half (about 57%) of respondents have not taken any measures to monitor, test, or address their hearing loss in the past year. This figure rises to 62% among Baby Boomers and stands at 51% for Gen Xers.

## The Impact of Hearing Loss:

The survey also highlights the broader implications of hearing loss. Among those affected, 72% reported that their hearing issues have hindered their ability to participate in family activities. Additionally, hearing loss has impacted mental health, hobbies, work, and finances for many respondents.

Audiologists have emphasized the importance of early intervention and continuous management of hearing health to maintain independence and quality of life.

Despite these concerns, there are encouraging signs. Advances in hearing technology and smartphone connectivity are being embraced by Gen Xers and Boomers, with 75% of respondents believing that hearing loss solutions have improved since their youth. And a 53% majority say there isn't much of a stigma associated with wearing hearing aids nowadays. However, this drops to 46% among Gen X.

## Additional insights from the survey include:

- Being mindful of loud noises this summer:** 98% of Gen X/Baby Boomers will experience loud noise this summer, most commonly at concerts or festivals (90%), and during 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks (89%).
- On repeat:** A majority (56%) have had to ask friends or family to repeat themselves in conversation. Baby Boomers are more likely to report difficulty hearing a grandchild, while Gen X is ore likely to report trouble hearing on a video chat.
- Importance of friends and family:** 87% know others who've experienced hearing loss, most commonly their parents, reported by a 51% majority of Gen X. Baby Boomers are more likely to report hearing loss of their spouse or siblings.
- First timers:** 89% of respondents who haven't had hearing loss yet are likely to seek professional help once they begin to experience problems.





# A HoH Travels. . .

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writer about the hearing loss life.

I was directed to a nearby spot where a staffer oversaw a small fleet of wheelchairs. She welcomed me warmly and invited me to pick a chair I liked, and I'd be retrieved in a minute.

A charming young man came and packed my gear around me. He chatted to me as he pushed. I explained I couldn't understand him, so he simply motioned what he wanted me to do.

We wheeled to the front of the security line and my embarrassment grew. He put my gear on the scanner conveyor belt and then, the moment I dreaded. I had to *stand up and walk* through the body scanner, in full view of other people. My guy met me on the other side, made me sit back down and as I did up my running shoes, I saw a gentleman leaning over painfully to do the same thing. Except that *he* got up and walked slowly with a cane out of the security area. It was the low point of my journey.

As you might guess, I boarded the plane first, using my own legs. I gave the flight attendants my usual information: "I have profound hearing loss, I speechread, and I can't understand overhead announcements. You don't need to come and tell me about our cruising altitude or the weather at destination — just the important stuff like if there's turbulence ahead, if we're going to be late for some reason, and if I need to assume, you know, crash position."

On this Air Canada flight, the staff was wonderful. Before taking off, an attendant crouched down beside me to ensure I had everything I needed, a Braille card, perhaps? I just looked at her and she laughed, realizing her mistake. But she did bring me a Braille card that also contained written instructions in my language. Brilliant!

Landing in Toronto, a staffer was waiting with a wheelchair. I said, "I'm too embarrassed. I can walk, I just can't hear!"

She said, "Shall I walk with you, then?"

She cleared up the mystery — there was no computer code for walking assistance. I was accompanied all the way through Customs and eventually to my gate — which she hadn't been able to find. The gate had been moved to a difficult spot; I would never have found this on my own. I couldn't understand the overhead announcements,

and the usual notice of gate change came through on my phone only after I was sitting in my seat.

I frequently travel alone for speaking engagements, and I thought I knew the ropes. But after this trip, I understand the system better. While I will never use a wheelchair again (unless I truly need one), I am grateful for all the compassionate assistance I received.

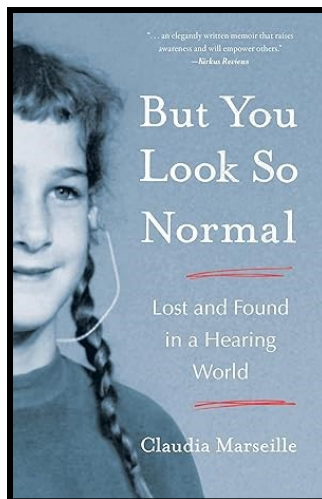
But I need to reiterate a common and valid complaint of travelers with hearing loss; we wish airlines and staff better understood our communication needs. And while some (not all) inflight movies are captioned, we need ALL inflight announcements to be captioned instead of just seeing this unhelpful information: "Passenger Announcement".

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## *But You Look So Normal*

A book about growing up with hearing loss

By Kristyna Ripley-Kraan



*Recently, I read this book by Claudia Marseille and thought I'd share it with our readers*

As a baby, Claudia appeared to be normal (whatever that means for you); she was her parents' first born, so they did not notice anything out of the ordinary or suspect anything. Once her brother came along,

they realized that she may not be hearing them, as she was still not speaking by the age of four.

After being in her own little world for the first few years of her life, she was finally diagnosed with severe hearing loss and given her first pair of hearing aids. Her parents, German World War Two refugees, wanted Claudia to have a "normal" childhood and enrolled her into the mainstream school life. Her life was *far from* normal however, navigating the struggles of trying to hear during a time where hearing loss advocacy was not commonplace.

In the 50's and 60's, up until her adulthood, Claudia experienced waves of

(Cont'd on page 7)

DOES YOUR HEARING AID USE  
**BLUETOOTH**  
and you aren't sure how it works?

*We Can Help!*

**Make an appointment.**  
Bring in your hearing  
aid(s), all accessories  
plus 1 device you  
want to pair it to  
and we'll walk you  
through it!



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SUDBURY BRANCH

**705 523-5695**

# Living with Tinnitus Workshop planned for November 13<sup>th</sup>

By Gwen MacGillivray

Tinnitus. An odd phenomenon that scientists are still trying to analyze and solve.

To be fair, they have made great strides in the field over the years, but they are yet to determine a “cure”.

Tinnitus affects each person differently, can be fleeting, or it can be constant. It can be soft or severe. It does not really affect the ears, though the sound it creates seems to be coming from inside the ear, when there is no

external sound present. Even those who are completely deaf (have no hearing whatsoever from the eardrum) can also be bombarded with Tinnitus!

It is such a distinctly different experience for each individual that it is

difficult to pin down exact causes or treatments.

Some hear a whistling sound; some hear music — much more pleasant than those who say it sounds like they are standing in the Toronto Subway at rush-hour!

There are coping methods that can make living with Tinnitus easier. For most who have it. However, for some it is a devastating condition that they struggle to live with.

CHHA Sudbury can help. On Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a “Living with Tinnitus” workshop offering coping strategies to help you navigate life with Tinnitus.

The workshop will take place at the CHHA Sudbury Office (435 Notre Dame Ave., in Sudbury).

This is a popular workshop and seating is limited. Please register early to ensure your place.

For more information or to register, please call **705-523-5695** or email us at [info@chhasudbury.com](mailto:info@chhasudbury.com)

on moments in my own life where I had struggled with my hearing loss. Although our experiences were different and took place generations apart from each other, it goes to show that there is a sense of wanting to belong somewhere that transcends these differences. In my own experience of learning to advocate for myself, I can appreciate Claudia sharing her story and how we can be aware that we are never truly alone in our journeys.

*For those interested in reading this book, it is available for loan at the CHHA Sudbury office. Contact us at 705-523-5695 or by email: [info@chhasudbury.com](mailto:info@chhasudbury.com)*

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## But you look so normal. . .

*(Cont'd from page 5)*

loneliness as she quickly learned how difficult it was to keep up with her peers and the world around her.

Claudia's story-telling is very vivid; you feel like you are standing alongside her as she navigates her way in the world while also being hard of hearing.

For those like myself, who have grown up with hearing loss, I am all too familiar with the feelings of loneliness she described as she grew older.

Technology was still limited back then, so you can imagine what it was like when she talks about struggling to distinguish speech with the help of

hearing aids when everything sounded so loud.

Claudia's childhood and adolescence involved making friends with the quiet people, but also losing said friend through various life changes. She often wondered about how different her life would be if she was not hard of hearing, another feeling I myself have experienced.

It was only as an adult when she discovers her Jewish identity, that she slowly gained her voice and was able to advocate and speak up for herself when needed.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading her memoir as I found myself also reflecting



Canadian Hard of Hearing Association  
Association des malentendants canadiens

# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

*Membership entitles you to receive our newsletter, be informed of local events of interest to those with hearing loss, and CHHA-Sudbury membership meetings and social events.*

- |  |                               |   |
|--|-------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Membership:     | <b>\$30 Annually<br/>FREE</b> | CHHA –National Membership)<br>CHHA Sudbury Branch only  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Membership:    | <b>\$350</b>                  | Lifetime membership for any individual supporting the objectives of CHHA (CHHA-National only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student Rate            | <b>\$20</b>                   | Individual membership for students (*with student ID)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Member:  | <b>\$300 Annually</b>         | Any organization that is sympathetic to the objectives of CHHA                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Organization | <b>\$120</b>                  | Any not-for-profit organization that support our objectives                                   |

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Is this a renewal? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, which branch: **SUDBURY** Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make cheque payable to CHHA – Sudbury Branch and send to:*  
**The Canadian Hard of Hearing Association — Sudbury Branch**  
**435 Notre Dame Ave., Suite 101, Sudbury, ON P3C 5K6**

## Donations

Thank you to those members of the Sudbury Branch for their kind donations to CHHA. Even though we have the wonderful fundraiser “the Dream Home” Raffle, donations are still important to help keep our programs ongoing. Donations to CHHA Sudbury can also be made in memory of loved ones and friends. Tax receipts will be issued and announcements sent to the family.

435 Notre Dame Ave., Suite 101, Sudbury, ON P3C 5K6 (705) 523-5695, Fax: (705) 523-8621, Email: [CHHA@vianet.ca](mailto:CHHA@vianet.ca)