

Editor's Corner

by Emmett Hassen



Alright, it's June now, eh! As summer approaches very soon this month officially on June 21st; that means us, Canadians, are ready to do a lot of things while the warmth lasts. It would be a lot of fun to go camping, hiking or doing something else that pleases you. However be wary when it comes to camping. Be sure to check with the Park Warden to see if it is okay to have campfires or not.

It is supposed to be a very dry and hot summer, so try to preserve as much water as you can by conserving. Even in Calgary, the city is promoting water conservation, as an example: water once a week and so on.

Summer is being known for keeping us busy with a lot of activities. Please be advised that there will be NO summer issue for July and August. The issue should resume on September 2005 with a new volume set.

However Readers, this is such a tough decision that I had to bring myself to you by sharing this news. As being your Editor, this project has been a rewarding experience for me, trying to deal with all levels of this newsletter operation. It is sad for me to announce in this issue that I have resigned as the ADN Editor; since I have found a better opportunity out of country, abroad.

If you know anyone or even yourself, are interested in this position as an Editor and/or Mailing Clerk for ADN. Be sure to contact Robie Scholefield at aadexec@telus.net ASAP! Look for the flyer in this issue.

Thank you for your great support and encouragements with this newsletter. Be sure to keep ADN alive for the next Editor. Thumbs Up!

Until then,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emmett Hassen".

Emmett Hassen,
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DEADLINE for submissions
TBA* ~ resumes in Sept 2005



Alberta Deaf Newsletter

June 2005, Volume 5, Issue 6

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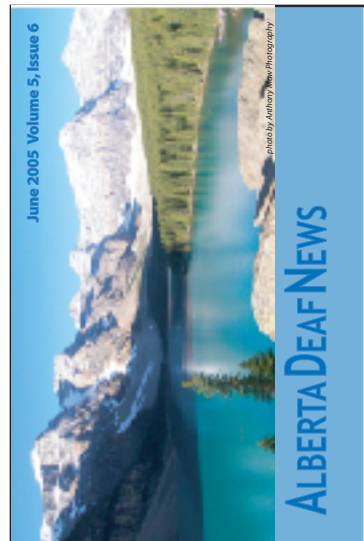
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*Submissions are preferred by e-mail as attachment: scanned, text or photos to **AAD** with subject heading "ADN".*

WHO IS THE FATHER OF VRS?

forwarded Angela Stratiy via e-mail. Also approved with permission by Frank Mounts of Deafbase LLC for reprint. web site: www.deafbase.com

Who is the real Father of VRS? The question popped in my head for quite a while. I decided to set out and do a bit of poking around and researching. I asked all major VRS providers: Sprint, CSD, Sorenson and HOVRS.

They were quick to point to Ed Bosson, the Texas relay administrator. Ed envisioned deaf people communicating with each other with videophones more than 10 years ago. At the time, Ed saw how Internet evolved into people's lives. He knew it would eventually make its way into the lives of the deaf people. He also knew the possibilities that video conferencing technology was ripe enough to enable communication over high speed land line with use of ASL.

Ed then contacted Mark Seeger who was then the account manager of Sprint TRS in Texas at the time and explained about the possibilities. Mark contacted the Sprint technicians to see if Ed's vision would work. The technicians reported that it would work. Ed was thrilled to know that and went to Texas PUC with the idea. However, it took Ed a long time to be able to convince PUC and got some help from a lawyer in interpreting. One by one, Ed's supervisor then the Commissioners were convinced it was a feature of TRS. They allowed Ed to do the trials. Sprint was the first TRS to provide two trial testing.

The first trial was in Austin, Texas during 1995 and was limited to 4 locations. The second trial was done in 1997 expanding to 10 different cities in Texas. During that time, two different services working together participated in the trials, Sprint and Hanwave Interpreting. During that time it was called VRI (Video Relay Interpreting) but not the same as Video Remote Interpreting. It was suggested by Linda Nelson, a deaf representative that the acronym word be changed to VRS (Video Relay Service) and Ed went with that. Ed thought and agreed it would be better described that way than "Video Relay Interpreting".

Jon Hodson from Sorenson worked with Ed Bosson during early stages and provided Sorenson PCI, video conferencing software during the VRS trial in Texas.

To some extent, the trials went well that time so sometime during 2000, VRS became formal in Texas. Since that time, Texas was paying for the VRS service until FCC started reimbursing VRS providers, Texas stopped paying for it. Hanwave Interpreting Service was bought out by CSD (Communication Service for the Deaf) so Sprint subcontracted with them jumping aboard the beginning of the VRS industry.

FIRST continued...

CPC - The Caption Software Leader Since 1986

Since CPC released the first simultaneous closed captioning/teleprompting software in 1986, it has been the captioning industry leader. CPC also operates an award winning captioning service, and develops subtitling and teleprompting software.

For more information on the patent, please visit www.cpcweb.com

MOTHER FATHER DEAF DAY A SUCCESS!

submitted by Judy Delawsky via e-mail

Greetings Everyone! Our Mother Father Deaf Day event at CNIB-Calgary on May 1st, 2005 was a huge success drawing more than 125 people (from seniors to babies) from various parts of Alberta and as well one person from California. Our success was due to the generous sponsorship of CAD, AAD, and FLIC. We were fortunate to receive several donations from various local businesses. Patty Conrad, an Alberta CODA, donated her recently released book "Gentle into the Darkness: A Deaf Mother's Journey into Alzheimer's. Last and definitely not least, we would like to recognize our committee who helped make it happen! Thanks to Judy Delawsky, Chairperson, Sara Hillis, Maureen Jones, Janice Manchul and Sue Schmid.

Maureen read the personal essay "Chameleons & Codas" by Patty Conrad. Janice and Sue were the volunteer interpreters for the afternoon. Sara was primarily responsible for securing the many donations for the day including the grand prize Video Phone (won by John Morrison) from Harris Communications. She was also instrumental in arranging the videotaping of the event.

We had two guest speakers, Ali Behmanesh and Gord Hein. Ali performed his ASL storytelling and was able to capture the attention of children and adults alike. Gord Hein made a power point presentation about the "Butterfly Project", an initiative by Catholic Family Services to provide counseling services to deaf individuals and their families. The presentation focused on Adult CODAs (Children of Deaf Adults) mentoring younger KODAs (Kids of Deaf Adults). There was also a video clip of a group of Codas from Calgary reminiscing about their childhood experiences growing up in a deaf family. It was a job well done by both presenters. Feedback has been very positive about the event and many enjoyed the family environment.

DEAF DAY continued on page 14... 5

SIGN LANGUAGE PREVENTS FAIR TRIAL, COURT HEARS

submitted by Arista Haas via e-mail. Article derived from:

<http://north.cbc.ca/regional/servlet/View?filename=rights-court-26052005>

IQALUIT - The lawyer for a deaf and mute man is arguing his client can't get a fair trial in a Nunavut court because of his disability.

Bobby Suwarak, 35, was charged with sexual assault and break and enter in winter 2004.

But only a few people can communicate with the Baker Lake man through a special type of sign language and charades.

Former Kivalliq lawyer Tim Kavanaugh says without a qualified interpreter, the accused can't get a proper trial, guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

His application to stay the charges against Suwarak was heard in Iqaluit Wednesday.

Kavanaugh says he can't communicate with the accused and therefore can't represent him in court.

He says he also has concerns about the abilities of the man who has acted in court as Bobby Suwarak's interpreter for past offences.

Kavanaugh says David Kowtaq doesn't have proper training, doesn't in his own words fully understand the legal process and is too close to the accused.

"It's a constitutional guarantee of anybody to have an interpreter and it's the duty of the court to ensure that there is an interpreter if someone has demonstrated they need one," he says.

"My argument was that the court has done nothing to address a very significant concern raised by council."

Kavanaugh wants the charges against Bobby Suwarak stayed, meaning they'd be dropped after a year if there are no incidents.

But Crown prosecutor John Solski told the court that would be handing Suwarak a "Get Out of Jail Free" card.

Solski says the trial should go ahead and he says efforts are being made to improve communications.

"It would be a training course for an interpreter, and it would be a training course for the accused obviously to come up to be able to understand and participate in a type of sign language that would be recognizable by more people than the version of the sign language he's using now," he says.

Justice Earl Johnson will now review both lawyers' arguments and hand down his decision within the next few months.

**THE
ALBERTA DEAF NEWSLETTER**

IS HIRING

**EDITOR
MAILING CLERK
PROOFREADER**

**STARTING AUGUST 2005
TO BEGIN THE SEPTEMBER 2005 ISSUE**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED...

PLEASE CONTACT EITHER

**DAVE MASON - PRESIDENT AT
davemas@shaw.ca**

or

**ROBIE SCHOLEFIELD - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT
aadexec@telus.net**

THANK YOU and HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

**HAVE A
GREAT SUMMER!!!**

THINGS TO DO FOR THE SUMMER?

Notes:

Get out your camera, take pictures, make stories, ideas for your journal, or share your summer stories for ADN. Get them ready for the next September Issue!

IDEAS 100 Years Celebration of Alberta's Birthday

Here's what you can do during the summer on low budget and still have fun exploring your own province.

There are many places where you can check out information such as Travel Alberta, or talking with your Travel agent.

Visit

- Banff
- Lake Louise
- Jasper
- Waterton National Park
- Edmonton
- Calgary
- Frank Slide
- Drumheller (Dinosaur Museum)
- Others....

Or check with your local organization for summer events or visit www.deafalberta.org for events listing.

Directory Information as of June 2005:

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11460- 60 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6H 1J5
Pastor - Rev. R.A. Bauer
TTY: 780-435-7788
Fax: 780-435-7788 - before 9:30 a.m. and after 6 p.m.
Phone: 780-434-1671

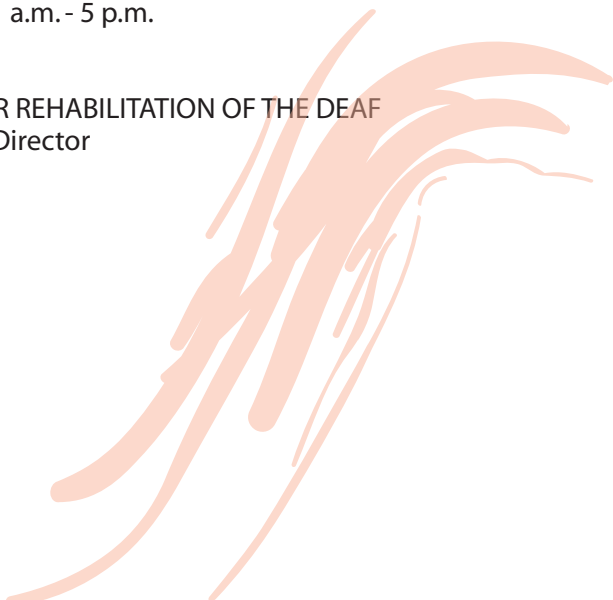
Services - each Sunday:
Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. and Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Other appointments as arranged by TTY/Voice/Fax
Office hours:

Varies - Tues: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
 Wed: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
 Thurs: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
 Fri: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Outreach program:

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TTY: 780-435-7780



FIRST CLOSED CAPTIONING SOFTWARE ENCODER RECEIVES PATENT

<http://www.emediawire.com/releases/2005/5/emw241685.htm>

submitted by Scott Johnston, Florida, U.S.A.

Rockville, MD (PRWEB) May 18, 2005 -- CPC received a patent today for closed caption encoding software that cuts the cost of captioning videos for the hearing impaired. This is the first software patent in the field of encoding caption data onto video.

The encoding software costs much less than traditional encoding hardware, and it allows the complete captioning process to be done on a laptop computer. This eliminates the need for costly digital tape machines and streamlines the captioning workflow.

Moves Captioning into the Digital Age

Today video post-production is done mostly on NLE computers. Up until now, there was no software that could encode captions onto video. Encoding required video to be transferred from the computer onto tape, so that it could be encoded by a hardware caption encoder. This is a throwback to the pre-NLE age. The hardware encoder, in turn, worked with costly videotape machines, and could be a bottleneck in the captioning work flow.

CPC's newly patented software simplifies the process by allowing the encoding to be done on the computer, eliminating the need for videotape altogether.

Dr. Dilip K. Som, President of CPC stated: "Even analog video users can benefit from CPC's software encoder. Hardware analog encoders require the video to be copied in the encoding process. This degrades the analog video signal, especially in non-professional formats, such as VHS. Our software encoder captions onto the original video, so the quality of the original is preserved."

Available as Encoding Only Software or as a Complete Captioning System on a CD.

CPC's CCaption™ (Windows) software series utilizes the newly patented encoder engine to encode captions that were formatted and time stamped by non-encoding captioning software, which is also available from CPC.

CPC's CaptionMaker® 700-NLE (Windows) and MacCaption™ (Macintosh) software series which also utilizes the newly patented encoder engine, are complete captioning systems on a CD. They position, synchronize and encode captions.

Your corner...

Clarification of corrections and updated information:

CCSD INFO: Name was misspelled in May 2005 issue, Carol Anne Fritz should be spelled as Caroline Anne Fritz. (*I apologize, Caroline. -Editor*)

ACSD Meeting: ACSD meeting will be postponed to Saturday, June 18, 2005 at Calgary from 10:30 to? We like to attend Douglas Ferguson Memorial on June 11. Thank you, Bruce Mayer, ACSD President

Deaf Culture Centre: May 2005 issue, Editor got notice of correction that the article was written by Andrew Lane but was submitted by JoAnne Cripps. (*Thank you Angela - Editor*)



School of Health and Human Services Regional Programming:

Sign Language Studies Certificate Program

2005 - 2006 SCHEDULE

CO 118 Communication Skills (3 credits)

June 11, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
MANDATORY ATTENDANCE
Elk Island Public School Board Office

July 4 - 8, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Lakeland College Strathcona Learning Centre

Tuition: \$450

ASL 300 - Tentative for September 2005
Lakeland College Strathcona Learning Centre

Tuition: \$1000

If you have not already done so, please let us know if ASL 300 is scheduled your intention to enroll. We need at least 15 students to make this course available.



DEAF DAY continued ...

At CAD's recent general meeting, the President made a motion to support the Mother Father Deaf Day event on an annual basis, and the members supported the motion! We are all extremely grateful for the overwhelming support from so many! Thank you all so much.

Mark your calendars on April 30th, 2006 for next year's Mother Father Deaf Day. We have already begun the planning and are in the process of securing a venue for that date.

FATHER VRS continued ...

Getting the facts straight:

Sorenson is the inventor of their low cost high video compression chip and co-developed the D-Link DVC videophone. Sorenson's customized videophone, VP-100 are aimed at the Deaf/HH population.

Washington and Texas were the first states to try out VRS statewide in 1998.

Texas provided VRS through the internet to the Washington state.

Sweden was the first country to implement a public VRS fully subsidized by the government.

North Carolina was the first state to provide a public site where deaf can go make a call that is subsidized by their government.

USA was the second country to provide public and personal VRS for all states fully subsidized by the federal government.

Sprint/CSD were the first to provide trials and introduced the first VRS model at Deaf Way II in 2002.

On basis of Ed Bosson's work in VRS, Smithsonian Computerworld and TDI gave national awards to him. Based on the research and information, I believe Ed Bosson is to be the Father of VRS.

Hats off to Ed Bosson for making VRS a reality!

Article written by Frank Mounts

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!! ATTENTION!!!

Advertising rates available

Submit before Deadline!!!

Update your mailing address?

Renew your membership?

Questions, comments are ALWAYS welcome...

BOW VALLEY COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE

written by Emmett Hassen

As of May 4th, Bow Valley College (BVC) Deaf and Hard of Hearing (d/hh) held their open house on-site. The open house provided us the opportunity to explore the program and network. Refreshments, Videos, Photos amongst few things were provided.

Previously in the ADNewsletter, on Page 3-4, June 2004, Vol. 4-Issue 6, was an article covering all scopes that encompasses around the D/HH program. It was noted that the BVC student earned their monies to visit Gallaudet University one year ago, to be exact.

At the open house, I had the opportunity to see so many wonderful photos of the students on their trip to Gallaudet. This was a chance for the students to explore, learn and be exposed by the Deaf cultures, values and history. Deaf History plays a viable tool for the individual to understand histories and its impact on our lives today. Not only that, but to show the students, mostly immigrants, that Gallaudet University does exist amongst other academic schools/colleges and Universities.

BVC, a local Calgary college provides its D/HH students, currently 8, previously 25 on log in attendance. Given its success of program highlights of "Rock of ASL" (A dance musical group) and the trip to Gallaudet speaks for itself. In result of success, Ali Behmanesh, one of the D/HH staff was awarded a Calgary Community Adult Learning Association - Life of Learning Awards for his hard work and contribution to this program.

It is encouraged that anyone, or if you know anyone, immigrants, can apply to this D/HH program in order to upgrade, or profess in a new career or training. In today's market with education and work force are always ever changing. It is good to have all the necessary tools learnt in school to survive and excel in the working world. This is a place where students can interact, develop personal growth and learn.

BVC has strived a long way to improve its service the best they can to ensure access is available in anyway possible. Interpreting, Note-taking, or Real-Time Captioning services are readily available to enroll courses.

You can contact the Program Coordinator for further information at this contact:

*BVC - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, 332-6th Ave. S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 4S6
403-410-1527 (voice or TTY), 403-410-1505 (TTY) or 403-297-4949 Fax.*