

NOTES FROM ULTRASOUND PROGRAM BOOK

Did you know?

One in a thousand Canadians uses sign language as a first language⁽¹⁾.

American Sign Language (ASL) is a visual language that uses handshapes, locations, palm orientation and hand movement with facial expressions, body posture, head shift, eye gaze and eye shift. It conveys ideas with its own grammar to express all emotions and thought. ASL has its own literature and is the foundation of Deaf identity and the centre of shared experience, Deaf culture and heritage⁽²⁾.

A little history⁽³⁾

Abbé Charles Michel de l'Épée, a hearing priest, opened the first Deaf school in Paris in 1760 and began the first major attempt to use signs learned from the Deaf community of Paris to educate Deaf children.

In 1816 American Thomas Gallaudet, a hearing man, came to France seeking to learn sign language. Laurent Clerc (master Deaf teacher from France) and Thomas Gallaudet co-founded the first permanent school for Deaf children in America in 1817. French Sign Language (FSL) arrived in North America in the care of these pioneering educators. The first schools for Deaf students in Canada opened in Quebec City in 1831 and in Belleville, Ontario in 1870. Deaf schools are now under threat of being closed across the country.

Get to know the Deaf community! Free events open to the public:

- Mayfest 2016, Fri. May 13th 9am - 4pm & Sat. May 14th 10am-4pm
Exhibition Place, CNE, Queen Elizabeth Exhibit Hall, 1800 Princess Blvd., TO
- Deaf Filmmakers Exhibit Opening, Sat. May 14th, 5:30 pm,
DEAF CULTURE CENTRE, Distillery District 15 Mill St., TO

Resources

www.aslphabet.com - learn sign language online with an animated rabbit!

www.deafplanet.com - see sign language in action on an award-winning TV series now online!

1 Canadian Hearing Society, Vibes, 1998.

2 Baker-Shenk, C. and Cokely, D. 1991. American Sign Language. Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press.

3 DEAF CULTURE CENTRE, Permanent Exhibit 2006; Carbin, C. 1996. Deaf Heritage in Canada: A Distinctive, Diverse and Enduring Culture. Whitby, Ontario: McGraw Hill Ryerson.