

People with a hearing loss may identify themselves as:

Deaf

This term is generally used by individuals who have been deaf since birth or prelingually deaf. They have a severe to profound hearing loss with little or no residual hearing. They may use speech to communicate with the help of hearing aids, technical devices or cochlear implants, speech reading and/or sign language.

Culturally Deaf

This term is used by individuals who identify with and participate in the language, culture and community of Deaf people based on sign language. Most of these individuals have a severe to profound hearing loss.

Deafened or Late-Deafened

These terms are used by individuals who have developed language skills prior to gradually or suddenly losing their hearing. Generally, deafened people do not identify themselves with the culturally Deaf community. They have a greater connection to the hearing community and communicate with visual supports such as speech reading, print or captioning.

Hard of Hearing

This term is generally used by individuals with a mild to severe hearing loss. Many hard of hearing people can understand some speech with or without a hearing aid(s). Many of these individuals supplement their residual hearing with speech reading, visual aids, hearing aids and technical devices. Although they mainly communicate by speech, some hard of hearing people also use sign language.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT US AT:**



Barrie (Mon – Fri)

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TTY: (705) 728-3599
Fax: (705) 728-7613
Email: dasm@bellnet.ca
Website: www.deafaccess.ca

Bracebridge (Tues & Wed)

175 Manitoba Street, Unit 103
Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1S3
Voice: (705) 645-8882 or (877) 840-8882
TTY: (705) 645-6855
Fax: (705) 645-0182

Collingwood (Tues)

275 First Street, Unit 9
Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 1A8
Voice/TTY: (705) 444-0040 ext 246
Fax: (705) 445-1516

Midland (Wed)

527 Len Self Boulevard
Midland, Ontario L4R 5N6
Voice/TTY: (705) 526-0100
Fax: (705) 527-6049

Orillia (Thurs)

33 Mississaga Street East,
Lower Level
Orillia, Ontario L3V 1V4
Voice/TTY: (705) 325-8448
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Programs and Services

Mission Statement

Deaf Access Simcoe Muskoka removes communication barriers to create an accessible community that is inclusive of culturally Deaf, oral deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people.



Our History

Deaf Access was established in 1984 in Barrie to respond to the need for services for culturally Deaf people and their families. Originally the organization was named The Huronia Association for the Advancement of the Hearing Impaired Inc. (HHI). Programs have expanded through funding and community partnerships. In 2005, our name was changed to Deaf Access Simcoe Muskoka Inc. We are a charitable non-profit organization now serving Simcoe and Muskoka in five locations.

Our Programs

General Support Services

Counsellors provide crisis intervention and short-term counselling. Other services include searching for affordable housing, accessing government offices, completing forms, bridging English literacy barriers and referring to other community partners.

Children, Youth and Family Support

Thanks to the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (2010), Deaf Access is partnering with the Bob Rumball Centre for the Deaf and Silent Voice to introduce their innovative family, children and youth programs to Simcoe County.

Seniors' Outreach

In Muskoka through the Aging At Home initiative (LHIN), we partner with The Canadian Hearing Society, to support consumers to maintain their independence and live at home.

American Sign Language/English Interpreting Services

American Sign Language (ASL)/English Interpreters are available to facilitate communication between hearing and culturally Deaf and hard of hearing people. Qualified professional interpreters are hired to provide communication access in a variety of settings including but not limited to medical, mental health, employment, legal and educational.

OIS After-Hours Emergency Interpreting Services

In partnership with The Canadian Hearing Society, after-hours interpreting services for health and mental health emergencies are available **Monday to Friday, 5pm until 9am and 24 hours on weekends and holidays.**

TTY: 1-866-831-4657

Phone: 1-866-256-5142

Computerized Notetaker/Captioning and Real Time Services (CART)

Computerized notetakers record information (not verbatim) that is being presented through the use of a laptop computer. Real Time captionists record information verbatim through a steno machine which is then displayed. We hire and coordinate notetakers and captionists to match community requests.

Advocacy and Communication Accessibility Education

Our counsellors work to remove systemic barriers that consumers identify in the community. Our mission is to ensure equity for all people in Simcoe and Muskoka.

Employment Services

Employment staff support individuals with career counselling and job search training and work with employers to ensure workplace accessibility for consumers. In addition we provide retention services to support people to remain in their jobs with appropriate communication and devices in place.

Youth Employment Outreach

Counsellors work with students and recent high school graduates to encourage positive transition to post secondary education and/or transition to employment. Supports include development of an Individual Transition Plan, family/community meetings, employment readiness training and making appropriate referrals to community resources.

American Sign Language Classes

Instruction is based on the Signing Naturally curriculum and is offered at a variety of program levels depending on the demand. The introductory course is 36 hours of classroom instruction with a certificate being awarded to successful candidates. Instructors are culturally Deaf and first language users of ASL. Classes are offered throughout Simcoe and Muskoka

**SEE WEB SITE FOR ALL
PROGRAM DETAILS**

www.deafaccess.ca