



AERODYNAMICS

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IN THIS ISSUE

NOW BOARDING

1 - Honouring Canada's
Heritage, Sara Bennett, Editor

FIRST CLASS

1 - Quebec Student Wins 2016
AER Ferrell Scholarship

BUSINESS CLASS

- 2 - Braille Literacy Canada,
Natalie Martiniello
- 3 - CIVRC Registration Ends
March 14
- 3 - Seeing Beyond the Horizon
2018
- 3 - Calendar of Events
- 4 - AER International Services
& Global Issues Division, Kevin
McCormack
- 4 - Register for AER
International O&M Conference
2017
- 4 - Penn-Del AER Conference

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

5 - Celebrating White Cane
Week

FLIGHT PATHS

5 - Taking the 'Tax' Out of
Filing Taxes

THE JOURNEY

6 - Nova Scotia Educator
Enters Hall of Fame

NOW BOARDING

Honouring Canada's Heritage

By Sara Bennett, Editor

In honour of Canada's 150th birthday in 2017, this year's issues of AERODYNAMICS will highlight some of the individuals, organizations and events that have impacted, and will continue to impact, services for the blind and visually impaired across the country. Of course, it's not possible to include all the players or contributing factors, but it's hoped that just a sampling will showcase Canada's rich heritage and promising future in the education and rehabilitation of persons who are blind and visually impaired.

Please continue to share your ideas, news, events and achievements for inclusion in AERODYNAMICS. Email me at: <mailto:saralb@sympatico.ca>.

FIRST CLASS

Quebec Student Wins 2016 AER Ferrell Scholarship

Congratulations to Saint-Leonard, Quebec's Natalie Martiniello, winner of a 2016 AER Ferrell Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Martiniello, who is working towards her Ph.D. in Vision Science (Vision Rehabilitation Therapy) at the University of Montreal, says, "I have chosen to pursue doctoral studies with the goal of engaging in research that explores the factors that contribute to braille reading performance in older clients who learn braille later in life. It's my hope this will contribute to the development of new assessment and training protocols to support the success of adult and senior braille



Natalie Martiniello

learners. I also hope to someday teach within a university program that prepares future rehabilitation professionals. As a clinician who is congenitally blind, I feel (and hope) that my

first-hand experience and perspective will be of benefit to future professionals.” Martiniello adds, “I thank AER for selecting me as a scholarship recipient.”

AER’s Ferrell Scholarships are awarded to legally blind students pursuing careers in the area of services for persons with vision impairments. The next scholarships will be awarded in 2018. For further details, visit: <https://aerbvi.org/resources/aer-scholarships>.

BUSINESS CLASS

Braille Literacy Canada: Panel on Braille-Related Professions

By Natalie Martiniello, M.Sc., CVRT, Braille Literacy Canada Secretary

Braille Literacy Canada (BLC) is dedicated to the promotion of braille for those who are blind or visually impaired, and is comprised of braille producers, transcribers, educators, parents and braille users. BLC engages in research related to all aspects of braille, adopts and monitors standards for its production and teaching, and promotes braille through its quarterly newsletter, social media platforms and teleseminars.

In January 2017, BLC held a teleconference on braille-related professions, to address questions we often receive about how to become a braille proof-reader, teacher or transcriber. This panel presentation brought together three respected representatives who described different braille- and blindness-related career paths:

Dr. Cay Holbrook described the University of British Columbia’s Graduate programs in Teaching Students with Visual Impairments, which include both Masters and Ph.D. options. Students complete the two-year Masters program primarily by distance, but convene in Vancouver during summer sessions. Applicants to the Masters program should already have initial teacher certification. The program culminates with a research project (M.A. option) or the creation of a teaching portfolio (M.Ed. option). For more information, see: <http://ecps.educ.ubc.ca/special-education/graduate-concentrations/med-concentrations/blindness-and-visual-impairment>.

Darleen Bogart described CNIB’s braille proof-reader and transcriber courses, including the UEB (Unified English Braille) Transcriber’s Certification Course, which qualifies a person to transcribe English print materials into contracted braille. It consists of 22 lessons (and a final transcription assignment) completed through correspondence, and is available for both print and braille users. A free “Update to UEB” course is also available to those who already hold CNIB transcriber certification, and courses in technical standards, music braille and other codes are also available. For more details, see: <http://www.cnib.ca/en/living/braille/Pages/Braille-Courses.aspx>.

Dr. Olga Overbury described the University of Montreal’s Graduate programs in Visual Impairment and Rehabilitation. Previously available only in French, this updated two-year Masters program is now also offered in English in three streams: Vision Rehabilitation Therapy (of particular relevance to those interested in braille), Low Vision Therapy and Orientation and Mobility. Options to pursue Ph.D. studies also exist. Internships and field placements provide students with direct client experience, and students complete a research project at the end of the

Masters program. For more, see: <https://admission.umontreal.ca/en/programs/master-in-vision-sciences>.

It is clear that there are exciting opportunities to pursue braille and blindness professions within Canada! We thank the speakers for such an informative discussion, as well as all those who attended. You can visit the BLC website to learn about future teleseminars at <http://www.brailleliteracycanada.ca>, and follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Act Now: CIVRC Registration Ends March 14, 2017



Anne Riddering and Walter Wittich

Register today for the inaugural Canadian Interdisciplinary Vision Rehabilitation Conference (CIVRC), to be held March 25-26, 2017, at the University of Waterloo's School of Optometry and Vision Science in Ontario. Registration ends March 14!

Join optometrists, ophthalmologists, occupational and low vision therapists, vision resource teachers, and specialists in independent living skills, high technology assessment, orientation and mobility etc. for continuing education lectures and workshops. For the full schedule, list of presenters and bios of keynote speakers Walter Wittich, Joan Stelmack and Anne Riddering, plus information on accommodations, visit: <https://uwaterloo.ca/sight-enhancement/canadian-interdisciplinary-vision-rehabilitation-conference>.

Save the Date! Seeing Beyond the Horizon 2018 in Alberta

The next Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference, Seeing Beyond the Horizon 2018, will take place May 3-5, 2018, at the Fantasyland Hotel Conference Centre in West Edmonton Mall, Edmonton, Alberta. There will also be preconference workshops on May 2. The Excellence in Teaching Award and Distinguished Service Award will be presented during an evening event.

This Canadian event is for parents, educators and other professionals working with infants, children, teens and young adults who are blind, deaf-blind or partially sighted, including those with multiple disabilities. Do you have research, proven techniques or other information to share? The call for papers is now open until November 3, 2017. For more details, visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/2018cvtc>.

Calendar of Events

March 25-26, 2017 – [Canadian Interdisciplinary Vision Rehabilitation Conference](#), Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

April 24-25 – [Wisconsin AER Collaborative Vision Conference 2017](#), Stevens Point, Wisconsin USA

April 26-28 – [Penn-Del AER Conference](#), Harrisburg, Pennsylvania USA

July 19-22, 2017 – [AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference & Meeting 2017](#), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA

May 3-5, 2018 – [Seeing Beyond the Horizon 2018](#) (Canadian Vision Teachers' Conference), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

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

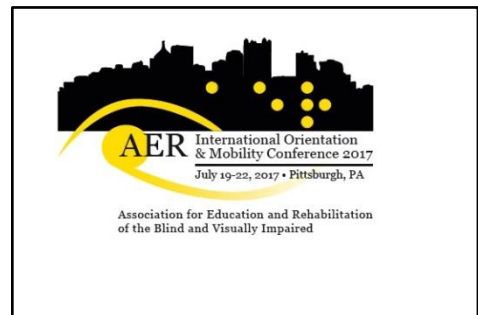
Introducing AER's International Services & Global Issues Division

By Kevin McCormack, Chair

The AER International Services & Global Issues Division is seeking members to engage in topics affecting the blind and visually impaired in all world regions. We seek to raise awareness of worldwide blindness issues and connect AER members to resources to help engage them in their world region of interest. We have an active Facebook page, are developing a listserv, and are planning a newsletter and water cooler events that give people with experience in a certain world region, such as Latin America, an opportunity to share their knowledge and to discuss ways forward. Whether you are curious or are already passionate about blindness issues worldwide, we need your participation and voice! For more information, visit <http://www.facebook.com/aerglobalissues/> or email <mailto:kevin3dmack@gmail.com>.

Registration Now Open! AER International O&M Conference & Meeting 2017

The AER International Orientation & Mobility Conference & Meeting 2017 will offer an unsurpassed opportunity to learn and network with the best of the best from around the world! The conference will be held July 19-22, 2017, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Early bird rates are in effect until April 14, so don't wait.



Close to 100 hours of programming is planned. View a list of accepted sessions ranging from transportation to guide dogs to apps online. To register, or for schedule updates, visit: <https://aerbvi.org/professional-development/conferences/aer-international-orientation-mobility-conference-2017>.

Fast Approaching! The Penn-Del AER Conference 2017

Why not travel south to the 2017 conference of AER's Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter, to be held April 26-28, at the Best Western Premier Central Hotel and Conference Center, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania? With three general sessions, 38 concurrent sessions, nine poster sessions, an awards banquet, silent auction and a handful of roundtables, the event promises to be jam packed with opportunities for learning, sharing and networking. Want more details?

The theme for this year's conference is "Building Bridges—Creating Connections." Denna Lambert, Program Manager, Goddard Information and Collaboration Center, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, will deliver the keynote address; Kirk Adams, President and CEO of the American Foundation for the Blind, will present the midnote address; and Nancy Lacewell, American Printing House for the Blind, and Representatives from the National Prison Braille Network, will deliver the footnote address.

For more information, visit: http://www.penn-delaer.org/PennDelAER/Professional_Conference.html.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Celebrating White Cane Week

From February 5-11, 2017, Canadians across the country celebrated White Cane Week. The event, established by the Canadian Council of the Blind (CCB) in 1946, celebrated its 70th anniversary last year but shows no sign of slowing down. It continues to be a vehicle through which blind people showcase their abilities, but also increase public awareness with respect to the challenges that living with impaired vision presents. This year was no different.

The CCB Penticton, British Columbia, Chapter attended a luncheon with city officials and the Mayor, as well as CNIB. In Ontario, the Pembroke Chapter set up displays in libraries and sent mail-outs to eye-care professionals. On February 4, CCB's Toronto Visionaries Chapter, at CNIB Toronto and with the sponsorship of Accessible Media Inc., hosted the WCW "Experience" Expo, where "exhibitors" shared their experience with, and solutions to, vision impairment. Visitors could try out Blind Square with a smart phone, tandem cycling with Trailblazers Tandem Cycling, putting with Ontario Visually Impaired Golfers, cooking techniques, screen readers etc. A social followed the day-long event.

What about in Atlantic Canada? In Nova Scotia, CCB Chapters spoke at local schools and at Dalhousie University; in New Brunswick, the Restigouche Club held a Smelt fry; and in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island, CCB Chapters participated in bowling, darts and cribbage.

Meanwhile, CCB members from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario (Toronto), Nova Scotia and defending Team Canada (Ontario—Kitchener-Waterloo) gathered in Ottawa for the week-long Canadian Vision Impaired Curling Championship—with British Columbia coming out on top.

White Cane Week may have come and gone for another year, but it's clear that it's here to stay!

FLIGHT PATHS

Taking the "Tax" Out of Filing Taxes

Do you have any clients who would like to resume filing their taxes independently after vision loss? Perhaps a client who would like to start doing so? It need not be so taxing!

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) provides forms and publications in accessible formats including on its website, in digital audio, electronic text, braille and large print on request. CRA also provides personalized correspondence, such as Notices of Assessment, in accessible formats. For further details, visit http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/formspubs/hlp/bt_mltp1-eng.html or call 1-800-959-8281.

Or perhaps you have a client with a modest income (on social assistance or receiving disability benefits, for example) and a simple tax situation who would like help completing their tax

return? They might be eligible for assistance from a community volunteer tax-preparation clinic. For details, see: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/vlntr/nd-eng.html>.

THE JOURNEY

Nova Scotia Educator Enters Leaders & Legends Hall of Fame

Windsor, Nova Scotia's Sir Charles Frederick Fraser (1850-1925) was inducted into the Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field Hall of Fame in 2016. The Hall of Fame, curated by the American Printing House for the Blind, honours individuals dedicated to excellence in services for persons who are blind and visually impaired. During his lifetime, in fact, Fraser received three honorary degrees, provincial and local recognition, as well as a knighthood in 1915. What took place in his life's journey to garner such accolades?

Blind himself from childhood, Fraser believed that persons with impaired vision should be independent and active members of society. After attending school in his hometown and then at the Perkins Asylum near Boston, he returned to Nova Scotia to become the first Superintendent of the Halifax Asylum for the Blind in 1873. At the time, the asylum had less than ten students; by the time he retired 50 years later, there were about 120 students per year. Plus, the Halifax Asylum had metamorphosed from a charitable institution to a bona fide educational facility--the Halifax School for the Blind.

Fraser provided a comprehensive curriculum, including academic subjects, mobility training, employment-related skills, music lessons and recreational activities; hired teachers who were blind; taught a range of subjects himself; gave public lectures on the education of the blind and engaged in fundraising for the school. And Charles Frederick Fraser's tireless efforts paid off. He is credited with securing free education for blind students, establishing the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, and persuading the Post Office of Canada to deliver braille materials free of charge--all by the end of the 1880s--and much more. He was a true trailblazer in both Atlantic Canada and in Canada as a whole.

For a much more detailed biographical sketch of Sir Charles Frederick Fraser, written by P. Ann MacCuspie, see: <https://www.aph.org/hall/inductees/fraser>.

AERODYNAMICS, the AER Canada Newsletter, is published four times per year—in March, June, September and December. Please send all items for publication to the Editor at saralb@sympatico.ca by February 25 for the March issue, May 25 for the June issue, August 25 for the September issue, and November 25 for the December issue.

Views herein represent those of the authors and not necessarily those of AER, its Board of Directors, staff, members or Editor. Likewise, any products or services mentioned do not necessarily represent endorsement.

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