



**Canadian  
Deafblind  
Association**

Supporting Access  
and Opportunity  
for All

[www.cdbanational.com](http://www.cdbanational.com)

# Intervention

*Vol. 38 No. 1  
Fall 2014*



**Imagine...**

...Life without sight

...Life without hearing

...Life without **BOTH**



## Deafblind International (DbI) 16th World Conference

We are delighted to announce that registrations and abstract submissions for the DbI 16th World Conference are now open! The conference will be held in Bucharest, Romania from 25th - 30th May 2015.

Visit the conference website at <http://www.dbi2015romania.com/> and click on "About the Conference" on the left menu.

We hope to meet you there!

**25 - 30 May 2015**  
**JW Marriott Grand Hotel**  
**Bucharest, Romania**



**What is our future?**  
**Local solutions to common needs**

**[www.dbi2015romania.com](http://www.dbi2015romania.com)**

**Certificate of Membership  
Year 2014**

This is to certify that  
**CDBA NATIONAL**  
Is a small Corporate Member of Deafblind International



*Gillian Morley*

Membership expires: December 2014  
Membership number: CAN 21

Gillian Morley, President Deafblind International

CDBA is a small corporate member of Deafblind International. DbI recognizes that the success it achieves worldwide greatly depends upon the support of its members. International networking and the sharing of information is essential to the development of the field and quality services for deafblind people. To learn from good practice we need to collaborate across national boundaries. DbI exists to ensure that this happens.

*This certificate of membership is displayed proudly at CDBA National Office.*



# IN THIS ISSUE...

A Message from the President of CDBA National	pg 4
2014 National Cherry Bulmer Award	pg 4
Editorial from the National Executive Director	pg 5
High school deafblind teacher uses manipulatives to teach life skills	pg 6-7
Lesser-known things about being deafblind	pg 8
Deafblind International News	pg 9
Nottawasaga Resort: Impressive to Say the Least	pg 10-11
Deaf-blind woman tests Canada's equality guarantee	pg 12-13
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada has been renamed	pg 12
CDBA National Intervention Fund	pg 13
2014 "Lend-a-Hand" Charity Golf Tournament	pg 14-15
CDBA Ontario	pg 16
CDBA British Columbia	pg 17
CDBA Saskatchewan	pg 18
God to the Rescue	pg 19
CDBA Alberta	pg 19
CDBA New Brunswick	pg 20-22
A Sincere Thank You	pg 23
Try this Word Puzzle!	pg 24
Harvest to Holidays Gift Market benefits girl who is deafblind	pg 25
Congenital Rubella Syndrome Survey	pg 26
Canadian Deafblind Association 2013/14 Board of Directors & Staff Contacts	pg 27



## 12th International CHARGE Syndrome Conference

Host: CHARGE Syndrome Foundation

Date: July 30-Aug 2, 2015

Location: Chicago Renaissance

Schaumburg Hotel

Chicago, Illinois

[www.chargesyndrome.org](http://www.chargesyndrome.org)



# A Message from the President

Carolyn Monaco

I am writing this message at thirty-six thousand feet as I return to Canada inspired once again by my Deafblind International meetings and the opportunity to attend the Dbl Acquired Deafblind Network conference. Any opportunity to meet with colleagues from the field, individuals who are deafblind or their families is always inspirational and rejuvenating. I highly recommend taking the time to interact with others whenever the opportunity arises. The theme of the ADbN conference was "Live, Love and Laughter" and an especially moving plenary session at the conference was presented by Jane Sayer and Bonnie Heath from Manitoba. Their creative presentation used key terms and photos to illustrate real life examples whereby individuals who are deafblind exceeded the expectations of professionals, family members and in some cases even themselves. A very proud Canadian moment!

CDBA National's Annual General Meeting was held September 27th and resulted in the election of a full board of ten members, with representation from all five chapters and five additional "At Large" members from across the country. A special welcome to our newest board member Crystelle Jensen, who is from British Columbia. As

a dedicated group of volunteers, many of whom are also volunteering within their chapters we will once again do our best to meet our national mandate "to promote and enhance the well-being of people who are deafblind through: advocacy, the development and dissemination of information and the provision of support to our chapters, members and community partners".

Despite this being a very busy time of year I hope you will have some time to read some of the informative and interesting articles related to deafblindness that are included in this magazine as well as catching up on some of the work going on



across the country.

Wishing you all the best during the holiday season.



## 2014 National Cherry Bulmer Award

The Canadian Deafblind Association is pleased to announce the 2014 recipient of the National Cherry Bulmer Award. Michael Stewart Sr. of Fredericton, New Brunswick is the 2014 recipient of the National Cherry Bulmer Award presented annually by the Canadian Deafblind Association. This award is named after Cherry Bulmer in recognition of the passion, enthusiasm and commitment to which she dedicated her time and effort for the benefit of CDBA. It is presented to an individual, group or organization that has made an outstanding volunteer contribution to the organization at the National and/or Chapter level.



# Editorial From the National Executive Director

Tom McFadden

This past September, CDBA National held its 2014 Annual General Meeting in Mississauga, Ontario. The new Board of Directors was elected and, together with Chapter executive directors, had a productive weekend of discussions. The focus was as much about future challenges and opportunities as it was about accomplishments over the preceding months.

In this time of government funding cutbacks, the task at hand will be to make 2015 as valuable as possible for our nearly 500 members and their families. Towards this end, CDBA National has embarked on a number of new revenue initiatives such as online fundraisers "Shop and Share" and CanadaHelps. Details about how you can help will be emailed to you in the coming weeks.

There are countless examples, too numerous to mention, of Chapters providing needed services to deafblind consumers across this country. In this issue, we share stories of Chapter efforts to make a real difference. We also commend the legion of dedicated volunteers; our many generous donors; and, of course, our corporate supporters - each of whom contributes in their own special way.

Last April, I had the opportunity to present the CDBA National Award for Excellence in Field Placement to Stephanie Colantoni (pictured). This annual award is presented to a graduating student in the Intervenor Program at George Brown College who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in the field placement component. A second graduating student from the same program, Brittany Day (also pictured), was presented with the Andrew Love Memorial Award of Excellence, having demonstrated outstanding ability in working as an Intervenor with a child who is deafblind.

Our 28th annual Marsh Canada "Lend-a-Hand" Charity Golf Tournament, which helps support our National Intervention Fund, as well as the good work done by our partners at Deafblind International (Dbi), are profiled in this issue. Two articles that you will surely find interesting include a piece by Torstar reporter Carol Goar entitled "Deaf, blind and determined to be a trailblazer" and another by special education teacher Jim Franklin highlighting low vision and Braille manipulatives for teachers of the blind and visually impaired.

I encourage you to stay connected with us by email or over Twitter. Share your thoughts. Help CDBA Chapters in your province continue



their efforts to shape the life experiences of deafblind consumers. We welcome your comments and appreciate thoughtful suggestions!

I leave you with this thought: *"For every setback, disappointment and heartbreak, ask yourself, what does this create the opportunity for? And therein you will find its gift. Everything has a reason."* Author unknown



Stephanie Colantoni, 2014 recipient of the National George Brown College Award for Excellence in Field Placement



Brittany Day, 2014 recipient of the Andrew Love Memorial Award of Excellence



# High school deafblind teacher us

by Jim Franklin

As a special education teacher from Rome, Georgia, I have had the opportunity to work with students who have had one or many disabilities that impede their learning. At the beginning of the 2012-13 school year, my assistant special education director asked to bring a coordinator from a local college to observe my 4th grade math inclusion classroom. I welcomed the upcoming visit but wondered if any new strategies or interventions had been successfully implemented by other teachers with the concept of rounding whole numbers. I asked other math teachers in my school and searched for ideas on the Internet. Honestly, there were not a whole lot of options. Over the years, I have attended numerous math workshops. I only saw methods that involve number lines, dry erase boards, and blocks. Other than those options, paper and pencil were the last result. The last thing I wanted my visitors- especially my supervisor- to observe were towers being built out of blocks or off-task drawings on dry-erase boards by my students. I could not use the number line in my classroom because it only goes to 100; we were working with numbers greater than 100. Although all four options have been used for years and have had some success, I wanted math manipulatives for ALL students that could make an immediate impact on educational performance and not be considered a "toy" by my students. Then, I had an idea...

Incorporating movable, and interchangeable slides, I have created a number line system that can round

numbers up to 10,000,000. It can round numbers to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000, 10,000, 100,000, and 1,000,000. When I began to show this concept to my colleagues, the response was overwhelmingly positive! Teachers began to ask me to create manipulatives that address other math standards. Therefore, I created manipulatives that involve weight, decimals, fractions, elapsed time, and money. During the developmental process, I consulted with math teachers and specialists, administrators, parents, and students from different schools and school systems. I have also consulted with an occupational therapist, a hearing specialist, and a vision specialist. Of all the stakeholders with whom I worked during the process, I most valued the student input. After all, they are the ones who will use these manipulatives as a vital part of their classroom instruction.

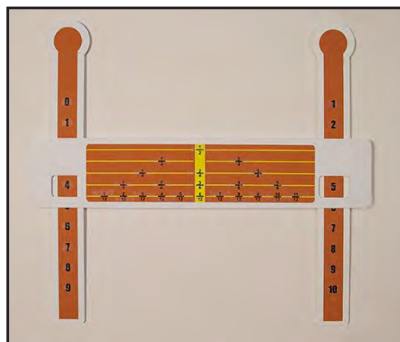
My low vision and braille manipulatives had immediately drawn interest from teachers of the blind and visually impaired. Many of them suggested that I proceed with an evaluation by the American Printing House for the Blind. I followed their advice and had APH evaluate my manipulatives in April 2012. In November 2012, I received an email that provided a link to a recommendation on APH's Fred's Head blog. It stated, "This is a great product for students who are blind and visually impaired. It gives tactile representation to abstract concepts in mathematics." I immediately posted this information on my website [www.slidearoundmath.com](http://www.slidearoundmath.com) so that VI teachers and administrators

would have confidence in my low vision and braille manipulatives.

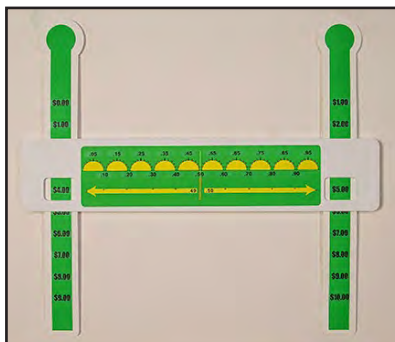
In June 2013, I was demonstrating my low vision and braille manipulatives at the 2012 Georgia Sensory Assistance Project Conference in Cave Springs, Georgia. At the beginning of the conference, two women approached my exhibit booth; one woman led the other by the elbow. I greeted them and began to ask why they attended the conference and where they lived. I immediately recognized that one of the individuals was deafblind because of their communication techniques.

During our conversation, I received some intriguing information. The verbal deafblind woman, Dana Tarter, was a high school resource teacher who taught life skills in Floyd County Schools in Rome, Georgia, which is the school system next to mine. Dana informed me that she was at the conference to find assistive technology to help her address and teach academic standards such as elapsed time and money. With the help of Dana's translator, I demonstrated my braille manipulatives to her hoping that I could help at least one of her students. At first I was unsure about HOW to explain my manipulatives' functions because I have never worked with a teacher or student who is deafblind.

The first manipulative Dana was interested in acquiring information about was my Elapsed Time manipulative. I began to explain the general shape and size of my Elapsed Time manipulative, stressing how the slides move up and down for each hour and the tactile dots are used for the students to count by minutes. I also mentioned that all of the numeric intervals of 5 were brailled as well as the hours on the slides. Students are encouraged to set the hourly increments first and then count the dots to find the minutes. I noted that more advanced blind students can read the brailled hour and minute increments of five first and then count the dots, such as for the time 4:38



Fraction 12ths - Braille



Money Braille

# es manipulatives to teach life skills

(4:00 in the left window and 5:00 in the right window then read the braille to :35 + 3 tactile dots equals 4:38). We agreed that the ability to tell time is one skill and that demonstrating the ability to calculate elapsed time is a more complex skill because it involves addition and subtraction, especially in the math problems and real-life situations that require regrouping. During the instructional process to achieve mastery, teachers often use the manipulative during the initial part of instruction and then gradually fade the manipulative as the student becomes more proficient. Eventually, the students use the manipulative to assess their own understanding. Dana stated, "In other words, students can be held accountable for their work because they have to check their answers themselves. That will allow me more time to help my struggling students."

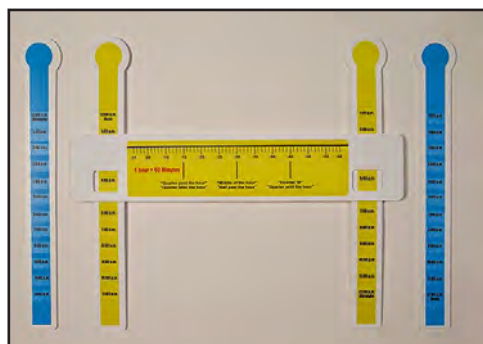
The other manipulative Dana requested for me to demonstrate was my braille Money manipulative. I restated that the Money manipulative is the same size and shape as my Elapsed Time. The whole dollars on the slides and increments of \$0.05 and \$0.10 on the main part were brailled. Tactile dots were placed on each cent for counting. When rounding money, several skills are needed to add and subtract money as well as rounding to the nearest dollar. Dana instinctively established the dollar increments by reading the braille. Then, she read the brailled increments of \$0.05 and \$0.10 and \$0.01 tactile dots. While she was reading the braille, she noticed a raised line in the middle. She kept running her fingers across the line

and mentioned, "This raised line in the middle.... is here for students when they need to round to the nearest dollar. If the amount is on the right side of the line, students round up to the closest dollar. If amount is on the left side of the line, students round down to the closest dollar." I told her that idea was from one of my inclusion students, Haley, during the design process when I gave her my Money prototype to use in class. She quietly asked, "Can I draw a line in the middle (on the label) so that I know which way to go?" Dana, like Haley and other students and teachers who use my manipulatives, quickly noticed that the proximity of their fingers to the windows on the left or right of the line in the middle determines which way to round numbers.

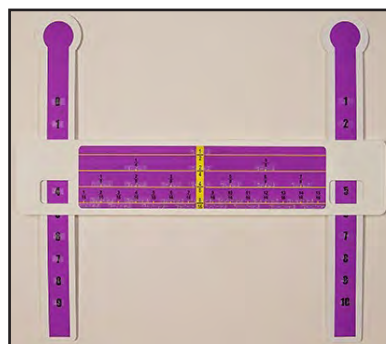
After I demonstrated my math manipulatives to her, Dana expressed interest in using my manipulatives in her classroom because they would provide new strategies to teach difficult academic standards to her students. I collected her contact information and made arrangements to visit her classroom. Dana and I exchanged emails and coordinated our schedules for me to observe a lesson. I arrived during her planning, and we discussed the Money and Elapsed Time manipulatives in greater detail than at the conference. The classroom arrangement included several tables for small group instruction for some lessons, but they mainly used for individual instruction because many of her students are at different academic levels, especially in math. During the money lesson, even

though Dana is blind, she could visualize how the manipulative would be used by her student. She knew that there was an important line in the middle and semi circles with \$0.10 increments, and the importance of establishing the dollar increments in the windows. With the manipulative and assistance from her translator, Dana provided individualized instruction with a visual aid for her student. Even though her student had cognitive deficits, he quickly understood the three simple steps in finding the correct answer for rounding to the nearest dollar: establish the dollar increments in the windows, count the lines, and determine if his finger is on the right or left side of the line in the middle after he was finished counting.

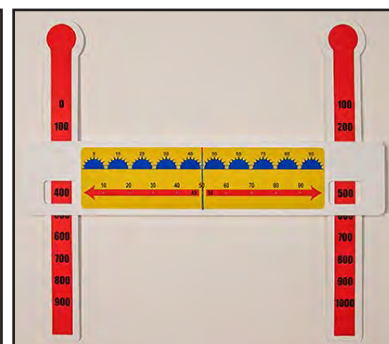
My observation lasted about 20 minutes due to the need for instruction of other important academic standards. I sincerely enjoyed visiting Dana's well-structured classroom. Not only did Dana purchase my manipulatives with her own money and take her own personal time during the summer to improve individualized instruction by attending a conference, she clearly demonstrated that she is in the classroom for all of the right reasons. I could hear the positive tone in her voice during her lesson and the quality questions she asked regarding how to use her math manipulatives most effectively. This observation was not about a teacher using math manipulatives in a lesson; it involved a dedicated teacher overcoming adversity to help cognitively challenge students learn essential life skills.



Slide-A-Round Braille Elapsed Time



Slide-A-Round Braille Fraction 1 6th



Slide-A-Round VI 100X

# Lesser-known things about being deafblind

by Liz Ball Guest blogger

For Liz Ball, who no longer has hearing or sight, communication happens mainly through touching other people's hands. Here she reveals five lesser-known things about being deafblind.

## The word on the breeze, and through the floor

Deafblind people aren't affected by things that many would consider a distraction. This means they can work through lively conversations, office tea parties, loud music, thunderstorms and the like.

But, create the tiniest of drafts by picking up a sheet of paper, or the smallest of vibrations by placing a foot gently on the floor, and this might instantly attract the attention of a deafblind person.

There are other kinds of distractions. I've declared one meeting venue unusable because its wooden floor amplifies vibrations from the fridge in the adjacent kitchen. The hearing people with me were unaware of the vibration until I drew it to their attention, but I found it intolerable.

## You are what your hands say you are

There are many different forms of touch, or tactile, communication. Deafblind manual is a form of tactile fingerspelling, where each letter of the alphabet has a sign that is made against your hand. There's hands-on signing, where a deafblind person puts their hands over the hands of the person they are communicating with to feel the shapes and movements of British Sign Language. Some may use the block alphabet where large capital letters are drawn with a finger onto the palm.

The way a person touches can say a lot about them. From stiffness in the hands, to firmness and rhythm, or tactile language ability, snap judgements can be made about someone's personality or motives just as they can be with a look or a tone of voice.

Deafblind people might not see what others look like, or what they are wearing, but first impressions still count, and these get transmitted by hands.

Tense hands and awkward movements? Neurotic. Firm yet relaxed hands with a steady rhythm? Conscientious and open.

Like all ways of forming first impressions, it can be wrong, but who can stop themselves?

## Talking while you eat

If you communicate by touch alone, it can be difficult to chat with friends over dinner. It involves stretching arms and contorting in order to communicate across the table while trying not to knock over drinks and other such messy hazards.

In a recent blog entry, deafblind poet and essayist John Lee Clark suggests putting people in the middle of the room and the table around the outside. I've seen people communicating with each other like this at events and it looks like a good way to make socialising at mealtimes more accessible.

There are more ways to communicate with deafblind people than there are deafblind people

Communication can happen in lots of different ways - clear speech, tactile fingerspelling, signing made more easy to see or feel, and so on. But, to complicate things further, deafblind people evolve their own variations on these methods.

I communicate using deafblind manual but use five different ways of communicating numbers, depending on who I am speaking with and what they know.

Some people might dot Braille numbers on the back of my hand or draw print numbers on my palm. Or those more familiar with BSL might adapt it. For example one is gripping my index finger, two is index plus middle, three is index plus middle plus ring.

## Touch to talk

If a deafblind person is touched, they assume someone wishes to communicate with them as they cannot see or hear them.

When someone touches me I try and guess their intention. For example, if I am sitting on a train I assume it's the ticket inspector, and hold my ticket out.

I can speak and am able to explain how the person can communicate with me. I offer my Braille and print deafblind manual card so they can spell out words to me on my hands. But I may be speaking to thin air or to someone who touched me accidentally. Ironically, it can then take ages for them to explain on my card that

they don't actually want to talk.

To get my attention, tap my shoulder, arm or hand. Stand close if you want to communicate but step back if you don't - I communicate very closely with people but also like a bit of personal space.

My colleagues and I invented a secret Morse code signal to use with me if they see me travelling alone and looking stressed or ignoring normal taps. We invented it after an incident at a London railway station where I was waiting for a colleague one morning. Staff and passengers were grabbing at me and not listening to a word I said about communicating with my card. I ended up getting very upset.

When my colleague arrived, she tapped me but I spoke out loud to tell whoever it was to leave me alone. So we invented the secret Morse signal as a quick way for colleagues to say "it's ok, I know what I'm doing, I can communicate with you".

Though I've been concentrating on touch communication on this page, it's worth noting that many people who call themselves deafblind can see and/or hear a little.

Liz Ball works for SENSE the deafblind charity where she is Campaigns Involvement Officer. She has been blind from birth but also became deaf at 26.





# Deafblind International News

## Dbl Management Committee

The Dbl Management Committee met in Bucharest Romania March 08 & 09 at the JW Marriott Hotel, the site of the next Dbl World Conference scheduled next May 2015. The ManCom usually has a meeting prior to their sponsored events to meet the conference organizing committee, to discuss the program, the budget, fees and appraise location of the conference.

## Dbl Board Nominations Process

Since earlier this year, the major internal activity of Dbl has been the process to select a new Board to be ratified at the Dbl AGM in Bucharest Romania, on May 25, 2015. Cathy Proll, a member of the Board and the Executive Director CDBA-ON is the Chair of the Nominations Committee. The nominations period has concluded and voting will take place beginning early in November 2014. CDBA National as a member will have an opportunity to vote for candidates nominated to the offices of President and Vice President. CDBA National has been nominated again to have one of the 20 places on the Board; a position it has held since 1999.

Those members eligible to vote include paid up (by November 01, 2014) Corporate members (12 Large, 48 Small, 3 Mini) and Networks, of which there are 13 registered with Dbl.

## Future Meetings

The next meetings of the Board and Management Committee are scheduled for November 02 and 03, respectively

in Belfast Northern Ireland. Generally speaking, Board meetings are held once per year with meetings of Management Committee twice per year. Where possible, these joint meetings are planned to be held around a Dbl organized event. The last joint meeting was held in Lille France in 2013 around the Dbl European Conference event. The upcoming November 2014 joint meeting precedes the Acquired Deafblindness Network Conference, planned for November 04-07 in Belfast.

Following the Belfast meetings, the next joint meetings of these committees will be in Bucharest, Romania May 2015.

## Next Dbl Annual General Meeting

The AGM representing the program year 2013 is scheduled for November 02, 2014 in Belfast following the Board Meeting.

## Upcoming Dbl Conferences

- The 10th Conference of Dbl's Acquired Deafblindness Network (ADbN) is scheduled for Belfast Northern Ireland, November 04-07, 2014. The theme of this conference is Life, Love and Laughter.
- Preceding the ADbN Conference is the 4th Conference of the Usher Syndrome Conference scheduled November 03-04, in Belfast. It's been four years since there has been an Usher event and the line-up of speakers guarantees this will be a most interesting pre-conference.
- Bucharest Romania will be the site of the 16th Dbl World Conference, scheduled for 25-30 May, 2015. 'What is our future? Local solutions to common needs' has been selected as

the theme. Visit the conference website ([www.dbi2015romania.com](http://www.dbi2015romania.com)) for more information. The deadline for applications for workshop and poster spaces is November 01, 2014 while the deadline for the low registration rates (€ 565) is November 14, 2014.

## Dbl Review

Since the last edition of Intervention was published, Dbl has published Dbl Review editions 52 (January 2014) and 53 (July 2014). CDBA-National has limited copies available of each edition. Otherwise, personal copies of future editions can be received by taking out an individual membership through the Dbl website ([www.deafblindinternational.org](http://www.deafblindinternational.org))

## Dbl Website

The website is being continually updated to meet the memberships growing needs. The website will be rolling out early in November; individual portals for the Dbl Networks to manage their programs. For those interested in participating directly in the networks check out the Dbl website to contact the network leaders.

## Facebook and Twitter

Dbl is very active in the social media. Our social media addresses are: [www.facebook.com/dbiint](http://www.facebook.com/dbiint) and @DeafblindInt.

Stan Munroe  
Dbl Information Officer



# Impressive to Say t

## ...site host of the 2014 Marsh Lend-a-Hand Charity Golf Tournament in

by Garr y McKay, Canadian Golfer Magazine — Reprinted with permission — Canadian Golfer Magazine

"Some people assume, because of the name Nottawasaga (Resort) that we're in Wasaga Beach or somewhere up in Muskoka, but we're actually so close and easy to get to. We're just 45 minutes from Toronto," says Director of Convention Sales Sylvia Biffis.

In fact, the Nottawasaga Resort is 20 minutes south of Barrie, on Highway 89 about 10 minutes west of Highway 400.

The sprawling complex and its myriad of facilities isn't a surprise to those who live in one of the two on-site active lifestyle communities, or to the regulars who have been returning throughout the years, some since the Nottawasaga Resort was first founded in 1968.

First timers, however, are amazed by all that the modern 269-room resort has to offer.

"We attract a very diverse crowd," says Biffis.

"We have everyone from convention groups to leisure and family travellers, as well as golf enthusiasts coming for an unlimited golf weekend.

We also do a lot of professional sports training on our world class international sized soccer pitch.

"Golf tournaments are very popular at the resort and because we have 45 holes we can host both small and very large tournament groups. Our trade centre allows us to seat as many as one thousand people."

At the heart of the expansive golf course is the Nottawasaga River. Winding in and out of the valley, alongside and across the course the river lends itself to both a challenging

"The original 18 holes are the Green Briar nine and the Valley nine. The Briar Hill nine was added later."

The Green Briar nine is 3,074 yards from the tips while the Valley is the shortest at 3,159 yards from the back tees. The Briar Hill nine can be stretched out to 3,019 yards.

"The Valley nine plays up and down the Nottawasaga River, winding alongside the banks following the river both in and out of the valley," says Heesen.

"Often golfers are surprised when they learn that we offer 45 holes of golf here. We often receive feedback from both first- and long-time visitors about the how good the courses are."

The Nottawasaga Resort offers golf getaways packages including an unlimited Stay and Play golf option.

---

*That's generally the sentiment of a first time visitor to the Nottawasaga Resort. ~ Not only does this sprawling resort offer a multitude of activities and amenities; it's also not nearly as far away as you might have thought.*

---

"We have expansive indoor recreation facilities with our indoor pool, 18-hole indoor mini-putt, games and arcade area, an arena with two NHL size ice pads, three indoor tennis courts that can be converted to a 21,000 square foot trade centre, three squash courts, fitness centre, indoor swimming pool with a 100-foot waterslide and three restaurants. For business travellers we also offer 36 meeting rooms and more than 60,000 square feet of meeting space," says Biffis.

And those are just the indoor facilities. Outdoors, the Nottawasaga Resort offers 45 holes of golf, two driving ranges, two soccer fields, bocce ball, horseshoe pits, a swimming pool, and a nature trail.

and picturesque round of golf.

"We have 45 holes with two pro shops and two driving ranges," explains Ron Heesen, who is in his seventh season as director of golf and grounds operations.

"There's three nines that make up the Nottawasaga 27, as well as another 18 holes offered on the Ridge Course. The Ridge is a standalone. It's a little newer, a little longer, and has a little more challenge to it."

The Ridge course plays to 6,625 yards from the tips and has three sets of tees.

"All of our courses are basically parkland style," Heesen explains.

"They're challenging yet fair and forgiving.

"We have many guests who have been coming back for ten, fifteen, twenty years for our golf packages," says Heesen.

"They like the golf courses, they like the hotel and amenities, as well as the fact that our golf package is available with both breakfast and dinner included. Plus, with 45 holes of golf available they can mix and match which courses they play to keep things interesting."

The resort also has an interesting history and dates back to when its founder, Lou Biffis was operating a sod farm in the area in the 1960s.

"At the time the county was dry," explains Sylvia Biffis. "A good friend of my father bet him a bottle of Canadian Club that he couldn't get a liquor



# the Least

## support of CDBA National

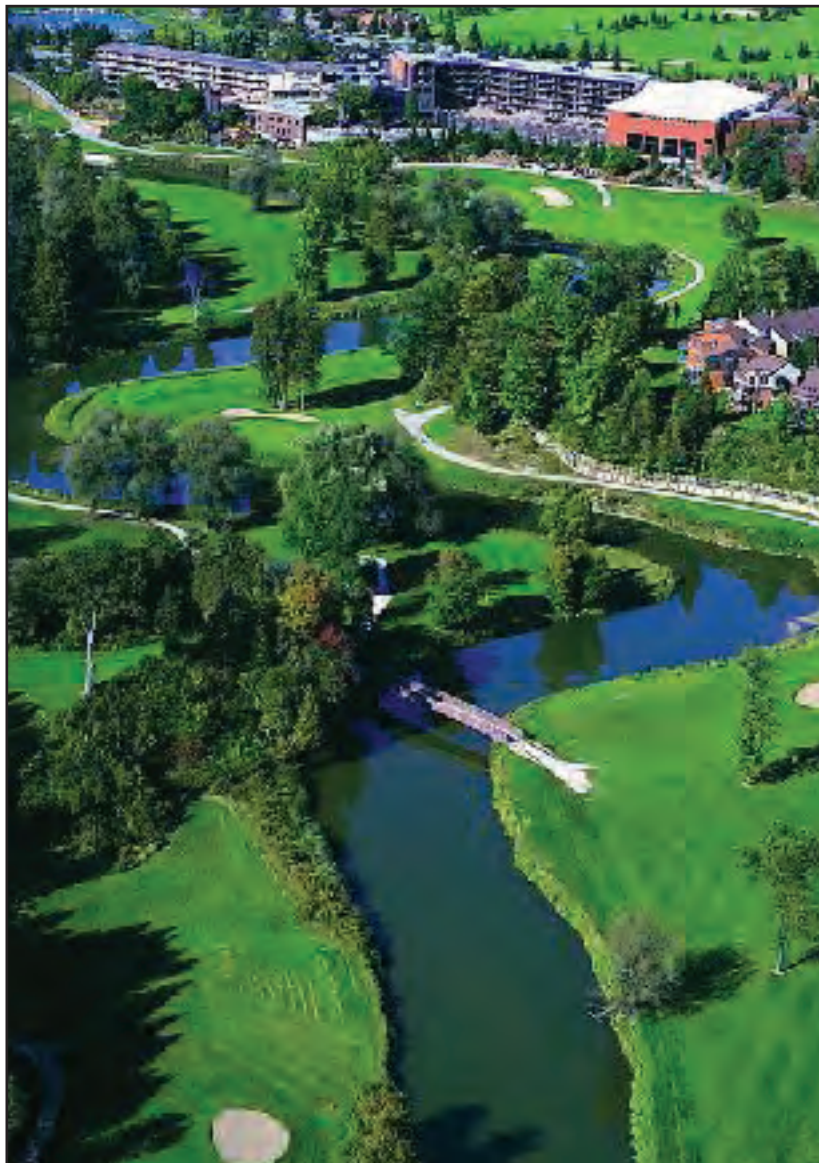
licence. Not one to easily lose a bet, he organized a petition for a liquor plebiscite. In about six months time he had collected enough names to make the plebiscite valid. It went to vote and he won with an 81.5 per cent approval."

Within weeks the elder Biffis began construction on the inn, which opened after 8 months of construction with forty guestrooms, a dining room, coffee shop and one banquet room.

That was in 1968. The first 18 holes of golf were added to the resort in the 1980s, with the last course expansion taking place in 2000.

"Our resort has had a rich history over the past 46 years," Sylvia Biffis explains. "We continue to expand and grow our offering so that we can provide both new and return guests with an ultimate getaway destination."

To find out more about Nottawasaga Resort's many getaway packages, including the unlimited stay and play golf package, or to book a round, visit their website at <http://www.playthenott.ca/> or call 1-800-669-5501



# Deaf-blind woman tests Ca

**Jasmin Simpson, who is deaf and blind, says it's unfair that she had to pay 6**

by Carol Goar, Toronto Star columnist



The government of Canada can outmuscle, outspend and outlast Jasmin Simpson. But it can't deflect her from her goal.

Simpson, 39, is deaf, blind and has lupus, which causes her immune system to attack healthy cells — skin, joints, organs, blood vessels. She overcame these formidable challenges to earn a master's degree in social work at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., the only liberal arts

university designed exclusively for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. She now works as a counsellor at the Canadian Hearing Society.

But her education was costly. Because of her disabilities, it took her eight years instead of the usual five to complete her two degrees. (Deaf students normally take one-and-a-half to two times as long as hearing students taking identical courses.)

She graduated with a student debt 60 per cent higher than a non-disabled student.

That didn't seem fair to Simpson. So she launched a charter challenge, claiming that the Canada Student Loan Program violates the constitutionally enshrined guarantee that "every individual has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based

## Human Resources and Skills Development Canada has been renamed

Human Resources and Skills Development Canada has been renamed to Employment and Social Development Canada as of July 15, 2013.

The new name Employment and Social Development Canada represents two major priorities for our department, in keeping with our mission to build a stronger and more competitive Canada, to support Canadians in making choices that help them live productive and rewarding lives, and to improve Canadians' quality of life.

Please note that our domain name has changed to [esdc.gc.ca](http://esdc.gc.ca).

Please be aware that enquiries to the previous domain will only be redirected until October 1, 2014 as follows:

- From August 1 to September 30, 2014, an interim redirect message will appear which will provide the URL for the corresponding page at the new location.
- As of October 1, 2014, a 404 error message will be used on all pages using the old domain; this message will include links to our homepage, search

page, and A-Z index.

Please update your links and bookmarks to reflect the new domain. We also encourage you to communicate with us at [nc-accessible-gd@hrsdc.rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:nc-accessible-gd@hrsdc.rhdcc.gc.ca) with any questions you may have regarding these updates.

Nancy Milroy-Swainson  
Director General  
Office for Disability Issues  
Employment and Social Development  
Canada



# Canada's equality guarantee

60 per cent more than non-disabled university students for the same education.

on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability.”

The case began seven years ago. Initially, the government seemed eager to set things right. It offered to forgive Simpson's entire \$71,000 student debt — not just the 60 per cent she considered discriminatory — and amend the Canada Student Loan Program, provided she waive her right to go to court.

The offer was tempting, but Simpson responded warily. She asked her lawyer, David Baker, to seek a conditional agreement. If the changes in the program met her concerns, she would accept Ottawa's settlement and terminate the lawsuit.

Regrettably, they did not. The modest reforms proposed by the Department of Human Resources (now called Employment and Social Development Canada) came nowhere close to putting disabled students on an equal footing with their peers. They would have helped students with mild disabilities. But they did nothing for those with major impairments. Simpson turned down the money.

Federal lawyers were stunned. They made a second offer: The government would erase Simpson's entire student debt plus interest

and cover her legal fees. Her answer was still no.

After that, things got nasty. Two days before Christmas of 2010, she received a letter from Ottawa. “The department now takes the position that the matter is settled,” it said. Ottawa followed up with a motion to the Ontario Superior Court to close Simpson's case.

Backed by about 30 members of Toronto's deaf community, she fought the department's arbitrary action and won. Ever since then, she has been waiting for her day in court. It has been frustrating; each time the case is scheduled to proceed, federal lawyers ask for a delay to search for more documents, get approval for expert witnesses or deal with internal difficulties.

The trial was slated to begin this fall, but federal lawyers said they needed until the end of August to gather evidence, after which pre-trial cross-examination would occur. Baker, her lawyer, is dubious that the government will keep its word.

“In fairness, the case is important, so each side wants to ensure it has the evidence required to win,” he says. “That said, we've told the government that our client's patience is at an end and it must meet the August deadline or we will get a case management judge appointed.”

In one of the few strokes of good luck in her life, Simpson's application for the Court Challenges program (which allowed individuals facing discrimination to test their equality rights in court without running up massive legal bills) was approved before Prime Minister Stephen Harper abolished the program. Cases already in the system were grandfathered.

Nevertheless it will require sacrifice on her part and her lawyer's part to stay the course. She will have to take time off work, tell her story in court (through a sign-language interpreter), undergo grilling by government lawyers and handle the stress. Baker will be paid less than the Ontario legal rate to represent her. Both are determined to press ahead.

As she waits for the trial, Simpson is whittling down her student debt and helping other deaf Canadians surmount the barriers she faced. But she cannot rest until a court of law affirms that no one with disability in this country can be penalized — financially or otherwise — for needing extra time, extra help or extra support to reach his or her potential.

In a country that honoured its trailblazers, Simpson would be regarded as an example of courage and tenacity in the face of adversity. In Canada circa 2014, she must fight her own government for justice.

## CDBA National Intervention Fund

### Purpose

The purpose of this national fund is to assist Canadians who are deafblind with funding to purchase emergency intervention services, materials, equipment or access to programs that will enhance their quality of life as an individual with deafblindness. All applications are considered on an individual basis.

1. for emergency purposes when no other alternative source of funding is available,
2. to supplement other sources of funds

for individuals confined to a hospital and

3. to supplement other sources of funds used for specialized education or recreation programs,
4. for specialized equipment
5. for other special circumstances.

The funds provided are short term and are not intended to replace funding which may be otherwise available.

### Criteria Persons Qualifying

1. have been identified as deafblind

2. Must be a member in good standing of CDBA.

### How to Apply

An Application for Assistance Form can be found on the CDBA National website [www.cdbanational.com](http://www.cdbanational.com) Mail, fax or scan and email this form to:

CDBA National  
1860 Appleby Line, Suite 421,  
Burlington ON L7L 7H7  
(905) 319-2027  
[info@cdbanational.com](mailto:info@cdbanational.com)



# 2014 Marsh Canada "Lend A Hand" Golf Tournament a smash



Alliston, Ontario (July 7, 2014) – Over 170 golfers and guests enjoyed, under sunny skies, the 28th annual "Lend-a-Hand" Charity Golf Tournament in support of the Canadian Deafblind Association. This year's tournament returned once again to the challenging Nottawasaga Resort Golf course near Alliston, Ontario. The fun-filled day saw everyone enjoy a BBQ lunch, amazing prizes and a buffet dinner, all while helping out a worthy cause.

CDBA National Executive Director Tom McFadden had the opportunity to meet all the golfers on a designated front-nine par 3 hole during a "Beat the ED" friendly competition. Charity Golf International national long-drive champion Bobby Bradley added some extra fun with his hole-in-two fundraising challenge on a long back-nine par 4 hole.

Thanks to our host the Nottawasaga Inn & Resort and of course our dedicated volunteers Carolyn Monaco, Sandra Owen-Peters, Nancy Mactavish, Betty Jean Reid, Jim & Dianne MacDonald, Erin Rows, and Kim McFadden.



*CDBA National President Carolyn Monaco accepts a generous donation of \$2,000 from Peter Biffis representing The Nottawasaga Foundation in recognition of the 26th consecutive year that the Nottawasaga Inn Golf Resort outside of Alliston, Ontario has hosted the Marsh Canada "Lend-a-Hand" golf tournament in support of the Canadian Deafblind Association.*

Thanks to the record attendance and support from our generous sponsors as well as companies and members who donated more than 75 prizes, Marsh Canada was able to donate a record \$31,100 in support of CDBA. These proceeds help CDBA National to meet its mandate "to promote and enhance the well-being of people who are Deafblind through advocacy, the



*LAH Golf Tournament Volunteers (left to right) Carolyn Monaco, Erin Rows, Jim MacDonald, Dianne MacDonald, Nancy Mactavish, Betty Jean Reid, Kim McFadden, Sandra Owen-Peters*



# "d-a-Hand" Charity MARSH ning success for CDBA

development and dissemination of information and the provision of support to our Chapters, members and community partners". CDBA is extremely grateful to have been associated with the Marsh Canada insurance family throughout the last quarter century. Marsh has been a significant supporter for this charity event since its inception in 1987. We salute the outstanding support we have received over the years, from the initial collaboration with Johnson Higgins, to Dick & Gary Gardner, Bill McAleer, Tom Grimes, Jim Abernethy, Adrian Serge, Peter Cleyn and the event management team of Elisa Di Franco, Kelly Dubejsky, and Nicole Abernethy.

Thanks to the record attendance and support from our generous sponsors as well as companies and members who donated more than 70 prizes, Marsh Canada was able to donate nearly \$34,000 in support of CDBA. These proceeds help CDBA National to meet its mandate "to promote and enhance the well-being of people who are deafblind through advocacy, the development and dissemination of information and the provision of support to its Chapters, members and community partners". CDBA is extremely grateful to have been associated with the Marsh Canada insurance family, which has been the significant sponsor of this charity event since its inception in 1987.

## TOURNAMENT RESULTS

2014 Poster Celebrity:

**Julia Seed**

Ladies' Closest to the Pin:

**Lynn Miller**

Men's Closest to the Pin:

**Ray Larkey**

Ladies' Longest Drive:

**Beth Woledge**

Men's Longest Drive:

**Andrew Knight**

Putting Contest:

**Lynn Miller**

Winning Team

**Access Restoration  
Services - Peter  
Bekelis, Todd Fox,  
Jack D'Ambrosio,  
Angelo Riccobene**



Tom McFadden at "Beat the Executive Director" hole challenge.



LAH Golf Tournament Winning Team:  
Access Restoration Services, Peter Bekelis, Todd Fox, Jack D'Ambrosio, Angelo Riccobene



Julia Seed, 2014 Deafblind Celebrity Guest and  
Bobby Bradley, National Long-Drive Champion



# CDBA-ON Chapter News

by Cathy Proll, Executive Director, CDBA-ON

The Ontario Chapter of the Canadian Deafblind Association serves 60 adults that are deafblind in our Adult Intervenor Services program. The program offers both residential supports and services in the family home and community settings. Funding for these programs is individual and can range from 8 hours per day to 24 hours per day. The annual operating budget for these programs is approximately 8 million dollars and funding is primarily provided by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

CDBA ON also offers family and children's services. This past year we supported approximately 70 children in our Holiday Intervenor Services programs. This program involved access to 300 hours of Intervenor Services that were provided during break periods like summer vacation, Christmas and March Break.

Training continues to be an important part of supporting the Intervenor Services Programs. This past year an additional 2 online courses were developed which now totals 5 courses that are available to anyone who may be interested.

We were pleased that Cheryl Ramey an instructor from the George Brown College Intervenor Program and an experienced professional in the field joined our team this past May as the Director of Training and Consultation services. The training that CDBA ON provided this year included:

- the delivery of our in house curriculum
- a variety of workshops with a range of topics,
- hosting the 2014 Intervenor Symposium

- Health and safety training.
- Online training courses

The annual parent conference continues to be an event that is offered to any parent of a child that is deafblind. Typically there are families that may have children that are preschoolers right up to children that are involved in adult services. We have some families that have attended the conference every year for the past 15 years.

In the Spring of 2013 CDBA ON developed a new Strategic Plan for our chapter for the next few years. Human Resources are a key component of the plan. With a staff of over 200 it was important for us to look at our infrastructure. One of the main initiatives this past year has been the implementation of a new HR system that manages everything from payroll, to staff management and scheduling. The program we have chosen is Ceridian and while it is very labour intensive in the beginning, it will provide greater efficiencies moving forward.

The other high priority that was identified in the plan was a review of our consumer needs. This past year a review of the housing needs for the people who are living in our adult residential services was conducted. A report was provided by staff to the Board of Directors. Some of the housing challenges that were identified included:

- Increasing rental rates
- Accessibility
- Lighting
- Aging in place
- Compatible roommates

The Board of Directors weighed

options such as purchasing properties and holding mortgages on them to the idea of building an apartment complex. The decision was made to build an apartment complex. Plans have been designed which include 6- 3 bedroom apartments and 2 one-bedroom apartments. It is expected that the apartments will be completed in September 2015.

Fund Development continues to be a key component to our organization which supports many of our children and family services programs. CDBA ON is also raising funds to build a sensory garden at the Resource Centre. The Nevada Break Open Ticket Program continues to be our largest source of revenue in this area. This past September we held our first golf tournament that raised \$5,000.00. Donations, Silent Auctions and E-Bay Auctions would account for additional revenues in this area.

Last but not least Devin has been busy over the course of the year with awareness activities. This year during Deafblind Awareness Month we held our day with the Blue Jays, Helen Keller dinner and play, a bowl-a-thon and participated in Junefest. We have also hosted a number of groups at the resource centre throughout the year. These included:

- University Women's Group
- Chamber of Commerce after Hours
- Catholic Women's League
- Service Clubs

In summary the Ontario Chapter has had a very exciting and busy year. In the upcoming year we look forward to working with our partners to ensure that "All people who are deafblind live rich meaningful lives"



Proposed residential development CDBA at 29 Dundas Road, Paris Ontario



# What's New with the CDBA-BC Chapter?

Theresa Tancock – Family Services Coordinator CDBA-BC

The 2013-14 year has proven exciting, with thanks to the Ministry of Children and Family Development for funding our two main contracts, the Early Intervention Program and the Deafblind Intervention Program.

The Early Intervention Program (EIP) has had another successful year, with Sue Gawne, Director, and Allison Mail, Consultant. We have had many new families join the program and have had families transition on to Kindergarten. The EIP continues to develop partnerships in the community and be involved on committees. We partnered once again with the BC Family Hearing and Resource Centre (BCHRC) for the Adapted Peer Program, being held at our office this year. We continue to use the Kindergarten Transition Workbook receiving positive feedback from both parents and school district staff. We also partnered with Sunny Hill Children's Health Centre (SHCHC) and Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) for their Family Camp once again this year. Sue continues to sit on the BC Early Hearing Screening Intervention Advisory Committee, who meet semi annually and put on a conference bi annually, with the next conference coming up in the fall of 2014. The EIP continues to work closely with the Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness (POPDB) during Kindergarten transitions.

Throughout the year, the Early Intervention Program provided services to between 20- 23 children with deafblindness in British Columbia, ranging in age from 6 months up to 5 years old. These children live throughout the province; from Victoria, Duncan area and up to Campbell River on the Island; in the Lower Mainland (Surrey, Delta, Vancouver, Squamish, North Vancouver, Abbotsford, and Mission); the Central Okanagan (Kelowna, Armstrong, and Golden); the Kootenays (Grand Forks) and as far north as Dawson Creek, Prince Rupert, Terrace and Prince George.

The Deafblind Intervention Program (IP), coordinated by our Family Services Coordinator, Theresa Tancock, consists of the Winter IP, the Spring IP and the Summer IP. The Winter and Spring Intervention Program had 55 participants (8 of which were from our Early Intervention Program). Both programs were two weeks long, whereas the

Summer Intervention Program was 9 weeks long and had 64 participants, 11 of which were from the Early Intervention Program.

Our Summer Recreation Program was fantastic, with visits to Maplewood Farms, Vancouver Aquarium Wetlab, Bear Creek Park, Science World, and Silverbrook Trout Hatchery. Our first activity was combined with our Deafblind Awareness Event at Rev's Bowling. Fun was had by all! We also had a Winter Wonderland Event in December, complete with photo booth and Gingerbread cookie making!

Our Hospital /Relief Intervention Services Program (HISP/RISP) was accessed by families with children in hospital care or crisis and proved especially helpful for those who came to Vancouver for care from areas outside of the Lower Mainland.

In Spring 2014, we met with Dr. Kim Blake to learn first-hand the amazing connection she has and work she does with children with CHARGE. Theresa also met with Lynne Lalond (Atlantic Provinces Specialized Authorities) and Dr. Linda Mamer (POPDB) to share the work we do on either end of the country. The 'Linking Up Linking In' Vision Teachers and POPDB Conference provided the amazing opportunity to meet Barbara Miles and hear of her experiences, learning new strategies around working with children with deafblindness.

The Family Services Coordinator position is continually evolving. Theresa is fortunate enough to be involved with many organizations and teams: the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and deafblind community (the Council of Service Providers), organizations of children with special needs (the Special Education Partners Group), the Provincial Outreach Program for Students with Deafblindness (Vancouver School District field trips), Camp Zajac, The CNIB/Sunnyhill Vision Impairment Program/Vision Teacher's Low Vision Clinics and Camps. Theresa also took the opportunity to participate in a PATH training session, as well as training on writing Representation Agreements. These two courses have brought to light the need for a greater focus on youth to adult transitioning. Theresa continues to be involved in meetings for youth who are transitioning to adult and CDBA-BC is looking at 'turning a page' to widen our scope of support for those youth with

deafblindness and their families who are looking to the future.

Our staff also provides ongoing training for the families of children with deafblindness, their intervenors, teams and related professionals as well as to any groups, organizations or post-secondary students within the community. We want to share with anyone we can!

Our Board of Directors continues to be a true asset to CDBA-BC and a wonderful support for the staff and families. We are truly grateful for Linnea Cudmore, John Mail, Linda Mamer, Leslie Comrie, Wanda Schellenberg and Paul Michaud and welcome new Directors to share the world of deafblindness with us!



# What's Going on in CDBA-SK?

Dana Heinrichs, Executive Director, CDBA-SK

Awareness has taken an upswing in the year; I have had more inquiries in this past year than the previous three years. Not all interested were a match for our services but it is encouraging that more people are learning about the agency. In that theme, we received a proclamation from the government of Saskatchewan for June 1-7th as Deafblind Awareness week. June Draude's office also put out a news release announcement that gathered the attention of many people.

We hosted our 10th Annual Lend A Hand Charity Golf tournament in June. With the help of our corporate sponsor MacDermid Lamarsh law firm, it was another great day of golf, networking and raising funds – this year brought in \$16,000!

The Individuals have all had opportunities to travel within Saskatchewan and/or Alberta for holidays, due in part to the fundraising money from the Board of Directors.

CDBA Sk was asked to help an agency in Yorkton Sk with training of their staff as they have a young lady who is deafblind and just entered their facility. CDBA National Intervention Fund helped with some money to facilitate the process. Overall the response was very positive and I hope that with this staff training, this young woman will have more opportunities and an enriched life. We also hosted our Intervenor training with 5 staff from

another agency in Saskatoon who is looking for support for a young lady who is deafblind that they serve.

A project that the agency has been working on for the past year includes bringing in a consulting group to work with all the staff and management to do some team & capacity building. Thus far, the needs of agency and staff have been explored/discussed and the process is ongoing as the whole staff group will continue to gather as we move on this journey.

The changing health and medical needs of the individuals we serve is increasing and as an agency we need to adapt and make shifts to meet those needs. Ceiling tracking has been installed at Kerr and Michaels Manor to assist those who are in need. Also, training in TLR has been taking place to keep everyone safe in their home/workplace. The latest newsflash is that our application with the Kinsmen Telemiracle Foundation was approved for partial funds to put towards a wheelchair accessible van!

This year CDBA Sask was able to send 3 of our coordinators to the Symposium in Ontario, giving them a new sense of services in Canada and exposure to new ideas and contacts. Also, one of our coordinators took the first module of the

online Intervenor training program that CDBA Ont is running. A huge Thank You to CDBA Ont for their supports in aiding CDBA SK in being able to participate in these events.

CDBA Sask Chapter held its 29th Annual General Meeting on June 19, 2014. The Saskatchewan Intervenor of the Year award was announced, with Sally Horel being acknowledged for her hard work and dedication. The board of directors for the 2014/15 year include:

- Al Love – President
- John Pohve – Vice Pres
- Chris Gonari – Treasurer
- Kendra Kerr – Secretary
- Allan Mathies
- Theo Gonari
- David Samuel
- Evelyn Matheis
- Elise Hildebrandt



Sally Horel receiving the IV of the Year Award from Lisa Vaudrin.



Silent Auction Tables



Hole Sponsors



# God to the Rescue

By Jerry Coubrough



*Nova recovering in hospital*

Our daughter Nova needed brain surgery to help control seizures. She was put on a waiting list that should have taken until March, but had her surgery January 20th, 2014.

How often can you have two specialists have a conference with you at the same time, well it happened. The seizure specialist and neuro surgeon met with us in August 2013, and she was put on the waiting list on September 11th, 2013. The closer the time came, the more concerned we became, worry and anxiety can consume a person if you let

it. We did a lot of praying.

It is hard to put your child's life in the hands of God, strangers: nurses, doctors and medical staff. One of Nova's Intervenor's contacted the doctor's office to see if Nova could be put on a cancellation list and asked if there ever is cancellations. The reply was 'very rarely'. Yet there was one and Nova got it and it was only a week and a half away. Lots of planning had to take place – FAST!

We needed a place to stay and we inquired about staying at Nova's group home. Before we got word about that, Sally, one of the Intervenor's at the group home, contacted her parents who are spending 6 months on Vancouver Island to see if we could use their home. They agreed to let us stay for as long as we need at their condominium – heated garage, it's a home away from home. Sally said they won't be home until April 9th, so stay as long as you need.

The days went quickly and before we knew it we were headed to Saskatoon.

January 20th – Surgery Day. We were at the hospital by 6:15 am. Surgery scheduled for 9:30 am. We were told the surgery could take 3-5 hours so we left the hospital. We came back after 2 hours as the doctor had said that we could get an update on the surgery at 11:30 am. The nurse phoned the doctor in surgery and he told her that he was just closing her up and that Nova would be in recovery in about 15 minutes.

You can hardly get a hold of a doctor in his office most times and Dr. Wu gives you information from the operating room. UNBELIEVABLE!!

The group home arranged for someone to be with Nova from 7 am to 9pm at night and then 24 hours/day as she needed. They are just an amazing group of women that have only the wellbeing of their ladies in mind. Four ladies in a group home, they are affectionately referred to as FAMILY.

Annette and I thank everyone for their prayers and it sure shows; Nova is recovering wonderfully!

## What's going on in CDBA-AB?

by Robert Kucherepa, President, CDBA-AB

The last weekend, September 12-14, when we arrived at camp expecting summer temperatures

we were shocked to find the foot and a half of snow, but by the time we left all the snow was melted and back into balmy weather. Our members still had a fabulous time at the retreat this year including a CPR work shop, where all our members involved will be receiving a Level E-Certificate. This camp we were able to offer our members another low ropes course, obstacle course, archery and the giant swing. Having the members reach success and have fun through all these activities was rewarding for both the members and the Intervenor's. We have uploaded one of our videos of the giant swing to share with you, please see the attached

link. <http://youtu.be/QsxAPOnAyno>  
Receiving the charitable number is still being a thorn in our side. We sent in our last 18 page appeal plus a video tape of intervention and are awaiting a response. Hopefully it will be a positive response. Although I have heard that we are not the only organization being denied.

The bus we have purchased has been delayed and we are hoping to receive it by the end of the year. We have attached pictures of the van for you to see!

We have been granted our next Casino on February 2 & 3, 2015, and expect it to be a huge success.

We are still looking to purchase an apartment block but have come up with

a different idea.

We were thinking of doing a Ranch instead of an apartment. This would give our members the opportunities to learn more skills, like gardening, horse and animal maintenance as well as daily living skills.

Should you have any questions or concerns please let me know.



# News from New B

by Kevin Symes, Executive Director, CDBA-NB

## Day At The Beach

The Lorna Thompson Memorial Snoezelen Room was transformed into a "Day at the Beach" for a 2 week period in February.

Many consumers/Intervenors took advantage of going to the "beach" in the middle of the winter. Some of the things they were able to do, that related to the beach are listed below:

### Stimulate the different senses

#### Touch

- 2 buckets of sand, feel the differences
- Feel the "wind" from the fans
- Feel the "seaweed"
- Feel the shells and rock — differences in wet and dry

#### Movement

- Lie in the hammock and relax
- Lie in the massage chair and enjoy a massage on the beach
- Use swimming movements as you sit in the "water" (ball pool) as you enjoy the sounds of the beach
- Play a game of ball toss

#### Seeing

- Watch the fish in the bubble tubes
- Watch the beach scene on the wall
- Explore all the beach related items decorating the Snoezelen Room

"Owen and I visited to the CDBA-NB Office where Owen went to the Snoezelen Room. During our time in the Snoezelen room, Owen interacted and used many sensory items. Some of these items included the ball pit, the hammock and a circuit board that controlled the color of the room. He played with this for a while and used 'cause and effect' to figure out how it worked. After this he went between those three things and the light switch controls.

During our next visit in the Snoezelen room Owen discovered a chair that vibrated; he enjoyed this and spent the majority of his time in this. While he was in the chair we practiced some sign language. Owen showed some progress in signing words such as 'enough' and

'more', paired with these were please and thank you." Alicia, Fredericton Intervenor

"Jedd attended the Snoezelen room for the very first time. He was in his glory taking charge of scheduling the day. He really enjoyed the Snoezelen room, especially the ball pit and massage chair. He was delightfully surprised with the snow cone and enjoyed it immensely." Shirley, Bathurst Intervenor

## Sheena's Scavenger Hunt/Backstreet Boys Experience

Sheena has been a fan of the Backstreet Boys for 15 years, and also has never been to a concert like this before. As soon as I heard the Backstreet Boys were going to be performing I knew I had to try to get Sheena there. With the help of CDBA-NB and Sheena's family, I was able to purchase tickets for the two of us. I wanted to make it even more special, so I thought I would do a scavenger hunt. Each day she would receive clues that would lead to the next clue. Every day for almost two weeks, she received multiple clues on where to find her next clue. Also in her clue, I put in song titles/album titles from their CD to see if she would pick up on it. Towards the end she did but still had no idea how that was related to her scavenger hunt.

On April 2, she got clues that lead her to the CDBA-NB office. Once she was there she received her last clue and found her surprise: BACKSTREET BOYS TICKETS. She was beyond excited and even shed a few happy tears. That moment alone you could see how truly excited and honored she was to go—a dream come true. She never thought in a million years she would get to go see her all-time favorite band. This was a whole new experience for Sheena and I was so glad to be a part of it. We started the concert day with a nice dinner at Boston Pizza, thanks to Kevin's (our Executive Director) wife, Kim. We stood in line and patiently waited to get in, which they were late. Once inside Sheena couldn't wait for it to start. When the opening band started she really started to get excited. Once the Backstreet Boys came out her face lit up and she was smiling ear to ear. She stood up, danced and sang





# runswick Chapter

to every single song, and they played for about 2 hours, and she didn't stop all night. It was an amazing experience for both of us. When I asked her how she would describe her concert experience, she said it was AMAZING and so much fun. She was so happy she finally got to see "her boys". She said she loved doing the scavenger hunt too. Amanda V. Intervenor



## Intervenor Workshop and 32nd AGM

### May 2014

Intervenors had a fun and informative weekend. They enjoyed socializing with others from throughout the province, they participated in a team building event, had a session from a Crystal London, BA, RMT on relaxation techniques, reviewed office policies, report from the Intervenor Liaison Committee and a workshop from Joanne Graham, Executive Director of ANBLPN.

The 32nd Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, May 31, 2014. Awards were presented for: Personnel Awards — 2 years of service to Shirley Burke; Erin Gaboury; Amanda Hatt; Lori Hudson; and Andrea Meehan — 5 years of service to Heather Hubbert and Andrea Sealy. Intervenors of the Year were a team of Intervenors that work with 2 brothers — congratulations the Lisa Bennett, Andrea Meehan and Tammy Rowe. The Board Volunteer of the Year was present to Alma and Doug Page. Congratulations to all the Award Winners!



## Deafblind Awareness Month

In June, CDBA-NB held a Bowl-a-thon to promote deafblind awareness month. We had a very good turnout. Thank you to all our bowlers and those who made pledges.

## Bus Trip to Florenceville and Hartland

In July, consumers and Intervenors from throughout the province enjoyed a day in Florenceville and Hartland, NB. They toured Potato World, in Florenceville — the French Fries Capital of the World. On their visit, they toured the museum, explored the interactive displays, which included interesting insights into the potato's history, the industry, the science and the hard work of the people who strive to put the best potatoes possible on your dinner table. They also enjoyed lunch...and yes, you guessed it...french fries!

They also visited Covered Bridge Potato Chips, in Hartland. They learned lots of interesting facts about potatoes, potato chips, and agriculture in NB. They also saw

## News from New Brunswick Chapter (Continued)

how they make potato chips and at the end of the tour, received a hot bag of chips, fresh off the line where they could sprinkle on any seasoning you like.

The final stop of the day was the World's Longest Covered Bridge in Hartland. Many of the consumers and intervenors walked across and back. This 390-m (1,282-ft.) bridge officially opened on July 4, 1901 and was purchased by the government of New Brunswick in 1906. Lighting was installed in 1924 and a side walkway was added to the bridge in

1945. It has suffered some incidents over the years, but it continues on, roadworthy and dependable. When constructed, it was an engineering wonder, much as the Confederation Bridge across the Westmorland Strait is today.

### CAMP 2014

As always, Camp is the most look forward to event of the year. This year the theme was Western. Friday evening, campers enjoyed dancing and sitting by the campfire. Meeting up with old friends and making new

one. Saturday was packed full of activities. In the morning, everyone enjoyed a western themed carnival, cotton candy, popcorn, a giant bouncy maze and even a visit from 2 sheep from a nearby farm. In the afternoon, since it was too windy to go on the pontoon boats, many enjoyed the pool. Consumers (and intervenors) enjoyed doing crafts.. making tie snakes and/or a sock bear. Following supper, everyone kicked up their heels at the CDBA-NB hoedown. A fantastic fireworks show was a perfect way to end the evening.





# A Sincere Thank You

A sincere thank you to the following donors whose generosity in 2014 helped CDBA continue to offer quality services and support to our consumers who are deafblind and their families

Walter & Rayanne Aguilar  
Paul Arnold  
Hazel Bell  
Rochelle Bernardino  
Mary Binnington  
Gladstone & Andrea Brown  
Sherry Campbell  
CDBA British Columbia  
CDBA New Brunswick  
CDBA Saskatchewan  
Aayan Chandani  
Maurice & Cathy Chauvin  
Michael & Patricia Coleman  
Anabela DaSilva  
Grace Dean  
Simon & Richard DeCastro

Lucia Drews  
Sharon Ferguson  
Christian Garcia  
Alicia Kim Harris  
Theresa Kimerer  
Robert Kucherepa  
Joanna Labonte  
Kas & Betty Lysionek  
Joan Mactavish  
Linda Mamer  
J.Allan Matheis  
Amanda Miller  
Carolyn Monaco  
Brenda Morin  
Lisa Neal  
Nottawasaga Foundation

Barbara Palocz  
Allana Pierce  
Rasiah Ponnusamy  
Sara-Lee Salterio  
Wanda Schellenberg  
Barbara Severs  
Tim & Aline Sinke  
Tyra Skibington  
Rose Smith  
Carolann Steele  
Ken & Debbie Still  
Anushea Thanaruban  
John & Cynthia Westerterp

## 2014 CDBA ADVERTISING RATES

	SIZE	1 ISSUE	2 ISSUES
<b>NEWS MAGAZINE</b>			
	Inside cover	\$650.00	\$800.00
	Full page	\$525.00	\$700.00
	1/2 page	\$300.00	\$425.00
	1/4 page	\$225.00	\$300.00
	Business card	\$125.00	\$175.00
<b>E-NEWSLETTER</b>			
	Front page	\$250.00	\$400.00
	Back page	\$200.00	\$350.00
<b>WEBSITE</b>			
	Homepage	875.00 (semi-annual)	



**Renew your  
membership or become  
a member of CDBA at**

<http://cdbanational.com/en/membership.html>



### You can now make donations online!

Through a partnership with CanadaHelps.org, it has never been easier to make a one-time or monthly recurring gift directly through CanadaHelps portal. This service offers an instant electronic receipt, and you can feel good knowing that your transaction is safe using advanced security technology.

To learn more visit the link from our website at [www.cdbanational.com](http://www.cdbanational.com). Thank you for your support in ensuring that, "All people who are deafblind will live rich meaningful lives."

## Try this Word Puzzle!

U	U	O	B	I	C	D	E	A	F	B	L	I	N	D
N	G	G	N	E	C	H	G	A	B	I	R	N	L	I
I	O	B	N	O	I	T	A	C	U	D	E	E	I	N
Q	N	I	R	N	I	E	U	P	F	U	C	N	N	P
U	E	L	T	A	L	T	G	E	T	E	D	R	L	R
E	O	T	T	A	I	O	N	U	H	E	R	I	A	S
E	D	U	U	C	C	L	A	E	P	E	R	G	T	E
E	E	E	T	I	N	I	L	E	V	C	E	H	I	O
I	R	S	C	C	R	O	N	E	V	R	E	T	N	I
S	I	G	H	T	E	D	G	U	I	D	E	S	E	M
I	U	E	O	I	E	P	I	E	M	E	N	T	G	B
G	Q	T	I	N	C	N	S	T	U	M	E	N	N	I
Y	C	A	C	O	V	D	A	E	E	G	O	D	O	I
H	A	E	E	I	E	R	E	C	R	I	N	C	C	N
A	E	A	S	E	N	C	V	D	P	C	O	C	E	E

INDEPENDENCE	DEAFBLIND
CHOICES	INTERVENOR
RESPECT	CDBA
EDUCATION	SIGHTEDGUIDE
CHAPTER	BRAILLE
UNIQUE	SIGN LANGUAGE
CONGENITAL	ADVOCACY
ACQUIRED	COMMUNICATION
RIGHTS	INTERVENTION



# Harvest to Holidays Gift Market benefits girl who is deafblind

by Jennifer Summer

A year has made a world of difference for 11-year-old Lauren Daley of Kingwood.

Lauren, who was born deafblind, attended Braille camp this past summer and has started to learn how to use Braille as well as experiment with different types of food and how to become more independent.

She also continues to excel at school and learn more life skills thanks to help of her intervener which costs the family \$1,000 a week.

To continue to provide an intervener to help Lauren, Lauren's mom, Caroline Daley and a whole host of friends have organized the sixth annual Harvest to Holidays Gift Market on Thursday, Sept. 18 at Kingwood Church of Christ.

"Everything Lauren has learned during this year is amazing," Caroline said. "They may sound like small things but to us, it's huge. She's learning Braille, how to make grocery lists, how to navigate a store that is set up like a grocery shop and even started swimming. We are lucky to have such great supporters in this community."

The Daley family has had the chance to eat out at more restaurants in the community since Lauren is trying more

foods. Though some people may have been impatient because it sometimes takes them a while to eat, most people have been supportive of Lauren and their efforts.

"We are trying," Caroline said. "We have progressed so far because of the camps she has had the chance to go to, her intervener and places like Aquatic Solutions where she is learning to swim."

Harvest to Holidays features a variety of vendors from the community that allow for guests to get a jump on their holiday shopping and provide educational opportunities for guests to see what it feels like to be deafblind.

The event will have edible creations, boutique quality items and handcrafted gifts from local artisans and independent consultants.

They will have an area set up called "Lauren's Corner" where items will have Braille on them and guests will

learn to read what items are and how it feels to navigate through daily activities when deafblind.

Additionally, Lone Star College-Kingwood students who are a part of the American Sign Language Club will be on hand during Harvest to Holidays to show and teach sign language.

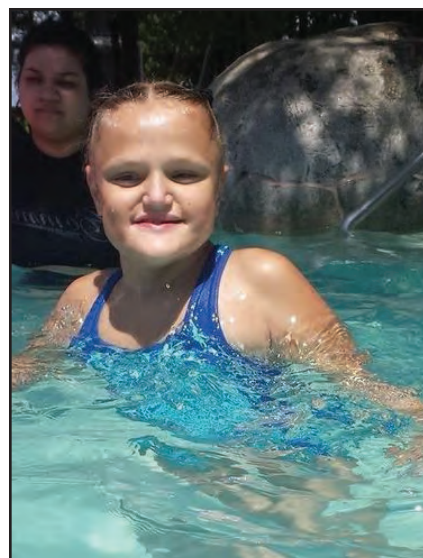
"Our theme for this year's Harvest to Holidays is 'Welcome to my corner of the world,'" Caroline said. "It is important for us to bring awareness to what it is like for Lauren and advocate for the many groups in our community that offer support services."



Lauren Daley, right, with her intervener, has grown by leaps and bounds this past year with the help of camps, support and her intervener.



Lauren Daley recently started to learn how to swim.



# Congenital Rubella Syndrome Survey



I'm pleased to report that the final field implementation phase of this project began in February, 2014. Prior to field implementation, the following actions were undertaken:

- Organized a series of meetings, teleconference calls and emails to ensure that the partners had a stake in the project and had input into the preparation of all the project materials.
- Prepared a new questionnaire modelled after the Helen Keller National Association questionnaire (2004), including updates on Neurology and Psychosocial Behaviour provided by Dr. Jude Nicholas (Norway).
- Developed a data base program (MSAccess) for the questionnaire through the technical expertise of Paul Nobes.
- Produced letters requesting support for assistance with the project from the Chapters and other agencies throughout the country.
- Prepared letters of introduction about the project to be distributed (by the cooperating agencies or by the project leader directly) to individuals known to have CRS, their family members or advocates.
- Produced a letter of consent for cooperating agencies to include with

letters to potential participating family members.

- Had all materials (the questionnaire and all letters of information and consent that would be distributed) translated into the French language.

Agencies contacted to participate in the project:

Ontario: CDBA-ON Chapter, Lions McInnes House (LMH), Deafblind Ontario Services (DBOS), W. Ross Macdonald School (WRMS), Rotary Cheshire Homes (RCH);

Quebec: Institute Raymond Dewar (IRD);

Manitoba: SPIKE Inc.;

Saskatchewan: CDBA-SK Chapter;

New Brunswick: CDBA-NB Chapter;

British Columbia: CDBA-BC Chapter and BC Deafblind Services Society;

Nova Scotia (2003): Regional Residential Services of Nova Scotia (RRSS); NS Deaf Advocacy Association.

Other means of contacting individuals with CRS

In addition to relying on the support of the agencies known to be directly involved in serving particular individuals with CRS, the project leader undertook to make contact directly by mail with other known individuals throughout the country who had CRS. These particular individuals participated in the 1999 Rubella study and reported in the 2001 Registry Survey that they

had CRS.

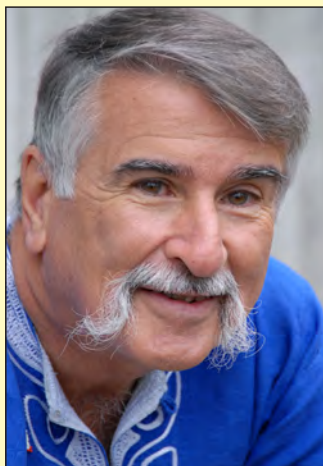
Results of Participation to mid-September 2014

To date, the project leader has received 54 completed questionnaires, provincially distributed as follows: Ontario (35); Nova Scotia (6); Alberta (4); Saskatchewan (4); British Columbia (3); Manitoba (1) and Newfoundland (1). Thirty nine (72 %) of the questionnaires were submitted from agency cooperators; the remaining 15 or 28% were returned from individuals/family members by mail contact.

I wish to thank Cathy Proll (CDBA-ON), Joan Brintnell (Lions McInnes House), Karen Keyes (Deafblind Ontario Services) and Carolyn Monaco (CDBA National) for all the assistance and guidance they provided with program start up and subsequently with implementation. To those staff members from the participating agencies and family members, I offer my deepest thanks

Over the next months, I will be doing data entry and carrying out various calculations within the software program, MS Access. I intend to have a final report by the end of March 2015. It is also my intention also to present the findings Rubella Network meeting during the 2015 Dbl World Conference in Bucharest, May 2015.

Stan Munroe  
Rubella Project Leader  
October 2015



## Dear CDBA members,

Some of you will know that Joe Morrissey died suddenly last week at his home in Tanzania. Joe was known to many of us and was widely respected for his long standing contribution to deafblindness. Although a huge influence he is probably best known for his outstanding work in East Africa. Joe established schools and set up units, still flourishing today, that have changed the lives of many children and families.

We all know that Joe did his amazing work with great humility. He was a gentle man who gained the immediate respect of everyone he met. Joe is a great loss and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this most difficult of times.



# Canadian Deafblind Association

## 2014/15 Board of Directors



**Carolyn Monaco**  
Director at Large



**Suzanne McConnell**  
Director at Large



**Dwain McLean**  
NB Chapter Representative



**Allan Matheis**  
SK Chapter Representative



**Robert Kucherepa**  
AB Chapter Representative



**Leslie Comrie**  
BC Chapter Representative



**Brad Ramey**  
ON Chapter Representative



**Sandra Owen-Peters**  
Director at Large



**David Brown**  
Director at Large



**Crystelle Jensen**  
Director at Large

# Canadian Deafblind Association

## Staff Contacts



**Theresa Tancock**  
Family Services Coordinator, BC



**Dana Heinrichs**  
Executive Director, SK Chapter



**Cathy Proll**  
Executive Director, ON Chapter



**Kevin Symes**  
Executive Director, NB Chapter



**Tom McFadden**  
Executive Director, National



**Stan Munroe**  
Dbl Information Officer



**Paul Nobes**  
Information Technology Officer



## **CDBA**

### **Chapter Contacts**

#### **CDBA National Office**

1860 Appleby Line  
Burlington, ON L7L 7H7  
(905) 319-9243 (B)  
(866) 229-5832 (TF)  
(905) 319-2027 (F)  
E-mail: [info@cdbanational.com](mailto:info@cdbanational.com)  
[www.cdbanational.com](http://www.cdbanational.com)

#### **British Columbia Chapter**

227 – 6th Street  
New Westminster, BC V3L 3A5  
(604) 528-6170 (B)  
(604) 528-6174 (F)  
E-mail: [theresa@cdbabc.ca](mailto:theresa@cdbabc.ca)  
[www.cdbabc.ca](http://www.cdbabc.ca)

#### **Alberta Chapter**

P.O. Box 89006  
Calgary, AB T2Z 3W3  
(780) 425-9444 (B)  
E-mail: [kialloydminster@shaw.ca](mailto:kialloydminster@shaw.ca)

#### **Saskatchewan Chapter**

83 Tucker Crescent  
Saskatoon, SK S7H 3H7  
(306) 374-0022 (B)  
(306) 374-0004 (F)  
E-mail: [cdbsk@shaw.ca](mailto:cdbsk@shaw.ca)

#### **Ontario Chapter**

50 Main Street  
Paris, ON N3L 2E2  
(877) 760-7439 (T)  
(519) 442-1871 (F)  
E-mail: [info@cdbaontario.com](mailto:info@cdbaontario.com)  
[www.cdbaontario.com](http://www.cdbaontario.com)

#### **New Brunswick Chapter**

408 – 212 Queen Street  
Fredericton, NB E3B 1A8  
(506) 452-1544 (B)  
(506) 451-8309 (F)  
E-mail: [office@cdba-nb.ca](mailto:office@cdba-nb.ca)  
[www.cdba-nb.ca](http://www.cdba-nb.ca)