

25 years of making futures bright



BC Family Hearing Resource Society

Reaching Out

A Newsletter from the BC FAMILY HEARING RESOURCE CENTRE for families with deaf and hard of hearing children throughout BRITISH COLUMBIA.



Fall 2009

Family Feature

The Stubbs Family – “Turning Challenges into Life Motivations”



Tricia, Cameron & Ralph Stubbs
at Preschool Graduation

In this issue of *Reaching Out*, the Stubbs family, parents Ralph & Tricia, and their children, Cameron & Marissa, share their story with our readers. While this article focuses on the services received from Tamara Pelletier, Speech Language Pathologist at the BCFHRC, the Stubbs also participated in services from other community programs that they found very helpful as well.

Ralph Stubbs writes about what they have learned and experienced since becoming parents of children with hearing loss.

“Every family has challenges that help them to develop and grow as time goes by. Sometimes these challenges can be overwhelming, but usually they offer a level of understanding that one might have overlooked had the challenge never occurred at all. When it comes to parenting, I would like to think that I have the knowledge to make every decision the right one, but, in all honesty I have not found this to be realistic. So we make the best possible choices for ourselves and for our children based on what we know and choose to learn.

My wife and I are the proud parents of two wonderful children. We have a five year old son Cameron and a five month old daughter Marissa. My children have a genetic hearing loss and slight visual impairment.

My wife, her brother and their mother have some expressions of the condition well. Along with the hearing and vision issues there is also a premature graying of their hair.



Dad and Marissa

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We have been blessed that there is a program in this province called BC Family Hearing Resource Society! It has worked wonders for our son and we will continue to receive services there for our daughter. In the past couple years our son has blossomed into a confident young boy with an eagerness to learn and grow. Cameron experienced developmental delays with his speech early on; he is now capable of interacting in almost any social environment with almost anybody. This is largely in part due to the support he has received from his speech and language pathologist, Tamara!



Tamara has been such a positive influence in Cameron's life...whether it be in helping him adjust to wearing his hearing aids and glasses, learning how to pronounce words and use them in every day speech or just having fun playing games and interacting. Tamara has come to our home usually a few times a month and spent one-on-one time with Cameron. We have witnessed the many benefits that our son has gained from this relationship. Tamara has even been a part of the transition from Preschool to Kindergarten for Cam, and she has always taken an active interest in providing us materials that help us educate ourselves as parents.



I can remember a few years back, my wife and I were so concerned about how our son would cope with having a hearing loss in the school system. We were also concerned about how he would adjust to children his own age (not just the companionship of "mommy and daddy"). I can honestly say that through the support of The BC Family Hearing Program -Cameron has made a wonderful transition between schools. Now that Cam is in Kindergarten he will have the opportunity to receive special time with a school district related hearing teacher. The only regret we have is that we had not become involved with the BCFHRS and other community programs sooner. We would like to have participated more in the group services and play dates that allow kids to learn about peer relationships before entering school.

We will have the opportunity to learn from our experience with Cameron. Our daughter Marissa will now be following in Cameron's footsteps; Marissa, at only five months, has just been fitted for her hearing aids. We are thrilled that Tamara will continue to visit our home now to work with Marissa! As parents we look forward to seeing our little girl gain the self-esteem that comes with turning challenges into life motivations.

My family has lived the BC Family Hearing Program for the past couple years and we can attest to the benefits; our children are the proof! We know that there are other families that feel the same way!"



On the Fly...Hints for Home

Do you know Daisy and Dexter?

by Kristyn Payne, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
Outreach Consultant, North East Region



Daisy and Dexter Dinosaur are our centre's latest additions and during this past summer some of our families got to meet Daisy and Dexter and have them visit their house for a sleepover! Each time Daisy or Dexter visited a family they took their own Dino journals and each family drew a picture and/or wrote about their awesome adventures! All the families were excited to read about Daisy and Dexter's escapades and were eager to share about their time with them.



As a staff we want to thank all the children and families for taking such great care of our pet dinosaurs and making sure that they always made it back home safe and sound. Please let us know if you would like to have Daisy or Dexter visit your home for some sleepover fun and we will do our best to try and arrange it for you. Typically a therapist would deliver Daisy or Dexter to a family one week and then pick it up the next, or the family would drop it back off at the centre after a few days. No need to worry if you are an outreach family, Daisy and Dexter like to travel (in fact they were born in Fort St. John before moving here) and they dig getting new stamps in their passports.

The children adore Daisy and Dexter and this is a great opportunity to partner with us in your child's pre-literacy education. No child is too young or too old or too far away for a visit☺. Be sure and have fun with you new friends Daisy and Dexter, ROARRRRRRRRR! We can't wait to hear all about it!

Some of Daisy and Dexter's summer adventures:



Daisy
by Anika



Annette, Dexter & Alicia
by Annette



Daisy
by Mikyla & Grama

Reaching Out Closer to Home

Language in the Park

by Zara Newnham, Speech Language Pathologist,
Outreach Consultant, Kamloops & Prince George

Following a great idea from a community SLP in Kamloops, Cathy Faliszewski, we tried out a new event in two of our Outreach Communities this summer: **Language and Listening in the Park**.

The goal was to help families connect with others in their local area and to put their communication goals into action in a different setting.



The park offers so many opportunities for language and listening development. There are new sounds to listen to, new things to touch, smell and see and always lots and lots of opportunities to communicate!

It's also a place that makes us think about the technology. Sand, water and hearing aids don't mix so think about using a tether and protecting the aids with *Super Seals* or *Eargear*. Is your child going to be more than 3ft away? Is it noisy? Pack your FM just in case. Don't wait for our next organized event – call a pal and get out there. The world is your classroom!

Need ideas? Try these:

Listening & Waiting Games:

The park provides lots of opportunities to practice listening and waiting opportunities. If your child needs lots of cues to wait, hold onto them until you say “**GO!**” If your child needs fewer cues try increasing the amount of wait time between “Ready, set...” and “Go!” or varying the intensity with which you say it from very loud to very quiet. Practice this during: Slide time, swings, playing tag or kicking the ball. (“**Stop**” is another important word. Help them to listen for and understand “Stop” by saying/signing the word as you stop the swing, interrupt their slide or catch them in a game of chase.)



Turn-taking Games:

Face-to-face activities such as the swing provide good opportunities to practice eye-contact and vocalizing. For a child at the earliest stages of communicating, pause between pushes and wait expectantly for them to look at you, vocalize or wriggle to indicate that they want more. When they do, add the words they needed “Mummy push?” and then push the swing. Repeat, repeat, repeat! Sharing play equipment provides the opportunity to practice turn-taking with peers. Talk about whose turn it is, who will go **next**, who is **first** in the line, who is **last** in line.

Vocabulary:

Name the things your child is looking at, doing and feeling!

- Objects: swings, slide, roundabout, sand, water, grass, trees, flowers, fence, dog, birds, fountain, bridge
- Describing words: fast, slow, dirty, smelly, wet, dry, big, little, new, old, favourite
- Doing words: push, run, climb, slide, walk, roll, crawl, jump
- Motivating words: more, stop, no, please, thank you
- Body parts (practice these while putting on sunscreen!)
- Pronouns: he, she, we, they

Language:

Remember the key strategies:

- ALLOW your child to lead the interaction. See what they are interested in.
- ADD language. Put words to what you and they are seeing, doing and feeling.
- ADAPT- get down at their level, get closer if they cannot hear you, use an FM system if they will be further away, adapt your plans to follow their interests

**More Advanced Listening Games:**

- Look for opportunities to practice sound-object associations: “wee” as they go down the slide. “Up, up, up” as they climb up steps. “Ah” as an airplane goes overhead.
- For older children try a discrimination game e.g. running in a circle when you say “ah” and jumping on the spot when you say “oo, oo”
- For phonological awareness try “I spy”. This helps children to become aware of the sounds in words. You could even try it with rhyming “I spy something that rhymes with.....”
- Go on a “Listening Walk”. Listen for the sounds around you and see who can spot the most! You could check these off on a list or just call them out to one another. A fun way to highlight the sounds would be to stop suddenly when you hear something (see if you bump into one another)
- This is also an opportunity for your child to practice listening for *their* name. To do this they will also have to learn to discriminate between their name and all the others being called out!

**Here are some comments from families that joined us for these events!**

It was helpful to be able to watch the kids interact and get an idea of how to put everything we are learning together. Parks are pretty noisy and it was very helpful for us to have you there to point out how to get the kids' attention and to point out what others were doing. It was great and I hope we are able to do it again!

Tanis, Prince George

We loved the meet and greet at the park. We were able to finally connect with other families and have become good friends. We do hope that there will be more in the future.

Tabitha, Prince George

I think it's a good idea to meet with other parents. It helped me to see the challenges which others experience that are similar to our son's journey with hearing aids.

Gina, Kamloops

We really enjoyed the get-together; it was a great way to meet other families in a face-to-face setting rather than just over the phone. We would love to see something like this happen again as it is great to get so many families together at once.

Tara, Prince George

We had a really nice time at the Language in the Park, really enjoyed meeting other families. I think it would be nice to see this happen again... We will definitely come out again!!!

Carrie, Marcus, Grandma Joyce

Prince George

Fall is upon us, so wrap up and get outside and see how much language you can find at your local park! (Even the dressing routine to get there offers language and planning opportunities galore!)

25 Years of Making A Difference

In Appreciation of our Supporters

Since our last issue, the following individuals and organizations have continued to make a difference in the lives of our children and their families by generously donating to our centre either monetarily or through goods and services.



Elks & Royal Purple Fund for Children

\$120,000 annually!



Elks

- Aldergrove
- Burnaby
- Campbell River
- Delta
- Langley
- North Kamloops
- Parksville-Qualicum
- Revelstoke
- Vancouver
- White Rock

Royal Purple

- Kelowna
- Merritt
- Nanaimo
- North Kamloops
- Oliver
- Quesnel
- Salmon Arm
- Smithers
- Williams Lake

Individuals & Organizations

- Dr. R.G. Swain in memory of Ann Swain
- Eleanor Scott
- Gary & Barb Gee
- Henry & Rose Peirce
- Joan Ford Charitable Society
- James & Sally Hurst
- Jeffery & Heather Campbell
- Joseph Shemesh
- Kim Houlihan
- Peterson Family
- Andrea Sharpe
- Surrey Firefighters Charitable Foundation
- Tech Soup
- Telus Communications
- United Way: London Drugs – Coquitlam & Metro Vancouver



Annual General Meeting 2009



BC Family Hearing Resource Society

Invites you to attend our

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday November 25 2009 at 6:30pm
 15220 92nd Avenue Surrey BC

Please join us as we celebrate bright futures for children and recognize our donors by lighting up our Centre.

Please RSVP to 604-584-2827 or 1-877-584-2827
 or to info@bcfamilyhearing.com

25 Years of Making A Difference

BC Family Hearing Resource Society Celebrates 25 years of Making Futures Bright!

by Ellen Peterson, Business & Resource Development Manager

On June 7th, 2009 over 250 guests including families, donors, Board, government, funders and Society staff gathered to celebrate 25 years of the Society's work with families and professionals throughout the Province and to learn more about the state-of-the-art hearing loss centre, early intervention services, professional training and culturally and linguistically diverse research. Families were treated to the Surrey Firefighter's challenge course, the YMCA bouncy castle and many other fun family activities.



Members of Elks and Royal Purple and Chris Mayworm in the beautiful playground of the BC Family Hearing Resource Society building

The official ceremony incorporated speeches by the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Elks, D. Clark Kilburn, Supreme Honoured Royal Lady, Brenda Johnston, Provincial President BC Royal Purple Association; Marjorie Bracconier; Deb Sallenback, on behalf of Provincial President Bob Baker; and Christine Mayworm, new Executive Director of BC Family Hearing Resource Society.

All of the speeches had a common thread: the fact that for over 25 years BC Family Hearing has been making a difference in the lives of young children and their families. What a wonderful reason to celebrate! From humble beginnings in a back room of an Elks office to a state-of-the-art facility; from a part-time speech/language therapist to serve 4 children to a team of 20 serving over 150 province-wide. What started out as a small but important initiative to help young deaf and hard of hearing children, became the largest agency of its kind in our province.

When guests were asked "What BC Family Hearing Resource Society Means to Me" here's what they had to say:

- *"Home. Their knowledge and advice has helped us be the best advocates for our child"*
- *"BCFHRC not only helped my child over her shyness and to be strong but also, they helped me to overcome my sadness & grief"*
- *"BCFHRC is an extension of my family; I don't know what we would have done without them. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."*
- *"What a wonderful cause, I wish you 25 years more of great success for our children"*
- *"You do an outstanding job, we are fortunate to be able to work with you. The best hearing operation within BC – second to none."*
- *"Warm, welcoming and understanding at a hard time for us. I have learned so much. I can't say enough good things, I don't know what we would do without this place it has everything we need."*

Staff of the
BC Family Hearing Resource Centre



From our family to yours – thank you and congratulations!

25 Years of Making A Difference

BC Elks & Royal Purple Provincial Conference 2009



Amandeep Loodu shares with the Elks and Royal Purple what an incredible difference their work with BC Family Hearing has made in his life.

The BC Elks & Royal Purple Annual Conference was held on May 30 in White Rock. Featured speakers included BCFHRS Board member and past client, Amandeep Loodu. Here is the speech he gave at the Conference.

I would like to tell you a quick little story about how I got the honour of being here in front of all of you. About twenty-five years ago I was a small child on a playdate at my neighbour's house when his mother turned on the stereo to play some music. The stereo was in the background as we played but once I went by it, I started to gravitate to it. Not because of the sound but because the speaker was vibrating. It was only when I got closer to it, so close that I put my left ear on the actual speaker, only then did I hear something. It was literally music to my ears. Something was wrong. Shortly after I was diagnosed with a hearing loss, moderate in the left ear and profound in my right. I was fitted with hearing aids -which I still wear today- and then enrolled at the BC Family Hearing Resource Centre.

At the centre I began intensive speech therapy, and at the same time Susan Lane and Dyan Spear taught both my mother and I sign language to communicate. I was able to "catch up" to my age level in communication skills, which enabled me to be a kid. I could participate in sports, go to school, and just enjoy being a kid. I always will have an inherent disadvantage in communications, but thankfully because of the strong

skills and foundation I developed at the centre, I'm able to minimize the effects of a hearing loss. Also my mother says that the centre isn't just a place where kids can get help, but it's also a place for parents to learn how to communicate with their own kids, to assist in their development, and to support other parents during stressful times. The importance of the centre in our lives cannot be understated and that is an incredible reflection on you, all of you, the Elks and Royal Purple.

It's funny, the fact that I'm here talking to all of you is the direct result of your generosity, because you were there for me at the beginning when I was a kid diagnosed with a hearing loss. My parents were devastated to learn about my hearing loss. Everyone who knew me wondered what was my future going to be like? "What will he be like," they all kept saying, I know this because they always tell me that now, about what their worries were and how they are glad to see that I came into my own. The fact that they talk about me as a success story is a testament to you, the BC Elks & Royal Purple, because you were there for me from the start and here I am, standing in front of you, one of the earliest graduates of the program. I can confidently say I've faced adversity and got to this point, and will be able to go to the next because of your help. And there are many more kids behind me who could someday come here and say the same thing: Thank you.

We are incredibly grateful to our founder and continuous supporter for all of the generosity you have expressed each and every year and at this year's conference.



Preschool Learning With a Focus

What Time of Day is it?

by Kristyn Payne, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Outreach Consultant, North East Region



Draw pictures with your child depicting morning, afternoon and night times. For example you may decide to draw a *sun for morning, a sandwich for afternoon, and a moon to represent night*. Hang your drawings on the fridge or somewhere else you and your child will see them often.



Talk about the different times of day with your child and what you do at different times during the day eg. wake up, get dressed, play outside, eat dinner etc. Show them by pointing to the pictures when it is morning, noon, and night time. This will help them start to understand the concept of time.



Ask your child time related questions and encourage them to tell you or point to the appropriate pictures i.e. “*When do you get out of bed?*” (morning), “*When do we eat lunch?*” (afternoon), “*When do you put on your pajamas?*” (night). For children with more language encourage them to answer in complete sentences such as, “I get up in the morning.”, “I eat lunch at noon/in the afternoon.” “I put my pajamas on at night...before I go to sleep”. Once your child gets the hang of this it’s easy to start introducing other time concepts such as “today, tomorrow, yesterday” and “before & after”.



morning



afternoon



night

Parent's Piece

FIT – Families in Touch

-Paraphrased from Natasha Jones; *The Langley Times*, Friday November 28th, 2008

Hayley Nimmo (a mother who receives services from BCFHRC) experienced many challenges raising her son, Beckem, who has a range of special needs including hearing loss. Nimmo also reflects, “His happy and self-motivated personality has inspired me to try and reflect many of his simple and beautiful qualities”. Recognizing and becoming frustrated that Beckem could not always access the same programs as other children Nimmo was inspired to begin her own support group for families of children with special needs, The “Families in Touch” or FIT Network. The FIT Network provides families facing similar challenges an opportunity to learn from each other and invited guests about coping in the often-confusing and confounding world of kids with special needs. Perhaps the most important message to parents is that they are not alone.

The FIT Network meets at the Harley Davidson Dealership, 88th Ave. & 200th St., Langley from 7-9:30 pm. Upcoming dates include:

October 7, 2009	Meet n’ Greet Networking
November 4, 2009	Cathy Camley – Education Advocacy Workshop I
December 2, 2009	Cathy Camley – Education Advocacy Workshop II
January 6, 2010	Courtenay Nichols, MCFD

If you would like to learn more about The FIT Network **contact Hayley** at fitnetwork@live.ca.

Deaf Community

Deaf Young Men Reunited 20 Years Later to Represent Canada at the Deaflympics

from Kim Sanderson



On September 1st, two local deaf young men, Cole Sanderson, 21 and Ian Molenaar, 28 travelled with Team Canada to Taiwan to represent Canada in Beach Volleyball at the 21st Deaflympics.

In 1989, when Sanderson was just 14 months old and recently diagnosed deaf, he started attending the Elks Family Hearing Resource Centre program in Surrey (now named BC Family Hearing Resource Centre), which Molenaar had been the very first student to enroll in 5 years previously. Molenaar then went on to become mainstreamed as an oral deaf student, meaning he accesses information primarily through the spoken word. Sanderson continued to use sign language and enrolled in the

BC School for the Deaf, and later with an interpreter into his local school. The two have been matched up to represent Canada at the Deaflympics – one of them is a **signer**, and the other is a **talker**, but both are deaf and share a passion for volleyball.

Sanderson and Molenaar have been training together for the past 14 months to prepare for the Deaflympics. They have both been very involved with volleyball for years. Sanderson focusing primarily on beach since a back injury sidelined him from indoor a few years ago; while Molenaar has been more involved in indoor, primarily coaching for the past 10 years at Langley Christian Secondary school.

“I am so excited to represent Canada and my Deaf community at the Deaflympics. I’ve been competing in sports all my life and I’ve never had the privilege to compete against people that communicate similar to me. I’m looking forward to the competition, but also to meeting thousands of signing people.” signs Sanderson

“I’ve never done anything like this – it’s all new to me. I’ve been training very hard and I’m really looking forward to this experience. This past summer I’ve spent a great deal of time learning beach volleyball and perfecting my game.” comments Molenaar

This will be the first Deaflympics for both Sanderson and Molenaar.

Congratulations Cole & Ian!!



Bits & Pieces

Fall Programs at Our Centre

We have begun our programs for the fall session. All programs are designed so that parents learn to encourage communication, social skills and play skills with their child in a fun environment. They also provide opportunities for children to develop early communication with basic routines and by exploring new things. After careful planning and consideration our teaching and therapy staff have decided on the following programs. Please note all groups run in 6 week blocks (with the exception of PEER) beginning the weeks of Sept 14, Nov 2, Jan 4, Feb 22, Apr 12 & May 24.

Bouncy Babies



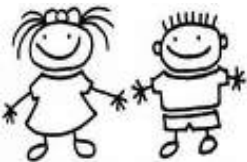
Parents of newly identified babies get together to process what hearing loss means for them and their babies. Discussions, music, and games. Monday mornings 10 am to 12 pm.

Parent-Tot Drop In

...is an informal gathering for parents and toddlers to share information and play. Learn about typical child development and all the ways to support development in your child while having fun. Monday mornings 10-11:30 am.

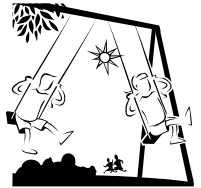
PALS

A language enhanced program for children aged 3 to 5 years. Children eat their lunch at the centre. Parent participation is required. Monday Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30am to 1pm.



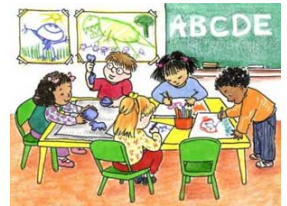
Partners and Playmates

This popular program for parents and toddlers (under the age of 3 years) is Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:00am.



PEER Group

Is your hard of hearing 4 year old ready for Kindergarten next year? Are you? Enroll in PEER to make sure you're prepared. Classes begin end of October. If you haven't already discussed this with your therapist please do so.



autumn/fall

Mingle and Play Summer Program Review

This past August we held our second annual Mingle and Play summer program. 30 families attended, representing 260 people during the four day duration. Families came from all over BC, including Fort St. John, Williams Lake, Quesnel, Squamish and Vancouver Island. A variety of entertainment was provided including a 'critter' show, a magician, face painting, Ronald McDonald along with good old fashioned playing out in the backyard!



Here are some comments from families who attended:

"Thank you for inviting and welcoming us. We are blessed by all our staff and services!"

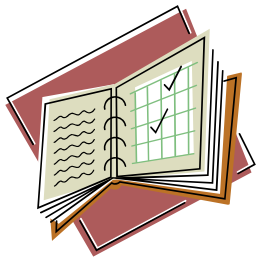
Chrystal Wuthrich, Fort St. John

It was good to chat with staff and other parents informally. Our son and daughter loved playing outside!

Jennifer Thom, Mill Bay

Volunteers were wonderful. [It was] nice to have time for fun instead of 'therapy'. Loved the parachute!

Kim Shauer, Surrey



Calendar



September	14	Programs Begin Block 1
October	12	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
	16	BC Hands & Voices Parent Evening at Provincial Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
	15 – 17	BC Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists Annual Conference
	23	Canadian Association of Educators of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Annual Conference
	28	PEER Evening Workshop #1
	31	Happy Halloween
November	2	Programs Block 2
	11	Remembrance Day Holiday
	18	PEER Evening Workshop #2
	25	BC Family Hearing Resource Society Annual General Meeting
December	2	PEER Evening Workshop #3
	21	BCFHRC Winter Party
	25	Christmas Day Holiday
	28	Centre Closed
January	1	New Year’s Day Holiday
	4	Programs Block 3



Our Outreach Consultant’s visits to Communities Throughout BC

July	Judy Chrastina, Bella Coola
September	Judy Chrastina, Bella Coola Zara Newnham, Prince George Nicola Swain, Victoria, Nanaimo, Duncan Dyan Spear, Kelowna & Vernon Christine Mayworm, Kelowna & Vernon Tamara Pelletier, Campbell River
October	Judy Chrastina, Bella Coola Dyan Spear, Kelowna, Penticton & Vernon
November	Judy Chrastina, Quesnel & Prince Rupert



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Executive Director: Christine Mayworm
Editors: Cindy Adams & Carolyn (Trengrove) Hawrish

We are a family-centered early intervention Provincial Resource Program committed to individual communication choices. We provide support and resources throughout BC to deaf and hard of hearing children, their families and Community Service Providers.

The purpose of the Reaching Out Newsletter is to provide information and support to our readers.

Articles and ideas are welcome! The opinions expressed therefore are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Board of Directors, or the staff. We reserve the right to edit contributions for brevity and clarity.

There is no fee for the Reaching Out newsletter, however, donations are gratefully accepted.

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Newsletter - Mail, On-Line or Email?

Would you prefer to receive our newsletter emailed to you? Are you aware that our newsletters are posted on our website? In our efforts to “Go Green” we would like to offer the electronic distribution option to those interested.

To receive your newsletter this way, simply email info@bcfamilyhearing.com with the email address you would like the newsletter sent to AND the current name and address it is being sent to by mail in order to have your name removed from the list.