

Collections of Jo-Anne Robinson's Life Story: Memoirs, Letters and Photos on Deaf Sports, Education and Community Involvement

Completion Date of Issue: August 18, 2026



Jo-Anne was awarded the four gold medals from the 10th WGD and the Gosselin Trophy for being the best athlete in the world in 1965.



Known as Deaf athlete, sport organizer and educator, Jo-Anne was inducted into the Terry Fox Hall of Fame in the fall of 2002.

This 16-page project was created, developed, compiled and written by **Wayne Goulet**, assisted by **Bill Persall** as layout designer and **Donna Wait** as proofreader.

In Loving Memory of Jo-Anne Robinson

A Strong Leader, A Great Athlete and An Endless Contributor



JO-ANNE MARIE ROBINSON was born Deaf to hearing parents in Vancouver, British Columbia. She had two hearing siblings—a brother, David, and a sister, Patricia, but no known Deaf relatives. Jo-Anne made her home in Edmonton, Alberta, for nearly thirty years. She received her early education at Jericho Hill School for the Deaf, Dunbar School, and Lord Kitchener Hill School for the Deaf. She then attended Gallaudet College, now Gallaudet University in Washington, DC where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education in 1972. The following year she received her Diploma/Teaching Certificate in the Education of the Deaf from the University of British Columbia and, in 1975-76, completed the requirements for a Master of Education degree in Deaf Education at Western Maryland College.

As a student, Jo-Anne was the recipient of several scholastic honours at Jericho Hill School for the Deaf, but her most notable achievements were in swimming. She became involved in competitive swimming at an early age, and was the only Deaf member among peers in a local swim club. She won medals in several swim meets in British Columbia while competing against hearing swimmers in her age group. At the 1965 Tenth World Summer Games for the Deaf she won four gold medals, setting a Deaf world record in each case. She was recognized for this accomplishment by the City of Vancouver, as well as the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada. In 1966 she was runner-up for the American Deaf Athlete of the Year Award and, in 1967, named Best Female Swimmer of the Year at Gallaudet College. She continued competitive swimming until 1970, winning 2 gold, 2 silver, and 1 bronze medals in 1969 Yugoslavia Summer Games, and the Deaf Athlete of the Year Award in 1969. The next year she was declared Junior Athlete of the Year by the British Columbia Sports Federation, and Best Female Swimmer of the Year at Gallaudet College.

Scholastically, Jo-Anne was the recipient of Phi Kappa Zeta and Gudelsky Scholarships. She also received an Alberta Deaf Sports Award in recognition of her contributions to sports in Alberta and was runner-up for Executive of the Year at Air Canada. She had been awarded numerous other sports and swimming recognitions, then was inducted into the Hall of Fame by the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf, into the Gallaudet Swimming Hall of Fame, and was named the Most Outstanding Deaf Athlete of the Twentieth Century in the year 2000.

Her employment began with part-time jobs while Jo-Anne attended Gallaudet College and Western Maryland College, but Jo-Anne had spent her entire teaching career at the Alberta School for the Deaf (ASD) in Edmonton, Alberta. She had taught there at all levels, and was the school's computer expert and coordinator for many years, as well as the initiator of a variety of school projects and events. She had also participated in activities of the Deaf Community in various capacities as a volunteer and so made enormous contributions locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally. After she retired from work in 2006, she decided to fulfill her desire to do more while staying in Vancouver by writing some books featuring Jericho Hill School for the Deaf History (co-authors) as well as 1965 and 1969 Deaf Canadian athletes at the respective Deaflympic Summer Games.

Deaf Sports athletes, of all levels, owe an enormous debt of respect and gratitude to Jo-Anne Robinson for her global vision and dedication with tenacity, wisdom and guidance. The impact of her selfless contribution of time and commitment to upholding the highest ideals and standards in elite athletic programs organized for Deaf competitors should always be remembered. The more you compete; the better you'll get into the spirit of higher competition. She set an example for thousands of young athletes. After all of her charming, indebted moments, Jo-Anne passed away on February 13, 2026. She was 76.

Extracted in part from *Deaf Women in Canada*, published in 2002.

10th Deaflympic Summer Games (June 27-July 3, 1965)



A certain group of 33 Canadian National Athletes are proud to participate in the parade representing Canada at the 10th Deaflympic Summer Games in Washington, D.C. in 1965.

(See Names of Athletes on page 12)

A Sensational 4-Time Gold Medal Swimmer at Age of 15



Jo-Anne Marie Robinson (b. Nov. 22, 1949; d. Feb. 13, 2026) of Vancouver, B.C. is considered one of the best all-around deaf female swimmers in the world. Deaf at birth from an unknown cause, she attended the Jericho Hill Provincial School for the Deaf in her hometown (1953-1967), Gallaudet College (B.Sc., 1967-1972), the University of British Columbia Teacher of the Deaf Training Program (1972-1973), and Western Maryland College (M.Ed., 1975-1976).

Robinson developed an interest in swimming at Jericho Hill Provincial School when its 20-foot by 60-foot indoor pool opened in 1957. From 1958 to 1964, she was trained under the guidance of Dean Aspinall, a hearing resident instructor who, in 1954, swam for Canada at the British Empire Games (now the Commonwealth Games). When the Jericho Hill Swimming Club was formed in 1959, Robinson & her team demonstrated their prowess in competitive swimming against many strong hearing teams in the province. In 1965, the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (FSSC) selected her to swim for the Canadian

Swimming Team at the 10th International (Summer) Games for the Deaf (renamed World Games for the Deaf in 1969) in Washington, D.C. Robinson won gold medals and set new world records such as In the following events: 100-meter freestyle (1:12.00), 400-meter freestyle (5:50.20), 4 x 100-meter freestyle relay (5:10.70), and 4 x 100-meter medley relay (6:00.10). Based on her outstanding international performance,

Jo-Anne became the FSSC's first recipient of the Guy Gosselin Award as Canada's best Deaf athlete of the year (1965). She also won a Civic Medal from the City of Vancouver in that year.

In 1967, Robinson broke her own 1965 world record in the 100-meter freestyle at the USA National Swimming and Diving Championships, held in Philadelphia, Pa. (Her new world record was set at 1:11.20.) A year later she improved her timing to 1:08.10 at a swim meet in Hayward, Calif., where she also set new world records for the 400-meter freestyle (5:22.50) and the 800-meter freestyle (11:30.20). At the 11th World Summer Games for the Deaf in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (August 1969), Robinson won a gold medal when her new time of 1:06.70 broke her 1968 world record in the 100-meter freestyle event. Her other winnings at the 1969 Games included a gold in the 400-meter freestyle (5:12.40); a silver in the 4 x 100-meter freestyle relay (4:54.00); a silver in the 4 x 100-meter medley relay (5:42.30); and a bronze in the 200-meter individual medley (2:53.60). Robinson's competitive swimming career came to a close in late 1969 when she decided to retire to pursue her studies at Gallaudet. The Guy Gosselin Award as Canada's best deaf athlete of the year was presented to Robinson by the FSSC for the second time that year.

Since 1973, she had been employed as a teacher at the Alberta School for the Deaf in Edmonton. Her enthusiasm for deaf sports did not cease with her retirement from active swimming, however. To name a few of her many positions in sports organizations, Robinson was a delegate to the Canadian Sports Organization for the Disabled (1979-1983); vice-president (1979-1982) and president (1982-1984) of the Federation of Silent Sports of Canada (FSSC); and the first Canadian ever elected to the governing body of the Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CISS), serving two terms (1985-1989 and 1989-1993). Her other accomplishments included winning the Alberta Achievement Award (1986) and becoming a finalist in the Air Canada Amateur Sports Executive of the Year Award (1987). She co-edited *Coaching Deaf Athletes* (1987), the first manual ever published to assist hearing coaches who train deaf athletes. In 1989, the CISS presented her with its bronze medallion in recognition of her service in international Deaf Sports as technical delegate in swimming on the CISS Board since 1969. In her honour, the Jo-Anne M. Robinson Award was established in 1984 by the World Games for the Deaf Organizing Committee under the auspices of the CDSA.

- Paul Adams, Author/Collector of Gallaudet University's Hall of Fame Archives published in 1995.



400m Freestyle Gold Medal Award

D. Asenova, BUL, **J. Robinson, CAN**, T. Shistar, USA.

Jo-Anne sets a new World record in 5:12.4

11th Deaflympic Summer Games

In Belgrade, Yugoslavia – August 9-16, 1969

The 11th World Games for the Deaf (WGD), held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia are a history now, and our Canadian athletes left their mark in records, medals and points. Jo-Anne Robinson was once again the top individual medal winner among all competitors at the Games with two gold, two silver and one bronze for her five events including 2 silver-medal relays (4x100m Free/4x100m Medley) that placed them 2nd to the U.S.A. Overall, Canada stood 11th place among 34 countries.

The Canadian Team consisted of 11 Athletics athletes, 9 swimmers (8 from B.C.), 8 Volleyball players, 6 Table Tennis players coupled with 4 coaches, 2 chaperones and 4 F.S.S.C. Executives/Reps. From July 31st to August 9th, the team settled into their quarters in Belgrade and began training. There were frustrating but slow adjustments to be made to strange foods, antiquated plumbing and strict rules. Other highlights: a reception greeted by the Canadian Embassy, the Games' Opening Ceremonies, and a swell farewell banquet.

Number of Participating Athletes – 1,189 from 33 Nations

Sports: Athletics, Basketball, Cycling, Diving, Football, Gymnastics, Handball, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling - Free and Wrestling - Greco-Roman

An Extraordinary Chapter of Jo-Anne's Coaching Influence and Quest During Her Early Career in the Swimming Program

Obituary via ChatGPT dated on 04-24-2026

Jo-Anne Marie Robinson, a celebrated Deaf swimmer, community leader, and proud alumna of Jericho Hill School, passed away leaving behind a lasting legacy of excellence, resilience, and dedication to the Deaf community.

Jo-Anne rose to prominence as one of Canada's outstanding Deaf athletes, earning international recognition and fame through her achievements in lasting competitive swimming. She proudly represented her community at the World Games for the Deaf (now known as the Deaflympics), where she captured multiple gold medals and inspired generations of athletes to pursue their potential without limits.

Her journey in sport was shaped in part by the supportive environment at Jericho Hill and the guidance of mentors such as Keith Watson, whose coaching helped foster her discipline, confidence, and competitive spirit. Together, they exemplified the strength of Deaf athletic programs and the power of mentorship.

Beyond the pool, Jo-Anne was deeply committed to preserving and celebrating Deaf history and culture. She remained closely connected to the Jericho Hill community, contributing to the documentation and sharing of its stories so that future generations would understand its importance.

Jo-Anne Robinson will be remembered not only for her remarkable accomplishments in sport, but also for her warmth, leadership, and unwavering pride in Deaf identity. Her life stands as a testament to the impact of community, opportunity, and perseverance.

She leaves behind a community that will continue to honor her legacy—in the water, in shared memories, and in the enduring spirit of those whose lives she touched.

Jo-Anne Robinson & Keith Watson both are known for being closely connected to the history and legacy of the Jericho Hill School for the Deaf in Vancouver.

Jo-Anne Robinson

- A Deaf swimmer who developed her skills during her time at Jericho Hill.
- Became well known within the Deaf community in Canada for her athletic achievements and lifelong connection to Deaf culture.
- Beyond swimming, she contributed to preserving the history and stories of Deaf education, especially life at Jericho Hill.

Keith Watson (*b.* Jan 8, 1939, *d.* unknown) - Swim Coach

- A respected swim coach at Jericho Hill School.
- Played a key role in training and mentoring Deaf students, including swimmers just like Jo-Anne Robinson.
- Known for encouraging discipline, teamwork, and competitive excellence in the pool.

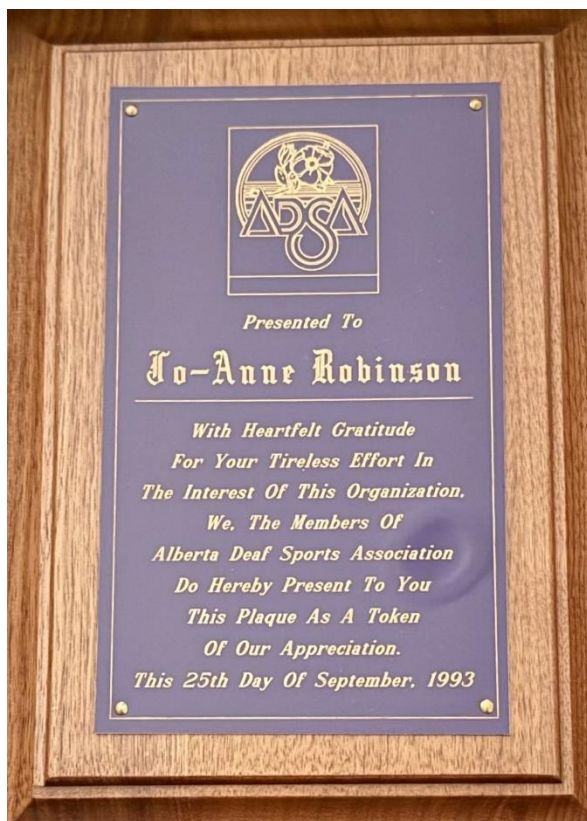
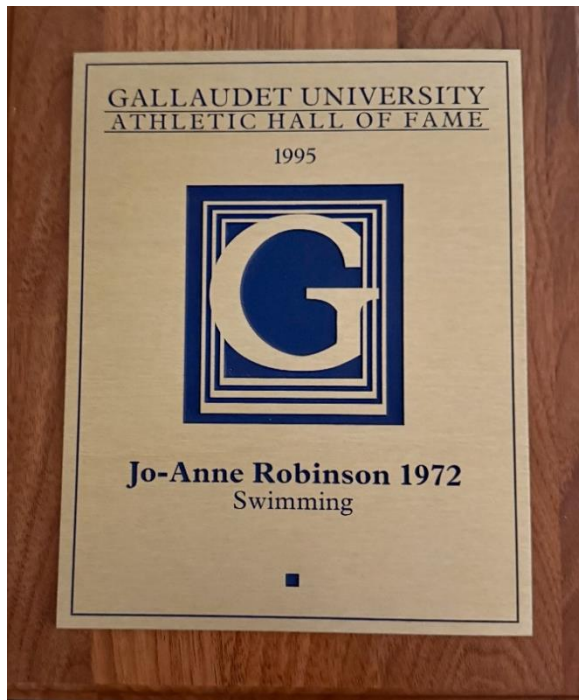
Jericho Hill School for the Deaf

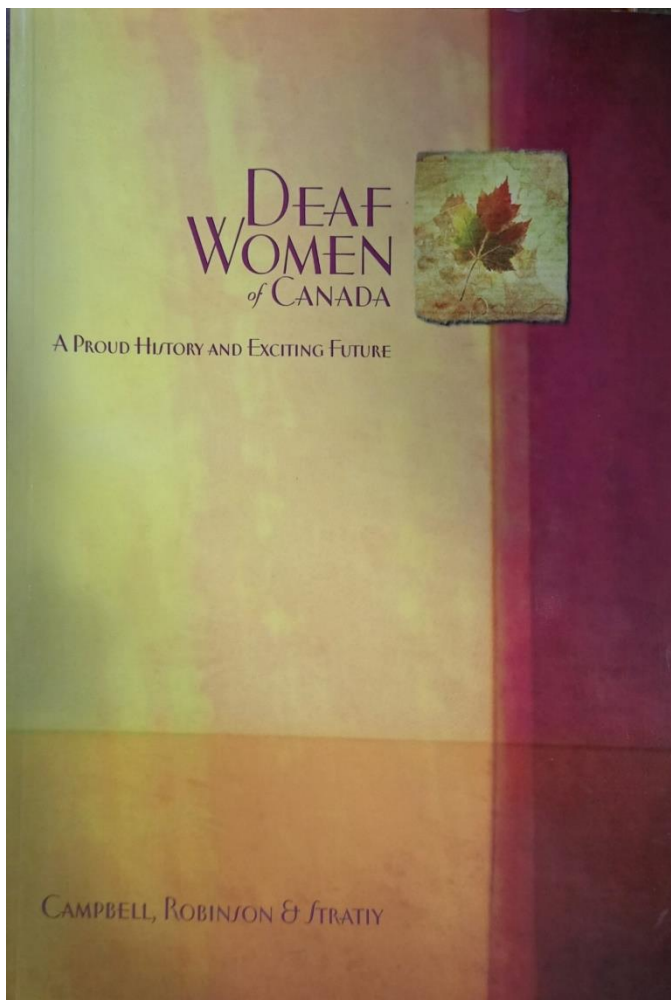
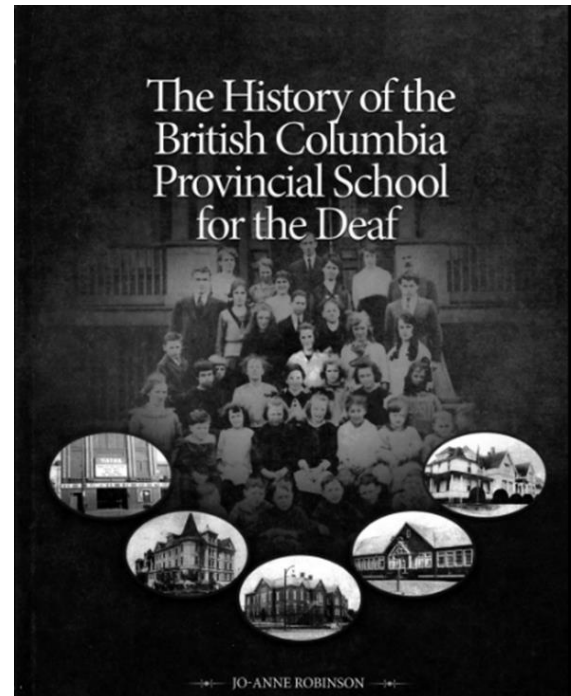
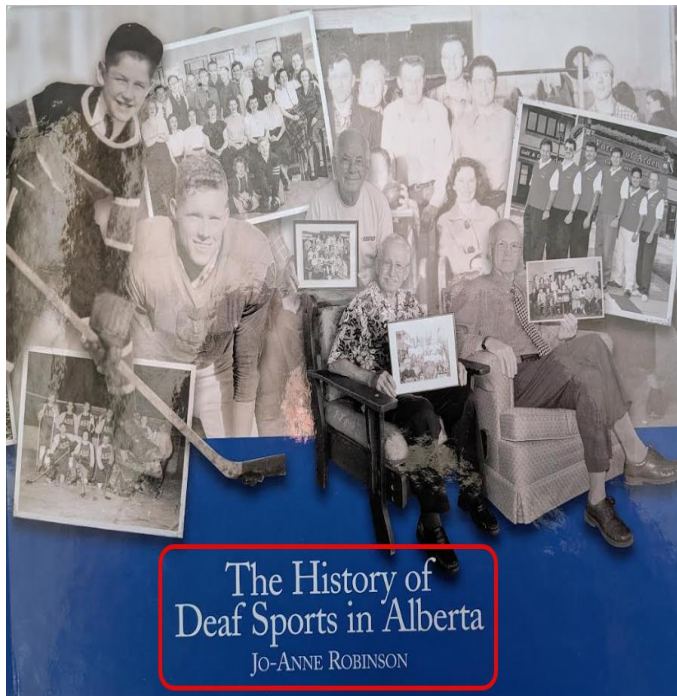
- Operated from 1922 to 1992 in Vancouver.
- It was the main residential school for Deaf and hard-of-hearing children in British Columbia.
- The school had a strong athletics program, with swimming being one of its standout activities, helping students build confidence and trust for their community.

Their Shared Legacy

- The relationship between Robinson and Watson reflects the importance of mentorship in Deaf education.
- Swimming programs at Jericho Hill gave Deaf students opportunities to compete, travel, and represent their community.
- Their stories are part of a broader history of resilience, identity, and pride within the Deaf community in Canada.

Awards, Recognition and Co-Author of Historic Books





Data: Jo-Anne's employment began with part-time jobs while she attended Gallaudet College and Western Maryland College, but Jo-Anne had spent her entire teaching career at the Alberta School for the Deaf (ASD) in Edmonton, AB. She had taught there at all levels, and was the school's computer expert and coordinator for many years, plus initiating a variety of school projects and events. She had also participated in enormous number of activities of the Deaf Community in various capacities as a volunteer, and had made contributions in many ways, mainly in the field of sports. She was considered a Gestuno expert and had presented workshops on that subject occasionally but mostly on computer topics, and had engaged in other disabled sports, and developed coaching manuals. She was also a published co-author of three sports-related articles, and co-editor of 3 historical books.

Jo-Anne's hobbies and interests include researching her family tree, gourmet cooking, and travelling. Even spent tirelessly promoting Deaf Sports across Canada, while holding various positions in the FSSC/CDSA affairs. She had also been committed to the Coaching Association of Canada, preparing and publishing a manual as an intent to enable hearing coaches to deal efficiently and effectively with Deaf athletes. She was the first Canadian to be elected to Le Comité International des Sports des Sourds, and her voluntary services have been well respected by all affiliated NDSFs. All in all, she's the legend.



Canadian Deaf Sports Association

Award of Appreciation
to

JO-ANNE ROBINSON

Let it be know to one and all that:

1. *Whereas she had distinguished herself with medal-winning performances at past National and International competitions;*
2. *Whereas she had represented Canada to Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CIS);*
3. *Whereas she had served with distinction in various positions within Canadian Deaf Sports Association;*
4. *Whereas her love for the Deaf Sports continues unabated;*

*Let it be resolved that the title of
Honourary Life Member
be bestowed upon*

Jo-Anne Robinson

On this sixteenth day of November, 2002



Canadian swimmers proudly show their 1965 IGD medals

The Deaf American/Gallaudet University Archives

Left to right: Patricia Fraser, Linda Heavenor, Gail Penner, Marlene Larsen, Jo-Anne Robinson, and Judy Bennett.



Canada's basketball team, winners of the bronze medal at the 1965 IGD Games

Courtesy of Canadian Deaf Sports Association (Ottawa, Ont.)

Back row (left to right): George G. Stothart (Alta.), Clifton F. Carbin (Ont.), Donald E. Kitson (Alta.), David McDole (B.C.), Michael Mooney (Ont.), Gilbert C. Lillie (Ont.), Ralph Melnyk (Alta.), Alexander M. Brodie, manager (B.C.).
Front row (left to right): William R. Bain (B.C.), Marshall Danyluk (Alta.), Ross Lawrence (Alta.), David Sullivan (B.C.), James L. Kvamberg (Alta.).

FSSA-ADSA Past Presidents from 1974 to 1993

FSSA was founded by Jo-Anne Robinson on Dec. 3, 1974 and renamed to ADSA on May 22, 1984.

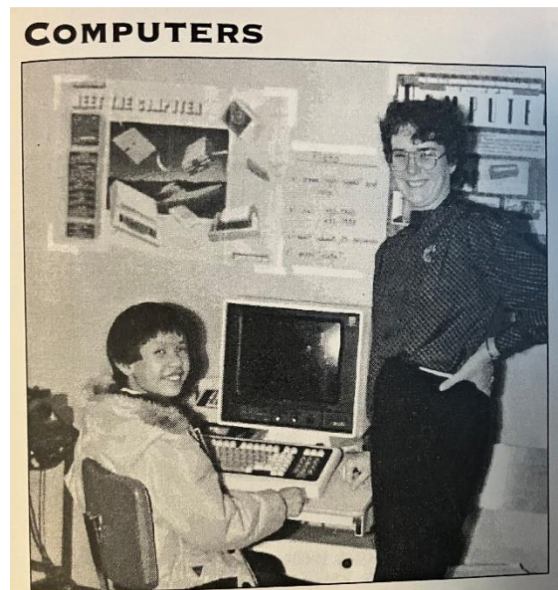


Alberta School For The Deaf Learning Environment



The Senior Girl's Basketball Team in 1975

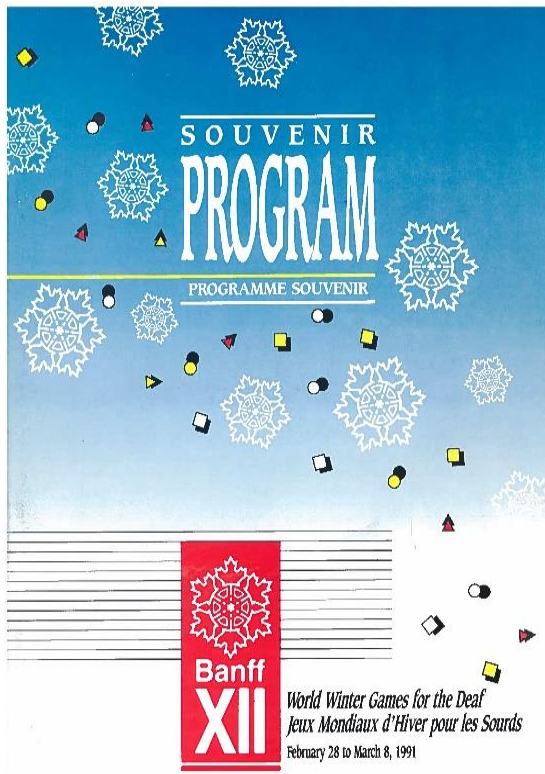
Back row: Cindy Wesley, Coach Jo-Anne Robinson, Meryl Pasguayak, Laurel Graham, Jeannette Champagne. Front row: June Kachmarski, Wendy Dreworth, Cheryl Rygus, Della Clarke, Janice Wowk, Joanne Jeremy.



Vincent Wong and Ms. Jo-Anne Robinson proudly work at the first computer in 1985.

First Time Ever Being Staged in Banff, Alberta for the 1991 Deaflympic Winter Games

Hosted by ADSA, Sponsored by CDSA and Sanctioned by CISS/ICSD
(Masterfully Engineered by Jo-Anne Robinson with Cooperation of Her Hosting Committee)



R. Wayne Letourneau
Chairperson

Welcome and Bienvenu!

On behalf of the XII World Winter Games Canada Organizing Committee, it is my sincere pleasure to extend a warm welcome to Canada to you all! Whether you come as a visiting national team participant, an enthusiastic fan, or a diligent volunteer, it is our genuine hope that you have the most significant of happy memories and achievements to March 8, 1991.

To all of the athletes may I extend wishes for good luck! Let fine sportsmanship prevail in your pursuit of personal excellence. It is the hope of the Organizing Committee that these Deaf Games will continue to symbolize international co-operation and support among nations.

When the Canadian Deaf Sports Association bid for these Games in Oslo, Norway in 1987, they did not realize that more than 250 volunteers would have worked for up to four years to prepare and deliver this most exciting event. May I extend a personal "Thank You" to ALL of the Games volunteers for their tremendous effort and support!

Executive Committee



Jo-Anne Robinson
Vice Chair/Chief
Coordinator



Lynn Loos
General Manager



Carole Sue Bailey
Housing & Catering Director



Dave Mason
Media Director



Heather Shores
Finance Director



Frank Guinta
Marketing Director



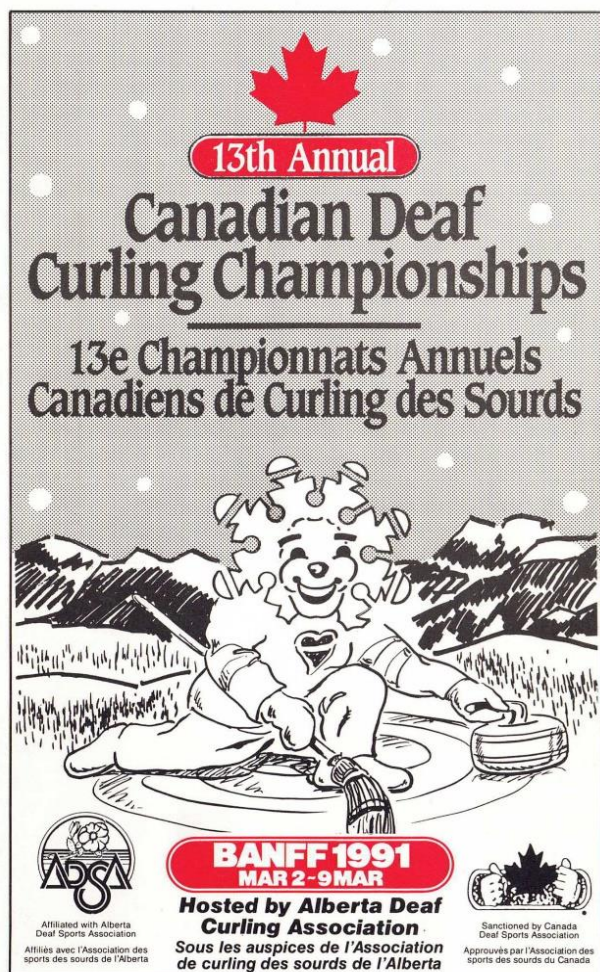
Linda Cundy
Communications Director



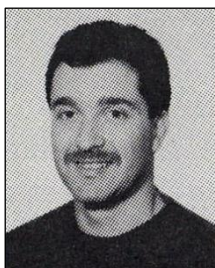
Ian Kershaw
Operations Director



Charmaine Letourneau
Communications Director



The 13th CDCC Events under the jurisdiction and mandate of CDSA-NOSC are warmly greeted by ICSD Executive to participate in parallel with its traditional *Deaflympic* Winter Games for **Demo**.



Grant Underschultz
ADSA President



Ross Lawrence
Curling Coordinator

13th CDCC Playdowns At the 4-sheet Banff Curling Club

No. of Rinks: Men-7, Women-6, Mixed Seniors-5
Men Champions – MB (Montie Brown, Skip)
Women Champions – B.C. (Judy Green, Skip)
Mixed Seniors Champs – AB (George Pody, Skip)

Greetings from the President of CISS



Jerald Jordan

The 12th World Winter Games for the Deaf are notable in a number of ways. They are the second winter games to be held outside of Europe. They are the westernmost games. And, I am convinced that they will prove to be the finest winter games ever held.

No Games can be successful without a dedicated group of people working tirelessly to ensure that every minute detail is covered. In addition to this core group, many hundreds of other volunteers work in relative anonymity to handle the myriad, often thankless, tasks that make the Games run smoothly. CISS salutes these people and extends to each our profound thanks.

The co-chairmen, Wayne Letourneau and Jo-Anne Robinson, have selected a splendid site to serve as the Centre of the Games. Banff and the Banff Springs Hotel truly live up to their reputation! CISS recognizes the time and effort the chairmen have expended to make these a magnificent Games and we are grateful for the personal sacrifices they have made.

May each athlete perform at his or her best, always displaying a true sportsmanship. May each person, athlete or spectator, enjoy a splendid Games amidst the beautiful scenery, returning home safely, with happy memories of Canadian hospitality and the 12th World Winter Games for the Deaf.



New CDSA-ASSC Logo
Invented by Jo-Anne R. in 1986



Bruce Jack
CDSA President

12th World Winter Games for the Deaf HQ: Fairmont Banff Hot Springs Hotel

No. of Athletes: 167 competing in 3 areas of Banff-Canmore-Calgary. Nordic/Alpine skiers braved the wind chill of -60 C which later forced the cancellation of downhill skiing. Ice Hockey: USSR (Gold), USA (Silver), Canada (Bronze). Medal Events: 18.

THE NAME LIST OF ALL 1965 CANADIAN ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN THE 10TH DEAFLYMPIC SUMMER GAMES, WASHINGTON, D.C. USA

1. **BAIN**, William – 1928 Men's Basketball (Flag Bearer)
2. **BENNETT**, Judy – 1946 Women's Swim
3. **BROOKER**, Sidney – 1932 Men's BB
4. **CARBIN**, Clifton F. – 1946 Men's BB
5. **DANYLUK**, Marshall – 1939 Men's BB
6. **DUCE**, Tena – 1950 Women's Swim
7. **FRASER**, Patricia – 1950 Women's Swim
8. **GERVIN**, Wilber – 1946 Men's BB
9. **HEAVENOR**, Linda – 1949 Women's Swim
10. **HOUGH**, Jan (Jon) – 1946 Men's Swim
11. **JOURDIN**, Clyde – 1947 Men's Athletics
12. **KENEALEY**, Pat – 1949 Men's Swim
13. **KITSON**, Donald – 1943 Men's BB
14. **KVARNBERG**, Jim – 1943 Men's BB
15. **LAMBERT**, Douglas – 1947 Men's Swim
16. **LARSON (LOEHR)**, Marilyn – 1948 Women's Swim
17. **LAWRENCE**, Ross – 1940 Men's BB
18. **LILLIE**, Gilbert – 1943 Men's BB

20. **MCDOLE**, David L. – 1940 Men's BB
21. **MCKENZIE**, Frederick Charles – 1944 Men's Swim
22. **MELNYK**, Ralph – 1944 Men's BB
23. **MONKMAN**, Richard – 1949 Men's Swim
24. **MOONEY**, Michael George – 1947 Men's BB
25. **MUNCH**, Paul Paxton – 1945 Men's Swim
26. **PAILLE**, Raymond – 1946 Men's Road Cycling
27. **PENNER**, Patricia Gail – 1949 Women's Swim
28. **ROBINSON**, Jo-Anne – 1949 Women's Swim
29. **RUSSELL**, Donald – 1946 Men's Athletics
30. **STOTHART**, George Gilmour – 1939 Men's BB
31. **SULLIVAN**, David – 1941 Men's BB
32. **THORPE**, Ron – 1946 Men's Swim
33. **VLUG**, Henry – 1944 Men's Swim

Note: BB refers to Basketball.

Notable Messages from Canada's Recognized Deaf Community Leaders

Definitely for **Deaf Women Athletes** from Coast to Coast to Coast here in Canada Jo-Anne Robinson's the one that brings out the best especially in **Deaf Young Women Swimmers**. Not only as a Mentor, JAR was also able to transform a school-aged **Deaf Girl Swimmer's** approach from just competing at local level to strengthening their personal potential for world-class competition. As a result, we've seen a good number of **Deaf Female Edmontonians as well as Jericho Hill School for the Deaf Female Swimmers** representing Canada at the WSGD games starting in 1965 for nearly 60 years. Here I am unquestionably certain that the **previous MEDALISTS** including **Shannon Brophy** and **Jolanta Lapiak**, hometown residents of the city of Edmonton, Alberta would have loved to bring up JAR as a good example while writing their memoirs about **Sacrifices, Mental Strength, and Strict Discipline** that JAR had developed and delivered as a means of success.

Lifetime gratitude to Jo-Anne. Tipping our hats to that Legendary person.

Collegially,

Terry Gardiner, Former Chairman of CDSA-WGD Organizing Committee (1979-1991)

****Editor's Note:** Another female swimming star, Tara Nesbitt of Mississauga, ON deserves our attention, too. She captured 6 Gold, 2 Silver, and 2 Bronze medals during the 1997 and 2001 Deaflympic Summer Games. I surely bet she was inspired by JAR's stellar performance!*



A jubilant Tara, with her 6 medals (4 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze) won in swimming events during the 1997 Deaflympic Summer Games in Copenhagen, DEN

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD), I would like to express our deep appreciation for the opportunity to honour the life and legacy of **Jo-Anne Marie Robinson**. Although I did not have the privilege of meeting Jo-Anne in person, I have heard many powerful stories about her dedication, achievements, and remarkable impact on Deaf sports and the Deaf community across Canada. Her passion, determination, belief, and leadership inspired generations of Deaf athletes, especially young Deaf women, to believe in themselves and pursue excellence beyond limits.

I have also heard about her beloved partner, Carole Sue Bailey. She was deeply involved with SLIC under CCSD and was a strong supporter of CCSD and the broader Deaf community. Together, Jo-Anne and Carole Sue represented compassion, commitment, and lifelong service to our community. Their dedication strengthened the spirit of Deaf culture, community, and pride for many years.

Now that they are together again, resting in peace, it feels like **two bright lights** of our community have reunited. Their lives remind me of the **lighthouse** that guides and shines for others, offering direction, hope, and inspiration for those who follow. In many ways, Jo-Anne and Sue were like that lighthouse for our community, helping illuminate the path for future generations. (See our Deaf Culture Retreat Centre, Grande-Digue, NB vision book regarding the lighthouse.)

Their legacy, sacrifices, and unwavering commitment will continue to shine through the lives they touched and the communities they strengthened. May their **light** continue to guide and inspire our Deaf community for many years to come.

With deep respect and gratitude,

Leanne Gallant
National Executive Director



Message from Four Former Presidents of CDSA

In Honour of the late Jo-Anne Robinson—our legendary Canadian swimmer who set four records at just 15 years of age—we would like to express our appreciation for her many contributions to Canadian Deaf Sports Association.

As warm-hearted, respectful, and devoted past presidents of the Canadian Deaf Sports Association, we had the privilege of knowing Jo-Anne over many years. We were continually impressed by her passion, integrity, and courage, as well as her unwavering commitment to advancing Canadian Deaf Sports spectrum.

We remember how she spoke openly and honestly, and it strengthened the mutual respect among athletes, officials, and CDSA, including presidents and the rest.

Above all, we remember Jo-Anne as a thoughtful and dedicated person whose contributions to Canadian Deaf Sports will always be remembered. Her legacy will continue to inspire many for years to come.

Ronald Fee * Donald McCarthy * Wayne Goulet * Gregory Desrosiers



The Robinson Family (1972)



The Robinson Siblings (1969)



JHS Graduation Photo (1967)



*Don't Remember Me With Sadness,
Don't Remember Me With Tears,
Remember All the Laughter,
We've Shared Throughout the Years,
Now I Am Contented
That My Life It Was Worthwhile,
Knowing I Passed Along the Way
I Made Somebody Smile.
When You Are Walking Down the Street
And You've Got Me on Your Mind,
I Am Walking in Your Footsteps
Only Half A Step Behind.
So Please Don't Be Unhappy
Just Because I'm Out of Sight,
Remember That I'm With You
Each Morning, Noon And Night.*



Jo-Anne & Sue Bailey
Life-long Partners



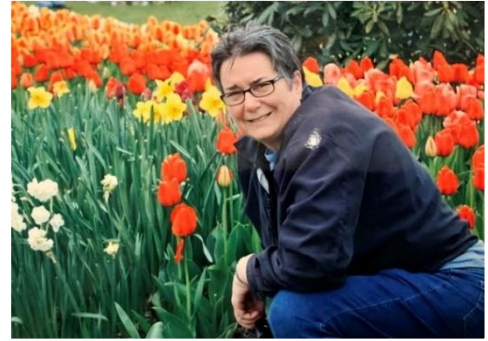
Memoirs of Jo-Anne: Her Hightlights and Adventures



Jo-Anne's 1-year-old birthday celebration



Jo-Anne at Whistler, B.C.

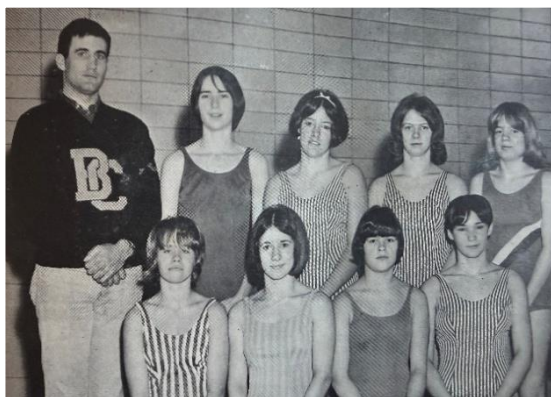


Smiling Jo-Anne in the land of spring flowers



Jo-Anne, aged 4 years, with her Mother, Jo Robinson at their family home in Vancouver is learning auditory-oral approaches to speaking.

Jo-Anne at Easter Island, Chile (2024)



**Jericho Hill School for the Deaf
Girls' Swimming Club 1966-1967**

Front Row L>R – Sandra Holmstrom, Tena Duce, Patricia Fraser & Linda Heavenor.
Back Row L>R – Coach Keith Watson, Jo-Anne Robinson, Judy Johnson, Gail Penner, and Joan Pottenroth.

Jo-Anne with Josie in her arms and Sue during the summer in Alberta



Jo-Anne and Sue's gravesite at Gardens of Gethsemani Catholic Cemetery, Surrey, B.C.



Special Thanks and Appreciation

Celebration of Life for Jo-Anne Marie Robinson Program had taken place at Morgan Creek Golf Club in Surrey, B.C. on May 4, 2026 with the attendance of 80 invited guests coupled with 20 other friends via Zoom. **Annie Kudjerski** was the key organizer with the cooperation of Patricia St. Laurent (sister of Jo-Anne) and the Robinson family/relatives. They all thanked everyone in the audience for sharing and paying their respects and love toward the legendary Jo-Anne Robinson. They also thanked Rev. Gregory Desrosiers for officiating an affectionate sermon at JAR's and Sue's internment service one hour before the celebration began.

The prior protocol of the celebration was set accordingly via video prerequisites as outlined below:

1. Welcome – Annie Kudjerski
2. Eulogy – Patricia St. Laurent
3. Reflections from Family & Friends –
 - Alexandra Robinson, Vancouver
 - Edna Johnson, Maryland
 - Bonnie Russell, White Rock
 - Joanne Cripps & Helen Pizzacalla, Ontario
 - Joel Kvarnberg, Burnaby
 - Annie Kudjerski, Surrey
4. Closing Remarks – Anne Kudjerski & Patricia St. Laurent

Acknowledgements: Photos/Text/Credits

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*Cathy & Sally permitted to lend their poem.



1965 Gold Medal



1969 Gold Medal

Thank You, My Friend

Having first met you at Gallaudet University in the fall of 1968, then at different times, and, as usual, sending you a birthday message last November had become our 57 year long friendship with your last great message returning hugs to me. What an incredible milestone!

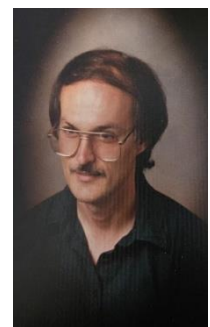
From the beginning, you were always involved in sporting activities, and what a huge difference you made. For every ten spectators, only one comes forward to help. You will be remembered for your great contributions to Deaf sports and Culture. We sincerely thank you for your volunteering and for being a role model to hundreds in our community.

You were thrilled to become Chef-de-Mission prior to 1999 Deaflympic Winter Games in Davos, Switzerland and you were so proud to witness Canada's Deaf Ice Hockey Team to capture their unimaginable first-ever Gold medal in history.

We will miss your light in the world. Your brightness now is such an inspiration for us to want to shine for you. This perfectly captures the idea of you serving as the world-wide Lighthouse that continues to shine brighter over the Deaf community.

Your departure has left a rich impact on this world. With compassion, wisdom, and humility, may your soul now forever be at rest.

Thank you...and good-bye.



Wayne Goulet
Author