



Senators Forum



C I P H I R E T I R E E S A D V I S O R Y C O M M I T T E E



John (in white cowboy hat) is seen distributing tooth brushes (80 in all) to orphans at a Baptist orphanage south of Grand Goave. He wore a white cowboy hat in March and a straw one in June and became known as the 'guy with the hat' to other aid agency staff

Retired PHI, John Bower Assists in Haiti

On January 12, 2010 Haiti was hit by a massive earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale. The loss of life has been reported on before and I'm sure you are all familiar with the photos. Suffice it to say that after two trips to Haiti the photos do not do justice to the destruction. Flying in to Port au Prince gives a panoramic view of the destruction as you fly along the bay from the west. Not only do you see acres and acres of tent cities you also view piles of rubble and destroyed buildings for miles.

As a retired PHI I was looking for something to occupy my time and perhaps use my training/experience to some positive effect. My partner (a PHI) and I ran into a friend, Roland Lafrance, who had taught us a few courses over the years and he mentioned that he was looking for help with a Haitian project he was putting together. After a whirlwind

of planning, immunizations, finding materials and water treatment devices and packing for who knew what contingency we headed for Haiti.

To say that PAP is hell on earth is not too much of an overstatement. Tents, well actually tarp shelters, were lined up row on row in the park across from the palace. Imagine a dark night with nothing but charcoal and wood cooking fires and headlights of vehicles for lighting. The smell was an amazing mix of dirt, dust, garbage, human waste, smoke from fires, and the sweet smell of dead humans. Tents/shelters were everywhere. In the median strip between the two lane main highway there were people living in boxes and tents. We could almost feel the tension in the air near the tent cities. Unfortunately the tent cities were located in low spots which wasn't a problem in March but one could see what would happen come the rainy season which started in June.

We have spent most of our time during our two trips in the Grand Goave (GG) area which is located on the north coast about 160 km west of PAP. GG is just west of the epicenter of the quake and experienced an estimated 80% destruction. The majority of the buildings are built of cinderblock with cinderblock and cement for roofing. Haitians cannot get mortgages so they build as they can afford to buy block and cement. They tend to stretch the cement with sand so when the earth shifted the walls cracked and broke leaving the eight to ten inch thick roof to crush the remains. The death toll was so high because the Haitians ran inside fearing the noise. The most striking scene was the University at Leogane where a three story building was reduced to a stack of concrete less than three feet high.

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SENIOR SENATOR SAYS HELLO



Here we are in the Christmas Season and one must wonder at where did the Summer and Fall go. Actually, we have been somewhat busy and are pleased to report that some of our work is actually showing some signs of success. The circulation of our newsletter to retired colleagues and others and the offer of free membership within CIPHI to retirees during 2010 has resulted in a very healthy membership within the retirees sector. Unfortunately this offer cannot be repeated for 2011, however, we will continue to grow this sector in our attempt to meet your expectations.

Currently as a result of research by the committee, the National President and the NEC are reviewing benefit packages from a major supplier, we believe that such initiatives if feasible after careful review, could be beneficial not only to retirees but to all CIPHI members.

In addition at the present time, CIPHI has been redeveloping its website as well as other possible electronic methods by which to communicate and serves its members, we have made it known that the retiree sector must not be forgotten in this process. It is suggested that somehow a method must be found that would provide a “go to place” for the retiree sector.

However, as most can appreciate, as all organizations there is a cost to survive. All work is and will be done by volunteers, unfortunately printing, mail-out and all other such activities have a cost attached to them. Currently, we have submitted a budget to CIPHI which will cover this cost for another year. Basically, as most are aware the membership fee for a retiree is set at \$50.00, we feel that is a very reasonable cost of only \$0.14 cents per day. It is our hope to be able to continue to provide this “Forum” as a visible connection for us retirees, however common sense dictates that we cannot continue to absorb this cost for individuals who do not wish to be members. The committee has therefore directed that the Spring edition will be the last circulated to members and non-members, after that date, it will be restricted to members only.

In Closing, Lorrena and I wish to take this opportunity to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sénateur senior vous dit bonjour

Nous voici déjà dans la saison de Noël et on se demande où sont passé l'été et l'automne. En fait, nous avons été très occupés et nous sommes heureux de rapporter que notre travail démontre réellement des signes de succès. La circulation de notre bulletin à nos collègues retraités et à d'autres intervenants ainsi que l'offre d'adhésion gratuite à l'ICISP pour l'année 2010 a eu comme conséquence une adhésion accrue dans le secteur des retraités. Malheureusement cette offre ne peut pas être répétée pour 2011, cependant nous continuons à améliorer et à faire avancer le secteur des retraités dans une tentative de répondre à vos attentes.

Actuellement, suite à une recherche par notre comité, le président national et le Conseil exécutif national (CEN) passent en revue des ensembles d'avantages sociaux par un fournisseur important et nous croyons que de telles initiatives si réalisables, suite à un examen sérieux, pourraient s'avérer avantageux non seulement pour les retraités mais pour tous les membres de l'ICISP.

En plus, à l'heure actuelle, l'ICISP est en train de réaménager son site Internet aussi bien que d'autres méthodes électroniques pour mieux communiquer et servir ses membres. Nous avons quand même laissé entendre que le secteur des retraités ne doit pas être oublié dans ce processus et il fut suggéré que d'une manière ou d'une autre, on devrait développer un «endroit d'échange» uniquement pour les retraités.

Cependant, comme vous pouvez le constater, dans toute organisation, il y a un coût pour survivre. Tout le travail est et sera fait par des bénévoles mais malheureusement l'imprimerie, le courrier et toutes autres activités du genre ont un coût rattaché à ceux-ci. Actuellement, nous avons soumis un budget à l'ICISP qui couvre nos opérations pour une autre année. Comme vous le savez les frais d'adhésion pour les retraités sont de 50,00\$ par année; nous estimons que ce sont des frais très raisonnables, seulement 0,14\$ par jours. Nous souhaitons d'ailleurs continuer à vous présenter cette «tribune» comme moyen d'échanger entre nous les retraités, toutefois, le bon sens nous dicte que nous ne pouvons pas continuer à absorber le coût pour les individus qui ne souhaitent pas être membre. Le comité a donc décidé que l'édition printanière du «Forum des Sénateurs» sera la dernière pour les membres et non-membres après cette date, il sera réservé aux membres exclusivement.

En terminant, Lorrena et moi profitons de cette occasion pour souhaiter à tous et chacun un très Joyeux Noël et une Bonne Année.

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



My name is Phi Phan and it is my pleasure to provide a welcoming message for this latest edition of the 'Senators' Forum.' For those whom I have not had the pleasure in meeting yet, I am the new National President of CIPHI since taking over from Mr. Adam Grant in August 2010. My main goals over the next two (or so) years will be to work together with all stakeholders to continue the evolution of CIPHI into a modern, efficient organization that proudly and effectively represents the needs of Canadian Environmental Health practitioners not only here in Canada, but also around the world. To set the stage, my direction over this initial transitional timeframe to all CIPHI business units has been to reprioritize fiscal responsibility as we need to ensure the ongoing sustainability of this organization and the various initiatives that we have undertaken. Additionally, I am directing that open

and transparent communications be made a fundamental cornerstone of all of our operations. For far too long there has been inadequate emphasis in communicating our strategic directions with both our internal and external supporters. To that end, if you have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions please feel free to email me at president@ciphi.ca or call me at 780-907-8698 (available weekdays, 8:30am to 4:30pm MST).

Together with the Branches of CIPHI, we will also be working to inspire our Environmental Health family including Environmental Health Officers and Public Health Inspectors to be proud of who we are, what we do and to recognize our collective importance within the larger context of public health. Along those lines, we will also work to engage those allied and associated professionals outside "classic" government organizations as Environmental Health programming and service is now also provided by private consultants and businesses as well as non-governmental public agencies. Environmental Health has become an increasingly broad field in an increasingly complex world and we need to ensure that all Environmental Professionals who are CPHI(C) certified are represented within our ranks regardless of their practice environment. The input and support of all Environmental Health professionals, including retired members, will be critical if we are to succeed in all achieving all of our objectives.

In closing, I feel that together we have an opportunity to achieve great things and I look forward to working with all of you to work towards what Environmental Health practice and CIPHI can ultimately be.

Chers collègues retraités :

Mon nom est Phi Phan et c'est un grand plaisir de fournir un message d'accueil à cette dernière édition du «Forum des Sénateurs». Pour ceux et celles que je n'ai pas eu le plaisir de rencontrer, je suis le nouveau président national de l'ICISP depuis août 2010 lorsque j'ai remplacé M. Adam Grant. Mes principaux objectifs au cours des deux prochaines années (ou à peu près) seront de collaborer avec toutes les parties prenantes pour continuer l'évolution de l'ICISP afin de la mener à une organisation moderne et efficace qui représente fièrement et efficacement les besoins des praticiens canadiens en hygiène du milieu non seulement au Canada, mais aussi autour du monde. Pour ouvrir la voie, mon message à toutes les unités d'affaires de l'ICISP a été d'établir des nouvelles priorités au niveau des responsabilités fiscales parce que nous devons assurer un avenir durable à l'organisation et aux diverses initiatives que nous avons entreprises. En plus, j'insiste qu'une communication ouverte et transparente soit la pierre angulaire fondamentale de toutes nos opérations. Depuis trop longtemps, il y a eu un manque de communication de notre orientation stratégique envers nos partisans tant internes qu'externes. À cet effet, si vous avez des questions, commentaires, préoccupations ou suggestions, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi par courriel à president@icisp.ca ou par téléphone au 780 907-8698 (sur semaine de 8h30 à 16h30 HNR).

Ensemble avec les Sections de l'ICISP, nous travaillerons également pour inspirer tous ceux qui œuvrent en santé environnementale incluant les agents d'hygiène du milieu et les inspecteurs en santé publique à être fiers de qui nous sommes, de ce que nous faisons et de reconnaître notre importance collective dans le contexte globale de la santé environnementale. De la même façon, nous travaillerons aussi à inclure les professionnels qui œuvrent dans des organismes autres que des postes gouvernementaux «traditionnels» car de nos jours, l'entreprise privée telle que des firmes d'expert conseil, des agences non-gouvernementales et d'autres organismes, font l'embauche de professionnels en santé publique. La santé environnementale est devenue un domaine de plus en plus vaste dans un monde de plus en plus complexe et nous devons nous assurer que tous les professionnels en santé publique environnementale certifiés détenant les lettres de créances CPHI(C)/CISP(C) soient représentés dans nos rangs indépendamment de leur endroit de pratique. La contribution et l'appui de tous les professionnels en santé environnementale, y compris les membres retraités, seront indispensables si nous désirons ensemble atteindre tous nos objectifs.

En terminant, j'estime qu'ensemble nous avons une occasion de réaliser de grandes choses et j'envisage avec intérêt de travailler avec vous pour mener la pratique de la santé environnementale et l'ICISP à un niveau supérieur.

By June, the country was a worse mess than in March with piles of rubble, mud and garbage everywhere. Pigs, chickens, goats, dogs and people scrounge in the piles for scraps to eat or to sell. Very little of the mess was cleaned up. Water leaks from the rudimentary water systems and runs down the road where it is mixed with sewage and garbage while further on the trickle is used for washing clothes and cooking. The wonder is that disease is not more widespread. The rainy season would have been a blessing in one respect because water could flush away a lot of the garbage but it would have flooded the low spots.



A water bladder with a chlorinator using HTH pucks. Note the distribution manifold to the left of the bag. This system is all gravity fed from a spring that feeds a small community. Water is then piped down to Petite Savanne (drop of about 200') to a concrete cistern for that community. From there a line runs down hill to serve an orphanage via a bladder/chlorinator - again about a 350' drop). Again a line runs down hill to a bladder serving Montain Rouge just south of Grand Goave. Total drop is at least 1,000'. There are no back flow valves at all because there is only a very slight chance of backflow. Each bladder has a chlorinator with pucks which were changed by the relief workers - who knows what happens now that most of them have left.

During the first trip we assisted with rubble clearing, administering first aid, water line repairs and water bladder installations. The water bladders are large rubber bags that are filled with chlorinated water from a portable treatment system. The water is then drawn off by tap into pails. The municipal system in GG was still operating but with leaks from the earthquake and illegal connections there was little pressure and the water was of dubious quality. I must admit that the Haitians are inventive - we saw three children drinking from a pop bottle in a muddy pool at the side of the road. The bottle was over a leak in the municipal line and allowed clear, but obviously unsafe, water, to reach the neck of the bottle where they drank like we would from a hose!

In March we visited the community of Petite Savanne located a very aerobic hour's uphill walk south of GG. The 150 residents experienced almost complete destruction of their homes. We worked on their spring fed water cistern and installed a distribution manifold with taps and a drain. We were able to administer aid to people with infected cuts and sores - the first medical help they had received since the quake. We have 'adopted' this community and have paid them to build a permanent latrine, repair and drain their access road and also arranged to have temporary wooden houses delivered in June. Nothing shows the resiliency of Haitians than to see a man in rubber flip flops digging at the bottom of a 6' x 10' hole eight feet deep, dug by hand in two days in 40+ heat at 80% humidity! Dirt was either hauled up in a bucket or thrown by shovel. They would work for up to six hours a day for four or five US dollars a day and smile all the time!

One of the errors aid groups have made is to decide what Haitians need, not ask what they want and then have aid workers do the work while Haitians stand and watch with no job to go to. We have had great success with our policy of ask what they want, get a firm price to do the work, pay for the work and materials and let them go to it. To date we have paid for the latrine, almost two miles of road ditching for drainage and repair, and the repair of portions of five homes. We have employed Haitians and in turn helped many families.

In contrast we watched while one aid group paid their American workers \$40 per hour for ten hours a day seven days a week, to drive new dump trucks and excavators clearing rubble. The money for equipment, wages and flights for the staff is all "aid" to Haiti but the only money left in the country is what was spent on the odd pop and some food for the camp kitchen. All the equipment returned to the US when the project was finished. All of the international aid agencies have paid staff in Haiti, living in accommodation paid for by the agency, travelling in new expensive high end four wheel drives, who see little of the Haitians as they drive from meeting to meeting deciding what is to be done - all is again considered aid. Temporary squat latrines were being built despite the Haitian preference for sitting while doing their business. When asked why, we

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HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP ??

A MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL APPLICATION IS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE FOR YOU CONVENIENCE

LETTER TO EDITOR

It was fascinating to read in the second edition of our newsletter about Miss June Lawson (certificate # 254). I grew up on Telfer Street with just two homes between us & The Lawsons. Their house # would be 502 Telfer Street. June was a spinster, & only child. As a Health Inspector, her uniform included a black tailored jacket with brass buttons, & a black tunic skirt. Her schedule allowed her to come home for lunch with her mother & father. Her uniform gave her full access to the Winnipeg street car system, & that was her method of getting to her various (mostly Cafe) inspection duties. The Winnipeg Health Dept. finally lost their uniform allowance in the early 1950's. After the war (1945) people lost their fascination with uniforms & only one or two inspectors still wore only the jacket. June was diligent in her duties & very well respected.

Cliff Van Alstyne

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were bluntly told that "Haitians are black from Africa and this is what is built there so that is what we're building here." The whole experience has opened my eyes to what happens to a lot of our donations for international aid.

Our little group, Western Canada Relief For Haiti (www.wcrfh.com) is a registered charity which pledged to spend every dollar donated in Haiti. To date, our little group has paid our expenses out of our pockets and spent our own money for items to take to Haiti. This is not to say that we are heroes for doing so but we believe in using donations in Haiti, not for travel. We also saw some religious based agencies doing true 'volunteer' work in the country, much as we are. We plan on travelling back in early 2011 when we will be looking into financing the rebuilding of a small bakery destroyed in the quake..

It will take years to build Haiti into any sort of organized country. Garbage collection, water supply, education, road maintenance and the other services we take for granted do not exist in Haiti or are in ruins. Haiti can best be described as a train wreck in almost every respect. There is a real need for individuals to go and offer expertise of any kind to aid in the building, not rebuilding, of this country. In addition I would encourage you to help financially either through your church or through our group. We have a Fundraising Gala in Regina on January 14th with silent auction, Haitian art and crafts for sale, and entertainment in addition to supper. In addition, we are also selling a very limited edition print of a painting titled "The Campsite" celebrating the Year of the Métis. Tickets, prints and donations are available through our web site - www.wcrfh.com

Questions or comments can be directed to me John Bower at gwimw@hotmail.com

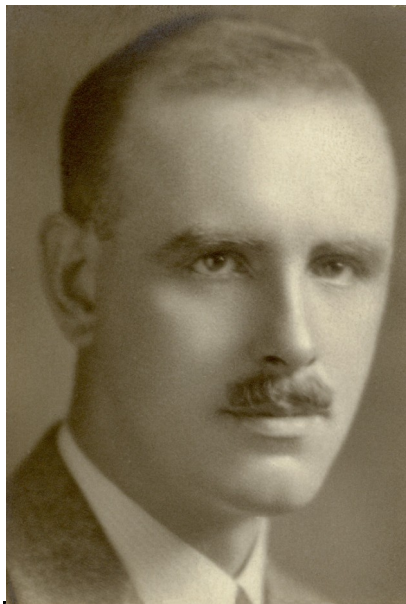
John Bower started work as a Public Health Inspector with Swift Current Health Region in 1975 He retired in 2006 as Public Health Inspection Supervisor with the Cypress Health Region. He moved to Regina in 2006 where he worked part time as a health inspector in La Ronge, SK John pent a year working at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, now called the First Nations University Canada, developing the Environmental Health Program prior to it's certification, and as a sessional lecturer at the University.

Retired Advisory Committee Members (Senators)

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	Oumar Ba	oumar.ba@hc-sc.gc.ca

Keeping costs down: Help us save money. If you have an email address please send it to **Len Gallant, Chair at Senators@cphi.ca** so that we can forward your newsletter via email and save over \$3.00 per person per issue in printing, postage and handling costs.

LOOKING BACK IN TIME



Alexander Stuart O'Hara
(Major) (1935)

**Remember to
register now with
CIPHI National
office for 2011
membership**

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#720-999 West Broadway
Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1K5
Phone: 604-739-8180
Toll Free: 888-245-8180
Fax: 604-738-4080

Alexander Stuart O'Hara (Major)

Alexander Stuart O'Hara was born on November 12, 1905 in Ballymena, Ireland. He attended Queen's University in Belfast. In 1927 Alex moved to Canada and started his career in public health. At Christmas 1929 Alex met Dorothy Mitchell, a PHN in Dryden, Ontario and they were married in 1933. They had two children, a son and a daughter. His illustrious career as an inspector, military officer, teacher, educator, administrator, consultant and writer is outlined hereafter.

In 1927 Alex O'Hara joined the The Sanitary Inspectors' Association of Canada.

In 1928 he started work as a Sanitary Inspector in Teck Township, Ontario.

In 1933 he moved to Sioux Lookout, Ontario and also received his Sanitary Inspectors Certificate from the Royal Society.

In 1934 he was a **Founding Member** of Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors.

In 1935 he was appointed to the CPHA Committee planning the syllabus for the CSI(C).

In approximately 1935 he and Dr. R.D. Defries were appointed as Co-Editors of the *Manual for Sanitary Inspectors*, a position he held until the mid 1960s.

In 1939-40 he was elected National President for CISI.

In 1940 he went to war in and distinguished himself in the Canadian Medical Corps and was awarded the rank of **"Major"**.

In 1950 he organized hygiene training for the Canadian Army.

In 1951 he was awarded **Life Membership** in the Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors in honour of his life-long commitment to the advancement to public health, and the Institute.

In 1952 he organized the Sanitary Inspectors Training course in Ontario which was the first full-time day attendance for Inspectors in Canada. He became the Director of the program (which moved to Ryerson), a position he held until retirement in 1965.

In approximately 1958 he was the visionary behind the creation of the *International Federation of Sanitary Organizations (IFSO)*, the predecessor to the IFEH.

In 1965, upon his retirement, he was commissioned by the Department of National Health & Welfare to write the *"Environmental Health in Disaster Manual"*.

In the mid 1960s he also wrote a somewhat controversial report regarding the use of Public Health Inspection Assistants in Canada.

In 1969 he was retained by the Department of National Defence to write the first *"Canadian Forces Health Manual"*.

After his retirement from Ryerson in 1965 he chaired Board of Certification Examination Panels in Ontario for several years.

He was also recognized by many others as well:

Honorary Member of the Plumber's Association of Canada

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Health

Honorary Member of the Ontario Public Health association

Honorary Member of the Canadian Public Health Association

Recipient of the W.H. le Riche Epidemiology Award from the University of Toronto

Recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Award from the Governor General of Canada

Alexander Stuart O'Hara died March 3, 1980.