



CIPHI 78th Annual Educational Conference:

“Healthy Places, Healthy People”

Blue Mountain Resorts

Blue Mountain, Ontario

September 16-19, 2012

www.ciphi.ca/events



Lake Louise, Alberta

Message from the President

It is always a pleasure to be asked to speak to the membership as Alberta Branch President. I'm nearly one year into my Presidency and I have found that the role certainly comes with both its rewards and demands. It has been a busy year personally as well. My son Fletcher is just over 6 months old now and his genetic predisposition for mayhem and mischief (from his Dad) is starting to show through. Heather and Jude are doing great too. We are blessed with health and happiness.

My first thought for this message is to send a thank you to **Lance Honish** and his Newsletter Committee for volunteering to get *THE NEWS* out

twice per year to CIPHI members in Alberta and across Canada. Our newsletter is a great tool for the Alberta Branch to showcase and engage our members. Our newsletter is always informative and appealing and I encourage everyone to visit our website and take a trip down memory lane to see the rich history our Branch has been able to archive. I'm still thinking about the tremendous experience I had at the fall workshop in Calgary last October. I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with the workshop planning committee, led by **Sarah Nunn** and **Val Davidson**. The backstage “War Room” was

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Message from the Editor

As I pull together all of the content for each edition of Alberta Branch News, the submissions always give me pause for thought about the field of environmental public health. The story of the life and career of Jim Hoskins led me to reflect on the challenges of our EHO colleagues in decades past. I was fortunate to have attended the 2003 CIPHI Annual Education Conference in Edmonton, where Jim was issued Life Membership in CIPHI. I'll never forget the acceptance speech he gave, where he enthusiastically reflected on his early career in rural Alberta, and shared a story about a makeshift raft that was needed to cross a river to get to a community he needed to visit to carry out his duties.

I'm confident he had many more stories of his career that would've kept the room riveted for hours.

Submissions regarding the charitable spirit of the Branch continue to make me be proud to be a member. Props to the Concordia Environmental Health students for their fundraising and blood drive. My thanks to Branch Executive for providing guidance on publication of stories regarding charitable causes.

Please continue to send your submissions and feedback to me at abn.editor@gmail.com

- Lance Honish, Editor

Message from the President con't.

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certainly a fast-paced yet fun environment. I've had a few months now to reflect on the words of our special guests, speakers and keynotes. I am very proud of the connected messages of support and commitment to learning that **Dr. Predy (AHS)**, **Dawn Friesen (AH&W)** and **Kathy Ahearn (AHS)** were able to convey. Their collective encouragement of our Institute was just what many of our members with AHS needed to hear.

Another topic that still has the Branch Executive buzzing was the half-day session on **Verbal Judo**. The session was an effective introduction into an intriguing area that our profession may want to pursue. Personally, ideas

like 'perception is reality' and 'being correct is the worst position to be in' have really stuck with me as I reflect on our ability to effectively deliver messages. The Executive feel like we only got a taste of the potential that this course, or similar programs, can offer and we've talked about trying to connect members to effective communication resources in the future. What did you think?

Speaking of workshops, our 13th Annual Fall Education Workshop will be held this year in Edmonton during the last week of September. Our Co-chairs **Ihsan Sassi** and **Angela Kim** should have an exact date and venue ready to share in the coming weeks

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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.



2011 Branch Fall Educational Workshop

The 2011 Alberta Branch Workshop was held in Calgary on Oct 3rd and 4th. To celebrate 40 years of the Alberta Branch, this year's workshop committee wanted to look towards the future of Environmental Public Health.

The two-day event started out with a motivational speaker, Mark Johnson, who brought us all back down to earth with a reality check on what is really important. His line "it is what it is", was used throughout the two day event by attendees, showing what an impact he had on his audience. Dr. Kirsten Mattison from Health Canada spoke about novel foods the industry is researching, but that was followed by Jim Dingman's (Underwriters Laboratories) very scary presentation on the unknowns of nanotechnology! Quite the contrast!

The presentations over the two days were very entertaining and informative which was apparent with the positive feedback from the participants and the high attendance this year. The sponsors and exhibitors also provided great feedback on the content of the workshop and the fantastic interaction with all of the attendees and speakers.

On the final afternoon, a "Verbal Judo" workshop was held. This is a concept used to describe the way one communicates to prevent an altercation in an enforcement situation. The presentation was the most interesting and useful presentation I have ever listened to. The workshop participants stayed until the very end of the second day, not wanting to miss anything and wanting more.

The social event was held at the local Schanks sports bar. The "Mini Olympics" involved a round of mini golf, closest to the pin t-off, and a virtual race around the race car track. A silent auction was also held to raise money for CIPHI's supported charity: clean water in Sierra Leone.

Altogether \$2000 was raised for this great cause, and over 160 members had a fantastic time.

All in all, a successful workshop encompassing education, networking, fundraising and entertainment!

- Sarah Nunn



Above, Wayne Quan (left) and Karen Clarke give their thumbs up to the workshop exhibitors. Below, Dale Nelson revs his engine for environmental public health at the social event.



Photos: Tony Thepsouvanh

**FUTURE
OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

 The logo for "Future of Public Health" features the words "FUTURE" and "PUBLIC HEALTH" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The word "OF" is smaller and positioned between "FUTURE" and "PUBLIC HEALTH". To the right of the text is a stylized graphic consisting of a blue DNA double helix, a white microscope, and a white caduceus (a staff with two snakes) on a blue background.

Concordia Corner

The Environmental Health Students' Association (EHSA) at Concordia University College of Alberta sends its warmest greetings. We wish the past cohort, who are preparing for their Board of Certification (BOC) exam, the best of luck. We would also like to acknowledge our current instructors and mentors for taking time out of their busy schedule to help pass on skills developed from years of experience onto us.

A new cohort joined our fold last fall. The Environmental Health After-Degree Program Director and EHSA Adviser Dr. Karen McDonald organized an in-class breakfast to mark the beginning of the new semester, and to welcome the new cohort. Mr. Nelson Fok and Mr. Nyall Hislop were also in attendance to talk about the aims, goals, potentials, possible realities and limitations of the public health field.

The highlight of the fall semester was the CIPHI Alberta Branch workshop in Calgary. It was a great experience for us as we had the opportunity to be in direct contact with Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) with years of practical knowledge, and to learn from them.

An honorable mention of the fall semester includes a bake sale fundraiser by the EHSA for the Edmonton Food Bank. This event was very successful, and showed that the EHSA was committed to making a difference in

the community. The end of the fall semester was marked by a Christmas formal dining event that helped us relax and loosen up just in time for the final exams.

This year, the aim of the EHSA is to promote the Environmental Health Program within Concordia, and the community as a whole. We have organized a blood and food drive to take place on March 13th and 14th, at the Tegler Hall, from 10am to 3pm on both days. On March 13th, prospective donors will schedule their blood donation times with the Canadian Blood Services' representatives. Blood donations will be done on March 14th, from 10am to 3pm. The food drive will be on both days, and proceeds will go to both Concordia and Edmonton food banks. EHSA students will also have an Environmental Awareness Day on March 13th to talk to other Concordia students about relevant student concerns such as housing, food handling, hand - washing, and safe sex.

As an endnote, the EHSA would like to congratulate Tony Oghomienor, whose wife gave birth to a gorgeous baby girl in January, and Paula Johnston, who is expecting a baby in April.

- Cecil Lebbj, EHSA President



2011 Alberta Branch Sock Challenge: The Happy Feet Continue!



Thank you to all who participated in the second annual Golden Sock Challenge this past September! As you know, the Sock Challenge began as a response by Environmental Health Officer Sandra Hamilton (who is now enjoying retirement to its fullest) to “Tent City”, a spontaneous camp that appeared on provincial land in the City of Edmonton in 2007. During conversations with campers and outreach workers she learned that socks were in such short supply that the workers were forced to ration them. Within ten days Edmonton EHOs collected over 1 000 pairs of socks.



This year CIPHI Alberta members collected 16,747 pairs of socks! The winner of the 2011 CIPHI Alberta Sock Challenge was announced at the 2011 CIPHI Alberta Fall Workshop. The winner for the second year was the Southern Zone who collected more socks per EHO than any other zone. In just one short month, they collected 4705 pairs of socks!! This also means that the Southern zone will be the recipient of the \$200.00 donation from TrainCan Inc., for the purchase socks next year.

The final tallies of socks-per-EHO were as follows:

South – 181
 Edmonton – 88
 Federal – 37
 Central – 61
 Calgary – 36
 North and Arctic – 6
 Students – 6

The socks collected across the province were distributed to local agencies in need within each zone, and the response was overwhelming with many letters of thanks received. In



Calgary, the Calgary Homeless Foundation used their donation of socks to assemble ‘comfort packs’ for disadvantaged persons.

Thank you again for everyone’s hard work and dedication to this initiative. As we look forward to the 2012 Sock Challenge, we are excited to announce that we will have two awards next year, one for the most socks collected and one for the most socks-per-EHO collected.

The goal: 20,000 in 2012!!!

- Lena Jobb



Branch Donation: Canadian Red Cross-Alberta

CPHI(C) holders are professionals, who are recognized for our unique training and skills that enable us to assess risk and make on-the-spot decisions to protect the health and safety of Albertans. We provide education and training to prevent injury and minimize the spread of disease. Through forest, grass and building fires, floods and other disasters, Branch members have provided much needed assistance in Alberta. Many members have either been affected directly or have family or friends that have had to deal with these disasters. Through our daily activities and in response to unforeseen events, we have done an excellent job protecting people in Alberta. In addition to the services we provide for our employers, many of us volunteer our time, money and talents. I am very proud to be part of such a generous organization.

This year the Branch decided to provide a donation to a local and international charity instead of pursuing our traditional bi-annual membership gift. On January 19 the Branch provided Red Cross with a donation of \$5620. This money will be used in the province to assist with programs throughout Alberta. The Red Cross provides many valuable services to Albertans in need; these services include disaster management, aboriginal programming, homecare services, health equipment loans, and delivery of respectED (addressing bullying, violence and sexual exploitation). This donation is in addition to the socks our members distributed throughout the province and the contribution we all made to the Sierra Leone project. In light of the emergencies we have had in Alberta and globally, I am glad that CIPHI Alberta Branch was able to provide this financial support.

Jon Elliott, Vice-President



**YOU HAVE
GIVEN THE
GIFT OF HOPE
THANK YOU**

**Canadian Institute of
Public Health Inspectors
(Alberta Branch)**

FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF

Canadian Red Cross -
Alberta

January 19, 2012



Branch Executive present a \$5620 donation to the Canadian Red Cross-Alberta on January 19.

Commitment to Continued Education Recognized



Karen Emde (pictured left) is presented with the "Commitment to Continued Education" plaque by Branch President Jason MacDonald last September. The presentation was made in recognition of Karen's efforts in organizing both the 2009 and 2010 Branch Fall Educational Workshops.

- Lance Honish, Editor

Continued Education: Winners!

CIPHI Alberta Branch is committed to supporting its members as they strive to improve on professional competencies through continued education. To that end we are happy to share the following announcements:

- Congratulations to Kelly Kennedy, Tanya Mrowietz and Carla Eskow who were the winners of the Alberta Branch Annual Sponsorship Draw. All three are eligible for up to \$1000 in registration and expenses for the 2012 CIPHI Annual Educational Conference or the 13th Annual Alberta Branch Fall Educational Workshop. To win this draw you simply need to enter your name. Watch for your chance to enter next year's draw this fall!

- Our 2012 Early-bird registration winner was Philip Callbeck. Phil is eligible for reimbursement of his early-bird registration fees when attending either the 2012 CIPHI Annual Educational Conference or the 13th Annual Alberta Branch Fall Educational Workshop. Anyone who has paid their membership dues on or before December 31 for the year ahead is automatically entered in this draw.

- Jason MacDonald, President





Environmental Health Foundation of Canada

The Research and Education Arm of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

The Environmental Health Foundation of Canada (EHFC) is a not-for-profit organization for advancing environmental public health in Canada and internationally through education and research initiatives. The EHFC was set up in 1989.

The activities of EHFC are coordinated by a Board of Trustees. Members come from industry, educational institutions, the community and government, and from the environmental public health profession. Members give their time, experience and expertise to the administration of the Foundation.

EHFC TRUSTEES

- Bid farewell to Trustees Marilyn Lee, ON and Shendra Brisdon, BC
- Welcomed new Trustees Gary Gallivan, Cape Breton, Tamela Carrol, New Brunswick and Cameron Coulby, ON

2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS

- Continuing Education – Lucille Lukey, CPHI(C), Health Canada, BC
- Len Hiebert – TBA
- Lilli Ann Zahara – Patrick Murray, CPHI(C), Central Region, NFLD
- NSF/EHFC – Sylvanus Thompson, Toronto Public Health, ON

DONATIONS

- EHFC has no paid staff and relies on the work of the volunteer Board of Trustees
- 100% of donations go towards EHFC awards and projects
- donations may be made in the form of a bequest; the creation of a trust fund; the purchase of a dedicated life insurance policy; a cash; or credit card donation

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Message from the President con't.

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so stay tuned. It should be another great event, especially given that the workshop takes place during Environmental Public Health Week!

You read that correctly - **Environmental Public Health Week** has been moved to the last week of September. I chair a national committee that is planning this year's event and although it is seven months away, the workload is fast and furious already. I believe in Environmental Public Health Week. It is a way to give one another a pat on the back and to share the great work we do with our colleagues in the public health family.

Looking beyond the fall, we can see our **Centenary** on the horizon in 2013. A lot of people are already talking about attending the Annual Educational Conference in Winnipeg next June. I know I plan to be there. In addition to the AEC, plans are underway to celebrate the Centenary all year long. Our Executive has committed to support the Centenary Planning Committee, which includes our Past President **Koreen Anderson**. The Committee is working hard to bring forward membership engagement, historical education and – most importantly – fun throughout the entire year.

Our next Alberta Branch event will be this spring. We have decided to have our AGM and golf tournament together in **Sylvan Lake** this June. Our AGM, and a social event, will be held on June 9 and the annual golf tournament will take place the next day on June 10. Thank you to **Pamela Stewart** for coordinating things so far. I look forward to seeing everyone in Sylvan in a few months.

I would like to close with another thank you to the Alberta Branch Executive along with our Committee Chairs and Committee Members. We're all busy these days, so your decision to give back to your profession is one that I do not overlook. For anyone looking to become more involved in CIPHI, please drop me a line and we'll find a rewarding and engaging spot for you!

See you in June!

- Jason MacDonald, President



Fletcher MacDonald, 6 months



Alberta Branch News

The Alberta Branch News is published twice yearly by the Newsletter 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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In Memoriam

It is with sadness, and yet in celebration of his life, that we inform you of the passing of James (Jim) Hoskins on December 9, 2011 at the age of 98.

Jim was born in Melfort, Saskatchewan but moved at a very early age, with his family, to the Hillside district, south of Millet, Alberta. After completing grade 11, Jim took Health Inspection training. He met and married Doris Muriel Piper of Edmonton, in May 1943. They would be together for 65 years. The family lived in Edmonton, during which time Jim traveled to the north in his position as a Health Inspector. In 1956, the Hoskins' moved to Wetaskiwin, where Jim became a Public Health Officer with the newly created Wetoka Health Unit. His work took him throughout the municipalities and



counties of Wetaskiwin and Ponoka. He would remain in this Alberta Government position until 1978, retiring after more than 30 years of service. In 2003, Jim was issued Life Membership in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Jim also received the Governor General's Compassionate Canadian award and Her Majesty's 50th Jubilee Medal, both for volunteerism.

Jim is survived by his five sons (who with pride fondly remember him as "The Chief"), 10 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives, along with many ardent and loving friends and acquaintances.

- Phi Phan & Lance Honish