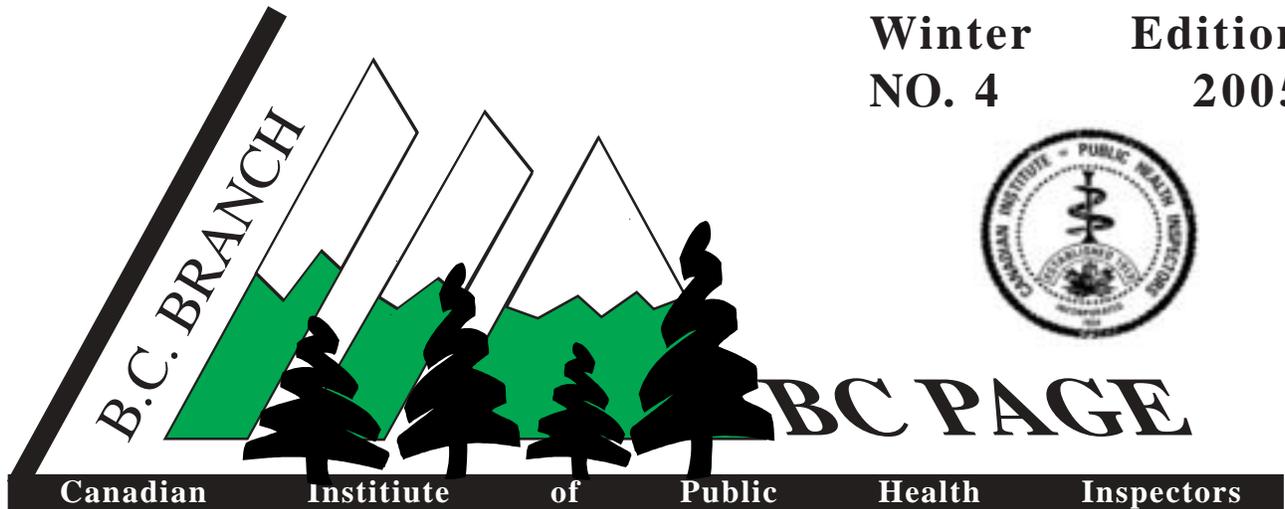


Winter Edition
NO. 4 2005



25 Year Membership Pins



Tim Roark, on behalf of Branch President Steve Chong, presents 25 year CIPHI membership pins to Andrea Hall (left) and Maxine Marchenski (below).

Congratulations and thank you for your continued support!

Additional recipients include:

- Richard Bernard
- Bob Boyd
- Jill Campbell
- Don Corrigan
- Richard Findlay
- John Gibb
- Andrew Hazelwood
- Lorraine Thompson
- Tim Roark



BC Branch Executive 2005

www.bc-ciphi.ca

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BC Branch Update: December 2005

Support around our profession has grown, as evidenced by the recognition of Environmental Public Health Week by Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr. David Butler-Jones and the Province of British Columbia proclaiming the week of January 2-8, 2006 Environmental Public Health Week. This is of course great news. It is my hope that the national media release and local media attention will bring our profession further recognition it so greatly deserves. It is a great opportunity to raise our profile within our own communities and educate as many people as we can on all of the important work we do.

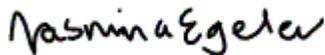
As this year is coming to a close I am proud of all our achievements in 2005. The Branch Executive has worked hard on many committee's, such as the Education, Membership, Constitution, Awards, Social, Health Act Review, Sewerage Regulation Review, and Swimming Pool Regulation Review Committees. Each of the Committee Chairs and their members has completed important tasks which have benefited not only the Branch Membership but our entire profession. I look forward to all the great things 2006 will bring.

This years Christmas Luncheon was another hit. The Burnaby Rugby Club was full of festive atmosphere as EHO's mingled and socialized with their colleagues. Of course, a great selection of food was provided and enjoyed by all.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank a couple dedicated volunteers. David Butt, our webmaster, has done a tremendous job keeping the content on the BC Branch website up to date and Roger Parsonage for all his effort and hard work as the BC Page Editor. It certainly is no easy task to compile information, stories/articles to publish. It seems an even greater task to get quarterly updates from yours truly. As this is Roger's last BC Page as editor, I would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU on behalf of the BC Branch Executive.

As the Holiday Season is upon us, I wish each of you a Joyous Holiday Season. Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jasmina Egeler
Vice President, BC Branch

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October 26, 2005

Honourable George Abbott, Minister
Ministry of Health
PO Box 9050
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

RE: Environmental Public Health Week 2006

On behalf of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI), I am pleased to announce Environmental Public Health Week 2006. This initiative was established in 2003, for the purpose of:

- Recognizing the work of Environmental Public Health Professionals (EHPs) such as certified Public Health Inspectors, certified Environmental Health Officers and other allied Environmental Public Health occupations in British Columbia and across Canada.
- Heightening the visibility of our profession and public health issues to both the general public and our private/public sector partners.

Environmental Public Health Week has been planned as an annual week of recognition with the dates commemorating CIPHI's incorporation date. Next year's Environmental Public Health Week has been set for January 2-8, 2006.

The basic cornerstone of a healthy population is the protection of the public from environmental hazards potentially afflicting their daily lives including, but not limited to, the provision of safe food, safe air, safe housing and safe water. These are the core services provided by the EHPs employed by the six governing health authorities and private industry within British Columbia. As a province known for an exemplary health care system, the front line professionals who work diligently to protect the public's health, as EHPs do, should be recognized.

Therefore, on behalf of CIPHI and the EHPs that we represent, I am respectfully requesting your assistance in launching Environmental Public Health Week 2006 by having the Government of British Columbia proclaim January 2 to 8, 2006 as Environmental Public Health Week.

Public acknowledgement of the important work that EHPs do on a daily basis to protect the health of British Columbians would be well received, especially by front-line workers. The Governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan proclaimed Environmental Public Health Week in 2005 and we look forward to the province of British Columbia joining this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration in making this initiative a success. If you should require further information please contact me at steve.chong@vch.ca or by telephone at (604) 233-3172.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Chong
BC Branch President

Editor's note: The Government has proclaimed January 2 to 8, 2006, as Environmental Public Health Week in British Columbia.

2005 Annual Educational Conference

Many thanks to the BC Branch of CIPHI for awarding me the bursary to assist financially to attend this year's Annual Educational Conference held in Toronto, Ontario. The program and presentations were exceptional and highly relevant to the evolving role of the Public Health Inspector. The conference facilities were great, the food wonderful, and the conference organizers did a fabulous job of ensuring that out of town guests were made welcome.

One of the best reasons to attend the CIPHI National Conference is the chance to network with fellow PHIs. As a recent graduate embarking on my public health career it was a welcome opportunity to meet with colleagues and gain valuable perspective on the role we play in the community. It is refreshing to hear that many field professionals across the country share the same challenges in their daily work. It was also an invaluable opportunity to gain some insight into current problems by interacting with my more experienced peers. Also, as I had spent a couple years in Alberta prior to moving back to BC, it was an opportunity to renew old acquaintances.

All the presentations that I attended were delivered at a very high level with knowledge that was applicable to my daily work. It was a great opportunity to learn of emergent issues that we as public health professionals are likely going to have to grapple with in the not so far off future. The vendor exhibits were of equally high caliber. The information available on new products and technologies is welcome to helping stay abreast of the current professional trends.

I was especially impressed with the various organizations that were able to send delegates to present and participate, from the Canadian forces, to federal/provincial/territorial agencies. It was a great opportunity to interact with these professionals and obtain a perspective different from a Public Health Inspector.

The opportunity to speak and interact with the other members of the profession has left me with a new-found respect from my colleagues, new ideas for professional development and enhancing my personal career, and a few new friends. Kudos to the conference chair and planning committee for creating such a great experience! I look forward to my next national conference, as I remember the great experience that I had in Toronto!

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Orlaw

A final word...

Many of you will know that this marks that my final issue as BC Page Editor. I want to thank the BC Branch Executive for their indulgence in granting me this opportunity to serve the membership for the past four years. That's 16 issues and with one exception, the material was largely provided by Tim Roark. Looking back, I don't know how the Page would have existed without Tim's constant supply of information and I owe him a huge debt of gratitude for it. And so let me use this opportunity to plea, on behalf of whomever is the editor when Tim really retires, to provide material - whether it be photos or newsy items that might interest the members.

Finally, thanks to you for reading. I look forward to assisting with the 2007 NEC in Kelowna - see you in Kamloops in May 2006, and in Kelowna in September 2007!

Roger Parsonage, Editor

CIPHI Christmas Lunch - Burnaby



Left: Claudia Kurzac, National President and Harsh Thakore, Regional Manager for Health Canada smile for the camera; Below, Jinny Jorgensen and Alice Munger keep Mrs. Claus aka Brigitte Baumann company.



Below left: President Steve Chong presents his brother John with a prize of Dr. John Blatherwick's new book about PHIs; below right, Jennifer Flatten (on the right) twists arms to sell 50 - 50 tickets.



Left: Claudia Kurzac, National President, chats with Morven Ewan and George Armson, retired members, who each have 60 years membership in CIPHI. Below: Health Canada EHO's were well represented at the luncheon.



Our heartiest congratulations go out to George Armson who just had his 90th birthday on December 21st and drove himself to the CIPHI luncheon. Interesting to note George was BC Branch President from 1948 to 1950. Where were you in 1948?

Claudia Kurzac won \$136 in the 50/50 draw.

Right: retirees Cliff van Alstyne and Len Penner reminisce about the good old days.





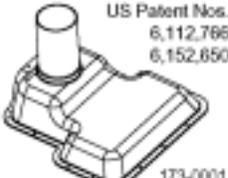
Pictured is Vanessa Oullette receiving the Bob Herbison Award at the recent awards presentation ceremony at BCIT. Presenting the award on behalf of the BC Branch CIPHI is Jasmina Egeler, Vice President. Congratulations to Vanessa.

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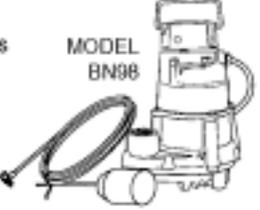
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NEW GROUND WATER PROTECTION REGULATION COMES INTO FORCE

Effective Nov. 1, 2005 B.C.'s new **Ground Water Protection Regulation** – which will improve the safety and quality of the province's groundwater supplies – came into full effect. More than 750,000 British Columbians get their drinking water from wells and thus groundwater is one of British Columbia's most important natural resources.

The regulation, which is part of the Province's Action Plan for Safe Drinking Water, establishes standards to ensure wells are properly drilled, sealed, maintained and closed. Wells that are not properly constructed or closed pose a risk to drinking water quality.

Private well owners need to be aware of the new regulation and how it applies to them:

- Water wells must now be constructed by qualified well drillers.
- Pumps for water wells must be installed by qualified well pump installers.
- Well drillers and well pump installers must register with the provincial government. A registry of qualified drillers and pump installers can be found online at wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wat/gws/index.html. (Registered well drillers and well pump installers will have a Provincial identification card.)

Beginning on Nov. 1, 2005, new water supply wells need to be constructed to at least the minimum standards in the Ground Water Protection Regulation. All new water supply wells must have:

- A surface seal to prevent any contaminated surface water from entering the well;
- A secure well cap;
- A minimum clearance of one foot from the top of the well casing to the ground surface and grading to drain surface water away from the wellhead; and
- A well identification plate.

Private well owners will need to maintain their wells to keep them safe and sanitary. This means ensuring the well stays securely capped, the surface seal is not damaged, the wellhead is not altered and the well identification plate is visible. If the well identification plate is lost or damaged, the well owner needs to contact the Ministry of Environment for a replacement plate, free of charge.

Owners of existing wells (constructed before Nov. 1, 2005) must ensure a secure well cap, or well cap and cover, is installed by Oct. 31, 2007. A well cap prevents contaminants from getting into the well and reduces the danger of a child or animal falling into the well. If a well is not in use, the well owner is required to deactivate or close the well. Deactivating a well means capping, securing and protecting the well while it is not in use. Closing a well means filling the well in with backfill and sealant. Only qualified well drillers can close drilled wells.

By following this regulation, well owners are protecting their own and their neighbours' well water supply and helping to keep groundwater resources healthy and clean for future generations. For more information on the regulation contact your local Ministry of Environment office, or check online at: wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wat/gws/index.html.



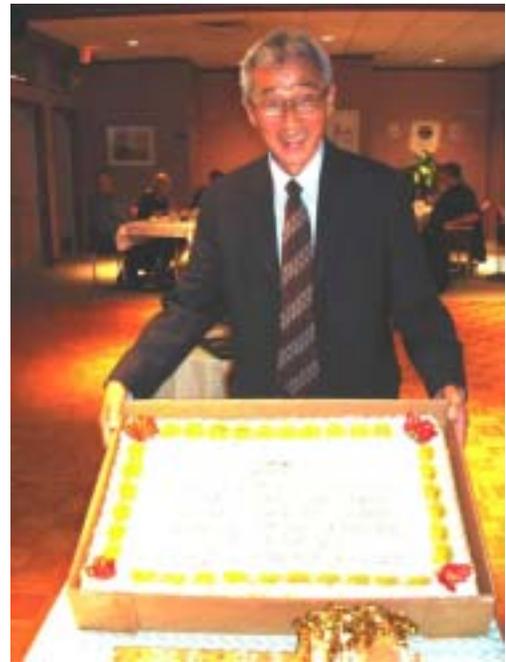
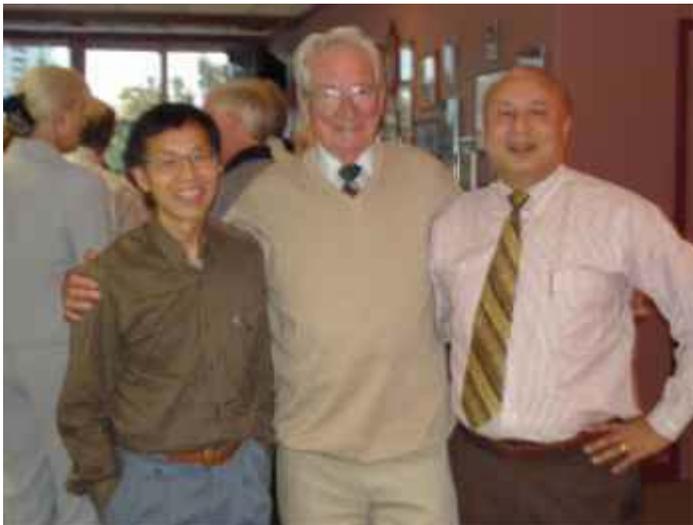
More Retirements

2004 and 2005 have been busy with many more retirements including the following

Lionel Adams - FHA, Surrey
Dave Currie – FHA, Port Moody
Alf Guthrie – VCHA, Vancouver
Peter Jacobs – VCHA, Vancouver
Wally Ogden – VIHA, Northern
Roy Wong – FHA, Port Moody

Ming Chung Yang –VIHA, Victoria
Patrick Fan – FHA, Maple Ridge
Art Hamade – VCHA, Richmond
Jim Maceachern – VIHA, Victoria
Dennis Wahoski – Health Canada, Salmon Arm

Art Hamade (right) is pictured having his cake and going to eat it as well at his recent retirement party in Richmond attended by his family, friends and many colleagues from the health field and municipality. A great time was had by all.



(Above) Retirees Patrick Fan, Cliff van Alstyne and Jim Pannu joined in the celebration at Art’s party and helped him eat the delicious food and great retirement cake.

Patrick and Lan Fan and family are pictured (right) at a lively retirement party in June at the Maple Ridge Equi-Sport Centre. Patrick serenaded the crowd with his rendition of Bridge Over Troubled Waters as he and many others had a their moment of fame trying out the house Karaoke machine. A real fun retirement party.



Lionel Adams and Jan Marshall, a fellow office worker, enjoyed a joint retirement party at the Olive Garden restaurant in Langley recently. Many friends joined them for their sendoff including Larry and Alice Hogg all the way from the Okanagan. Lionel is an ardent photographer and plans to spend more time enjoying this hobby.



Peter Jacobs proved he really is a great singer to his many friends, and family members in attendance at his retirement party on the North Shore. Peter sang several hit tunes and ballads with the renowned Vancouver Environmental Health band consisting of Sajan Joseph, Angelo Kouris and Kevin Gould on guitars and the beautiful and talented singers Pam Shaw, Jennifer Flaten and Heather Langemann.

Environmental health in B.C. is clearly losing many talented and very experienced professionals. Our best wishes to them all for a long, prosperous, healthy and happy retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Tim Roark
President

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BC Health Act Renewal Project: Submission for the Public Health Act Consultation

Executive Summary

The existing Health Act defines a Public Health Inspector (PHI) as a holder of a Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) [CPHI(C)] or person with equivalent training determined by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors' (CIPHI) Board of Certification. However the role of the PHI or Environmental Public Health (EPH) professional is not as definitive. The Health Act requires a PHI to be delegated in writing by the Medical Health Officer (MHO) in order to perform the expected administrative and inspectional responsibilities of the PHI. This required delegation by the MHO should be removed and the Environmental Public Health Professional should be directly appointed by the Act.

The Health Act renewal must recognize the current structures and processes of modern public health. Environmental Public Health professionals require modern legislative authority and tools to accomplish their current and expected function in the diversified role as a PHI.

Recommendations

The BC Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors recommends the following and innovative measures for the renewal of the BC Health Act:

1. Redefine the role of the Provincial Health Officer to reflect the autonomous role in social, political, and cultural change advocacy at the provincial level, reporting to Legislature and Cabinet.
2. Redefine the role of the Medical Health Officer to reflect social, political, and cultural change advocacy through the adoption of the Population Health model for health care delivery.
3. Redefine the role of the Certified Public Health Inspector/Environmental Public Health professional to reflect the educational and functional evolution of the profession.
4. Specify that a Public Health Inspector/Environmental Public Health professional, as holders of the Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada), be acknowledged as an autonomous public health profession.
5. Directly appoint Certified Public Health Inspectors/Environmental Public Health professionals under the Act instead of by delegation from the Medical Health Officer.
6. Entrench the duties of the Sanitary Inspector as defined by section 8 of the Sanitary Regulations as the role and duties of the Public Health Inspectors/Environmental Public Health professional.
7. Acknowledge the expanding realm of the public health core programs to include mandated authority for Public Health Inspectors/Environmental Public Health professionals in these core areas:
8. Support the current application for the establishment of a College of Environmental Public Health/Public Health Inspection under the Health Professionals Act.
9. Pursue mandatory Registration in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and continuing education for all practicing Public Health Inspectors/ Environmental Health Officers as Environmental Public Health professionals in British Columbia.

Editor's note: the list from recommendation #7 was omitted due to space limitations. The complete document can be obtained by contacting the BC Branch Executive. Thanks to the working group that prepared this paper: Gord Stewart (Chair), Don Corrigan, Kuljeet Chattha, Shawn Parhar, Tim Millard and Steve Chong (ex-officio).

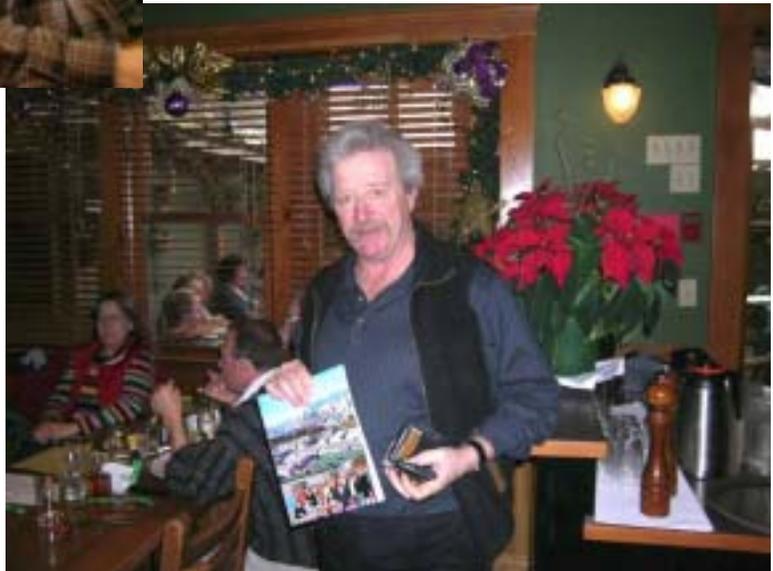
CIPHI Christmas Lunch - Victoria

It was just like old home week when over 2 dozen PHIs and EHOs and retirees attended the BC Branch luncheon at the 5th Street Pub and Grill in Victoria on December 14th. Good stories and great food was enjoyed by all. Tim Roark hosted a raffle which ensured everyone who attended won something. Bob Smith flew in from Ottawa to win the 50-50 draw worth \$27.50. Laurel Benham, former Director of Environmental for Greater Victoria and now 87 years young was the senior attendee. Many thanks to Maxine Marchenski who organized the gathering and all those who attended



(Above): VIHA and Health Canada staff wait hungrily for their meals, while Ann Thomas, Director of Environmental Health for VIHA, and Dave Coombe, Manager, ham it up a bit. Whose bottle of wine is that in the background?

Bob Smith, with book in one hand and a bulging wallet in the other, revels in winning both Dr. John Blatherwick's new book on PHI's and the 50-50 draw.

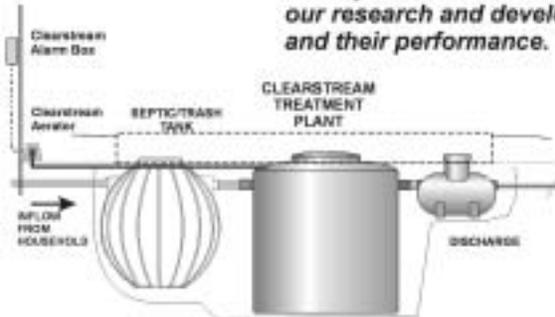


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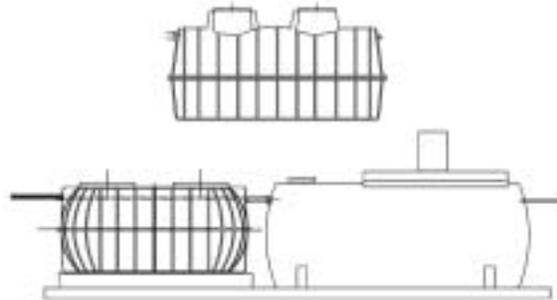


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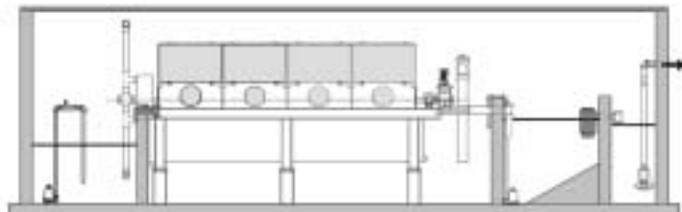


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