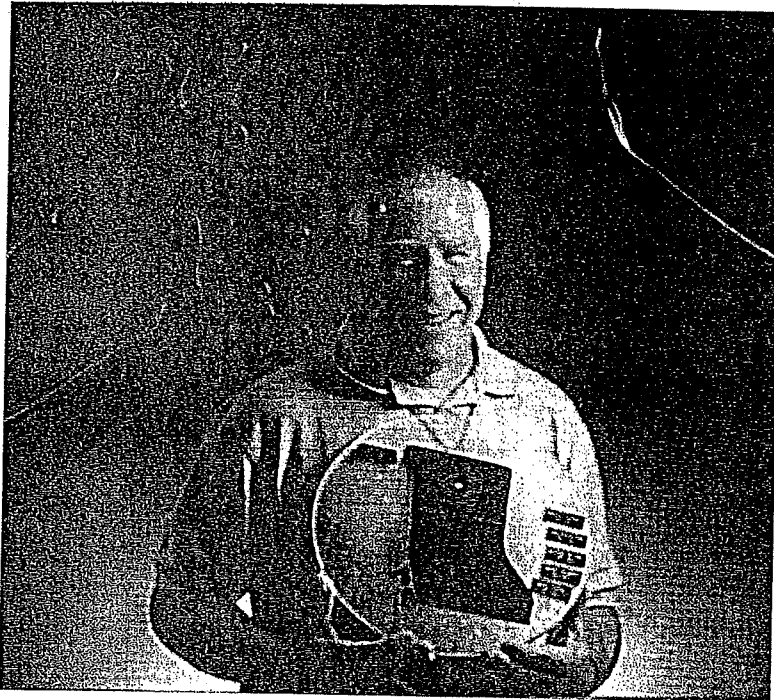


Inspirational Deaf Educator Award

MAUREEN CLARKE
BEV MCKENNA



Tom has received other awards including the Special Education Association President's Award for Innovation in Special Education and the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Award in 2003.

Tom was instrumental in the establishment of SNAG, the School Noise Action Group in 2001 and setting a course for research and public awareness of acoustic issues in learning.

Through working with Tom on SNAG Maureen and I have

witnessed his incredible passion to this cause.

The annual IDEA Award was presented to Tom Tylka at the CAEDHH – B.C. Conference in October 2007. It was given to Tom for all the work he has done serving deaf and hard of hearing students and their families. Tom has been a dedicated teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing for over twenty years. He has shown great passion for teaching and tireless enthusiasm for developing the best possible support for his students.

Throughout Tom's career he has been dedicated to facilitating the use of good audiological equipment for all his students. In 1988 he received the Marshall McLuhan Distinguished Teacher Award for developing a special speaker for use with personal FM systems.

His accomplishments include:



-lobbying for the introduction of electronic lighting ballasts in classrooms to eliminate interference with FM systems.

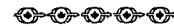
-lobbying for the installation of tennis balls on chairs in Vancouver classrooms.

-presenting on a panel on classroom acoustics at the Acoustical Society of America Conference in May 2005 and presenting at the CAEDHH National Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba in July 2007.

-lobbying for the inclusion of acoustic standards in provincial legislation in B.C. schools.

Tom has dedicated his professional career to advocating for his students and advancing the inclusion of standards for classroom acoustics in legislation.

All educators of the deaf and hard of hearing have benefited greatly from having Tom as our colleague and we are very pleased to present him with this year's Inspirational Deaf Educator's Award.



And Tom Replies...

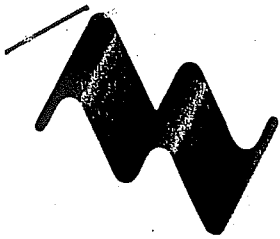
Unfortunately, space does not permit us to reprint all of Tom's acceptance speech, so here are a few "nuggets". Anyone wishing to read the complete text, please contact the editor mvelleno@sd23.bc.ca and it will be forwarded forthwith. And, again, congratulations from all of us to Tom.

... I've been an advocate for our deaf and hard of hearing students since 1979. I've been called a lot of names over the years and have to admit to you, this is the first time I've been called an inspiration. I'm sure if one checks my personal file or if one interviews my past administrators and superiors, you'll find quite a vast array of other descriptors. I'm sure there is at least one for every letter of the alphabet. A, B, C...

...You know, if ANSI 1260-2002 is legislated for schools in BC (and Canada), we will no longer need to cut tennis balls for our students' classrooms. The answer to all poor school acoustic problems is ANSI-12.60-2002 standards...

...And the children shall lead them. The Bible knows that. And so does common sense. Out of the mouths of babes comes innocence, and because it is innocence, it contains wisdom. No cynicism, no negative thoughts, no defeatism. Just the innocent child seeking information or help. So the best part for me was being with and working with the students...

...I learned a lot about Resilience... I learned about Hope...I learned about working with people who have other conditions than just being Deaf or Hard of Hearing... I am grateful to my higher power and guardian angels for all of their support over the years. I used to get by with asking and receiving a miracle a year. Towards the end of my career, I've needed a miracle a week for my students in order to survive and succeed...



THE WIDHH WAVE

WESTERN INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

JUNE 2003 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Executive Director

New Logo – New Look!

We have a new logo and a new look at WIDHH that begins with this issue of our newly named newsletter – the “WIDHH Wave”. The logo is an adaptation of our previous one with the “waves” representing alternately the ‘w’ in Western Institute, the mountain peaks of British Columbia, the waves of the Pacific Ocean and Georgia Strait (and the lakes of the BC Interior), and the graph represented in an audiological test. We hope that you like our new symbol.

The Logo and the new name of our newsletter are part of an expanded public presence for the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. As this issue of the newsletter goes to press, new ads explaining the work of WIDHH have been released on buses in Vancouver, Burnaby and New Westminster, and in community newspapers in Vancouver. We are hoping that the ads will raise public awareness of hearing loss issues, and, of course, bring more clients to benefit from our services.

One ad explains in American Sign Language what the result of

working with our counselling department can be; the other provides information on our audiological services such as hearing aids and hearing tests.

You’ll see our new advertising on pages 2 and 5 of this newsletter.

WIDHH’s Annual General Meeting

Thanks to all the members and supporters of WIDHH who came out for the Annual General Meeting of the Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing last month in the Activity Room at the BC School for the Deaf. Thanks to your support, we were able to have one of the most successful WIDHH meetings in recent memory. More information on the AGM is found on page 4 and 5.

WIDHH - On the Move

The Western Institute, with the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre, has applied to the provincial government to expand our employment placement and career planning services into the Fraser Valley and the Interior of our province. We have found that many residents of these areas would like to receive services that are specifically targeted to Deaf, Deafened, and Hard of Hearing individuals. If our proposal is

accepted, you will see further details about these expanded services in future editions of the “Wave”.

Passages

Brad Bice, who has worked for WIDHH for more than four years as Communications Aids Department Head, will be stepping down from this position in mid-June. Brad accepted ‘the offer of a lifetime’ from the business owned by his family after long and difficult consideration. Brad’s professionalism, cheery personality, and expertise with the wide variety of technical aids that WIDHH stocks will be missed. We will be announcing his replacement in the next issue of this newsletter.

Peter Julian
Executive Director

INSIDE

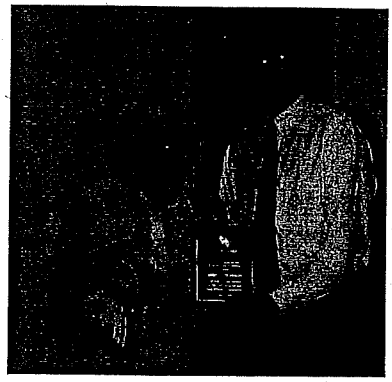
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WIDHH EVENTS

SECOND ANNUAL WIDHH AWARDS

The WIDHH Awards recognize outstanding individuals or organizations that have made a difference in the lives of Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing individuals in British Columbia. The Second Annual WIDHH Awards were presented at our Annual General Meeting on April 15th, 2003. Congratulations to all of the individuals and organizations who were nominated and to our winners, Shirley, Lister and Tom!

Shirley Pearson



Shirley Pearson – Volunteer Extraordinaire, with Peter Julian, Executive Director

Shirley served up until this year as Secretary on the Board of Directors, and in that capacity did everything from acting as a signing officer to chairing meetings.

In addition to her hard work on the Board, Shirley was Volunteer Coordinator for the 'Lend an Ear' Program for nearly a decade. Her work was instrumental to building the program and she was indefatigable in contacting community groups and individuals in order to collect donated hearing aids. Hundreds of British Columbians benefited from donated hearing aids as a result.

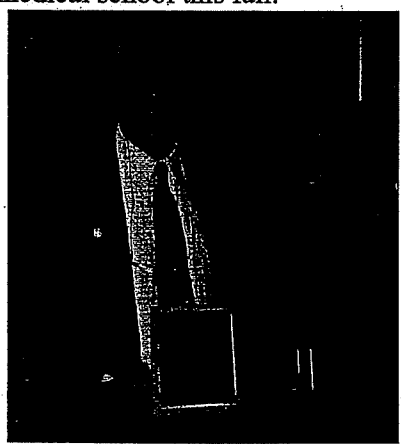
In addition to all the above, Shirley has also been a long-time member of the WIDHH 'Sun Run' team.

Shirley's smile, her positive and helpful attitude, and her willingness to do almost anything to help build services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing makes her an appropriate recipient for a WIDHH award.

Tom Tylka

Tom Tylka is a Vancouver School Board District Resource Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. He was nominated by several people who all attested to his ability to go beyond the call of duty in helping his students, even keeping in touch after they've graduated.

Perhaps the biggest proof of his commitment is found in some of his former students themselves. One recently graduated from a welding program at BCIT and is now gainfully employed. A student nominated Tom himself after Tom came into his classroom recently and explained hearing loss, covering topics such as how the ear works, and how hearing loss affects people and their emotions. Another student recently graduated at the top of his Pharmacy class at UBC and has been accepted into medical school this fall.



Tom with WIDHH Board President, Rosetta Cannata

Lister Chen

submitted by Nancy Pierce

Lister works as a Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing with School District 57 (Prince George). He played an integral role in establishing the WIDHH Northern BC branch and is on the WIDHH-NBC Board of Directors. Lister is also involved with Prince George Deaf Children's Society and the Prince George Interpreters' Group.

Lister spends countless hours working for Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing individuals through his career, as well as during his personal time. He is deeply committed to empowering the children he works with by ensuring their communication needs are met and that the people who are involved in their lives have an understanding of the impact of hearing loss. In the past, Lister has provided interpreting services, organized summer activities for Deaf, Deafened, and Hard of Hearing children, participated in organizing the annual Silent Walk, fundraising, and has organized annual conferences for Northern Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Lister Chen is highly valued in his various roles and is a cornerstone in Northern BC in terms of his understanding and ability to work with people in the Deaf, Deafened, and Hard of Hearing communities.

Nice work Lister!

T. Tylka

ERIC HAMBER'S WINNING STUDENT

Congratulations to **Gent Ng**, a Grade 10 student at Eric Hamber Secondary, who won first place (US\$1,500.00 post - secondary scholarship), at the 2003 Communication Contest for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students.



This contest was held on Friday, March 23, 2003 in the Michael J. Fox Theatre at the B.C. School for the Deaf in Burnaby. The B.C. Optimists Club (community service clubs whose motto is "Friend of Youth")

sponsored this contest. Since 1994, this communication contest has been held for oral and signing deaf and hard of hearing students from around the province.

The topic for 2003 was "United We Stand in Optimism". Gent did an excellent presentation. His final quote from the UNESCO Constitution: "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defences of peace must be constructed". This certainly gives us "food for thought" considering the current situation of global issues. Our students can play an active role in our global challenges.

Both Mrs. **Diane Little** and Mr. **Tom Tylka**, District Resources Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Vancouver, entered their students as participants in this contest, as well as observers. It was an exciting and wonderful day for everyone.

*Submitted by Diane Little
District Resource of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

DISTRICT RESOURCE TEACHER RECEIVES DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING AWARD

Tom Tylka, the District Resource Teacher for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, received the Annual Western Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Award on Tuesday, April 15, 2003. This was the Second Annual Award presentation and Tom has been an outstanding individual who has

made a difference in the lives of Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing students in the Vancouver school system. Upon receiving this award, Tom dedicated it to two distinguished University of B.C.

professors of Deaf Studies, **Dr. Bryan Clarke** and **Dr. Perry Leslie**. Dr. Bryan Clarke was present to accept this honour while Dr. Perry Leslie was away on holidays.



Tom is a dedicated and compassionate teacher who cares about his students. No hurdle will stop him from assisting his students in achieving their academic and social goals. He is a wonderful colleague, and his family, and many friends and supporters were present at the ceremony. It should also be noted that Tom is passionate about fishing! This passion is reflected in his aim to promote success in all of his students. Each individual can reach their highest potential under Tom's nurturing guidance and responsibility.

We are proud of you Tom!

*Submitted by Diane Little
District Resource of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing*