

LOVE & UNDERSTANDING



Sean Bennett and Jenna Watt signing I love you.

By Jessica Campbell

Jenna Watt, 19, and Sean Bennett, 21, have been together for a year and a half. They met at Loyalist College during a Down With Webster concert at the Loyalist pub. Sean is deaf and Jenna is not.

When Watt met Bennett, she didn't know sign language at all. Bennett actually had a 'thing' for Watt's roommate so she tried to get them together. The more she and Bennett spent time together and got to know one another, the more they fell for each other.

Bennett taught Watt all the sign language she knows. When they first got together, they communicated by using their cell phones and computers. The first thing Watt had to learn was the alphabet because whatever she couldn't sign, she would be able to spell out for Bennett and he would show her the sign for that word.

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Watt and Bennett have overcome many obstacles and challenges in their relationship, with communication being the biggest challenge.

Bennett said the hearing culture is a lot different from deaf culture. In hearing culture, people are more closed when speaking. They don't have to use as much detail because people understand by the sound of their voices. In deaf culture, everyone is a lot more open because they have to give all the details so the person they are talking to can understand what they are talking about.

Bennett was very patient with Watt, but admitted he did get frustrated at times when he couldn't understand why Watt couldn't understand things. He would forget that she didn't know as much as he does.

Jenna and Sean are an amazing couple and they have struggles just like any other couple could have, but they work through it. They're strong, they're understanding, they're patient and most of all, they love each other.



Top: Watt tries to get Bennett's attention by waving at him while he watches the hockey game.

Bottom: In Bennett's spare time, he teaches his roommates, friends, family and girlfriend sign language.



Top: Watt and Bennett make a pasta dinner together.

Bottom: Watt and Bennett at the Shark Tank Pub.

