

Canadian Deafblind Association

BC – Chapter

The Canadian Deafblind Association

The CDBA National was formed in 1975 by parents of children with deafblindness who were attending the W. Ross Macdonald School for Students who are Blind and Deafblind in Brantford, Ontario.

Initially, the CDBA was an advocacy organization representing a small group of children born with deafblindness largely from

the congenital rubella epidemic. Its mission has been expanded from advocacy to include service provision, awareness, public education and research. The CDBA is inclusive and represents all Canadians with deafblindness. Many adults and children who are deafblind remain isolated and underserved in Canada. This causes a ripple

effect that puts their health and safety at risk, puts tremendous strain on their families and ultimately our communities.

The CDBA continues to broaden our outreach and education efforts to ensure that those who are deafblind and most vulnerable in Canada receive basic services that ensure their well-being.

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The logo for the National Canadian Deafblind Association as compared to our Provincial logo.



A Summer of Fun!

With summer drawing to a close, all we can do is look back on the experiences and the great memories that were made.



The CDBA-BC Chapter offers Intervention hours during the summer to further support families by means of a Summer Recreational Program (SRP).

The SRP has been running since 2007 and provides opportunities for our members to explore new activities and develop social relationships with other

children and youth who are deafblind. Some of the activities include Science World, the Vancouver Aquarium, Maplewood Farm, days at the park and time spent at the beach.

Not only does it support the children and their families, but it also offers support for Intervenors by giving them the opportunity to learn



more about Intervention and connect with others. The only thing left to do is look forward to next year's events which will be in our calendar set to be sent out next summer! We are all looking forward to seeing you at our activities next summer!

The Vancouver Aquarium



In the peak of summer, we took a trip to Stanley Park and spent the morning and part of the afternoon surrounded by the wonders of the sea! From observing the otters, to watching the sea lion show, everyone had an amazing time!

We started the day at the main aquarium and then made our way over to the Aqua Quest Learning Center! The kids and adults alike enjoyed the wet lab and had the ability to touch creatures like sea stars, crabs, sea cucumbers, and sea polyps. The Wet Lab programs are

a great way to engage groups, inspire curiosity and instill a sense of respect for all ocean life and its environment!

Being able to touch them gave the kids a chance to interact with animals that they would normally not have the chance to. Also, it let them see and feel different textures, temperatures, colours and shapes. It is a hands-on experience where kids learn about tidal pool sea animals from BC waters and gained a first-hand insight into the workings of marine life.



Maplewood Farm



Armed with bird seed on what turned out to be a “cool” summer day, our brave explorers ventured to Maplewood Farm. The farm is the last remaining one on the North Shore and is home to over 200 birds and animals. They may not have had lions and tigers and bears, but they had much more! They had goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, roosters, cows, peacocks, rabbits, pigs, donkeys and horses!

The kids loved getting up close with the goats in the petting area and had a great time feeding the ducks and rabbits in their pens.

After stopping for a spot of lunch in a picnic area, our group went in two different directions - some went to the milking demonstration, while the rest went to expel extra energy at the on-site playground. The milking demonstration in the barn featured a Jersey Cow named Lima. The farm hand explained all the techniques he used, as well as the reason why he chose to use them.

All in all, it was a fun and educational day for everyone, and I know that all the attendees will be looking forward to the next time we visit Maplewood Farm.



Bear Creek Park



To try and beat the heat, we headed to Bear Creek Park and started our day by relaxing in the shade. It was the perfect refuge from the summer sun, and was right by Bear Creek's spray park. While the kids' families and Intervenor caught up with one another, the kids enjoyed playing with bubbles and got to know each other.

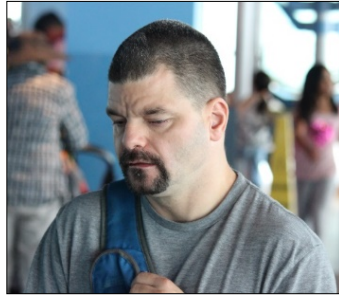
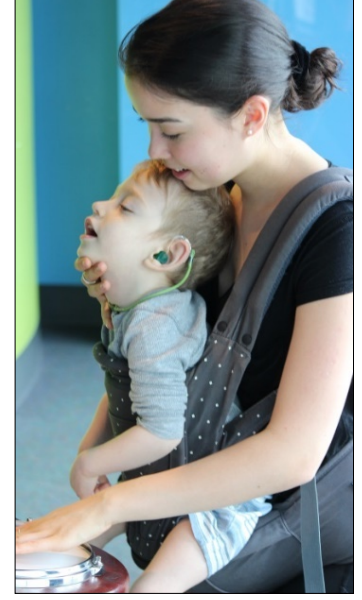
As time went on, we made our way towards the Bear Creek Train named Eddy. Eddy is an English mining diesel that was brought to BC from across the Atlantic and often reminds people of Thomas the Engine. Eddy

takes his passengers through the park for a 10-minute ride, and gives them the opportunity to "toot" his horn after returning to the station. Everyone loved seeing the staged areas and the glow-in-the-dark tunnel that was along Eddy's route.

Once the train ride was over, some members of the CDBA took on the cool waters of the spray park. Some ran through, but some took their time and splashed around the shallow pools. All in all, it was a wonderful day that brought relief from the heat, and everyone left with great memories.



Science World

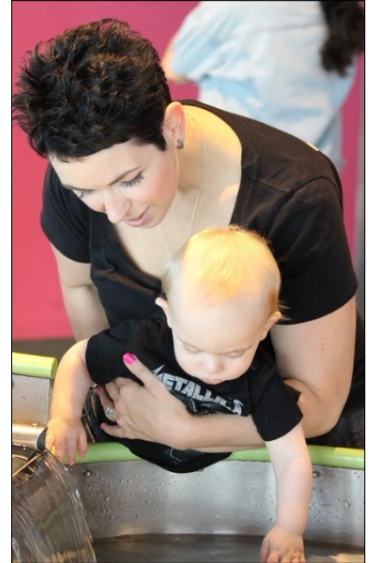


With a quest for knowledge, our members went to Science World in Vancouver. Science World's mission is to "ignite wonder and empower dreams through science and nature", and that is exactly what they did.

Everyone enjoyed being surrounded with optical illusions, dinosaur fossils, models of the human body and hands-on activities. All participants had a great time trying the different experiments that were set up all over the building. Some of these experiments involved fulcrums, gravity, different sights and sound, textures, etc.

Surrounded by friendly and knowledgeable staff, our explorers roamed the hallways, learning as they went. There were live demonstrations, exhibits, videos, and some animals – all of which helped everyone learn and created a very memorable and fun experience for everyone.

It was a great way to engage the children, as well as all the adults who attended this event. By the time we left, every member was filled with a sense of awe and accomplishment.



Galaxy Bowling



We had a terrific turnout for Bowling in Abbotsford! Hearing the chatter, cheers, balls rolling and pins falling was a true delight! The smiles on the faces, high-fives and applause that emanated throughout the bowling alley were shared by all.

To see the looks of concentration and focus and hear the ‘grunts’ as the balls were sent down the alleyway was rewarding, to say the least. There was some ingenuity as well! We had participants bowling

backwards, through their legs, in groups of 2 or 3 - the creativity was inspiring!

This activity is one that offers accomplishment to all who partake and is a fantastic opportunity for socializing and networking with other families. It gives everyone a chance to sit and chat in a casual, although somewhat boisterous, environment. It was a great experience for everyone who attended. We hope to see even more participants, next time.

Burnaby Village Museum



As a quick and fun way to escape the pouring rain, we made our way to the Burnaby Village Museum. It was a first-time visit for our participants, and it was a great one. We explored all the old streets of the village museum and learned a lot about the intriguing history behind Burnaby.

There were areas with before-and-after images, and plenty to discover. There were vintage barbershops, ice-cream parlours, restaurants, medicinal shops, train

cars and school-houses. Everyone working at the museum wore clothes from the time period and it helped transport us to the era the village was set in. After taking a walk through Burnaby’s history, we went to take ride on the village carousel. It is more than a hundred years old, but still in perfect condition. Our brave riders enjoyed the carousel! Every horse had a name which made the ride all-the-more interesting. Though our group was small for this visit, everyone had a great time!

Farewell to Summer

“A heartfelt thank you to CDBA-BC for providing our child with funding and activities to help her continue her learning and development through the summer months. Our entire families’ well-being improves each year because of our involvement with CDBA.”

~ Kim Shauer

“ My son Sevak has been a part of the CDBA-BC Intervention Program for the past 4 years. CDBA-BC has helped our family in many ways! Sevak loves going out and doing fun activities just like any typical kid. Sometimes it's not always possible to do these activities with things going on in the household with other siblings and work. The summer Intervention Program always makes it possible for Sevak to enjoy activities often! He is such a happy boy and loves to participate in the summer activities that take place. My daughter has also joined Sevak on one of the activities with his Intervenor and she loved it! I continue to support CDBA and its willingness to help families that face challenges with their kids and help them grow to become amazing individuals!”

~ Simrit Judge

“What I enjoyed most of the summer program was meeting new families and reconnecting with the deafblind adults and their staff.”

~ Emily and Elizabeth Ross

A Note from the Family Services Coordinator

Another summer has come and gone and we are now looking forward to our Winter Intervention Program! It is always so heart-warming to see the children and their families enjoying what their community has to offer. Attending our Summer Recreation Program activities with the families is such a wonderful experience – to see the smiles and hear the laughter and sharing of stories is such a treasure. Revisiting each activity from year to year allows us to see the amazing growth and progress...something which we can never take for granted. I am grateful for each and every one of you and for all that you offer. I look forward to enjoying so many more adventures with you in the coming year!

~ Theresa Tancock