



AERODYNAMICS

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NOW BOARDING

Life Lessons

By Sara Bennett, Editor

One of the reasons I like this time of year is it's still the beginning of baseball season and both hockey and basketball are entering the closing rounds of the playoffs. I enjoy the competition, but I also enjoy seeing how athletes handle certain situations--teamwork, how athletes deal with success and failure, how characters are shaped and more. And these are applicable to veterans as well as rookies. They're also applicable to life in general. The psychology of sports fascinates me—I'm sorry I never took that course in university!

The submission deadline for the September issue of AERODYNAMICS is August 25, 2022. Email me at: saralb@sympatico.ca

FIRST CLASS

Advocates Raise Awareness About Deafblindness

Toronto, ON (June 1, 2022)—National Deafblind Awareness Month in June is being celebrated with the lighting of landmarks in blue, proclamations, “yarn bombing” of community structures and inclusion on Canada’s National Occupational Classification (NOC) system. Individuals who are deafblind, as well as advocacy and service groups, are joining together to draw attention to the importance of Intervenor Services, particularly as they are not equitably accessible across Canada.

Intervenors provide a person who is deafblind with accurate information in an appropriate manner to enable them to make choices, plan future actions, communicate successfully, navigate their environment and achieve as much independence as possible. Deafblindness is a combination of hearing and vision loss. Over 1% of Canada's population or approximately 466,420 people are deafblind.

Yarn bombing, a form of tactile street art that involves attaching crocheted and knitted yarn squares and applying them to structures in communities across Canada, symbolizes the coming together of individuals who are deafblind with their communities as part of a fun, creative display that is also part of a wider global awareness initiative.

Kingston, Ontario, resident and National Deafblind Awareness Month (NDBAM) working group co-chair Penny Leclair was born blind and slowly lost her hearing as she got older. She became deafblind in her 30s. She uses the six hours of provincially funded intervenor support she receives weekly to help her carry out daily activities, such as going shopping, swimming or simply crossing a busy street with greater independence.

"So often people assume the person who is with me is just a friend. But recognizing they are an intervenor with specific skills and responsibilities is meaningful to me," Leclair said.

"I value everything about what intervenors do, but mostly it is the idea that I will be able to communicate at any time when I'm with them. So it doesn't matter what happens in the environment, how noisy it gets—I'm totally safe, I'm totally able to communicate," Leclair said.

"I'd love to live in B.C. again with my family. I tried to do that two years ago, and it just didn't work because I didn't have Intervenor Services. I was totally dependent on family, and although family loves me, they're not there to provide for my needs, so I moved back to Ontario," she said.

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) and Statistics Canada released the new NOC code, 42203 in September 2021. The NOC codes system describes occupations and now includes "intervenor" and "deafblind intervenor" roles in their database.

"This new code will support greater awareness about professional intervenors and serve to reinforce the value of the role. It will also offer an opportunity for more students, job seekers, people investigating a second career choice and new Canadians to learn about this unique and rewarding career option," said Karen Madho, the other co-chair of the National Deafblind Awareness Month (NDBAM) working group.

"I feel better understood with Canada having this specific code for intervenor jobs or support people," said Leclair.

National Deafblind Awareness Month was proclaimed in 2015 by the Senate. It is recognized in June because it is the birth month of the late Helen Keller, an author, disability rights advocate and one of the most internationally recognized individuals who are deafblind.

[Visit the Canadian Helen Keller Centre site for further details.](#)

BUSINESS CLASS

Extra! Extra! AER News

- Have you heard? Registration is open for the 2022 AER International Conference, July 20-24, 2022, at the Union Station Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, but early-bird rates end June 19. Also the discounted hotel room block is selling out fast. Once it's gone, it's gone, so act soon!

Now for the goodies. Symposium Day, July 20, will be filled with six “full-day sessions” from which you can choose. Then there will be 3.5 days of educational breakout sessions. Each morning will start with a fun-filled Division Cluster Breakfast Meeting, which all are welcome to attend. The fun and learning continue from there.

You can view the conference schedule, get updates on COVID policies, register for the conference or book a hotel room from the conference website. [Click here for more information.](#)

- The New RE:view—A Journal of Practice (TNR) is intended for professionals, people with visual impairments, their families, and anyone who works with them. It follows in the footsteps of the historic journal RE:view, which was discontinued in 2008. In its new incarnation, this peer-reviewed journal will become a dynamic professional resource that will address key questions of our work.

The New RE:view will offer opportunities for learning and problem solving among professionals. This journal of practice will highlight the work of practicing professionals and university educators who can offer their experiences to others seeking solutions for learning challenges. Although The New RE:view is not specifically a research journal, articles considered for publication must demonstrate evidence that supports the author's work.

If you have good ideas for learning but have never put them into writing, this is the time and the place! An Associate Editor working with reviewers from the field will provide feedback to ensure that your writing is effective. If your work is accepted for publication, the TNR editorial team will work with you in making your message clear.

We have initiated a Call for Papers so start now thinking of practices and topics you could—and should—share with your colleagues. Perhaps you already have a manuscript or an idea that you would like to submit. TNR is eager to hear from you! [Click here to learn more.](#)

- Remember that AER has implemented discounted membership dues for Canadian members. Now, when you renew your AER membership, you will automatically be directed to the reduced rates in our online renewal system. Visit us [here to log in and renew online](#). If you prefer to renew with the membership form, simply complete the special [Canadian Membership Form](#) and return it to us at memberservices@aerbvi.org or mail to: AER, 5680 King Centre Drive, Suite 600, Alexandria, VA 22315 USA.

Calendar of Events

June 26-28, 2022 – [CVI: Collaboration for Change, Perkins School for the Blind](#), Boston, Massachusetts, USA

July 5-8, 2022 -- [Imagining the Impossible 13th International Low Vision Conference by the International Society for Low Vision Research & Rehabilitation \(ISLRR\)](#), Dublin, Ireland

July 20-24, 2022 – [Gateway to Community AER International Conference](#), St. Louis, Missouri, USA

January 25-27, 2023 -- [International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium \(IOMOS\)](#)

BLC's 2022 Virtual Braille Symposium

Register now for Braille Literacy Canada's (BLC) second annual virtual braille symposium, to be held on June 17th, 2022, from 1-5 PM EDT. This event will be of interest to braille readers, educators, transcribers, parents, producers and anyone else with a passion for braille literacy! Registration closes on June 15, 2022.

The Symposium Schedule is as follows:

- 1 PM EDT: Revitalizing Braille Through a Grass Roots Community
Presented by Matthew Horspool and Dave Williams, Braillists Foundation
- 2 PM EDT: Hadley's Braille for Everyday Use
Presented by Douglas Walker and Dr. Kim Walker, Hadley
- 3 PM EDT: What Is the Science of Reading and What Does It Teach Us About Braille Contractions?
Presented by Dr. Robert Englebretson, Rice University
- 4 PM EDT: Walking Through Paths to Literacy for All Things Braille

Presented by Kate Borg, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

[Click here](#) for registration details or for further information about workshops, presenters and sponsors.

Register Now for CVI: Collaboration for Change

Cortical/Cerebral Visual Impairment (CVI) isn't new, but it is misunderstood and under-diagnosed. And the best way to develop a better common understanding of brain-based visual impairment is to come together as a community to exchange expertise, share lived experiences and build long-lasting connections. That's why, from June 26-28, 2022, the Perkins School for the Blind is hosting the

[CVI: Collaboration for Change Conference](#) in Boston, Massachusetts, an important opportunity for families, educators and medical professionals to collaborate—and the first in-person gathering for the CVI community in quite a while.

Our roster of [speakers](#) and [sessions](#) is a truly impressive collection of experts and ideas at the cutting edge of CVI--right now and in the future. To learn more about the conference, [visit our website](#). And if you're ready to join us for this critical conversation, don't wait. [Register now](#).

In-person and virtual tickets are available. Virtual tickets provide access to recorded sessions after the event and do not include in-person attendance. Scholarships may be available to families and individuals with CVI.

Connecting the Dots Is Back...In a New Format!

Connecting the Dots is Canada's largest educational and professional development conference focused on education, technology and employment for people who are blind or partially sighted.

New for 2022—we're going hybrid! We are so excited to offer a hybrid experience for Connecting the Dots, so we can connect online and in person.

Save these dates:

- Connecting the Dots, Montreal—In-Person Exhibit Hall, Sessions & Networking
Date: Thursday, October 13
- Connecting the Dots, Virtual—French language Conference
Date: Tuesday, October 18
- Connecting the Dots, Toronto—In-Person Exhibit Hall & Networking
Date: Thursday, October 20
- Connecting the Dots, Virtual—English language Conference

Date: Tuesday, October 25

- Connecting the Dots, Calgary–In-Person Exhibit Hall & Networking
Date: Thursday, October 27

Registration opens in June. Event details are regularly updated at cnib.ca/connectingthedots.

Call for Papers:

Have an idea for a Connecting the Dots session, product demo or keynote presentation? Submit a proposal! All proposals must be received by July 7, 2022. [Click here for the submission form and for contact details](#).

Vision 2022: Imagining the Impossible

The 13th International Conference of the International Society for Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation

July 5-8, 2022, The Convention Centre Dublin–Ireland

Hosted by: VISPA (Vision Impaired Service Provider's Alliance)

Message from VISPA Chair:

Dear Colleagues,

As COVID-19 restrictions lift in Ireland, I'm delighted to say that our plans to meet together for Vision 2022 are in full swing with a wonderful program of events planned for 5th – 8th July 2022 in Dublin. Our aim has always been to host an in-person conference to allow the Low Vision Research and Rehabilitation community to gather safely in Dublin and this remains our mission. However, we are aware that the pandemic is still part of our lives and that some friends may not be able to join us due to travel restrictions. For those, we have added the option of presenting at and registering for our Digital Day. The organization of this conference has been like no other and we truly appreciate the support, understanding and patience that has been shown by you all.

We are striving to deliver quality content through our wonderful keynote speakers, oral presentations, workshops, posters and panel sessions in both our world-class conferencing centre and through our Digital Day program. We cannot wait to welcome you to Dublin in July and offer our famous Irish hospitality to our international friends.

Brian Allen,
Chair, VISPA

For further details, or to register, visit: <http://www.vision2022dublin.com>

Call for Papers: IOMOS 2023

The Call for Papers for the International Orientation and Mobility Online Symposium, to be held January 25-27, 2023, is now open and accepting proposals until September 9, 2022.

And for those who might not normally apply to present at conferences, the website states: “Our mission is to showcase diverse perspectives to create a better educational experience for all of our learners. Are you a part of the BIPOC or LGBTQ+ community? Are you outside of the United States?”

“We are especially eager to learn from your perspective. We are happy to provide the support you need to help make our educational systems and resources better with the least amount of stress on you.

“For those who are non-English speakers, we can provide interpreters for your session. If enough people register who need your language, we are also happy to provide interpretation services for the entire conference.”

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL.](#)

COAST TO COAST TO COAST

RBC Partners with CNIB Frontier Accessibility

Toronto, ON (May 19, 2022)—RBC has partnered with [CNIB Frontier Accessibility](#) to offer BlindSquare, the world’s most widely used accessible GPS app developed for people who are blind or partially sighted, at more than 305 RBC branches across Canada. This customized integration by CNIB Frontier Accessibility will provide a new level of access for all users. Paired with third-party navigation apps, BlindSquare’s self-voicing technology delivers detailed points of interest and intersections for safe, reliable travel at the branches—both inside and outside.

“RBC is always exploring ways to support and enhance our clients’ experience and support their needs. The opportunity to partner with CNIB and install BlindSquare in key locations throughout the network was an easy decision,” said Rasha Khayat Angel, VP, Physical Network Strategy with RBC. “We are proud to be partnering with CNIB to help to improve the lives of people in our communities.”

The installation provides free access to the BlindSquare EVENT app, which allows people with sight loss to explore their surroundings independently, safely, and with confidence. In conjunction with physical beacons, the app will provide audible information about the RBC branch and its facilities as the user approaches.

“This partnership is important, as it enables us to break down barriers by bringing accessible wayfinding solutions to our communities,” says David Demers, President, CNIB Frontier Accessibility. “Through this initiative, RBC is demonstrating its commitment to creating a Canada where everyone can live, work, and play.”

CNIB and RBC have had a long-standing history of collaboration to support a vision of a more inclusive and accessible Canada. From local initiatives to providing funding for national offerings such as Come to Work, a program that connects employers with talent living with sight loss, RBC has supported CNIB for more than 20 years.

BlindSquare EVENT is available for download on the [App Store](#).

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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