



‘THE CRUNCH’

MAINTAINING THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

THE BUBBLE HAS REACHED THE SURFACE...BUT WILL IT BURST?

The demographic known as the baby boom has begun to show its impacts. Retirements are outstripping the capacity to replace service providers in this modern economy. Rumored to be a non-sectored phenomenon, professionals, trade workers and service sector employees alike are a dwindling commodity. The race to maintain professional market share is on. Attracting and retaining trained professionals is more challenging than ever. Environmental Health Officers are amongst the many professions vying to maintain their share of this valuable market.

The ‘crunch’, as I see it, is to realize this demographic shift and the three separate, yet very intertwined, outcomes that result:

1. Demand for professional workers will outstrip local supply.
2. Competitive forces to educate, train, attract, and retain qualified professionals in our educational institutions and workplaces will increase.
3. Pressure on our health care services (including environmental prevention services) from the massive aging population demographic will increase.

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Message from the Editor



It's been a long winter and now spring is finally upon us. Many of us have kept quite busy since the New Year started. First, I would like to highlight that during this past Environmental Public Health Week, our colleagues have worked hard to promote our profession to the public. I feel that EPHW has helped to bring Public Health Inspectors/ Environmental Health Officers forward into the public's eye more and more each year. In this issue you will find an EPHW round-up of what some offices have done to promote our great profession. Promotion of our profession doesn't only take place during one week in a year. We should strive to promote our profession whenever the opportunity arrives during our daily work throughout the year.

These days it seems there is always a story or two which relates to our work in the media. The media has definitely helped in our quest to inform the public about health matters, or at least spark an interest and raise a few eye brows as people watch the 6 o'clock news. However, not enough is said about the need for more people in our profession. For those of us in this profession we already know that there is a need for more PHI's/EHO's as the number of job vacancies will continue to become the norm. In January there was an article in the Vancouver Sun which talked about our profession and discussed the issue of the shortage of PHI's/EHO's. This article prompted a reader to write a letter stating her satisfaction towards the work that we do and agrees whole-heartedly that more people need to enter our profession. You can read about Donna Bond's letter on page 6.

Some of our colleagues argue that due to the high demand for professionals in our field, that perhaps this is a good opportunity for the addition of Environmental Public Health Technicians to work alongside PHI's/EHO's and have the technicians undertake some of the duties that we currently perform. Yay or nay? Well, that's a question that will

require extensive discussion. Keir Cordner provides the catalyst for this debate in his article "The Crunch" (cover page). Remember, regardless of whether or not this new proposal goes ahead will affect us all, therefore I strongly recommend voicing your opinions and ideas to your local Branch representative.

Lastly, I would like to invite submissions to the BC Page about whatever it is that is going on in your area or offices. Let's share those ideas, issues, notices, and updates with our colleagues. To find out more about submitting an article you can contact me (alex.kwan@fraserhealth.ca) or Tim Roark (Tim.Roark@shaw.ca).

Alex Kwan - Editor

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BRANCH UPDATE

Over this past winter, British Columbian's have experienced major snowfalls, many heavy rains and numerous windstorms. Thankfully, winter is over and spring is here! We can only hope that sunshine and warm weather is in the forecast in anticipation of a great summer.

2007 has already been very busy for CIPHI with promotions and conference planning leading the way. Environmental Public Health Week (EPHW) was held from January 15th to January 21st. Many thanks to those who volunteered in making the 2007 EPHW a huge success. The strong dedication and commitment of all those who participated in promoting our profession is much appreciated.

The next CIPHI event is just around the corner as the 73rd Annual Education Conference will be held in Kelowna from June 17 – 20th. If you haven't already registered, please do so immediately as time is running out. The conference will prove to be an excellent opportunity for delegates to learn about relevant topics in the field, network with colleagues from across the country and enjoy one of the most beautiful areas in British Columbia – The Okanagan Valley!

Prior to the launch of this Kelowna conference, I want to encourage members to attend the BC Branch CIPHI Annual General Meeting on Sunday June 17th in Kelowna. During this meeting, members will be informed on BC Branch activities, finances, awards and other news that has occurred over the past year. In addition, this meeting will provide an opportunity for those interested to fill any vacant positions on the BC Branch Executive. Currently the executive has a number of vacancies so if anyone is interested in joining, please contact me (shawn_parhar@hc-sc.gc.ca) or Jasmina Egeler (jasmina.egeler@vch.ca) for further information.

Finally, I would like to remind those of you who have not yet renewed their memberships to do so. For those of you who are attending the 2007 AEC, I will see you there!

Sincerely,

Shawn Parhar
Vice President





Tim Roark
President

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AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Just a reminder, the deadline for the National Award Nominations is May 18, 2007.

The National Awards:

- Alex Cross Award**
- Alexander Officer Award**
- Environmental Health Review Award**
- President's Award**
- Honourary Membership**
- Life Membership**
- Recognition of 50 Year Members**

For more information about the awards and nomination forms please go to www.ciphi.ca/awards.htm.

Know of a fellow member who could be a nominee for the **BC Branch Member of the Year Award**? Go to www.ciphi.bc.ca/awards.html for more information about nominating a fellow member. This award is handed out at the BC Branch CIPHI Annual General Meeting. This year's AGM will be held on June 17, 2007 in Kelowna.

Public Opinion

The following is a letter that was received by the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and submitted by Domenic Losito. The letter is in response to a news article that was published in the Vancouver Sun. The news article described an interview with Kuljeet Chattha about the job as a Public Health Inspector/Environmental Health Officer. The reporter goes on to inform readers about Environmental Public Health Week and gives a description of what our job entails. The reporter also interviewed Domenic Losito and the issue of the shortage of people entering our profession was brought forth. After she read the article, Ms. Donna Bond had this to say:

January 23, 2007,

To Whom It May Concern:

An article in Saturday, January 20, 2007, page D1 by Brian Morton on health inspectors has prompted me to write and say how very much I appreciate the work of this small but determined team, on the public's behalf.

There have been several articles over the past year on the work these unsung heroes do to help keep us safe from food contamination, etc. and each time I think how grateful I am for their work.

There is no doubt this department is understaffed for such an important and enormous task.

Please convey to these wonderful people, how much I, for one appreciate what they do. Some of the businesses described in Mr. Morton's article, and the conditions they're preparing food under, are appalling.

I have the pleasure of working with high school and university students in a volunteer program I facilitate and in my small way I will encourage them to consider a career in this field.

Sincerely,
Donna Bond

Continued from page 1...

To recognize and prepare for the ‘crunch’ is critical to maintaining Environmental Health Officers as a profession.

Our strategies must be thoughtful, and diverse. They must be timely, and resilient. There must be dialogue amongst all levels of our varied membership to maintain what we have worked so hard to achieve, and to meet the challenges that lay ahead.

For consideration of our membership is a proposal to create a new position in the Environmental Public Health Industry – an **Environmental Public Health Technician**. Take the time to consider the “Environmental Public Health Diploma – Background and Rationale” presented below.

Bow Valley College

Environmental Public Health Diploma - Background and Rationale

Background

In the spring of 2005, Dr. Richard Musto, Executive Medical Director, Calgary Health Region suggested to Sharon Carry, President and CEO, Bow Valley College, that there was a need for a new technician position in the environmental public health field. Discussions with industry representatives led to an invitation for Bow Valley College to make a presentation and discuss the opportunity with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI), National Executive Council and the Board of Certification at their national meeting which took place in Vancouver, February 17, 2006. Following this meeting, Bow Valley College received notice that the Board would support a needs assessment, conducted by Bow Valley College, for a new Environmental Public Health Technician position and diploma.

Rationale

The opportunity exists to create a new position in the environmental public health industry. Currently Public Health Inspectors are the primary service providers in

this industry. They are required to have a university degree and are certified to practice by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

During the past few years the CIPHI has been assessing its services, ability to provide those services and various emerging trends including:

1. There is an anticipated bulge in the retirement of Public Health Inspectors, which will put pressure on the industry to meet the needs of the publics they serve.
2. There is already a shortage of Public Health Inspectors.
3. There are increasing expectations regarding public safety, which are expanding the scope of the Public Health Inspector role.
4. There are threats from new, emergent diseases as well as re-emerging diseases.
5. The Technician role is seen as one option for revitalization in the public health industry [source: A Need for A National Strategy to Revitalize Frontline Environmental Public Health Services. October 1, 2004].
6. Technician roles have been used in other jurisdictions [e.g. the states of New York and Louisiana].

The result of these considerations is the prospect of a new position in the industry; the Environmental Public Health Technician. This is envisioned as a paraprofessional role, requiring diploma level preparation, with responsibility for specific tasks, which are currently included in the responsibilities of Public Health Inspectors. With these tasks removed from their responsibilities, the Public Health Inspectors would be able to focus on the more demanding aspects of their work and the overall impact on the industry would be service improvement and capacity building.¹

1. *Excerpt from Bow Valley College Environmental Public Health Technician Background, Rationale, and Project Outline, October 2006*

Continued on next page...

WE WANT YOU!

The BC Branch Executive is looking for members to fill vacant positions. Here is your opportunity to join the Executive Team.

For more information please contact Jasmina Egeler (jasmina.egeler@vch.ca) or Shawn Parhar (shawn_parhar@hc-sc.gc.ca)

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All members are encouraged to engage in dialogue regarding this and other strategies to maintain our profession, and to meet the future demands we will face. We must all take responsibility to safeguard the livelihood of our profession. The strategies chosen will impact our profession and we must consider their impacts in the short and long term. Consideration must be framed in preservation of the professional standards that the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) represents, and should not be biased by employer's needs.

Promoting our services, our profession, and making careers in Environmental Health more attractive are the keys to success. We encourage all of you to contact your local Branch representative with your opinions and ideas.

Respectfully submitted,

Keir Cordner, C.P.H.I.(C)
BC Branch Councillor



Environmental Public Health Week Round-Up

This year, EHO's from Vancouver Coastal Health set up booths at local shopping centres to spread the word to the public about our profession. Below are pictures of Lis Vallaster at City Square Mall and Kuljeet Chattha at Landsdowne Mall.

City Square Mall - Vancouver



Landsdowne Mall - Richmond



EPHW at Carson Graham High School



Above: Paul Markey (second from the right) with the students of Carson Graham High School.

On January 16, 2007, to mark EPHW, Paul Markey of the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority went up to Carson Graham High School on the North Shore to give a careers talk to about 20 students on the chef training course. Paul gave a general talk about what the job of a Public Health Inspector/ Environmental Health Officer involves, qualifications and how he got into it. Paul and the students moved into the schools full commercial kitchen where the students followed him on an actual inspection. During the inspection Paul asked questions and those giving the correct answers received prizes such as fridge magnets, CIPHI pens and CIPHI clocks. Most of the students stayed awake which Paul took to be a good sign.

LEGAL UPDATE

As you will remember, on November 30th, 2005, Justice Melvin of the BC Supreme Court handed down a 24 page judgment in favour of the application by a member of the BC Government Retired Employees Association (BCGREA) and had **certified** their action as a **Class Action Suit**. The Provincial Government (the defendant) had appealed that decision.

There is more good news as of January 2nd, 2007. The B.C. Court of Appeal has made its ruling today on the Provincial Government's appeal of our certification as a "Class Action" lawsuit:

- 1.) The court has said that anyone that was directly employed by the Provincial Government does have a claim for "Breach of Contract".
- 2.) For those who were not employed directly by the Provincial Government, i.e. employees of Crown Corporations and other government funded societies there is no claim under "Breach of Contract" however **there is a claim for lack of "Fiduciary Duty"**, (*in other words they were expected to be trusted and failed.*)

Legal council for the BC Government Retired Employees Association is reviewing the judgement and will be meeting with the Table Officers of the association in the near future to decide on the next

step. This would essentially involve suing the government on behalf of all the members of the BCGREA (who agree in some manner) for all the funds paid out by retirees since the change in government policy. This could amount to several million dollars and some estimate the total cost to the government could reach \$100 million should the BCGREA be fully successful. It could also mean the government will need to reinstate the former policy of having to pay extended health and dental health coverage in future. The government will certainly fight this legal action any way it can as it has done to date including stalling as long as possible and creating as many legal costs as possible in hopes that the BCGREA will give up.

Don't be surprised if at the last minute, and if the government believes it is loosing, it proposes to grandfather existing BCGREA members but all new retirees would not be covered and may get even less.

If you wish to look at the full judgement go to www.courts.gov.bc.ca/index.asp and then enter CA033624 in the search window and press go. It's not all that long and is interesting reading especially the bogus arguments the government lawyers raise.

Tim Roark, Member
BC Government Retired Employees Association

New Federal Sewage Regulations Coming

Transport Canada has indicated that they hope to have the new "**Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and for Dangerous Chemicals**" gazetted in Part II of the Canada Gazette in late March or early April, 2007. Through the strong support of a number of the large boating organizations and the many letters from recreational boaters, a number of significant changes were made to the original draft regulations, and it appears that compliance and enforcement will now be possible.

Courtesy of: Ross Wright, Environmental Officer, Alouette Power and Sail Squadron

Northern Cup

This year marked the 1st Annual “Northern Cup” . EHOs from Northern Health put aside their parkas and snowshovels for a fun night of bowling in Prince George. Thank you to the BC Branch, for the door prizes, and to everyone who helped with the organization and participation of this event.

Submitted by Jeff Kresowaty

To the right: (left to right - back row = Crystal Brown, Sheila Withrow, Iqbal Kalsi; left to right -front row = Jennifer Jeyes, Pearly Yip)



To the left: Expecting mother Jody-Lynn Tozer and Expecting Mother? Nita MacLean

To the right: (left to right - back row = Nita MacLean, Jeff Kresowaty, Marcy Iwanyk; Left to right - front row = Shawna & Connor Bicknell, Matthew Shumaker)



MEMBERSHIP DRIVE PRIZE WINNER!



The BC Branch is pleased to announce that student Dianna Hayden has won the emergency preparedness kit in the recent membership drive. This promotion was for those who were 2007 BC Branch members by February 28, 2007. Congratulations Dianna!



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IN MEMORIAM

Mr. W.H. (Howie) Branston

Mr. William Howard Branston was born 1915 in Vancouver. During WWII Howard enlisted in the RCAF and was sent to the # 1 Wireless School in Montreal and then sent to the flying squadron in Calgary to open the Canadian English Wireless School. He was stationed in Calgary for 5 and half years. He was never sent overseas as the RCAF needed his expertise to teach about radio and transmitters. Sargeant Branston taught the WENS (Wireless Electrical Mechanic School) and WOGS (Wireless Operator Ground School). After the war, Dr. Henry Bryson, Director of Permits & Licensing for Vancouver, was impressed with Howie and encouraged him to become a Sanitary Inspector. Howie trained with the Vancouver Health Department and received his Certificate in Sanitary Inspection (Canada) number 341 in 1945. His most interesting position in Vancouver was as an inspector in China Town. During one inspection, a restaurant operator spoke unkindly about Howie in Chinese. Much to the surprise and embarrassment of the operator, Howie replied to the operator in Chinese and as a result conditions in the restaurant improved considerably.

Howie was a long term and strong member of CIPHI having served in numerous Branch positions including Auditor, Councilor and then President between 1954 -56. He was the National Secretary Treasurer in 1956 to 1958 and Branch President again in 1962 - 63.

In 1975 Howie retired at 60 years of age. Howie and Verna built a house and lived for a time on River Road in North Delta. After his retirement they moved back to the West End for about 25 years right up until about 2004 when they moved into Senior's housing. Howie and Verna had one daughter and two sons. He passed away on April 14, 2006 after a period of poor health. Mrs. Branston has also passed away.

Tim Roark - Historian
CIPHI

Pictured are Howie and Verna Branston and grandson Christopher in the late 1990s. Photo thanks to Mrs. Holly Deans (daughter).



IN MEMORIAM

Andrew Neil Malloy

Andrew Neil Malloy was born on October 9, 1951 in New Westminster, BC to parents Dora and Bruce Malloy. Andy was a little brother to Kathleen and Gordon. The family moved several times while he was young and in 1958 settled in Haney (Maple Ridge). By this time there was also a baby sister, Joan, born in 1957. Andy attended school in Maple Ridge and then enrolled in the Public Health Inspection Program at BCIT. He graduated in 1971 and was awarded his Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada), number 2030 shortly thereafter. Andy moved to Saskatchewan and practiced as a Public Health Inspector in Regina and Fort Qu'Appelle. During his time there he dabbled in writing, photography and radio broadcasting. In 1973, his brother Gordon was killed in a car accident. Andy grieved his loss deeply and never really recovered from it. A couple of years later he returned to BC and took several different jobs including; disc jockey, film producer, driving instructor, grounds keeper at the Boundary Bay Airport, writer, and nature instructor at a local park. Andy was following his muse, having a great time, making lots of friends, but almost no money.

When Andy turned 40 he thought he'd better land a job with a little more stability and a pension plan so he returned to public health inspection. He was first posted to Powell River where he enjoyed the company of the "artsy" folk who lived there. He then moved to Prince Rupert where he enjoyed the Haida Gwaii and the friendship and artwork of the native people. A couple of years ago Andy accepted a position in Quesnel and bought a house there, partly to be closer to his aging parents. Unfortunately Andy had health problems mostly relating to his diabetes and high blood pressure. He had only just begun a graduated return to work when he passed away on February 26, 2007. Andy leaves his mother, Dora, sisters Kathleen and Joan, brothers-in-law Tomas Mellgren and Les Granholm plus multiple nephews and nieces. He loved his friends and family openly and generously and will be sadly missed by all.

A Celebration of Life was held at the Garden Hill Funeral Chapel in Maple Ridge, BC on March 16, 2007.

Tim Roak - Historian
CIPHI

Information and photo generously provided by Joan Granholm (sister).



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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

July (Summer Issue).....June 15, 2007
October (Fall Issue).....September 17, 2007
January (Winter Issue).....December 14, 2007
April (Spring Issue).....March 16, 2008

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