



# Ontario Branch Newsletter

*Leading, Promoting, and Advocating for Environmental Health Professionals in Ontario*

2023 EDITION

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## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

This past summer started to warm things up, including CIPHI Ontario, who are beginning to work on a couple items that have been on hold due to the pandemic. Our Professional Development councillor, Rachael McArthur, along with a few very dedicated CIPHI members from Durham Public Health and the branch executive are working on organizing a two-day virtual educational seminar. We also have to have an Annual General Meeting (mandated by our by-laws), which will also be virtual, but on a different date. The Ontario Branch executive is also exploring work for a new strategic plan. This work will involve the branch executive, CIPHI members, as well as our public health partners and stakeholders. There will be more details on this endeavour to follow.

I have the very good fortune to be back as president starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, after having my first term as branch president cut short in 2020 due to medical issues. I retired from my position as a public health inspector with Hastings Prince Edward Public Health as of July. This will allow me more time to focus on some personal projects I would like to work on, as well as giving me more time to do work for CIPHI Ontario Branch.

Due to the COVID pandemic, social events were put on hold for a term, so I am very happy to have had the chance to attend the “somewhat annual” PHI softball tournament which was hosted by the students at Conestoga College. Conestoga College students were the winners of the 2019 tournament in Ottawa. They graciously offered to host in the following year, but were unable to do so. The current Conestoga College students picked up the challenge and carried on to organize and host this year’s softball tourney. The Friday night social was combined with a Pubs with PHIs so students could interact with inspectors from across Ontario. The tournament was a great success with the second team fielded by Durham winning the championship game. Brant County was the consolation winner.

A special thank you goes out to Autumn Herd, an enterprising BEPH student from Conestoga College, who designed the logo for the PHI softball tournament T-shirts, as well as for this year’s educational seminar.

Speaking of social events, the again “somewhat annual” PHI Curling Bonspiel is going to be held here in Belleville. Due to issues with the pandemic and working inspectors, the bonspiel could not be organized in time for its usual time frame of late winter. No worries, we will persevere. While we may not have the accustomed flash and glitz of a highly organized bonspiel, we will have the traditional social night, classic curling, and enough trash talking to keep everyone happy. We look forward to seeing everyone here.

Until then, have a great year and stay safe.

*John Cannan*

CIPHI Ontario Branch President

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## 46th Annual CIPHI Ontario Softball Tournament

*Pictures submitted by Justin Soong, John Cannan, and Alex Crossman*



*Organizing Committee (left to right): Adrian Mendez, Autumn Herd, Damaris Middleton, Chandre Sanio, Hudalahi Ishola, Diana Jarnevic, Jala Vicario-Robinson, Divya Zalawadia*



*Tournament Champions: D-Two from Durham Region Health Department*

*46th Annual CIPHI Ontario Softball Tournament, continued*



*Consolation Winners with the 3rd Place trophy: Brant County Health Unit*



*Both Durham Region Health Department teams*

## RETIREMENT - Luigi (Lou) D'Alessandro

### Luigi (Lou) D'Alessandro Retires after 34 Years in Public Health

*Submitted by Teresina (Teri) Palangio*



After fulfilling a 34-year career in public health, Luigi (Lou) D'Alessandro has retired.

Lou graduated from Ryerson Polytechnic Institute in 1977, earning a Certificate in Public Health. He completed his 6-month practicum between Brant County Health Unit and Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Health Unit before beginning his career in Hamilton in 1977. In 1979, Lou moved to the City of North York Department of Health where he worked until 1989.

Lou left public health to pursue private enterprise, returning to Grey Bruce Health Unit in September 2001. He received a Ministerial appointment to the Board of Directors, representing public health at the Walkerton Clean Water Centre for 16 years with a focus on certification training for operators of regulated drinking water systems and research. Lou also participated year-round in the CIPHI Board of Certification, serving as Board Chair in the latter part of 10 years.

In 2010, Lou moved to the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit where he worked until retirement in the spring of 2023. During his time in Burk's Falls, Lou took a keen interest in food safety education.

Lou has been involved with public health throughout 5 different decades, and has seen a lot of change. He was involved in crisis situations, contributed to policy changes, and had input with drinking water regulations along the way. Lou enjoyed assisting food premises operators, and looks back on his career in public health with a great deal of satisfaction.

We celebrate as Lou enters this well-deserved season in life, wishing him a happy and long retirement.



## IN MEMORIAM - Arthur Augenas

*Submitted by Dennis Persaud*



It is with inexpressible sorrow to learn of the passing of one of our colleagues, public health inspector, Arthur Augenas on Dec. 22, 2022.

Art, as he is affectionately known, showed unparalleled professionalism and his notable contributions to the West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease program at Peel Region Public Health will be greatly missed.

He was one of the first recipients of the maiden Bachelor of Applied Arts (BAA) in 1984 in Canada from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute.

Art had an infectious joie de vivre, which he imparted to all of his public health colleagues, including myself at Peel Region Environmental Health Division. His professionalism was the sine qua non to his success in his approximately 38 years of service at Peel.

CIPHI, and all of his public health colleagues, including myself, extend our sincere sadness at his passing. Please know that he is in all of our thoughts and prayers. He has completed his journey and we are thankful for the memories and his legacy in our EH profession. Our condolences to his bereaved family and friends. Requiescat In Pace, our comrade.



## CONTACT CIPHI ONTARIO

### Ontario Branch Executive Committee

#### PRESIDENT

**John Cannan**  
president@ciphi.on.ca

#### ADVOCACY & POLICY COUNCILLOR

**Fatih Sekercioglu**  
advocacy@ciphi.on.ca

#### PAST PRESIDENT

**Lisa Fortuna**  
past-president@ciphi.on.ca

#### COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIP COUNCILLOR

**Kwesi Douglas**  
communication.partnership@ciphi.on.ca

#### PRESIDENT ELECT

**Ken Diplock**  
pres-elect@ciphi.on.ca

#### MEMBERSHIP COUNCILLOR

**Lori Holmes**  
membership@ciphi.on.ca

#### SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Kate Beath**  
treasurer@ciphi.on.ca

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILLOR

**Rachael McArthur**  
professional@ciphi.on.ca

### Working Group Chairs

#### COMMUNICATIONS

**Vacant**  
cwg@ciphi.on.ca

#### MEMBERSHIP

**Lawrencia Ntiri**  
membership@ciphi.on.ca

#### FOOD SAFETY

**Michelle Martin**  
foodsafety@ciphi.on.ca

#### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**Marina Lee**  
professional@ciphi.on.ca

#### HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

**Brenda Armstrong**  
healthyenvironments@ciphi.on.ca

#### REGULATED PROFESSION

**Beth Driscoll**  
rpgw@ciphi.on.ca

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

**Christina Milani**  
idwg@ciphi.on.ca

### Branch Contacts

#### BOC REPRESENTATIVE

**Lal Rishi**  
onrep@boc.ciphi.ca

#### COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Debbie Hylton and Wendy Pons**  
cope@ciphi.on.ca

#### BOC EXAM COORDINATOR

**Alicia Lowe-Downes**  
examcoordinator@ciphi.on.ca

#### ONTARIO BRANCH NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Peter Chorekdjian**  
editor@ciphi.on.ca

#### BRANCH HISTORIAN

**Vacant**  
historian@ciphi.on.ca

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