



AERODYNAMICS

The AER Canada Newsletter

A publication of the Association for Education and
Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

December 2020

Volume 6, Number 4

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NOW BOARDING

On Adaptations in 2020

By Sara Bennett, Editor

As this year comes to a close, I was reflecting on all the changes that individuals, organizations and society as a whole have made because of COVID-19, not to mention the skills needed to make those changes. They say that adaptation is necessary for survival. Adaptation is already an integral part of blind and visually impaired people's daily lives. It has to be. As it is a part of the lives of the professionals who work with them. When plan A doesn't work, you try plan B and maybe even plan C. That's all part of being flexible and a creative problem solver. That is all part of finding and implementing a solution. But what happens when the available solutions are not accessible, affordable or, worse still, applicable to people with visual impairments? That is when it's necessary to speak up, such as in surveys, consultations and the like because as we all know, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease."

For now, I want to take this opportunity to honour everyone who has adapted, solved a problem or spoken up in 2020—be they professionals or clients/students--in the name of providing accessible, affordable and/or equitable services for people who are blind and visually impaired. Keep looking for that appropriate solution and, above all, keep squeaking!

Please send all items for the March 2021 issue of

AERODYNAMICS in by February 25, 2021. Email me at: <mailto:saralb@sympatico.ca>

FIRST CLASS

Congratulations to Three Canadians

Congratulations to Dr. Ann MacCusprie, Paul Thiele and Dr. Cay Holbrook, who were recognized in 2020 for their contributions to the field of blindness and visual impairment.

- Nova Scotia’s Ann MacCuspie was one of this year’s inductees into the Hall of Fame for Leaders and Legends of the Blindness Field, curated by the American Printing House for the Blind (APH). MacCuspie began her career as a teacher at the Halifax School for the Blind and later became Director of Programs and Services at the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority. Her groundbreaking book, “Promoting Acceptance of Children with Disabilities: From Tolerance to Inclusion”, has been used as a text in university classes for educators of blind children. What’s more, MacCuspie was integral to the establishment of the personnel preparation program at Halifax’s Mount Saint Vincent University. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held at APH’s Annual Meeting in October 2020.
- Earlier this year, the University of British Columbia (UBC) recognized Paul Thiele with an honorary degree. Even though there were few university resources to assist him when he was a student, Thiele overcame barriers associated with his visual impairment and completed his Bachelor of Arts degree in Comparative Literature at UBC. Thereafter, he became co-founder, architect and head of UBC’s Crane Library, an invaluable resource centre for visually impaired students for over 50 years. Once retired, he served as a member of the Board of CNIB, while his experience with visual impairment has helped to shape legislation and inform library management across Canada.
- Also, in 2020, Cay Holbrook received the President’s Award from Braille Literacy Canada (BLC). Holbrook began her career as a teacher of the visually impaired in South Carolina and then transitioned to the education of future teachers at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Arkansas. Since 1998, Holbrook has been with the University of British Columbia, first as Associate Professor in Special Education and then leading the Masters of Education (Blindness and Visual Impairment Concentration) move to a distance and on-campus model, allowing many more students to pursue the field from their home regions. Holbrook served on the BLC Board for many years during which time she spearheaded numerous initiatives. She was also involved in the development and implementation of Unified English Braille in Canada. To learn more, visit: <http://www.brailleliteracycanada.ca/view.asp?ccid=394>

Once again, congratulations to all.

BUSINESS CLASS

Register Now for SOMA and IOMOS Online Conferences!

- Act now! The Southeastern Orientation & Mobility Association’s (SOMA) live online conference is only days away. It will take place from December 14-15, 2020, with a reception/social on December 13, 2020. You can earn up to 15 hours of continuing education credit from the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP). Sessions will include: GPS Navigation Apps—Explore the Features; Support Canes: Where Do You Stand?; Validating Standards, Yes, It’s Possible: O&M Career, College and Community Readiness Standards; Virtualizing Summer Camp; and a roundtable discussion titled How Has COVID-19 Changed Your O&M Practices? And don’t miss Using a Murder Mystery Game to Enhance O&M Skills and Curbing

Loneliness Through O&M. For your convenience, several sessions will be repeated during the conference. For further details or to register, visit:

<https://somaconference.org/index.html>

- Registration closes January 28, 2021, for the International Orientation & Mobility Online Symposium, to be held February 3-5, 2021. Get a global perspective on current O&M strategies and gain continuing education units from ACVREP! Session titles include: O&M for Visually Impaired Wheelchair Users; Orientation and Mobility in the Early Years: Developmental Considerations; How Can Solo Long Cane Travel Be Achieved in a Rural Setting?; Teaching Independence and Mobility with Microsoft Soundscape; “All About the Roundabout; and An International Resource Hub: AER’s Global Issues Division. Live presentations and playback options will be available. For more details or to register, visit:
<https://orientationandmobilitysymposium.com/>

Call for Papers: NE/AER 2021 Conference

“Mystical Connections”, the 2020 Northeast AER Chapter Conference, has been tentatively rescheduled for November 3-5, 2021, at the Hilton in beautiful Mystic, Connecticut. The committee has some exciting activities planned as well as informative sessions. If you are interested in submitting a session proposal, we are accepting them until Spring 2021.

The Call for Papers, as well as contact details, can be found at:

<https://www.nercve.org/ne/aer-2020-conference>

If you live or work in Quebec or Atlantic Canada, we’ll see you there!

Save the Date: Vision 2020+1

Vision 2020+1, the 13th International Conference of the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation (ISLRR), originally scheduled for July 2020, has been rescheduled for Sunday, July 11 to Thursday, July 15, 2021. Hosted in Dublin by the Vision Impaired Service Provider’s Alliance (<http://www.vispa.ie>), the conference will take place at the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) in Ireland. Leading practitioners in Low Vision Research, Rehabilitation and Vision Impairment will meet to share current thinking and introduce future thinking to achieve best practice for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation throughout the world.

Calendar of Events

December 14-15, 2020 Southeastern Orientation & Mobility Association Online Conference

February 3-5, 2021 -- International Orientation & Mobility Online Symposium

April 14-16, 2021 – American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference (AFBLC), Arlington, Virginia, USA

July 11-15, 2021 -- 13th International Conference of the International Society for Low Vision Research & Rehabilitation (ISLRR), Dublin, Ireland

November 3-5, 2021 -- Mystical Connections NE/AER Chapter Conference, Mystic, Connecticut, USA

July 20-24, 2022 – “Gateway to Community” AER Biennial International Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, USA

The conference theme is Imagining the Impossible. The program will reflect and celebrate achievement; present what's possible now and explore future possibilities; and consider how to make impossible dreams a reality. Keynote presentations by an international panel of experts, including Prof. Pearse Keane (Moorfields Eye Hospital, London), Prof. Jane Farrar (Trinity College Dublin), Prof. Rupert Bourne (Cambridge University Hospital) and Prof. Joseph Rizzo (Harvard Medical School), and informed panel discussions will challenge and stimulate over a three day program, culminating in optional site visits to host associations National Council for the Blind Ireland, ChildVision, Fighting Blindness and Irish Guide Dogs on July 15.

Complementing the Scientific program will be an industry exhibition showcasing the latest products and services in the Low Vision sector. Vision 2020+1 also offers attendees a social and cultural opportunity to visit Dublin, a small capital city with a huge reputation for the warmest of welcomes!

So, if you are Low Vision Team practitioners including ophthalmologists, optometrists, vision therapists, rehabilitation specialists, occupational therapists, teachers and individuals with a visual impairment, don't miss Vision 2020+1!

For more details, visit: www.vision2020dublin.com

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

CVI Now

Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) occurs when the visual pathways or the visual processing areas of the brain are damaged. It is the new leading cause of blindness for children in the United States. Recently, the Perkins School for the Blind noticed that parents of children with CVI were asking for more information about CVI, as well as for strategies to help their students at home. For this reason, Perkins launched the website: <https://www.perkins.org/cvi-now>, and a Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CVINow/>, solely for parents of students with CVI to connect, share stories and find reliable information about CVI. Please take advantage of this valuable resource!

Identifying and Labelling Everything

Recognizing the Items in Your Life

By Judy Dixon

In braille (1 vol.), BRF, DAISY or Word: \$12.00 USD and up

In this completely rewritten version of her 2008 classic Label It! Judy Dixon brings you up to speed on the revolution in identification and labelling methods ushered in by the advent of smartphones and related technology. Coverage includes technologies for identification; choosing your own labelling strategy; audio and braille identification with iPhones and other stand-alone devices; tactile label-producing tools and materials; labelling methodologies for clothing, accessories, medications, food containers and appliances; and brief app tours.

[Read the Table of Contents!](#)

Order any book from National Braille Press at: <https://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/publications/index.html>

ALL SYSTEMS GO

Updated HumanWare Buddy App

Discover a brand new set of features:

Bring in your buddies and learn through organized and rewarding lesson plans!

Use predefined search filters that make exploring topics easier than ever!

Take your learning and teaching resources everywhere: Share, print or emboss from the app in a single click! To learn more about these enhancements, [watch our snapshot video now!](#)

Discover the new “My buddies” section on your dashboard:

With “My buddies”, you can now add student profiles to monitor their learning progress. Pick predefined lessons that combine guides, sorted by beginner to advanced level or create custom lessons with a selection of available guides. Monitor your buddies’ learning progress and keep an eye on the finish line! Get an official HumanWare Buddy Certificate of Achievement when a lesson is completed!

Revisit two improved key sections to navigate to: Build up your knowledge by using HumanWare’s how-to guides. Save them in your favourites or set guides as completed when done reading them.

Additionally, you can now share by email and text message, print or emboss directly from the app with new button options available on how-to guides!

Get the most out of your research! You can now select predefined search filters to specify the product category in which you are searching.

[Click to download from Google Play.](#)

[Click to download from the App Store.](#)

COAST TO COAST TO COAST

New Study Shows Costs of IRDs

Every year, the cost of inherited retinal diseases (IRDs) in Canada is \$1.6 billion, a cost largely borne by affected individuals and their families. IRDs, including retinitis pigmentosa, rod-cone dystrophy and Stargardt disease, represent a diverse group of diseases that can lead to severe vision loss and blindness. They are often progressive and degenerative and are caused by mutations in one or more of over 250 genes. Individuals with an IRD, their families and health-care providers understand the impact on well-being and mental health, as well as the financial cost of living with an IRD. However, the lack of data in this area has been a barrier to the development of treatments, implementation of clinical trials and delivery of appropriate clinical care. This is why Fighting Blindness Canada helped commission the IRD COUNTS study, released on World Sight Day (October 8, 2020), which brings to light the hidden costs of

having an IRD and makes clear that the true impact is not being considered fully by the government as it makes decisions about health-care spending. [Click here to read more.](#)

New Report Reveals Value of Ophthalmology

Ottawa, October 8, 2020—Nearly one in six Canadians are living with one of the four major eye diseases—age-related macular degeneration, cataracts, diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma--and are at serious risk of losing their vision, yet vision loss can be treated or even prevented in 75% of cases. Now, the Conference Board of Canada reveals in a new report that treating vision loss is projected to save \$1.6 billion in direct health-care costs in 2020, a number that's expected to reach \$4 billion by 2040.

The report, which examined the value of ophthalmology from a health outcome, health-care efficiency, and societal/economic perspective, shows the large economic impact on health-care systems, society and individuals. According to the study, an estimated 263,400 individuals will have improved vision in 2020 through ophthalmic interventions. By treating vision loss, approximately 82,500 negative medical outcomes will be avoided, including injuries or other associated health-care needs such as falls, hip fractures, depression, anxiety, admission into long-term care, and use of home care or caregiver services. [Click here to read more.](#)

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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