

Associate Membership in CIPHI Finally Approved

A process started back in 1981 by Bob Herbison, a former Life Member and long-time Secretary of the BC Branch, was finally completed on June 26, 2006 at the CIPHI National AGM in Regina with the approval of an “Associate Membership” category. Bob always felt that persons holding their CPHI(C) who did not work as PHIs or EHOs should be encouraged to join the Institute and keep in touch with their profession and peers. He noted that some graduates took positions in parallel agencies such as the WCB or in private industry where the CPHI(C) was not required. In addition, women were entering the profession in increasing numbers but often left work for extended periods of time to raise families or to move to a new community with their husbands but were then unable to find employment as a PHI or EHO. He strongly believed all should be encouraged to join CIPHI and stay in touch. He concluded that an Associate Membership category with a reduced membership fee would be the best way to encourage the continued participation of these colleagues.

Associate Membership was approved at the BC Branch AGM back in 1983 and then submitted to CIPHI for consideration at the next National AGM. Unfortunately the debate on the Notice of Motion at the national AGM in 1984 degenerated into a heated argument over the amount of dues to be paid, individual situations and rulings by the Parliamentarian on several amendments. The outcome was the proposal was defeated.

As a result of renewed interest in the concept of Associate Membership for CPHI(C) holders not currently working in the profession, including the potential ability for them to record Continuing Education Credits, a new Notice of Motion was developed and submitted by Tim Roark and Shelly Stetsko to CIPHI National for consideration at the recent AGM in Regina. The proposal was quickly approved by the delegates at the AGM with no opposition and few questions. As a result of the wording of the Notice of Motion, the Associate Membership fee will be set by the National Executive Council once changes to the CIPHI Constitution and Bylaws are approved by Industry Canada.

In recent years CIPHI has become far more inclusive with the addition of several new membership categories such as Fraternal, International, Affiliate and Student in addition to the original categories of Regular, Retired, Life and Honourary.

For further information on this subject it is recommended that you contact Debra Losito, CIPHI Office Manager.

Tim Roark
Historian

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Message from the Editor

Summer has past and autumn is now here. In this issue, I introduce to you two new sections to our newsletter. The first is related to Lorraine McIntyre's article "Get Your Questions Answered. We Need Your Ideas!" published in the last issue. Many thanks to all those who have contributed your topic ideas for student research projects at BCIT's Environmental Health program. Your ideas have been shared with the students who will be embarking on their research projects in early 2007. In this issue, we showcase two abstracts from student reports that were completed in April of this year. I am sure you will enjoy reading about the research conducted by Eric de Castro and Jennifer Jeyes.

The second new addition is entitled "Where Are They Now?" and was an idea brought to the Editorial team by Shelly Stetsko of Castlegar, BC. Not only did Shelly come up with the idea to write about past BCIT instructors, she also provided the first submission. In her article, Shelly has written about her visit with Naz Abdurahman who is a retired BCIT instructor. Perhaps after reading this column, it will help bring back some memories that you may have had with Naz when you were attending BCIT.

Just as I was putting the final touches to this newsletter, I was notified that Mr. Stephen Chamut, a retired Public Health Inspector, will be celebrating his 91st birthday on October 3, 2006. The Executive Committee and the members of the BC branch wish all the best for Stephen and a "Happy Birthday"!

Lastly, I'd like to congratulate this year's BCIT Environmental Health graduates...you've made it! It's been a long 2 and 4 years for the respective 31 graduates, and now there is only one more hurdle to go. Good luck to all of you on your Board of Certification exams in October.

Alex Law
Editor



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BRANCH UPDATE

With leaves changing colours and descending from the trees, it has become increasingly evident that our summer is drawing to a close and fall is amongst us. This transition period to winter gives our volunteers the opportunity to plan for the upcoming festive events and the year.

In July, the Branch hosted its annual President's Cup Softball Challenge. Hours before the challenge, it appeared as though the weather would not cooperate, as showers covered the field, however by the time the first game was played (and for the remainder of the day) the sun shone through the clouds giving us a gorgeous day. EHO's from Vancouver teamed up with a couple of Burnaby inspectors to dethrone the defending champions from Richmond Health and capture the trophy. And of course no CIPHI social event would be a success without great food and cold drinks!

All BC Branch committees are hard at work and after our most recent executive meeting, in late-September, it is apparent there is much to do. Our social committee is in the process of finalizing a venue for the annual Christmas luncheon on December 6, 2006. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details as this event will be one you don't want to miss.

Also, the Environmental Public Health Week (EPHW) is scheduled for the beginning of January 2007. This is an important week because this initiative gives all members the opportunity to promote and support our profession. It is in everyone's best interest to get involved and increase our profile as Environmental Public Health Professionals.

Looking past the horizon, planning for the rapidly approaching 2007 Annual Education Conference in Kelowna is well under way. By preliminary accounts, the conference will provide an excellent opportunity for delegates to expand their educational backgrounds and at the same time enjoy the many social and recreational aspects that Kelowna has to offer. Committee members from the interior and the Lower Mainland are diligently working to ensure that a positive experience will be had by all.

Finally, good luck to all of the Environmental Health students as they prepare for their upcoming Board of Certification exams.

Best Regards,

Shawn Parhar
Vice President, BC Branch



DON CORRIGAL - 2006 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Don Corrigan has shown an outstanding commitment to the profession and the interests of public health. These are just some of the words spoken at this year's Annual General Meeting at Sun Peaks Resort regarding Don Corrigan and are the basis for him receiving the *2006 Member of the Year Award* from the BC Branch.



In 1973 Don graduated from Richmond Senior Secondary and then from the Environmental Health Program at BCIT in 1977. He received his Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) #2624 shortly thereafter. Don started his career with the Northern Interior Health Unit in Vanderhoof where he worked from 1978-80. In 1980 he transferred to Kelowna where he stayed until his appointment in 1991 as Chief Public Health Inspector for the East Kootenay Health Unit in Cranbrook. As a result of the reorganization of the health care system Don was appointed as Manager of Health Protection in 1997.

In 2002 Don was appointed to his current position of Assistant Director of Health Protection - Kootenay Operations for Interior Health Authority.

Don has been a long-standing BC Branch member since 1978 as well as a national and international karate competitor, tournament official, instructor and coach. Over his nearly 30 years as an Environmental Health Professional he has made several significant contributions to the field including the following.

1. *Health Act Review* – Don did most of the research & drafting for the first draft of the CIPHI position paper on the Health Act re-write.
2. *1996 Cranbrook Cryptosporidium outbreak* – Don led the outbreak response for the Ministry of Health in the first crypto outbreak in BC.
3. *Erickson Improvement District Supreme Court action and subsequent upgrade of water works* – Don marshaled the Interior Health Authority's response for over 15 years to achieve successful quality improvement of the Creston/Erickson Arrow Creek intake. This included issuing orders

under the Health Act, going through the subsequent Supreme Court appeal of the order by the community, being picketed & blockaded by the community, the removal of the Improvement District Board for failure to comply, helping to design a no chlorine option for the community, which ultimately led to the community's consultant engineer receiving 2 awards for outstanding engineering. The Arrow Creek intake works is now the most advanced water treatment facility in the Province of BC, consisting of intake works with fish ladders, 2nd generation Zenon ultra filtration, UV primary disinfection and chemical residual secondary disinfection with state of the art electronic control & monitoring.

4. *Community watershed Improvement* - Don sat as a member of the Forest Practices Code Community Watershed Guideline Committee and has taken a lead in the protection, management and planning in community water systems in the Kootenay area focusing on forestry practices, grazing practices & back country recreational practices through multi-stakeholder groups and sitting with Ministry of Environment Water Stewardship officials to develop the source protection Memorandum of Understanding.

5. *Community airshed work* – Don developed a community based multi-stakeholder committee approach to hazard analysis, source apportionment and airshed management practices which has led to 5 committees being operationalized for the upper Columbia Valley, Cranbrook/Kimberley, Sparwood/Elk Valley, Nelson/Trail and the Grand Forks Valley. The efforts in the upper Columbia valley have led to a significant air quality/apportionment study being done in that area by UBC.

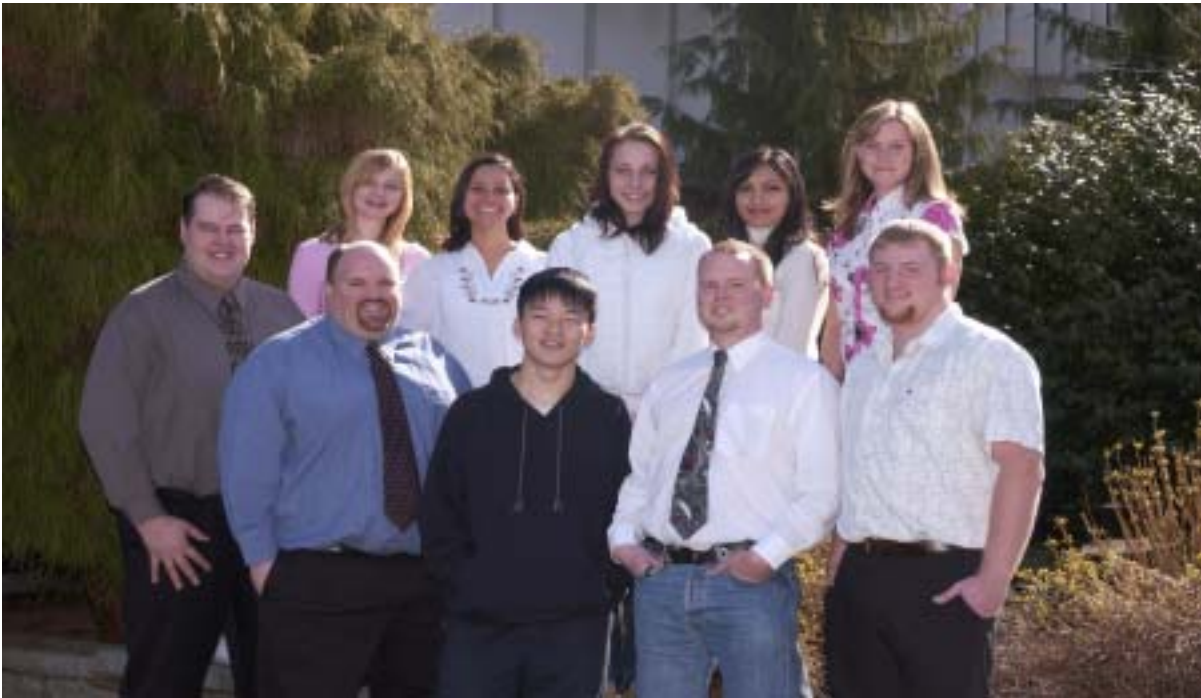
6. Lastly but certainly not least, Don has lobbied the CIPHI, Ministry of Health, BC OnSite Sewage Association (BCOSSA) plus the Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC (ASTTBC) on behalf of land experienced PHIs for grandfathering as *Approved Practitioners* under the new Sewerage Systems Regulations.

Based on his outstanding commitment to the profession and the interests of public health, Don Corrigan was nominated for 2006 Member of the Year by Ken Christian with Ron Popoff and Gordon Stewart as seconders.

Tim Roark
Associate Editor

2006 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH GRADUATES

2005/2006 GRADUATING CLASS (4-Year)



Back Row (L to R): Ewelina Dziak, Evelyn Martell, Amanda Faulkner, Reena Toor, Jacqueline Bratt
Front Row (L to R): Jeff Lowry, Todd Baxter, Induck Sul, Patrick O'Brien, Brad Giesbrecht

2005/2006 GRADUATING CLASS (2-Year)



Back Row (L to R): Nindi Sivia, Stephanie Szeto, Zara Zychowicz, Vanessa Ouellette, Shannon Roberts, Laurie McClellan, Jennifer Jeyes, Cory Quigley
Front Row (L to R): Greg Adamson, Kim McLennan, Chris Miki, Wayne Quan, Krista Wilson, Stephanie Hutchinson, Mandeep Dial., Young Jae Lim, Eric de Castro
Missing: Shaundel Dodds, Chris Losito, Emily McGuire, Stella Obi

A Review of Environmental Health Articles

Examining the Impact of Publishing Restaurant Inspection Reports Online: Opinion Survey among Public Health Inspectors/Operators -
By Eric de Castro, B.Sc.

Abstract:

The Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) agency began putting restaurant inspection reports online in April of 2002. Sufficient time has passed to examine how effective the change has been on both Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) and restaurant operators in the region. Results of the research may influence how the online system is handled in the future.

A survey addressing the impact of restaurant inspections online was either electronically mailed or done over the telephone/fax to PHIs in British Columbia, and to restaurant operators randomly chosen within the VCH region.

A total of 138 out of 411, or 34% respondents completed the survey from both groups. The two groups were found to have similar opinions with regards to online inspection reports with PHIs scoring slightly higher at 79% versus operators at 74%. Correlation/regression analysis showed fair to good correlation with PHIs and Operator survey scores decreasing with increasing years in profession. Operators

were more likely to change business practices/ inspections if the reports were posted online, whereas PHIs were unlikely. Operators were somewhat unconcerned how the public/media may interpret reports online, whereas PHIs were somewhat concerned. PHIs definitely agreed that the public has a right to see this information in this manner, whereas operators were indifferent on the matter. Mean survey scores differed significantly between PHIs with online inspection reports in their health region (82.1%), versus regions without (76.7%).

Survey results showed no difference of opinions between PHIs in BC and restaurant operators in the VCH region with respect to the impact of online inspection reports. Since both

groups scored in the 74-79% range for the survey, one can suggest they feel there is a fair to major impact of online inspection reports on the public and their respective professions.

Individual survey question scores on the whole were similar to what the total survey scores showed. Each survey question score from both groups were similar with operators scoring only four percent lower on average versus PHI scores. A fair to good correlation was found for a decreasing survey score with increasing years of experience in their profession for both groups. Since age is usually tied with years in profession, this may indicate a greater reliance on the internet as a source of information for younger generations.



Eric hails from Richmond, BC and obtained a degree in Environmental Science from Simon Fraser University. Just this past June he graduated from BCIT's Environmental Health program and is eagerly awaiting the Board of Certification examinations this October. He currently works for the

Fraser Health Authority in Burnaby, BC and hopes to continue there for many years to come strengthening the proactive arm of health care in BC. Feel free to contact him at Eric.Decastro@fraserhealth.ca

Comparison of Coliform Counts on Three Divisions of a Pull Open Door Handle in Public Washrooms - By Jennifer Jeyes

Abstract

The purpose of this experiment was to examine public washroom door handles for the presence of coliforms and to subsequently enumerate them. No-touch washrooms are beginning to appear; sensed sinks, paper towel dispensers, and air dryers,

as well as the design of doorless washrooms. Keeping the number of touchable surfaces to a minimum aids in lowering the rate of contamination and transference to humans, thus potentially reducing illness rates in the population. In particular, pull-door handles in public washrooms are large enough to invite the possibility of grasping them in locations other than the central part of the handle. These handles are thought to be contaminated by numerous species of microbes, such as

bacteria like coliforms or *Staphylococcus*, viruses, yeasts and molds, or by parasites. Contamination could occur by unwashed hands, by aerosols produced by the toilet or by other means. This experiment found that the presence of coliforms on bathroom door handles is low. There is very little coliform contamination to be transferred to other people and there is no statistical difference between bacterial counts on different areas of the door handle ($p=0.90$). However, it did not show that there is no contamination, as other microbes were not tested for. It is possible that the combination of regular sanitation as well as good handwashing techniques are appropriate control measures for reducing illness in the general population.

Previous to completing the Environmental Health Program at BCIT, Jennifer obtained a degree from Simon Fraser University in biology with a concentration in cell and molecular biology, as well as completing a Cooperative Education component for the degree. From this work experience she gained knowledge in a couple of public health episodes that, when the time came, helped Jennifer make the leap into Environmental Health. Jennifer finished the program at BCIT in June after completing practicum's in Prince



George and Campbell River, and began a job in Fort St John, in which she is really looking forward to experiencing the winter! In her spare time Jennifer likes to walk dogs for the SPCA and play softball and volleyball when she gets the chance. Right now, she is studying hard for

Board of Certification exam and hope to be an effective EHO in the future. Feel free to contact her at Jennifer.Jeyes@northernhealth.ca

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PIBC'S 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE April 17th – 20th, 2007 – Kelowna, BC

The Planning Institute of BC invites you to propose a session or mobile workshop for the 2007 PIBC Conference in Kelowna. We invite the submission of papers and presentation proposals from Planners, Architects, Health and Environment-related professionals and practitioners, Students and any other professional individuals from the spectrum of disciplines that contribute to planning our communities.

Deadline for Proposals: **October 13, 2006**

Sessions:

Most sessions are 75 minutes in length, and they will take place from the morning of Wednesday, April 18th through to noon on Friday, April 20th. Mobile workshops will take place for a full afternoon on Wednesday.

Conference Themes:

The overall theme of the conference is *A Good Thing Growing*, with four interrelated sub-themes.

Growing Healthy Communities - The planning profession was born out of concern for human health. Today, planners are again developing an awareness of the links between our field and human health. At PIBC 2007, we would like to explore the intersection of urban planning and human health, both physical and social. How can we plan our communities such that they promote active and healthy living? In an age of isolation, how can we promote the notion of community? What can we do to encourage the development of vibrant, supportive social networks? How might we grow healthy communities?

Growing a Sense of Place - In our increasingly globalized world, sense of place is diminishing in many communities. Bigger is better, mass production is prevalent, cookie-cutter designs abound, and a sense of the 'local' is becoming more difficult to find. In the face of these challenges, how might we rediscover an authentic sense of place? What is the role of plans and regulations in place-making? How can we preserve our built heritage? What urban design solutions can contribute to a sense of place? How might our urban structure need to change over time? What role might tourism, arts and culture, business, or industry play in rediscovering place? How might we grow a sense of place?

Growing with the Land - Development poses many environmental challenges, particularly as we continue to experience population growth. Many natural resources are depleting or limited. Others are simply becoming degraded. At the fore, there are issues of food security, availability of energy, climate change, supply and health of our water supply, and more. At PIBC 2007, we would like to explore the notion of growing with the land. How can we plan for increased population in the face of

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depleting natural resources? Is our current form of development sustainable? What areas can we improve? How might we grow with the land?

Growing with Confidence - The BC economy is steamrolling ahead, we are on the road to the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, and we are currently seeing plenty of growth and development throughout the province. At PIBC 2007, we would like to explore the notion of growing with confidence. How can planners be proactive rather than reactive? How are planners dealing with the pace and scale of development being seen? What creative processes are engaging communities in land use planning? What ethical challenges are planners facing today? What is the public interest, and how is the tension between the community good and private interests being managed? What is the relationship between planning and economic development? How are First Nations in BC dealing with the challenges of land use planning today? How might we grow with confidence?

How to Submit a Proposal:

Please fill out the proposal application form below and fax or email it to:

2007 PIBC Annual Conference – Kelowna
1435 Water Street
Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J4

Email: planning@kelowna.ca
Telephone: 250-469-8647
Fax: 250-862-3320

Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: Friday, October 13, 2006

All proposals for presentations, panels, workshops and mobile workshops will be subject to review and consideration by the 2007 Program Committee. Preference will be given to proposals that are most relevant to the 2007 Conference Themes.

The Program Committee will contact proponents regarding any and all selected proposals by November 30, 2006.

We look forward to your participation

PIBC 2007 Conference Proposal Application Form can be found on page 17 & 18

7x

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*Source: Professor Marilyn Lee,
Occupational and Public Health, Ryerson
University, Toronto.*



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2006 BC CIPHI SOFTBALL SOCIAL



This year's BC CIPHI Softball Social was another success. The game was held on July 2006 at Park, in Burnaby. Despite some rain in the morning, there was still a good turn-out. The rain clouds eventually moved on and the players hit the field. This year's teams consisted of the Vancouver Team and the Fraser Health/Richmond Team. Both teams had lot's of fun and in the end Vancouver captured the President's Cup. Thank you to the members of the BC Branch Social Committee and everybody who helped with the organization and participation of the event.



Above: Vancouver Team

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Above: Vancouver and Fraser Health/Richmond Team

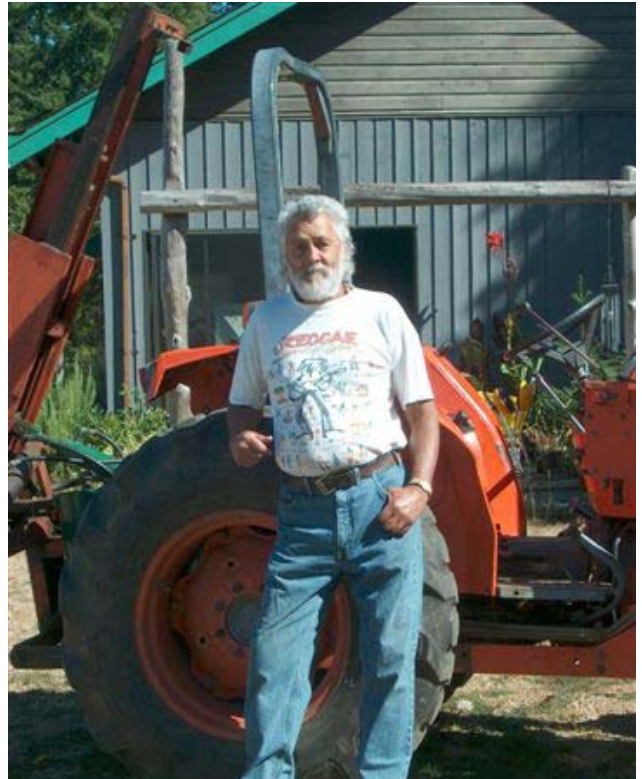


WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Naz Abdurahman

In August 2006 I, Shelly Stetsko (BCIT ENVH 1994) had the opportunity to visit with Naz Abdurahman at his beautiful new home on Hornby Island. I immediately noticed that Naz was as cheerful as always. During our visit I was able to catch up on what Naz has been doing since retiring from teaching at BCIT in December 1994. Naz said he spends time on his 23 acres with his lovely wife Sylvia, gardening, driving the tractor, making ponds and raising some farm animals. He is very proud of the new huge home they built a few years back and it was easy to see why. All the beautiful timbers and Hornby island wood floors along with a fortune in windows is definitely something to be proud of. Naz has also found a new passion of fine brewing which I can say from experience that he has mastered. His Chemistry background has definitely come in useful here. If anyone is in the area I am sure he wouldn't mind a phone call - and if you go for a visit, be sure to take some juniper berries to help with his new passion.

Shelly Stetsko



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROMOTIONS

HEALTH CANADA ANNOUNCES KEY PROMOTIONS



Please join me in welcoming Ms. Jennifer Brioschi as the Professional Services Manager for the Vancouver office, B.C. Yukon Region. Jennifer will begin her duties immediately, which will include supervision and direction to employees involved with the administration of Public Service Health duties to federal departments, in the Workplace Health and Public Safety Programme. Jennifer brings with her many years of experience and knowledge, which will help in moving the Public Service Health Program forward. Jennifer is a graduate from the University of Victoria, with a BSc. in Biology, as well as holding a diploma in Environmental Health Program from British Columbia Institute of Technology. Jennifer has previously worked as an Environmental Health Consultant for a private consulting firm and as an Environmental Auditor with the University of British Columbia. Jennifer joined Health Canada, WHPSP in May 1998 as an Environmental Health Officer and has worked both in the Public Health and Public Service Health programs. Please join me in wishing Jennifer all the best in her new role as the Professional Services Manager for the B.C. Yukon Region.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. John Chong as the Public Health Coordinator for the B.C. Yukon Region and Western Canada. John will start his duties on March 6, 2006, which includes the provision of supervision and direction to employees involved with the administration of Public Health duties in the Workplace Health and Public Safety Programme. John is based out of the Vancouver Office. John brings with him many years of experience and knowledge, which will help in moving the Public Health Program forward. John is a graduate from the University of Victoria, with a BSc in Biochemistry, as well as holding a diploma in Environmental Health Program from British Columbia Institute of Technology. John has previously worked as an Environmental Health Officer for 12 years with the Province of BC, most of that time spent with the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. John joined Health Canada, WHPSP in May 2003 and has worked mainly in the public health program participating in all aspects of the program. I would like to wish John all the best in his new role as the Public Health Coordinator for the B.C. Yukon Region and Western Canada.



*Courtesy of: Harsh Thakore - Regional Manager
Workplace Health and Public Safety Programme
HEC, Health Canada*

RETIREMENT

Steven Chan Retires

After 35 Years in the service of Public Health, Steven Chan has decided it's time to put up his feet. 65 of his friends and colleagues celebrated his retirement with accolades, BBQ'd food, and karaoke. As well, Nick Losito, Greg Baytalan, Dan Glover, and Sheila Withrow sent their best wishes and a story or two, as they could not attend. Happy retirement Steve - you've sure earned it!



Tim Roark
President

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BC Branch Executive 2006

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Editorial Policy

The objective of this newsletter is to keep the members of the BC Branch and other colleagues informed of local and national events that are of interest and importance to them.

The views, comments, or positions within the contents of the BC Page are those of the Editorial Team or the author and do not necessarily reflect those of either the BC Branch or the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

The Editorial team reserves the right to edit material submitted, solicited or unsolicited, for brevity, clarity, and grammatical accuracy.

Submission Deadlines For 2007

January (Winter Issue).....December 11, 2006
April (Spring Issue).....March 16, 2007
July (Summer Issue).....June 15, 2007
October (Fall Issue).....September 17, 2007

Advertising Policy

The BC Branch will accept advertising relating to health & environmental issues, products, and services. Advertisements which the Editorial team concludes are contrary to good public health practice, environmental protection goals, are offensive or not in good taste will not be accepted.

Advertising Rates

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HALF PAGE.....\$50 per issue
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PIBC 2007 CONFERENCE PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORM

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Proposed Session Title: _____

Are you proposing a:

- Regular conference session (approximately 75 minutes)
- Mobile workshop (full afternoon)
- Other (Please specify: _____)

Conference Themes:

- Growing Healthy Communities
- Growing a Sense of Place
- Growing with the Land
- Growing with Confidence

Learning Objectives (15 words maximum per objective):

By the end of your session, participants will be able to:

Three Sentence Summary of the Proposed Session (50-60 words): This summary will be used to prepare the conference program description. Make certain it is well written and thorough.
