



7th Annual Alberta Branch Fall Workshop

Holiday Inn @ 67th Street

Red Deer

October 5 & 6, 2006

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Duck at Henderson Lake — Patrick Potter

Message from the President

Once a process is started, I believe it is imperative to complete it. Over the last while, CIPHI and the Branch has engaged the membership to gauge response to implementing a system of mandatory professionalism; requiring membership with CIPHI or mandatory maintenance of core competencies or a mix of both. We know that a system, *any system*, that can prove our continuing commitment to the maintenance of professional competency is required if this field is to continue evolving!

I firmly believe that CIPHI is heading down the right path with the initia-

tives it has recently undertaken. It has been evident for many years that the status quo is no longer sufficient and changes must be implemented.

However, my opinion is just that. Even though I do represent the Alberta Branch as President, I also believe in the democratic process. Every person must have a voice and every person must be allowed to express their opinion.

As we approach a crossroads for the field and profession of environmental public health, it is ultimately up to the members to decide whether we collectively forge ahead into uncharted

w a t e r s ,
whether we
take a dif-
ferent tack,
or whether
we aban-
don the
course and
let CIPHI
sink into the quagmire of mediocrity.

And that is what everything really comes down to. Choice. Not to sound like **The Matrix**, but we all have choice. We can choose to go out to eat or we can choose to stay home.

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Editorial Comment

Oil and Gas in Alberta

For many rural Albertans, when the words **coal bed methane** (CBM) or **natural gas from coal** (NGC) are mentioned, an unsettling feeling sets in.

As a resource-based province, Alberta relies on oil and gas exploration, distribution and development to sustain our economy. In the past few years, with the increases in oil prices, there has been a surge in development.

Alberta has primarily been a conventional oil and gas province, but with higher gas prices oil companies are now finding unconventional methods such as CBM to be profitable.

CBM wells are generally drilled shallower and extract methane gas (main component of natural gas) from underground coal formations. The methane released from these formations is released at lower pressures and usually requires a compressor to pump the methane to a production facility.

CBM is not a new technology and has been used extensively throughout the United States.



Many landowners in the United States share their CBM experience with anyone who is willing to listen. They can recall saline water being dumped all over their land killing vegetation, improperly fenced evaporation ponds negatively affecting cattle and wildlife from consuming the water.

To make matters worse, some of these oil companies have left huge footprints on the landscape that will take many years to return back to normal, if ever. Is this what we have in store for Alberta? No.

The main difference in Alberta is that regulators have gained a great deal of insight from what happened in the United States.

We have a strong regulatory body that enforces regulations and will prevent these problems from occurring here. In the US, counties have more regulatory powers than the state regulators do, therefore, one county may have stricter regulations compared with to a neighbouring county. In Alberta, our regulation is provincial and all oil companies must adhere to the same rules. In spite of the many differences between the US and Alberta, we do have one thing in common: the public is continually lobbying government for stricter regulations.

Alberta's current situation has stirred up media and political attention over CBM development. Landowners and

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Editorial Policy

In the pursuit of the Association's objectives, the Editor and the Newsletter Committee is authorized to publish this Newsletter on a periodic basis, as deemed appropriate. The objectives of the Association are:

- The development and advancement of environmental health, and
- To support the advancement of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

The Association Executive Board has the authority to provide general direction respecting the content of the Newsletter and, in consultation with the Editor, to set policies regarding administrative matters of each issue.

The Editor shall have the general authority to select material for publication in the Newsletter provided all material meets the criteria of being within the objectives of the Association.

Views, comments or positions within the contents of the Newsletter are those of the Editor, Editorial Staff and/or the author, respectively, and does not necessarily reflect those of the Association Executive or its' membership.



A 10th Anniversary — Concordia's Environmental Health Program



Yes! Believe it or not, Concordia has been graduating environmental public health professionals for ten years. We are no longer the new kids on the block.

From the Alberta public health community, there are so many individuals and organizations that have contributed to Concordia in its path to this point through teaching, mentoring, supervising, and advising.

I wish to thank each person for contributing time, expertise and enthusiasm to the program. The positive comments I receive about the professionalism, development and successful paths of our graduates clearly indicate that the leadership shared from within your community is supportive and valuable. It is with

great enthusiasm that I acknowledge our many graduates who are supporting the Alberta Branch by providing leadership and hard work and personal dedication to their field.

During the coming year, Concordia will be undergoing some changes. We may well be residing in a new building during the next academic cycle. This will be an exciting and motivating change for the Environmental Health Program. In particular, we will be located adjacent to a full-service library. If there are materials you think should be found in an environmental public health collection, please forward the title, author and ISBN to me. In addition, we are working with national partners on the core competencies for public health and that may engender some changes in the teaching objectives and goals for

the up-and-coming inspectors. Lastly, this department is contemplating the addition of a master's degree in public health practice. If you are interested in sharing your skills for students at this level, please do let me know directly. Through all these changes, I will do my best to keep the community informed and offer opportunities for sharing and participation.

I am very open to comments about the program and its growth or development. Please feel free to e-mail or telephone at any time. Enjoy a wonderful summer season and I thank you all once again. ☐

- Dr. Karen McDonald, Director and Associate Professor, Environmental Health, Concordia University College of Alberta



Associate Professor,
Environmental Health,
Concordia University
College of Alberta

*Editorial Comment: Oil and Gas in Alberta
(Continued from page 2)*



the general public fear that CBM operations will affect ground water quality. But are these concerns justified? Are our perceptions biased from the experience the US shared over CBM? If CBM is not managed in a timely fashion with sound science, will CBM become as big an issue as sour gas wells have?

If you are interested in learning more on the public health role in oil and gas development, CBM, and emer-

gency response, Please join us at our annual fall educational workshop October 5 & 6, in Red Deer. This year's theme is, "**Preparing for the worst by being our best**" and will include speakers from industry, government, and the private sector. More information on the workshop will be distributed shortly. ☐

- Adam Stokowski,
Editor



Members in the Media Spotlight

In the March/April 2006 edition of the publication **Your Health**, a reporter followed two environmental public health professionals to detail “A Day in the Life of a Public Health Inspector.”

With a distribution of over 50,000 copies, an extremely large audience was exposed to typical days of two fellow environmental public health professionals.

Spotlighted were **Rebecca Johnson** (Zone Councillor) and **Nyall Hislop**,

both of the Capital Zone. Both ably and adeptly represented the field of environmental public health in the article.

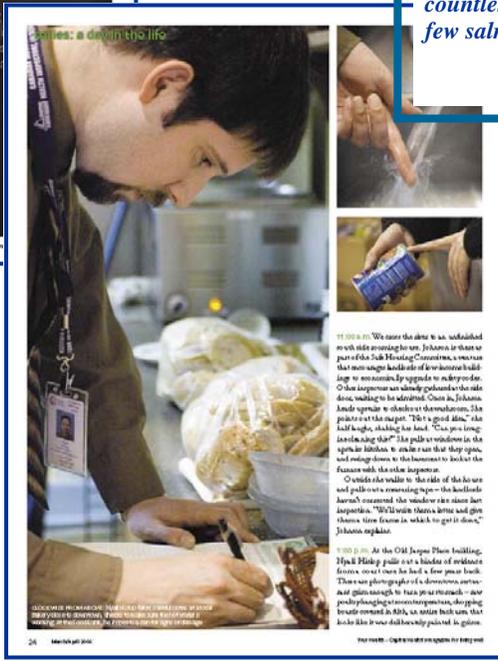
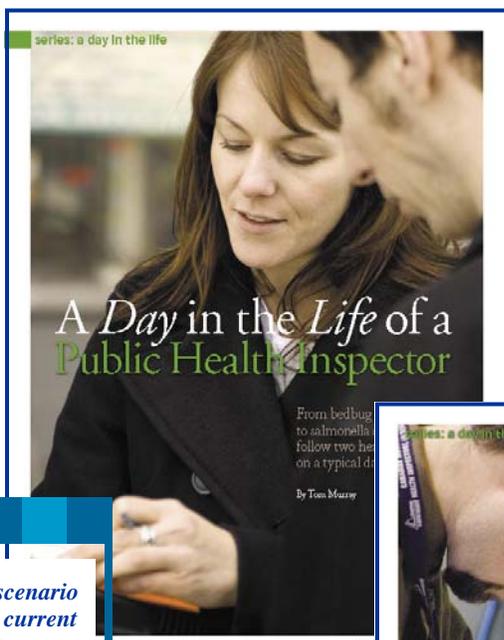
Although the full breadth of our profession could not be highlighted in the limited space, the article was an excellent tool for increasing our visibility.

Congratulations to both Rebecca and Nyall for a job well done! ☺

- Phi Phan, President

Do you know of a member who's been spotlighted in print, video or radio? Drop us a line and tell us about it so we can tell everyone else!

branch@ciphi.ab.ca

Nyall Hislop has investigated countless food poisoning cases and a few salmonella scares, but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

“If this were a cop drama, the scenario would be (Rebecca) Johnson’s current beat – helping to mediate between landlord and tenant, checking for building code violations and inspecting environmental health problems.”

L.E. Stewart Award

The L. E. Stewart Award is named in honour of a man who worked diligently on behalf of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and the field of Environmental Public Health in Alberta. It is awarded to a member of the Alberta Branch, who in the eyes of his or her colleagues has made a significant contribution to the Association, the profession and/or the community.

Because recipients are nominated by their colleagues, this award represents the highest honour the Alberta Branch has to recognize members.

For 2005, Peer Mikkelsen has been chosen as the recipient.

The nomination for Peer read, in part:

Peer Mikkelsen has taken an active role in advancing the state of the Alberta Branch. His dedication to the professional association goes hand-in-hand to his dedication to



his role as a Public Health Inspector.

Peer has taken an active role in addressing water systems throughout the region. As a result of his leadership and support of the environmental health program, water became a key issue in the former Headwaters Health Authority. His defined position on water has resulted in world tourist sites with sub-standard water treatment systems being brought up to standard, years prior to Walkerton being a household name. The fortitude displayed was in the face of political caution at both the provincial and federal levels.

His continued leadership, actions and strong position on water systems has resulted in his position of co-chair for the Technical Advisory Committee on Safe Drinking Water, which produced the Environmental Field Manual for Private and Public Communal Drinking Water Systems in Alberta. The manual has standardized practices and protocols for water systems for RHAs, Health

Canada and Alberta Environment.

In his current position of manager with the Calgary Health Region he continues to support drinking water initiatives throughout the region.

In addition to his dedication to the field, Peer has been a strong advocate to standardize the Board of Certification process. The exam process has evolved to a defined process of examination, marking and review. As well, the exam process continues to be standardized across the country with the assistance of Peer in his role as the Alberta Branch's BOC representative. His involvement and dedication have helped to place the Alberta Branch a leader in CIPHI.

For these achievements and more, the Alberta Branch is pleased to present the LE Stewart Award for 2005 to Mr. Peer Mikkelsen. Congratulations Peer!

- Phi Phan, President

President's Message (Continued from page 1)

We can choose to surf or we can choose to sunbathe. We can choose to complain about a broken system or we can choose to help fix the broken system.

There are those who are content in lamenting their lot in life and how the system is broken. How it's so unfair that things aren't done better. How things would be different if they were running things.

Unfortunately, that's all many of these individuals will do. Complain without providing solutions.

It is the responsibility of every member to ensure that their opinion matters. If they are unsatisfied with the response of their representatives, then they should become involved in the creating the solution!

We know that CIPHI could do better, and only through the involvement of more members can we achieve this goal. The relatively few members

that are currently involved cannot fly the banner forever. I firmly believe in the adage 'many hands makes light work' and if more members become involved in the activities of CIPHI, I believe we will all be better for it.

To step off my soapbox, it is my personal hope that CIPHI continues it's current course, but if you disagree, I freely welcome discussion with you. That's the beauty of choice. ☐

- Phi Phan, President

35th Annual Alberta Branch Golf Tournament



Praying for good weather is an almost constant occupation for every golfer in Alberta as soon as the short summer season hits. And the prayers were definitely answered recently in Ponoka, where over 30 golfers hit the Ponoka Golf Course on June 3, 2006 to take part in the latest edition of the annual Alberta Branch golf tournament.

With winds minimal and sunshine bright, the best and the not so good teed off together in pursuit of the Alberta Branch's golf awards, and although the effort was valiant, only a chosen few were within reach of that goal.

The winner of this year's Dr. CG More Award for Lowest Gross score was Bob More. While Bob Mowat easily walked away with the Dave Davis Award for Lowest Net score. Clearly, if your name was Bob, you were doing alright at this year's tournament.

And thanks to the numerous sponsors and donors, every participant walked away with at least one prize.

Some earned their prizes (Sean Dimock (Longest Men's Drive), Koreen Westly (Longest Women's Drive), whereas the rest didn't even have to swing their clubs to receive their prizes.

In addition to the prizes, there was also a supplemental raffle for a snazzy 'Treasure Chest' donated by Ogilvie LLP. The

winner was a very elated and animated Debra Langier-Blythe (see photo on next page).

Thanks and appreciation are extended to Dan Richen, Cheryl Richen and Keith Lee for coordinating and planning this year's golf tournament. All the participants enjoyed themselves, including two guests from Australia! A job well done indeed.

Thanks also goes to all the members who traveled from near and far to hack their way across the Alberta plains. From Calgary to Grande Prairie and all points in between, the support of members is what makes this

event such a success each year.

I look forward to seeing everyone next year! ☺

- Phi Phan, President



Course Marshall explains to Bob Mowat (Capital), Ken Fujioka (Capital) and Mike Walsh (Capital) the rules of the road.



Cheryl and Dan Richen (DTHR) enjoying a beautiful day of golf



Koreen Westly (AB Branch VP, Peace Country) and Tony Thepsouvanh (FNIHB) protect themselves against the ravishes of the sun.



Mike Walsh (Capital) waits for his turn at the first tee.



Ivan Rukavina (Calgary) gives the course a big 'thumbs up'.



Rick Dimock (Capital) and David Crowe (Calgary) sit outside after a great day of golfing.



Michael Lambert (Student, Capital) and Ed Gee (Calgary) mill around before their round begins.



Dan Richen (DTHR) presents the Dave Davis Award (Low Net Score) to Bob Mowat (Capital)



Glenn Jenkins (Capital) and Rob Mahabeer (Capital) relax after swinging their clubs more than most on the course.



David Fong (East Central), Ken Fujioka (Capital) and Doug Everett (AB Health) wait for their steak dinners to arrive.



Rob O'Neill presents the 'Treasure Chest' raffle prize donated by Ogilvie LLP to winners Debra Langier-Blythe (Capital) and Clark Blythe.

Photo Credit — Phi Phan

Alberta Branch News

The Alberta Branch News is published quarterly by the Communications Committee of the Alberta Branch to provide current information on the many activities of the Alberta Branch. The newsletter is distributed to members and friends of the Alberta Branch.

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Is that right?

Frog found in Burger King salad

Amsterdam (Associated Press, June 3/06) - A woman eating at a Burger King restaurant in the Netherlands found a live frog in her salad, the company confirmed on Sunday.

"What's happened is that one of our guests on Thursday evening found a frog in her salad. She went to the manager and showed him the frog. He saw it was there and that's a fact," said spokesperson Christine Frey.

Dutch newspaper Algemeen Dagblad quoted the customer, identified as 23-year-old Astrid Roek, as saying "it was a big black thing, a frog or a toad."

She said she found the amphibian while halfway through her meal at the Burger King restaurant at The Hague's central train station.

"I stood up and screamed the place upside-down," she told the paper. Roek has submitted a complaint to the Dutch Food and Wares Authority, but is not expected to sue for emotional damages or punitive damages in the matter: large compensation suits are virtually unknown in the Netherlands.

"We know that everybody sues everybody in the United States, but Holland is not like that, it's not how it works here,"

Frey said.

Frey said the company had given its excuses and is trying to figure out how the frog got into the salad.

It appeared likely it happened between being packaged at the restaurant and when the diner reported finding it.

Frey said the company's basic salad supplier was confident the frog was not in the large, vacuum sealed bags of salad the restaurant receives.

"The fact is - it's in the process of how we prepare our basic salad - it's just not possible a frog will survive," Frey said.

Any frog would likely have been killed by dicing of leaves or refrigeration, but

certainly by suffocation in the bags, she said.

She said she couldn't speculate about whether it just hopped in while the salads were being prepared, or had been placed in the salad by an employee or customer as a gag.

"We just don't know how it's happened, and we have to be careful what we say," she said.

Frey said she did not know what happened to the frog following its discovery. □

