

B.C. BRANCH



BC PAGE

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors



Fall Edition
NO. 3 2003

BCCDC Team-Building Workshop



BCCDC held a very successful team-building workshop in October, that included EHO's from Interior Health and the Lower Mainland. These photos are from a tour of the Containment Level 3 Lab. This is where some of the nasty bugs like Anthrax are handled - hence the duck costumes. Many thanks to BCCDC for the excellent session!



Hey! They said don't touch anything!

BC Branch Update: November 2003

Since the BC Branch began publishing the BC Page in an electronic version, I have been able to circulate a copy to the National Executive Council (NEC) of CIPHI. I have received a lot of positive feedback from both NEC members and BC Branch members about the quality of the newsletter but I am always quick to point out this newsletter would not exist but for the dedicated volunteer editor, Roger Parsonage. I'm not quite sure how Roger juggles all of the demands of a busy career and family, yet still finds time to put together our treasured newsletter.

I have had a lot of comments from members who appreciate the variety of articles and pictures in the last issue and the information about their colleagues around B.C. I agree, this is what the newsletter is all about. This is where we need your help. In this issue, you will see an article about Vancouver Environmental Health. This is courtesy of a few dedicated EHO's in Vancouver (who wish to remain nameless!) who took on my challenge to them to write an article. My vision is to have regular submissions from all of the Environmental Health offices across B.C. providing members with an update of what's happening in their corner of the world. Please consider writing an update for the BC Page about your office/region etc. If we don't get any articles, I will have to resort to the tried and true tactic of nagging. (My husband says I'm very good at it!)

We have heard of a bit of activity on the professional designation front but unfortunately, not for EHO/PHIs. Biologists now have a College and interestingly, achieved this through an Act of their own! The letters to all MLA's requesting their support for professional designation of EHO/PHIs have so far, not generated any responses. I would ask that all members contact their local MLA and ask for their support. Even if an MLA is not a member of Cabinet, they can put pressure on the Cabinet Ministers to move things along. Not sure who your MLA is? Check out the Government of BC web site MLA finder at <http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/mla/3-1-1.htm>.

The Education Committee of the BC Branch is in the early planning stages of the 2004 BC Branch Education Conference. The committee is looking for suggestions of topics/speakers so if you have any ideas, please contact me via e-mail at Claudia.Kurzac@vch.ca and I can forward your suggestions to the committee.

CIPHI membership renewal notices have gone out to all members and I encourage you to renew for 2004. Look for information from the BC Branch on membership renewal incentives in early 2004. Renewing in a timely manner will ensure the uninterrupted delivery of your BC Page and Environmental Health Review.

The Environmental Health Foundation (Canada), (EHFC) has created a new award, the Len Hiebert Environmental Health Review Award. This award honours Len's contribution to the profession and although Len has passed away, his legacy lives on in the form of the Environmental Health Review, our professional journal. The BC Branch CIPHI will be making a donation to this award and I encourage all members to do so as individuals.

Claudia Kurzac, President
CIPHI BC Branch



CIPHI National Executive Council

Update

The CIPHI National Executive Council (NEC) met on November 14 & 15 and the following are some of the highlights of the meeting.

Environmental Health Week: Environmental Health Week will be held in early January in recognition of the contribution of Environmental Health Officers/Public Health Inspectors. The NEC will be distributing posters to the Branches for distribution to the various Health Regions. It is the hope of the NEC that this initiative will gain momentum each year and become a well-publicised event.

Twinning Exchange: A candidate has been selected for the first twinning exchange to be arranged by CIPHI. This member will travel to Denmark for two weeks to observe Environmental Health activities there and a Danish EHO will travel to Canada in exchange. This is an exciting opportunity for CIPHI members and one that will perhaps open the door for other twinning opportunities.

Sabbatical Exchange: Unfortunately, there were no applications received from a CIPHI member for the sabbatical exchange between CIPHI and NEHA for an exchange to the US in 2004.

Conferencing: Positive feedback was received from both delegates and exhibitors attending the very successful 2003 CIPHI AEC in Edmonton this past June. Kudos' to the Alberta Branch. Planning is well in hand for the 2004 CIPHI AEC in Charlottown, PEI.

CIPHI Website Re-design: CIPHI has undertaken a re-design of the CIPHI website to refresh the look of the site and re-organize the information. Mike LeBlanc, CIPHI Webmaster, is undertaking this arduous task. You will be able to check out the exciting new look in early 2004 so stay tuned for more updates!

Canadian Waste Water Association Conference: CIPHI and the Alberta Branch CIPHI will jointly staff a booth at this conference in Calgary, April 2004 in an effort to promote the profession to CWWA members and build a link with this association. The theme for this conference is "Promoting Public Health Through Safe Drinking Water".

Health Canada, Centre for Surveillance: Currently have waiting lists for the 3 Skills Enhancement Modules that are up and running. Two other modules are under development and plans are to pilot these early in 2004.

CIPHI Code of Ethics: The NEC will be putting forward a notice of motion at the next AGM to update the wording of the Code of Ethics. A number of members have raised a concern about the same section of the Code of Ethics. Specifically, the second section which refers to "I will be loyal to the governmental division or industry by which I am retained" The members feel this may cause some conflict and that the wording of this particular section is outdated.

International Federation of Environmental Health: Two members of the NEC will be travelling to Durban, South Africa in February 2004 to assist in presenting the CIPHI bid to host the 2010 IFEH World Congress in Vancouver and to participate in the IFEH council meetings. The two NEC members will join Nick Lostio so CIPHI will be well represented by a small delegation. Funding for the NEC members is being sought from other sources to limit the cost to CIPHI.

Claudia Kurzac
National Vice President
CIPHI BC Branch



LEN HIEBERT PASSES AWAY

Jacob Leonard Hiebert passed away on April 30, 2003. He was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Doris, on May 13, 1999. He is survived by his son Don, daughter Kerri Wilson (Bob) and granddaughter Lauren in the Lower Mainland, daughter Beverly Hastings (Ron) and grandchildren Mark and Scott in Toronto, brother Harry (Mary) in Arizona and brother George (Rita) in Abbotsford.

Len was born on May 7, 1923 in Winkler, Manitoba. He was raised in Alberta and then moved to Ontario to join the Royal Canadian Air Force as the result of WWII. In 1945 Len received his Certificate in Sanitary Inspection and started a long and dedicated career in public health, first in Ontario and then in British Columbia.

Wherever he was located Len always took an active role in his community. He was a member of the Vancouver Magic Circle, Royal Canadian Legion, Canadian Public Health Association, the B.C. Government Retired Employees Association and the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors to name but a few. Len was elected to the B.C. Branch Executive, the National Executive Council and was the Editor of the "B.C. Page" for 7 years. However, his key contribution to CIPHI was as the Editor of "The Canadian Sanitarian" which he renamed the "Environmental Health Review". During his 7 years as Editor, he switched to a full sized page, added more photos, more technical articles and a new bright professional cover. Len became a one-man army handling the preparation, paste-up, advertising and mail-out himself. In 1984 Len was awarded the Member of the Year Award by the B.C. Branch, CIPHI. In 1988 Len was a recipient of the Order of St. John from the Lieutenant Governor of B.C. In 1990 Len was awarded Life Membership in CIPHI for an outstanding lifetime of contribution to public health and CIPHI. In 2001 Len received a recognition plaque from CIPHI for over 50 years of membership in CIPHI.

Len had a great sense of humour and will be missed by all his friends and family. A memorial service was held on Saturday, May 24 at the Unity in Action Church in New Westminster.

At the suggestion of Jim Pannu, a long time friend and colleague, the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada has just approved the creation of "Len Hiebert Environmental Health Review Award" for students attending an accredited school of Environmental Health/Public Health Inspection in Canada. Further details on this award will be finalized and released in the near future.

Tim Roark
Historian

Many thanks to all of you for your feedback on the past issue; thanks also to those who have contributed material for this one - I hope you enjoy it! The next issue will focus on the fires this past summer and the lessons that we learned from them. I think you will be surprised to read what the greatest public health impact was!

As 2003 rapidly draws to a close, I want to wish all of you a happy holiday season and all the best for 2004!

Roger Parsonage,
Editor

To view a 'Dateline' hidden camera investigation into America's top ten fast food chains, visit: www.msnbc.com/news/992692.asp

To see an animated movie on factory farming and its affect on humans, animals and the environment, visit www.thematrix.com (watch it all).

October 23, 2003

Ms. Claudia Kurzac
President
BC Branch, CIPHI
C/O Environmental Health
Vancouver Coastal Health Authority
601 West Broadway #800
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Z 4C2



Dear Claudia:

I am writing today regarding the recent passing of a long-standing member of our profession, and B.C. Branch, **Mr. Leonard Hiebert**. For your information I have enclosed a copy of the notice which was recently printed in our journal, the **Environmental Health Review (EHR)**, a journal that Len contributed so much to develop. I also want to share with you our plan to remember Len and his life time contribution to the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and our profession. At the suggestion of Jim Pannu, a long time friend and colleague of Len, the Board of Trustees of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC) has created the **Len Hiebert Environmental Health Review Award**. The purpose of the award is to recognize aspiring students training to become Public Health Inspectors and Environmental Health Officers in Canada. Initially the award will be a single award in the amount of \$100.00. However, as the principal held in trust by our foundation increases, the size and number of awards will be increased as well. The primary award criteria will include the evaluation of an article submitted to the EHR for publishing and also that the applicant has Student Membership in CIPHI.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the BC Branch to help us preserve the memory of Len Hiebert and his contribution to public health, our profession and CIPHI through a donation to the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada.

Please find attached a copy of our new flyer which outlines our various projects and in particular our newest, the **Len Hiebert Environmental Health Review Award**. We hope you will find this of interest and this project worthy of support. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Yours very truly,

Tim Roark,
Trustee & Treasurer,
Environmental Health Foundation of Canada

A business card for Raymar Realty Ltd. The card is white with blue text and graphics. At the top is the company logo "RAYMAR REALTY LTD." in a stylized font. Below the logo is the address "741 E. Broadway Vancouver, BC, V5T 1X8". The name "Jim Woolsey" is printed in a bold font, followed by "Agent 9.15". Contact information includes "Cel: (604) 250-1875", "Fax: (604) 879-4184", and "E-mail: jwoolsey@smarrt.com". At the bottom, there are four bullet points: "• Property Management", "• General Insurance", "• Autoplan", and "• Real Estate". A small logo for the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada is located at the bottom center of the card.

Why does your well water have bugs in it and how do they get there?

Many modern myths are used to explain the differences in Island water wells...stories about live shrimp in underground rivers and big bubbles of fresh water under the island. The fact is, we know the indicator bacteria called coliforms do not exist naturally in wells, so a well with introduced bacteria may contain "pathogens" - the bacteria that cause disease. The risk of the presence of pathogens is determined by bacteriological testing of our drinking water.

Another myth that has been disproved is the notion that groundwater is pure and sterile unless it had been contaminated. Well bacteriology is a new science that explains many of the odours and problems we see in our drinking water are caused by naturally occurring bacteria. Besides, over half of all rural wells in British Columbia test positive for coliforms. This is a major Public Health problem.

Some natural bacteria will grow out of control simply because of the oxygen allowed into the groundwater by the well. Some of these natural bacteria can produce hydrogen sulfide gas or create slime that can plug the water from getting into the well, thereby cutting off the water supply. (If your well goes dry, investigate these potential causes before you blame your neighbours.)

Surface bacteria such as coliforms are forced into the well by the well construction process. The drill or hammer used to make the well bore goes through the 'topsoil' or surface contamination, which is forced all the way to the bottom of the new well. Almost always, the drill or hammer is dirty and the installation of pump, wiring, drop tube, rope etc. is less than a sanitary process. Well casing is often rusty and dirty when first installed, and then gets worse from condensation. Rusty wells are difficult to disinfect.

The well equipment is often laid out on the ground (with the animal droppings) and then stuffed down the well without even being wiped off. These unsanitary practices can be repeated every time the pump is serviced over the years. The well cap is often loosely fitted around the pipe, wires and rope that go into the well. These cap gaps allow insects and even reptiles that seek water, to drop in for a drink.

Surface water may run toward the well, if the well is in a low spot on the property, and enter the well through a loose fitting cap or flow down the sides of the well casing. Surface water must be sealed out of the well and runoff directed away from the well.

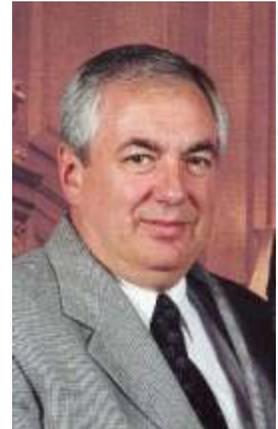
The well needs to be vented to the atmosphere, but in a way that prevents insects from getting in. There should be a seal where the steel well casing meets the bedrock, however this is often not the case. At this point, the open joint allows surface water flowing over the bedrock into the well, and the surface water that comes down the outside of the casing has easy access to the inside of the well. This does increase well water volume, but at a price - extra contamination.

Often well sites are covered by a small wooden structure with loose Fibreglas insulation to protect the well from frost. Unfortunately, this house becomes a home for bugs, spiders, reptiles and even rodents. Their droppings further contaminate the well.

A dirty well must be cleaned before disinfection will be effective. Often, people don't realize that adding chlorine bleach to a contaminated well can make the problem worse. Not only are many toxic by-products formed from bleach reactions, but also the strong bleach will 'seal' the slime layers and prevent further disinfection. It has been proven that well-established slime can support fecal coliform growths.

A clean and sanitary well will give safe drinking water for many years, but an unsanitary well simply cannot produce safe drinking water! More information is available from the Gabriola Groundwater Management Society.

Cliff Turner, CPHI(C),
Director, Gabriola Groundwater Management Society



Vancouver News

Ever wonder what happened to a classmate from BCIT, or that inspector that made you inspect every hair salon in Kitsilano? Here's your chance to get the goods on who's doing what in the Vancouver office with the first edition of Vancouver News.

Summer a.k.a complaint season has been a busy time for the Vancouver bunch. If it is not investigating noise complaints, there is always a few dead crows to collect and now we now have Jen "Gutter Girl" Flaten checking for mosquito larvae in the storm sewers. Also, who can forget SARS? Joanne Lum, Salima Kassam and Shelley Beaudet certainly will not. They spent countless hours screening grumpy travelers at Vancouver International.

Staff changes have been ongoing. For those of you a little longer in tooth, there have been two recent retirements Russ Sankey and Allan Vince both left us to explore the retired life early last year. There have been a couple of defections to the dark side with Nigel McNabb and John Chong (the better looking of the brothers according to J.C.) both taking up challenges with Health Canada. Recent additions to the Vancouver team include Tara Hluchy, Jennifer Montgomery, Sonia Hundal and Jennifer Flaten.

Summer time is not all work. We are indeed a well-traveled bunch. Tara spent some time exploring the highlands of Scotland. Brigitte Baumann was in Germany, and Shelley visited with some family in Switzerland. Joanne, our resident travel queen, has been in Spain, Portugal and Cuba in the last year. Sajan took his family back to his where he grew up in Borneo, and actually got to meet the Sultan. Rik Bernard enjoyed the tastes of the Baltic region and Karen Cummings enjoyed one too many "martoonis" aboard a Panama cruise.

Sports are popular. We have our very own volleyball team, Down and Dirty, organized by Joanne for the third year. We play every Tuesday at Spanish Banks and are enjoying some surprising successes, all thanks to our dictator, oops director Nick Losito. And we are happy to say that Nick has managed not to injure a single team member this year! The guys are still playing ice hockey at Eight Rinks, and there is also Friday night hockey for the "wannabes". Thanks to Sajan Joseph for organizing a wildly entertaining tennis tournament at the Delbrook Community Center in North Van. Turnout was great but it would be even better to see a few more faces from the North Shore crew. All, we can say is watch out for Arnie Faremo's wicked serve!

We also seem to have a very dedicated group of runners. Jen M., Keith H., and R-No all completed marathons this year, and Sonia completed her first half-marathon. There are many others on staff who run regularly and compete in 10km races so we have decided to put together a team for the Haney to Harrison 100km relay and would love to see other PHI teams out there to compete against!

With sports come injuries and there have been some notables, as well as other staff members with some interesting health issues (right Bill and Harry?). All we can say is at least everyone is (relatively) healthy now!

On a completely different but more personal note, there is a new baby Jantzen. Congratulations to David and Alicia on their son Marcus. With Errol retired from BCIT poor Alice now has another child at home! For those of you who didn't know a certain director had a milestone birthday this year. Don't worry Nick we won't tell them you turned 50!

We are not all fun and games. There are a few in our group aspiring to improve themselves through additional education. Brian Johnston was in Ottawa for a 2 week course aimed at training and forming a working group for being the first responders to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) events. This pilot course had representatives from Fire, Police, RCMP, Ambulance, Environmental Health and BCCDC. Randy Ash is in the process of finishing his Masters in Toxicology at SFU. Congratulations to Richard Taki in successfully completing his Masters of Arts in Leadership and Training at Royal Roads. Sajan has decided to follow Richard's example and will be starting the same program this fall. Best of luck to Saj!

As for the rest of province, we challenge Vancouver Island Health to come up the next edition, after all not everything revolves around Vancouver; contrary to popular belief!

In closing, now that you know all the goods about us, let's hear from the rest of you. Don't try and hide because Claudia will find you!

Vancouver Staff

Pod One

Sajan Joseph
Joanne Lum
Keith Herle
Salima Kassam
David Jantzen
Harry Dhaliwal

Pod 2

Barb Peters
Ginny Jorgensen
Lis Vallister
Arne Faremo
Yonge Wong
Shelley Beaudet
Sonia Hundal
Tara Hluchy

Pod 3

Garrett Brouwer
Cindy Krins
David Lee
Les Kermet
Jennifer Montgomery
Arnaud Zonag
Jennifer Flaten

Tobacco Pod

Heather Langemann
Pamela Shaw
Greta Kos
Jim Walmsley
Karen Zabaraz
Karen Cummings

CCFL

Mark Ritson
Alice Munger
Graham Cobb

CD

Claudia Kurzac
Jessica Ip Chan

Threes

George Eng
Randy Ash
Alfred Guthrie
Bill McIntyre
Rik Bernard
Doug Glenn
Angelo Kouris
Brian Johnston

Deputies

Brigitte Baumann
Peter Jacobs

Director

Nick Losito

MHO

Dr. Blatherwick

Andy Hazlewood Wins Award

Andy Hazlewood was awarded the BCIT Distinguished Alumni Award for Public Service. He has taken a leadership role in making BC world renowned in establishing smoking reduction strategies and for legislation and standards for safe drinking water, food safety and ensuring the safety of persons in care. Among his numerous accomplishments, Andy led the evolution of the Provincial Public Health Laboratory, and other communicable disease initiatives, into Canada's only integrated Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC). The centre is closely affiliated with BC's research and academic community. He is also an adjunct professor in UBC's Faculty of Health Care and Epidemiology.

Andy is a 1972 graduate of BCIT's Environmental/Public Health Technology program. He went on to earn a certificate (1983) and Bachelor of Applied Arts (1985) in Environmental Health at Ryerson Polytechnic in Ontario. In 1999, he was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister, BC Ministry of Health and subsequently became BC's first Provincial Director General, Population Health and Wellness.

For more information about the BCIT Alumni Association and our awards program, please visit www.alumni.bcit.ca. Nominations for next year's awards will soon be accepted. The deadline for the 2004 awards nominations is Wednesday, March 31, 2004.

Courtesy of BCIT. The 2004 BCIT Distinguished Alumni Awards Call for Nominations (criteria and nomination forms are available at www.alumni.bcit.ca/awards.shtml)



B.C.-RELATED HIGHLIGHTS FOR PHIs

Dear Colleagues:

For a number of years now I've been collecting reports and documents which have provided some light on the field of Sanitary Inspection/Public Health Inspection as it's unfolded in the **Colony** and then the **Province of British Columbia**. I have now compiled this into a sequence of notable events that have occurred both within the Province and elsewhere in Canada. Many of these events, both inside and outside of B.C., have had and are still having a profound impact on our profession in B.C. You will see my first entry is dated **1869** and my latest entry of note is **2002**. Unfortunately, there is a period between 1939 and 1963 during which I've found little information to date on the key events which took place and that have impacted our profession. Certainly there was WWII, which had a significant dampening effect on all sectors of society. However, I'm sure there were many other notable events such as the creation of new health units, implementation of new policies, procedures and directions, as well as new public health and related environmental challenges.

I would greatly appreciate any comments, information and suggestions that you can provide so that I can make this a more accurate reflection of the events which have impacted and molded our profession in B.C. over the past 130+ years. Many thanks.

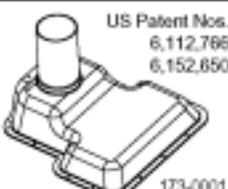
Tim Roark, Historian
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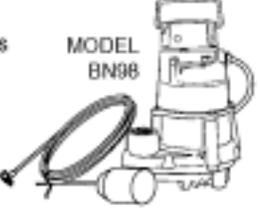
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B.C. Branch C.I.P.H.I.

- 1869 February 23 - The Legislative Council of the Colony of British Columbia enacted “**An Ordinance for promoting the Public Health in the Colony of British Columbia.**” Reference to “Sanitary Inspector” is included in the Ordinance. Primary duties were regarding communicable disease control. The Ordinance provided for Sanitary Inspectors to be employed by Local Boards of Health.
- 1871 July 20 - British Columbia joined as a Province of the Dominion of Canada. The Health Ordinance for the Colony of B.C. became part of the first statutes of the Province of B.C.
- 1893 April 12 - As a direct result of a serious outbreak of Smallpox in 1892, a new health act with much broader powers being “**An Act respecting the Public Health**” was passed by the B.C. Legislature.
- Sanitary Inspectors were involved in “investigations and inquiries regarding the cause of disease and especially epidemics” and to “inquire into the sanitary condition of public institutions and buildings”.
- 1896 A serious outbreak of Typhoid Fever occurred in the Kootenays. Mr. Clive Phillips-Wooley was appointed the first Sanitary Inspector by the Provincial Board of Health to ensure containment of the outbreak.
- The initial qualifications for Sanitary Inspectors adopted by most employing agencies were established by the Royal Society of Health in England.
- 1903 Captain F.S. De Gray, Master Mariner, was appointed Cannery Inspector by the Provincial Board of Health.
- 1906 March 12 - The **Health Act** was amended to include the “examination of foodstuffs, etc.”
- 1911 March 1 - The **Health Act** was amended to provide for the “ventilation of theatres, boarding houses and other public buildings”. In addition, health regulations were approved governing sanitary conditions for “Lumber Camps, Railway Camps, Mining Camps, Sawmills and other places...”.
- 1912 April 1 - Captain De Gray was appointed Assistant Sanitary Inspector by the Provincial Board of Health.
- 1913 April 19 - The “**Sanitary Inspectors Association of Western Canada**” was formed covering from B.C. to Fort William, Ontario.



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- 1914 Captain De Gray was appointed Acting Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health (Provincial Cabinet).
- 1915 - March 6 - The Health Act was amended to include “water, water works, sewerage and sewage-disposal control”.
- 1917 April 1 - Captain De Gray appointed Chief Sanitary Inspector for B.C. by the Provincial Board of Health, a position he held until his retirement in 1940.
- 1917 A “65 foot power boat”, the SANITA (derived from word SANITArY) was procured by the Provincial Board of Health enabling Sanitary Inspectors to visit the numerous canneries, logging camps and communities along B.C.s “6,000-mile coastline”.
- 1920 The **Canadian Sanitary Association** was formed.
- 1925 September 14 - The **Sanitary Inspectors Association of Canada**, British Columbia Branch was formed as a branch of the Canadian Sanitary Association.
- 1934 January 3 - The **Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors** was established under a Charter issued by the Government of Canada. The Charter included the authority to “sit upon the committee of the Canadian Public Health Association for the Certification of Sanitary Officers.”
- 1934 November 25 - The Canadian Public Health Association held the initial meeting for the creation of the “**Committee on the Certification of Sanitary Inspectors**”. With the support of all Provincial Health Departments, Health and Welfare Canada, and the Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors, the “Certificate in Sanitary Inspection (Canada)” was adopted.
- 1935 June 3 to 5 - The syllabus of instruction for a Correspondence Course for Sanitary Inspectors was approved at the Annual General Meeting of CPHA with the first examinations set for December 1935.
- 1939 Morven Ewan was hired as a Sanitary Inspector by the New Westminster Health Department.
- 1963 The title “Sanitary Inspector” was changed to “Public Health Inspector” and the name of the association plus the certificate were also changed to reflect this new title.
- 1967 A two year “Diploma” program in Public Health Inspection was started at B.C.I.T. with the first graduation class in the Spring of 1969. The first graduates were:
- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Len Boquski | Bill Rogers |
| Jim Brooks | Rita Swakum |
| John Davidson | Dave Urquhart |
| Barry Lawley | Roy Wong |
- 1968 The Correspondence Course for Public Health Inspectors, originated in 1935, was discontinued in favor of formal courses in regular institutions of learning.

To be continued...



Jim Pannu

Jim Pannu is appropriately attired to receive the many congratulations and accolades from Nick Losito and numerous colleagues at his retirement party a short time ago in Vancouver. Jim started his lengthy career in Hong Kong and then moved to BC to start work as PHI in the Fraser Valley in 1962. Subsequently Jim worked in the Simon Fraser Health Unit and then on to the Vancouver Health Department where he worked until his retirement. His colleagues in Vancouver will miss Jim's great experience, knowledge and sense of humour.

Photo Barry Willoughby

Since retiring as the Director of Environmental Health with the Ministry of Health, Barry Willoughby has spent much of his time out standing in his Dahlia garden in Saanich. Outstanding is the correct word as Barry's beautiful Dahlias are sold internationally and are continuously receiving coveted awards. All the best to Barry in his new career as a Horticulturist.



Photo of Charlie Young

After a long and illustrious career in Environmental Health, Charlie Young has retired from his position as Program Head of the Environmental Health Technology at BCIT to start up his own business, KYC EnviroHealth Consulting. Charlie is pictured with the members of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada at his last meeting as a Trustee. Need advice from an expert in Environmental Health? Call Charlie Young.

2003 CIPHI National Educational Conference

Edmonton, Alberta

Firstly, I would like to thank the BC Branch for their financial support to attend our 69th National Conference. I recommend that every member look at the opportunity to receive support from our Branch of CIPHI in attending these or other conferences.

Each National Conference is different, as every organizing committee has different resources available, and wishes to showcase differing aspects of our profession. This means that any given conference may not appeal to every EHO. On the other hand, by attending a number of conferences, one does view the breadth of disciplines and variety of implementations found in the various jurisdictions across Canada. This year, in addition to having a wide variety of sessions of broad appeal, there were a number of streams of specialized appeal. While I particularly enjoyed learning about Bill Hone's management style, it was also interesting to learn the directions that Alberta is moving in meeting the goals set out in their Health "Bluebook" – particularly in the Water Quality arena.

This conference had a wealth of opportunities to view our profession. The three streams of sessions provided a smorgasbord of choices, at times it was impossible to decide between sessions! If I recall, there was only one point where none of the presentations appeared of interest – an excellent track record.

Alberta CIPHI's choice of the Fantasyland Hotel as the venue was great – all the facilities and tourism opportunities were easily accessible; though I chose to stay at a local RV park – the commute was only a few minutes, due to the ease of accessing the West Edmonton Mall. Time outside the conference sessions was also constructively filled with excellent meals and events; the dinner theatre was enjoyed by all, but it seems that EHO's are too strong-willed to be hypnotized, and the few folks that were hypnotized were supported by an able cast drawn from the audience.

Conferences provide opportunities to meet with old friends and create new ones, and this year's event was no exception. Although none of my East Coast friends attended, I did get to put names to faces of a few folks I've met on the CIPHI Discussion Board, or spoken with over the phone.

The Conference organizers used the ease of access to Health Canada Staff and CMHC Staff for a number of topics, and the display area also was well attended by local and distant suppliers. Of particular interest to me was comparing the two competing data tools – HealthSpace and Hedgehog, to learn more of the features of each, and to see a number of water treatment devices; the use of a UV light reactor to generate ozone for swimming pool disinfection, and the Davnor intermittent slow sand filter, a simple device for removal of undesirable constituents of water in order to make it potable.

In closing, this was an enjoyable, well-attended conference with an excellent series of presentations. I look forward to the opportunity to attend the conference in PEI in June of 2004.

David Butt

This past summer, I was given the opportunity to attend the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspector's Annual Educational Conference in Edmonton, Alberta. Emptying my clattering pockets of my trusted EHO tools (all but my indispensable flashlight) and filling my tote bag with summer clothes (throwing in a couple of handy alcohol swabs "just in case"), I boarded the hot pink ZIP airplane and set my sights on the adventure, which lay ahead. Excitement and a hint of apprehension met me at the door to the icebreaker reception, but boldly, I stepped forward.

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The sight that met my eyes was far from the intimidating scenario I'd conjured up in my mind. The room was packed with a chatty gathering of happy EHOs, smiling and laughing as they stood, surrounded by colourful poster presentations on the latest developments in public/environmental health topics. As the seemingly anonymous sea of faces began to focus before me, I soon picked out the faces of people I knew – no longer the quiet, reserved individuals I had come to know in a work setting, all were happy to discuss their varied interests outside of work, while drawing upon their personal collection of “unique and memorable” work experiences, effectively captivating nearby listeners.

Inspirational presentations, given by a wide range of public health professionals, convinced me, yet again, of the vital role played by EHOs, despite their existence (for the most part) in the “shadows” of glory. Through their efforts and quiet victories, EHOs do succeed in bettering the lives of those around them. I felt honoured to count myself in among this small, unassuming, truly dedicated group of professionals.

Awards were bestowed upon those worthy individuals, likely long overdue for some public recognition of their hard work – efforts which, to this point, may well have gone unnoticed by the masses. Without doubt, the most touching award was that presented to long-time public health inspector, Mr. Dave Patterson, hailed as “Walkerton's hero,” sadly having passed away soon after the Walkerton crisis subsided and shortly into his retired life. As stated in his obituary, “Despite his pivotal role in unravelling the mystery that killed seven people and left 2,500 ill, the quiet and self-effacing Mr. Patterson never sought the limelight and seldom talked to reporters.” I was brought to tears, listening to the inspirational life story of Mr. Patterson, someone whom I had never personally met, yet immediately felt a deep respect for. Glancing upon the teary-eyed faces of my peers, their eyes aglow with admiration, inspiration and sorrow, I was struck by the remarkable significance of this individual's contribution to public health. His dedication serves as an inspiration for us all.

A presentation on the growing problem of methamphetamine labs offered a frightening glimpse into the dangerous developing world of investigative and remediation efforts in this area. Perhaps most shocking, was the rapidly increasing number of such clandestine operations being set up in homes across the country, posing an extreme health and safety threat to nearby residents. Professionals, aware of and prepared for the extreme risks posed by these labs bravely proceed in their efforts to conquer this hazard. However, for the “naïve” EHO, conducting a general housing complaint inspection at the location of such a clandestine operation, the potential for harm is great.

Particularly dear to my heart, the presentation on outbreaks of Norwalk-like virus on cruise ships drew me in as an audience member, perhaps as a demonstration of my moral support and ongoing fascination with the topic, itself. The recollection must have awakened the story-teller in me, as it was all I could do to remain quietly seated, listening and longing to jump up and input my own personal tidbits of comedy (e.g. innovative techniques used to transport hundreds of stool specimens on a wobbly trolley on a rainy Sunday morn), challenges, and humble victories won through the tireless efforts of the EHO team at Health Canada's Workplace Health and Public Safety Programme, from whom I gained such invaluable experience.

Returning home from this conference, I felt a renewed sense of wonder for the world of public health, treasuring my new kinships with peers from across the country. I offer my thanks to those individuals, who stepped forward to share their personal experiences with me, all serving as a source of inspiration. I count myself lucky to have chosen a career so diverse and aware of the ever-evolving needs of the communities we serve. This profession, yet obscure to many outside its realm, is best suited to adventurers able to think on their feet in the face of disaster and those willing individuals, who are capable of making seamless transitions in their daily schedule to meet ever changing priorities with “James Bond-ish” ease. As substantiated by my peers nation-wide, no day is ever totally predictable in the life of an EHO, and to be honest, I really wouldn't want it any other way! The element of surprise keeps us “on our toes,” and makes the stories we share in such wonderful gatherings as these, so much more captivating! Thank you, CIPHI, for allowing me to be a part of this memorable experience.

Lucille Lukey

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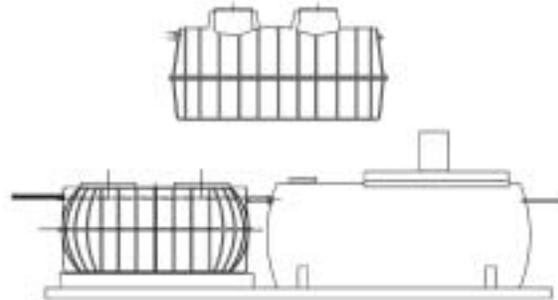


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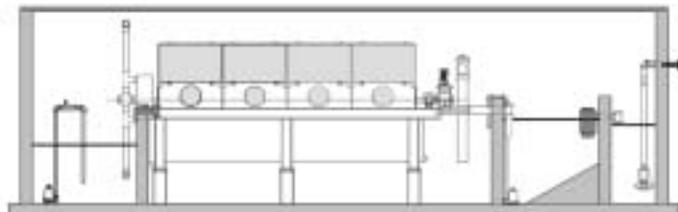


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