

A Probus (retirees) group meeting I belong to in Hamilton all agree that the prices of hearing aids are exorbitant.

The cheapest are about \$4,000 a pair while the dearest are \$11,000 from Bay Audio, which are nowhere near as good as Siemens and others for \$6,000 adjusted and fitted. I bought a Siemens pair from them in 2006 and in 2015 asked them to check and adjust them, but was told that Siemens were no longer made so could not be adjusted because Siemens had gone broke. so could not be serviced so they sold me a new pair for \$10,500 adjusted and fitted. I wore them until 9 am the next day and returned them because they were nowhere near as good as the nine year old Siemens which had volume control and many other adjustments including one setting the Loop System. I went to another vendor who told me that Siemens was a massive company and had not gone broke, and that Bay Audio had lost the Siemens agency because they were not selling many at about half the price of the \$11,000 one Bay Audio recommended, so I took them back the next morning and couldn't get a refund of the setting up cost of \$300. I told them I would tell everyone about them, but they still would not refund us.

Dilworths adjusted them to be much better than Bay Audio had, and at nine years old I still use them very happily. Dilworths have now been taken over by Bay Audio, so I now go to The Ear Room, owned and run by Sandi Horsborough.

The best thing that the best hearing aids have is pressing one button to reduce the continuous meetings and vehicle noises. Not all hearing aids have this wonderful feature, which I would not like to be without.

I've had hearing aids since 1998 and have learned a lot, including how to reduce tinnitus. Read the chapter on it.

When new, hearing aids achieve nothing until adjusted to suit the person.

Choosing the type best suited to your needs an honest, conscientious 'excellent' person.

Finding the best company to adjust them.

Peoples hearing changes, so adjusting should be updated as required.

Finding the best company to maintain them.

If not asked for, it is not done.

Examples

Hearing aids increase the volume of noises. Background noises become louder and make it harder to hear a person right next to one. Constant car noise is stressful. Both can be turned off if you have hearing aids that can do so and go to a fitter who knows how to adjust them.

Not hearing a vehicle's turning clickers is dangerous. They can then remain on! Adjustments can be made to hear them better. Some \$10,000 ones have only three adjustments. Costs include setting them up which can take an hour and be needed twice a year.

Remote controllers get forgotten and lost, and have no advantages, but have disadvantages.

One unit may have to make 10 adjustments which is harder to remember than the left and right each making five.

Bequeath your hearing aids and Loop System to your Hearing Association.