



# AERODYNAMICS

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## FIRST CLASS

### Florence Carter: Still Going Strong

By Susan Howe, Ontario Chapter

One of Canada's longest-standing active AER members is 88-year-old Florence Carter, who in 1951 joined the organization's forerunner, the American Association for Workers for the Blind. In 1984, AAWB amalgamated with the American Association for Instructors for the Blind to become the Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Florence Carter grew up just outside Moncton, New Brunswick, where she planned to become a teacher. Around the time of her high school graduation, however, she developed a brain abscess that resulted in vision loss. For a time, Florence harboured the false hope that she would regain her sight, and the doctor didn't refute that possibility. As a result, Florence refused the initial efforts of a CNIB Field Secretary to help her cope with her vision loss. When Florence finally did accept that her sight was gone, she promptly learned the skills necessary for independent living. It was then that someone suggested she become a teacher of the blind.

One of the first organized training programs in Canada, CNIB's nine-week training course in Toronto, provided Home Teacher certification. Participants had to be a woman, legally blind, high school graduate, and possess qualities suitable for teaching. After successfully completing the CNIB training, in 1947, Florence began

her career as a Home Teacher in the Maritime Provinces.

Florence travelled throughout the Maritimes, living out of a suitcase and often in her students' homes. She visited students for two to three weeks or longer, but never for more than three months. This allowed for intensive training in personal and home management, braille, Moon type (for those who had memory and sensitivity issues) typing, and crafts such as knitting, chair caning and basketry. Florence also taught mobility, which she says was hit and miss, since there were no established techniques at that time. To keep her students safe, she taught them caution and how to ask for assistance. Florence had one student who was an inmate at the Dorchester

Penitentiary in New Brunswick, whom she travelled once a week by bus to visit. She was never worried though, since there was always a guard standing by.

In 1951, the CNIB decided that all Canadian Home Teachers should become certified through the American Association of Workers for the Blind (AAWB), a forerunner of AER. This meant another trip to Toronto to take an exam, and it was there that Florence met her future husband, Babe.



Florence Carter & AER Executive Director Lou Tutt, Fall 2015

Florence moved to Toronto in 1953 where she continued teaching part-time for CNIB out of her home and later full-time in the Toronto area. She met with colleagues from across Canada every four years. This group became known as the Canadian Association for Home Teachers (CAHT), and they eventually became known as the Canadian Association of Rehabilitation Teachers (CART). Florence laughs because only one braille dot needed to be added to change the “H” to an “R”. During one of these meetings, she met Helen Keller, the speaker. For this reason, she was very glad to have learned the manual alphabet in her courses. She later attended the 1979 Oklahoma and 2002 Toronto Conferences.

Florence worked for CNIB until her retirement in 1992. But her professional story did not end there. She taught student teachers at Mohawk College, Brantford, Ontario, from 1991 until 2009. She also co-authored, with Rosie Zampese and Myra Rodrigues, the second Canadian Braille Teachers Manual. Today, Florence continues to volunteer with the New Beginnings program that she established, where newly blinded individuals meet for 10 sessions to learn about rehabilitation training, as well as the services, clubs and recreational opportunities available to them. There are many of these groups still in existence.

Florence received many awards during her career. Among them are the 1996 AER Vision Rehabilitation Therapy Division Recognition Award for contributions to the field of Rehabilitation Teaching, the 2010 AER Ontario Chapter’s Spirit Award, the CNIB Grace Worts Staff Service Award, the Queen’s Golden and Diamond Jubilee Awards, and the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award.

Vision loss prepared Florence for becoming one of the most outstanding teachers in this country. She set a fine example for her students and made a difference in many people’s lives. When she is asked why she continues her AER membership long after retirement, she answers that she still has a keen interest in the profession, which was “the love of my life.”

## **Kudos to Darlene Bogart!**

Adapted from CNIB.ca



Darlene Bogart

On November 20, 2015, the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) presented its Braille Excellence Award to Darlene Bogart, long-time international braille advocate and CNIB volunteer. Bogart is the longest-standing BANA Board member, serving as Canadian host at the founding meeting of the International Council on English Braille in 1991, remaining on the Council’s Executive as representative for the Canadian Braille Authority (now Braille Literacy Canada) through 2012, and playing an integral part in the development of Unified English Braille. She is also a past member of AER.

## BUSINESS CLASS

### Exclusive Education Offer for Canadians

AER is proud to offer a voucher (a \$55 U.S. value) for one FREE session on the AER Knowledge Center to Canadians who join AER or renew their membership between January 1 and December 31, 2016. This is a limited time offer. Once you join or renew at [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) (you must first register on the new AER website), the AER office will send you a voucher code. Contact [aer@aerbvi.org](mailto:aer@aerbvi.org) if you have questions.

To redeem your voucher:

- Go to the AER Knowledge Center at <http://aerbvi.sclivelearningcenter.com>.
- Log in or create an account.
- Hover over “My Account” and click “Redeem Voucher” (if the user has not logged in, they will be prompted to do so at this time).
- Enter the code and click “Redeem Voucher” – once it is accepted, click “View Content”.
- Select the black icon for “AERBVI – Complimentary Session”. – Important: your browser must allow pop-ups to move forward to the next step.
- Select exactly one session to redeem – this session will be added to the user’s “My Content” library.

### AER Members Save on Legal, ID Protection

The AER Member Insurance Program now features two new services. [LegalShield](#) provides access to a dedicated and experienced attorney network at a low monthly rate. Lawyers can help with personal legal issues, such as wills and trusts, traffic citations and civil claims. LegalShield is available to U.S. AER members and to Canadian members in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario. Visit [www.legalshield.com/info/tie](http://www.legalshield.com/info/tie) (select AER from the list of options) for more information or call 855-805-8916.

[IDShield](#), a companion plan, monitors your credit activity and helps restore your identity if defrauded. An industry-best \$5 million service guarantee makes certain that if your identity is stolen, it will be restored to its pre-theft status.

AER members receive a 20% discount off the regular rates for LegalShield and IDShield. Additional discounts apply when you purchase both plans. Learn more at [www.ftj.com/AER](http://www.ftj.com/AER), including 101 Reasons to Use LegalShield.

### Set Up Your Account on AER’s New Website

AER’s new website allows members access to their member record for address updates, renewal, and to access members only sections of the site for items such as *JVIB* and *AER Report*. Select Login at the top of [www.aerbvi.org](http://www.aerbvi.org) page and follow instructions to create your account.

#### Calendar of Events

May 5-7, 2016 – Seeing Beyond the Horizon 2016: [The Canadian Vision Teacher’s Conference](#), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

July 20-24, 2016 – [AER International Conference 2016](#), Jacksonville, Florida USA

Nov. 16-18, 2016 – Northeast AER Conference, South Portland, Maine USA

March 2-4, 2017 – AFB Leadership Conference, Arlington, Virginia USA

July 19-22, 2017 – AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA

July 25-29, 2018 – AER International Conference, Reno, Nevada USA

## **Thanks for the Memories: The 2016 AFB Leadership Conference**

By Carole Williams, O&M Specialist/Accessibility Consultant

It was a great honour for me to be nominated by AER to receive the Spungin Fellowship award to attend the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., March 3-5, 2016. In my opinion, there is no better opportunity to capture the spirit and dedication of our profession than to come face to face with inspirational leaders in the field. Such was the case at this event as administrators, educators and other professionals came together to share the latest research and developments in the field of blindness and visual impairment.

Anyone who had the privilege of sharing the same room during the presentation by and discussion with Carl Augusto, President and CEO of AFB, and Dr. Tuck Tinsley, President of the American Printing House for the Blind (APH), was provided with numerous personal perspectives and sage advice, based on these men's experiences as leaders in the field. In addition, the retirement party for Carl Augusto and the awards banquet showcased the dynamic character of individuals who make significant contributions to the profession.

For me, the greatest reward of attending this outstanding conference was the pleasure of reconnecting with dear friends and colleagues in the U.S., as well as collaborating and establishing new contacts. As a long-time, dedicated member of AER Ontario and proud representative from Canada, I extend a sincere thank you to AER for providing me with such a rich and memorable opportunity!

Editor's Note: For details about the Conference schedule, audio clips and more, visit <http://www.afb.org/default.aspx>.

## **ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES**

### **In Memoriam: Gordon Hope**

Adapted from the Ottawa Citizen, February 24, 2016

Surrounded by family and friends, Gordon Hope Ph.D. died peacefully in Kitchener, Ontario, on Saturday, February 20, 2016. The 61-year-old had been battling cancer.

A man of passion, Gord's many activities included being a proud member of the Board of Directors for Accessible Media Inc., Vice-President of the Human Service Providers affiliate of the American Council of the Blind, and guest speaker on Canada's blind consumer movement at Mohawk College's teacher training program in Brantford. On a more personal note, he was a Team Canada wrestler at the 1976 and 1984 Paralympics, and one of the first inductees into the Ontario Blind Sports Association Hall of Fame in 2013.

Gord loved life and had an unwavering Christian faith. He will be greatly missed.

# FLIGHT PATHS

## Words of Wisdom for New Grads

1. Enter each teaching situation with an open mind. Leave preconceived notions behind. For example, a certain eye diagnosis does not tell you what a student can or cannot see. Vision can be different in a functional setting from a clinical one. Ask the student what they can see and do.
2. To build trust and rapport, ask, share, listen and learn. Every student is unique with their own strengths and needs. Get to know them and what motivates them. Listen just as carefully to parents. Work with those in your student's circle.
3. Mix it up. Find out what your student likes and incorporate that somehow in lessons. Research creative and fun teaching strategies. Let your student be an active participant in their learning by allowing them to ask questions. This will help to increase interest and prevent boredom.
4. As trust grows, balance lessons with both success and challenge. Understand that sometimes repetition is necessary for learning. Wait until the student has learned or become comfortable with something before moving onto something different. Prioritize what they need to learn short- and long-term.
5. Ask for help. Your education and training will not cover every situation. We all have to problem-solve. Research and reaching out to colleagues are paramount.

# COAST TO COAST

## Braille Blast Off: Celebrating World Braille Day

By Natalie Martiniello, Secretary, Braille Literacy Canada

On January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Braille Literacy Canada (BLC) recognized World Braille Day by promoting celebrations across the country. A committee of braille users, transcribers and educators from various organizations steered these events, based on the theme "Braille Blast Off!" Not only did initiatives provide braille enthusiasts everywhere with an opportunity to celebrate the continued relevance of this communication system, but also to celebrate the significant step forward symbolized by the implementation of the Unified English Braille Code.



Press releases and promotional materials were distributed across Canadian schoolboards and media outlets. The "Braille Blast Off Rocket Contest" provided students with an opportunity to create their own "braille rockets". Winners will be announced soon on the BLC website, <http://www.brailleliteracycanada.ca/home>.

Tactile Vision Graphics generously produced special "Braille Blast Off!" braille bookmarks that were distributed during classroom presentations. Users, meantime, were invited to download



the Braille Blast Off logo from the BLC website to create their own t-shirts and merchandize to “wear their love for braille”!

Activity worksheets were developed to teach sighted and blind students alike about braille. In fact, several teachers have since invited braille students to talk to current and future classes about braille. In British Columbia, sighted students have contacted three nearby restaurants to have menus brailled.

In Newfoundland and Labrador, promotional material was forwarded to “Voice of the Common Man”, a radio station that serves the entire province. Elizabeth Mayo, a braille user, was invited for an interview with the radio station’s nightline host, and it was replayed several times throughout the month of January. In Regina, Saskatchewan, Ashley Nemeth was interviewed about the importance of braille, and in British Columbia eight-year-old Maggie Werle was interviewed by two television stations about how she uses braille in her daily life. These are but a few examples of the interviews featuring braille users that took place across Canada.

On January 9, BLC hosted a teleconference that generated enormous interest from over 60 adult braille users, including those learning or considering braille for the future. Based on the theme, “Braille in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, it featured a panel of braille users discussing braille from a number of perspectives. Jennifer Jesso, a teacher of the visually impaired (TVI), spoke about the use of braille as an individual with low vision; Marilyn Rushton, also a TVI, spoke about the continued relevance of braille in a technological age; Diana Brent, a braille technology expert, provided a fascinating history of braille technology; and I, Natalie Martiniello, a vision rehabilitation specialist, discussed the exciting future of braille technology--from affordable multi-line braille displays to smart braille watches.

We are especially excited about the initiatives that have been established due to the enthusiasm generated by World Braille Day this year. Blind Beginnings, a Canadian organization for blind children and youth, for instance, has just established a Braille Club, where children will have the opportunity to participate in braille-related activities.

Merci, Louis Braille!

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