The End of 2019, the End of a Decade

As 2019 closes out, the 2010s decade comes to an end as well. The last 10 years has seen an explosion of environmental public health challenges, changes, and successes.

impacts including the increased frequency of wildfires, the intensification of storms, and the migration of vector-borne diseases, like Lyme Disease, into previously unaffected locations. The media waves overflowed with reports of exotic disease outbreaks like Zika and Ebola and the re-emergence of preventable diseases like Polio and Measles. Decades of progress to eliminate smoking went into full relapse with the introduction of vaping products. Ontario and BC experienced rabies related deaths; BC health officials experienced a spotlight on rabies following the death of a Vancouver Island man in 2019 (CBC, 2019, Government of Canada, 2018). Perhaps one of the most disheartening themes for the decade was the increase in social inequity correlated to a shift in the social and economic determinants of health, specifically that of income and social status. We observed the headlines on Flint, Michigan's lead disaster, the "Occupy" movement and homelessness-on-the-rise, and the tragic impacts of the opioid crisis; these are all tragedies that disproportionally burden the most vulnerable members of society. The environmental public health world faced an abundance of challenges in the 2010s decade.

Although the decade seems grim, environmental

public health saw many successes as well. Advances were made in vaccine production against devastating diseases like Ebola and HIV. School authorities throughout Canada and the US implemented mandatory vaccination programs for students to drive up vaccination rates. International efforts guided by the BC, Canada, and the World weathered climate change WHO's Global Vaccine Action Plan, while off target for a 2020 completion, increased vaccination programs across the globe (World Health Organization, 2019). A hot topic of debate, climate change, became a constant presence in media coverage. This encouraged dialogue about the implementation of previously maligned climate change initiatives such as eliminating single use plastics and developing electric vehicles. These discussions propelled the environmental movement into the forefront of the public eye and progress was made. While not directly under the environmental public health umbrella, the mental

... Continued on Page 4

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE...

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14-15 **Christmas Luncheons**

Branch Update

Greetings! Here we are in 2020, which I think, by any metric, can be called "the future". In fact, the 1970s were closer to the turn of the millennium than we are today. And with that futuristic lens, now is a great time to glance quickly at the past, and then to look at what's coming up this year for our profession and our organization.

After a false start, failing to meet quorum on the first kick, we successfully completed our 2019 AGM before the end of the calendar year thanks to the hospitality of Vancouver Coastal Health's Vancouver office. The challenges in getting 20 of our 200 members in the same place at the same time aren't new, but certainly give pause for how best to get members interested and able to participate in the AGM. If you have thoughts on how we can support this (recognizing that travel for the sole purpose of a meeting isn't often feasible), please reach out and let me know!

This year the BC Branch celebrated, with support from a provincial proclamation, Environmental Public Health Week. Continued recognition of the value of our profession, not only for one week in September but throughout the year and as part of policy development, is an important goal for CIPHI in 2020. We will advocate, Nationally and at the Branch level, to ensure that the CPHI(C) designation and CPC program are considered the standard for Environmental Health Professionals, and that the public understands how our profession keeps them safe and healthy.

Increased engagement with membership is also a priority for the Branch for 2020. The Branch website will be undergoing revisions to make it more modern and useful; document sharing will increase transparency into our actions and decision-making. We are exploring the creation of a communication portal on the website that will allow members, including students and experienced professionals, to create a community of practice. And our webinar platform will not only provide PD opportunities for our members, but will also allow for less formal engagement between the Branch Executive and members through virtual "town hall" meetings.

With so many exciting opportunities planned for the upcoming year, we're continually seeking volunteers both for Council positions, as well as for ad hoc opportunities. If you're interested, or have ideas on how you think the Branch can support you as an environmental health professional, please reach out!

Hoping you all had a pleasant and relaxing holiday with friends and family, and that 2020 brings prosperity!

Yours Truly,

Casey Neathway BC Branch – President





Update from NCCEH

Managing Legionella risks: Exposure, outbreaks and updates on requirements for building water systems in Vancouver.

Juliette O'Keeffe, NCCEH

Legionellosis on the rise

Reported occurrence of Legionnaire's disease, a severe pneumonia, and Pontiac fever, a milder flu-like illness, caused by Legionella bacteria are on the rise in Canada. Infection occurs via the inhalation or aspiration of affected water droplets into the lungs, with smokers, people over-50 and those with compromised immunity the most at risk of infection. Collectively referred to as legionellosis, the rate of reported cases across the population in B.C. has remained below the Canadian rate, but the number of reported cases in B.C. is also rising (Table 1).

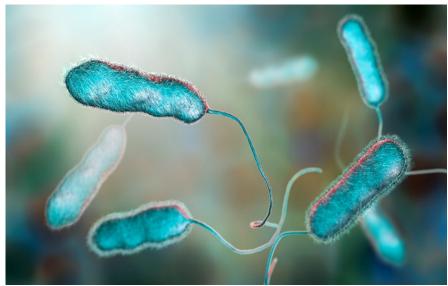


Photo credit: Dr. Microbe via iStock

There are <u>many factors</u> that may be contributing to the rise in cases observed across Canada including improved diagnosis and reporting practices, aging water infrastructure and an aging population. Prevention is important, with building water systems being the focus of current preventive policy. This article presents a brief overview of sources of exposure associated with outbreaks, new regulations in the City of Vancouver and new resources available from the NCCEH

Year	Number of Cases		
	Canada	BC	
2008	166	3	
2009	140	8	
2010	201	8	
2011	251	6	
2012	484	11	
2013	398	13	
2014	253	9	
2015	328	23	
2016	315	14	
2017	427	16	

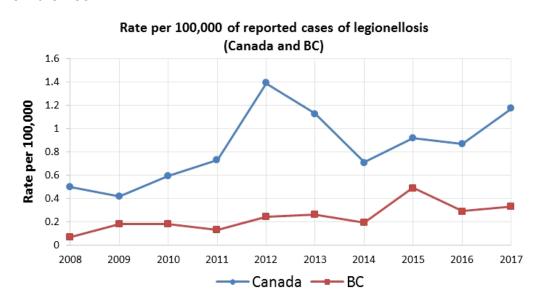


Table 1. Reported cases of legionellosis, and rate per 100,000 in Canada and B.C. 2008-2017. Source: <u>Government of Canada</u> and <u>BC Centre for Disease Control</u>

Sources of exposure

Legionellosis is caused by *Legionella* bacteria, an opportunistic premise plumbing pathogen (OPPP) that occurs naturally in the environment but can thrive in some building plumbing systems where the right conditions are present. These conditions include warm water (e.g. 25-45°C), areas of stagnation (e.g. low-use fix

The End of 2019. . . CONTINUED. . .

health awareness campaigns and the expansion of the #MeToo movement are beyond worthy of mention as highlights for the 2010s. Around the globe, the stigma around mental health began to lift as open and ongoing dialogue created a pathway to a better health for all. Empowered woman stood with a united voice, breaking the silence, and ending an unacceptable social norm. Our successes in the 2010s, have positioned us to see with 20/20 vision as we bravely navigate these challenges in support of our collective wellbeing.

With the end of a year and of a decade, we are provided

with a great opportunity to reflect and see how we can be a part of the initiative for change. Share the Vision, Transform Tomorrow – be sure to check out the 2020 AEC in Ajax, ON.

Cheers to 2020.

Stacey Sowa, Editor

Resources:

CBC, 2019. B.C. man dies of rabies after coming into contact with bat. Retrieved January 10, 2020 from https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bat-rabies-vancouver-1.5212965

Government of Canada, 2018. Surveillance of Rabies. Retrieved January 10, 2020 from

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/rabies/surveillance.html

World Health Organization, 2019. Immunization Coverage. Retrieved January 7, 2019 from https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/immunization-coverage.

Managing Legionella . . . CONTINUED. . .

tures or plumbing dead-ends), poor disinfection residuals, build-up of biofilm and corroded pipe work where *Legionella* can shelter. Sources of exposure can be any fixture that causes water colonized by *Legionella* to become aerosolized as mist or fine water droplets such as hot tubs, shower heads, misters, decorative water features, and cooling towers for large air conditioning systems. This means that *Legionella* exposure can occur in a wide range of premises from residential buildings, to restaurants, hotels, supermarkets, or even temporary events or fairs.

Sporadic cases versus outbreaks

Sporadic cases may be due to small point sources with a small number of users/passers-by but outbreaks occur where the dispersal of aerosols occurs from a localised point source in a crowded area, or where affected

aerosols are dispersed over large neighbouring areas. In North Carolina in 2019, an outbreak with 141 confirmed cases, and 4 deaths was traced to a state fair, where many visitors passed by a hot tub display thought to be the source of the outbreak. Temporary events such as these can be significant point sources of exposure but do not represent ongoing exposure beyond the event. Measures can be taken to mitigate risks at these events (see the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services fact sheet with advice for vendors at temporary events).

In contrast, cooling towers for building air conditioning systems can be running continuously, particularly in the summer months. Cooling towers, often located on top of buildings, use water to disperse heat from buildings through evaporation to the atmosphere.

... Continued on Page 5





Managing Legionella. . . CONTINUED. . .

The combination of standing water, warm temperatures and production of mist through evaporation that can be dispersed from a high point of a building creates <u>ideal conditions</u> for the growth and subsequent dispersal of *Legionella*. The majority of <u>outbreak-related deaths</u> have been found to be associated with cooling towers. Past outbreaks associated with cooling towers in Canada have been observed in <u>Toronto in 2005</u> and <u>Quebec City in 2012</u> resulting in 23 and 14 deaths respectively. In 2019 outbreaks in <u>Moncton New Brunswick</u> and <u>London, Ontario</u> that were traced back to cooling towers resulted in multiple hospitalizations, but no fatalities. In B.C., historic cases have mostly been sporadic although summer of 2018 saw an outbreak in Surrey that resulted in over 10 reported cases. The investigation of the outbreak by Fraser Health traced the source back to a cooling tower at a retail outlet in a large shopping mall.

Getting to the source with cooling tower registries

Investigation of legionellosis outbreaks can be hampered when investigators do not have a quick way to identify the source of the outbreak. In a large city with multiple buildings and hundreds of potential cooling towers, identification of the source can be time consuming, potentially delaying control of the outbreak. Previous outbreaks associated with cooling towers in Hamilton Ontario and the province of <a href=Quebec led to the introduction of mandatory cooling tower registries in those jurisdictions. The use of a cooling tower registry aids an outbreak investigation by saving time identifying potential sources of the outbreak. Where those registries also require preventive maintenance and routine monitoring for <a href=Legionella, it is easier to identify which systems have a history of colonization by <a href=Legionella bacteria and could be the source of the outbreak. Jurisdictions that have cooling tower registries also find that, overall, the maintenance of building water systems improves, reducing the number of reported cases. Quebec has experienced a reduced occurrence of <a href=Legionella in building water systems, and potentially avoided incidences of legionellosis since the introduction of cooling tower registration.

In addition to jurisdictions with cooling tower registries and requirements for building water management to prevent *Legionella*, Crown-owned buildings are subject to the federal standard MD-15161 Control of *Legionella* in Mechanical Systems. This standard requires mandatory maintenance and reporting practices and *Legionella* testing. Some jurisdictions may also adopt the National Building and Plumbing codes of Canada, with provisions for *Legionella* prevention to be built into the design of buildings. This could include measures such as minimum distance between cooling towers and building air intakes.

New Regulation in Vancouver

As of January 1st, 2020, the <u>City of Vancouver</u> has taken the proactive measure of introducing a mandatory cooling tower registry. The new by-law requires all premises with new and existing cooling towers and evaporative condensers to have an operating permit. The <u>new regulation</u> also requires monitoring and preventive maintenance that will help to reduce the risk of outbreaks. In addition to cooling towers, the requirement for an operating permit will also extend to all new and existing decorative water features as of July 1, 2020. This includes both indoor and outdoor water fountains and green walls, with exemptions for some residential buildings. Other cities may also follow suit with similar preventive policy. Following the outbreak in Moncton in 2019, officials there are also now <u>calling for introduction of cooling tower registries</u>.

Where to find more information

The NCCEH has compiled a new set of resources and peer reviewed articles on *Legionella* specific to our public and environmental health audience. Our *Legionella* topic page includes general resources that can provide a better understanding of *Legionella* as well as resources on managing *Legionella* in building water systems and outbreak investigation and control. Coming up on February 20, 2020 our Environmental Health Seminar Series will be hosting representatives from Fraser Health to discuss the 2018 outbreak in Surrey, and the City of Vancouver to talk about the new by-laws. Make sure to register early by visiting our seminar series webpage, where you can also access recordings and slides from past webinars.

For more information, please visit us at www.ncceh.ca or drop us an email at contact@ncceh.ca

Giardia's Corner

Hello CIPHI members and environmental health professionals alike! Welcome back again to Giardia's Corner with me, Giardia! 2019 comes to a close and as we reflect on the past year it's easy to see there were challenges faced and victories achieved. The highlights were noted in the Page 1 article but remember to look back at your own career and personal life to revel in the victories and grow from the year's complications. Remember to pat yourself on the back for the hard work you do to further the environmental public health world. Also, take a look at the list of executive members on Page 16, there are two VACANT, this could be you! CIPHI is seeking an additional councilor and a president elect for 2020; ponder your involvement with the Branch, we'd love to have an extra hand.



While you structure your year in the making, Giardia's Corner will be getting a revamp. We'll still be highlighting our Branch volunteers, members, and other closely linked environmental public health professionals, but with a new look and a new angle. Fingers crossed we're up and running by the Spring 2020 Edition of the BC Page.

Thank you for reading!

Hello, 2020. New Year, New Segment.



BC Branch Executive Update

The CIPHI BC Branch has two exciting opportunities on the Executive Committee, now open for nominations. Presently the roles of President Elect and one Councilor position are vacant; this presents us with a great opportunity to welcome new members to the Executive to share their thoughts and ideas, and lead the development of the Branch.

The roles of the President Elect (2 year term) include:

- Acting as the presiding officer for Executive Council meetings
- Representing the Branch at the National Executive Council when the President is not available
- Preparing meeting agendas (with input from the Executive and Branch members)
- Providing Branch updates for the BC Page (twice a year)
- Learning the duties of the Branch President in preparation of assuming the role

The roles of the Councilor (1 year term include:

- Participating in monthly Branch meetings
- Contribute to Branch planning for activities, events, and Member support and recognition
- Advance Branch activities through participation on sub-committees

If either of these positions are of interest to you, we welcome your nomination form and look forward to seeing you at the AGM! If you have additional questions about either role, please contact info@ciphi.bc.ca.

BCIT Awards—Fall 2019



Congratulations to the Environmental Health—Public Health Inspection students who were award recipients, honoured during BCIT's Fall 2019 Awards Celebration (left to right):

Dr. Joseph Cohen AwardROBERT ZHOU

Joe & Gladys Woolsey and Sam Parrish & Gladys
Cranke Memorial Award

DIANNA VUU

Bob Herbison Memorial Award
ELAINE KONG

Dr. John Blatherwick Entrance Award

JASMINE LEE

(Missing from photo)

News from the NEC



Kevin Kapell was appointed as the National President Elect on October 31, 2019. Kevin has been with the NEC since May of 2017.

Congrats on your new position, Kevin!



"When a foodborne illness complainant tells you about how foodborne illness works. . ."

Please submit your "heard it a thousand time before one-liners" that you hear in the field over and over to bcpageeditor@ciphi.bc.ca. Let's all share in the hilariously annoying joys of our environmental public health experiences.



86th National Annual Education Conference October 4, 2020 – October 7, 2020

aec2020program@ciphi.ca

www.ciphidurham2020.ca

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Durham Region Health Department is now accepting abstracts for the 2020 CIPHI National Annual Educational Conference. The conference will be held in Ajax, Ontario from October 4 – 7, 2020. The deadline for submissions is **April 1, 2020**. Presentation, poster, workshop or panel formats are available. Abstracts are welcome from public health partners and industry professionals and can be submitted via email to aec2020program@ciphi.ca. Speakers will be notified by email by May 1, 2020.

The theme, "Share the Vision, Transform Tomorrow - Inspire, Empower, Engage" will provide public health professionals from across Canada the opportunity to connect and share ideas that will help shape the future of public health.

Coming together and viewing our experience and expertise through our various lenses allows us to create a shared vision for a positive tomorrow. Join us and inspire your fellow practitioner, empower your fellow delegate and engage the public health community to create the tomorrow we envision.

For information and updates about the conference, visit our website www.CIPHIDurham2020.ca and follow us on Twitter @ciphi_national or Instagram ciphi.ontario and use #CIPHIDurham2020 and #ShareTheVision2020.

Submission deadline is: April 1, 2020

Selected speakers will be notified by email by: May 1, 2020

For more information, email: aec2020program@ciphi.ca

Keep up to date on the latest news at the BC Branch website:

www.ciphi.bc.ca

The page also contains information on membership, conferences, career opportunities, documents, and much more. Check it out regularly.

Did you know the BC Branch is on Facebook and Twitter?



Click on the icon to find the BC Branch on Facebook and *Like* the page.



Click on the icon and Follow the BC Branch on Twitter.

The History of CIPHI's Crest

Way back on January 3rd, 1934 Mr. Percy Pickering was elected the first President of the Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors. A competition for a design for the Institute seal was held during the inaugural meeting and was won by Mr. Pickering. The first design in black was found on early CISI Stationary. It has been nicknamed the "Polar Bear" design due the shape of the Maple Leaf. It was subsequently modified and used on a lapel pin for members and the design for the Maple Leaf was changed significantly, likely so it would be clearer on the smaller lapel pin. In 1963, after much debate, the Institute name was changed to the "Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors" but the crest design was unchanged from the origi-



Percy Pickering

nal aside from the wording. The blue colour was recognized as the official colour for CIPHI. As a result, a new lapel pin was created with the new name and was distributed to all those who joined the Institute. A cloth jacket pocket crest was also created and for many years was presented to all incoming National Presidents. A red version of the original 1934 design continued to be used for many years as a sticker provided each year to member who renewed the membership.



Original Crest—1934—"Polar Bear"



Modified Maple Leaf



Jacket Pocket Crest



Red Renewal Sticker



1963 Version

...Continued on Page 11

The History of CIPHI's Crest CONTINUED. . .

Gene Hartman, the wonderful carver, completed a wooden replica of the CIPHI Crest in 1978 just in time for the 1978 National Conference in Waterloo. The CIPHI Crest Carving was presented to CIPHI as a gift from the host. Gene received many thanks and congratulations for his wonderful carving. Thanks went to the sponsors as well.

The CIPHI Crest Carving attended virtually all National conferences from 1978 until 2017 and numerous Branch conferences as well. Unfortunately, when it



Gene Hartman presenting his CIPHI Crest Carving in 1978.

was being shipped by Purolator Courier from Edmonton to Vancouver after the CIPHI conference in 2017 it was lost without any explanation. Many calls were made by CIPHI HQ staff to various Purolator staff. In addition, a letter from Tim Roark, as CIPHI National Historian, was sent to the President



2019 CIPHI Crest Carving

of Purolator. After many calls, they begrudgingly provided a "good will" donation of \$1,000.00. It's important to note that estimates from professional carvers for a replacement ranged up to \$8,000.00 for hand carving an identical crest. Finally, a carver was located in Fort McMurray, Alberta: Mr. Igor Sekopet, who would carve it using a combination of hand carving and computer guided highly accurate machine carving. Mr. Sekopet was provided with a full sized picture of the original crest by Gene Hartman and all the specifications. Over the summer of 2019, Igor obtained the special Basswood boards needed for such a fine task. They were 2" by 6" wide planks which needed to be planed and then bonded together to be at least 30" by 30" in size. They were then allowed to dry and then be finished to be perfectly level and smooth. By the end of August, the carving

was done and painted to the original colours. Igor then made a heavy duty wooden box with padding for the new crest. The carving was sent to Tim Roark for the initial inspection; Tim was extremely pleased with the wonderful new crest he had created.

After consultation and sharing photos with Gene Hartman plus Klaus Seeger and Charlie Young, who have acted as advisors in this matter, a recommendation went to the CIPHI President that the crest be accepted. Payment and sincere appreciation for his wonderful workmanship was sent to Igor. The costs were covered by the donation from Purolator and a number of sponsors.

The History of CIPHI's Crest CONTINUED...



Celebrating 100 Years!

Over the years, numerous versions of the crest have been created to celebrate CIPHI such as gold and silver rings and a 100 Year Anniversary pin to celebrate 100 years as an association in 2013. When on display at CIPHI conferences, many photos have been taken of



CIPHI Ring

members with the crest Gene carved including celebrating members, EHFC Trustees and Life Members. The largest group, of 11 Life Members, assembled at the 100 Years Anniversary Conference in Winnipeg, in 2013.







The Crest present at member celebrations (left), with the EHFC Trustees (centre), and with Life Members in Winnipeg, 2013 (right).

The CIPHI Carved Crest has been photographed with members near and far. During the 2010 Olympics, a Canadian Olympic Gold Medalist posed by the crest. From it's original form in 1934, the crest's design has been used and modified by branches to celebrate milestones and conferences, as well as the Registration of the BC Branch in 1988. In addition to the previously mentioned blue membership pins, CIPHI National has created coloured pins for key leaders such a red pin for Branch Presidents, a gold pin for the Na-



Canadian Gold Medalist,
Ashleigh McIvor

... Continued on Page 13

HAVE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOUR EPH COLLEAGUES?

HAVE AN IDEA FOR A RECURRING SEGMENT IN THE BC PAGE?

HAVE A COMPLAINT WITH SOMETHING YOU'VE READ?

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR THOUGHTS, IDEAS, COMMENTS, OR QUESTIONS TO BCPAGEEDITOR@CIPHI.BC.CA

The History of CIPHI's Crest CONTINUED...

-tional President, plus a blue pin with a flag for Life Members of CIPHI. Lastly, new pins with flags have now been created for Trustees with the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada with similarly designed pins provided to members of the Board of Certification and Council of Professional Experience.

The new crest was recently on display at the Ontario Branch Conference in Hamilton and I understand it was well received. Hopefully our wonderful crest will be shared with CIPHI members for many years to come and will be on display at CIPHI's 200th anniversary in **2113**.

Tim Roark Historian





The new Crest unveiling at the ON Branch Conference (above) and ON Branch President, John Cannan posing with the masterpiece (left).



1995 Victoria Conference Pin



Celebrating 75 Years Pin



EHFC Pin



Registered 1988



National President's Pin



Branch President's Pin



Life Member's Pin

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THROWBACK



Click on the picture above and revel in a piece of history with the 78'-79' BC Page Editions.

Christmas Luncheons





Veft Christmas Brunch



Christmas Luncheons

















Victoria Retirees



CIPHI British Columbia Branch
For your terrific financial support in 2019!

BC Branch Awards

Rita Manuel was presented with the Alex Nilsson Award by Branch President, Casey Neathway. Rita was previously Recognized for her 50 years of service by the Interior First Nations' and as one of CIPHI's 100 Members of Distinction in 2013.

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment!

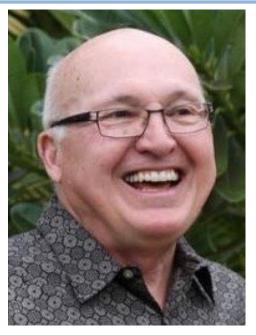


BC Branch Awards



Stacey Sowa received the 2019 Member of the Year award.

In Memoriam—William David 'Bill' Koberstein



It is with great sadness we announce that Bill passed away peacefully on January 1, 2020 at Abbotsford Regional Hospital, surrounded by his beloved family. He is survived by his loving wife Jane, his daughters, Eva (Cory), Laura (Cam), and his much-loved grandchildren, Sailor Mae, Ethan, and Nora. He is survived by his brother, Alan, and was predeceased by his parents, Joe and Muriel, and his brother, Dennis.

Bill was born in New Westminster, schooled at BCIT and upon graduation in 1973, received his Certificate In Public Health Inspection (Canada). At that time, he joined the Provincial Government in Trail BC. He worked next in Castlegar BC before transferring to the Central Fraser Valley Health Unit in Mission, in 1977. Bill split his time between

the Mission and Langley areas. He was promoted to a new position of Deputy Chief in 1989. In 2002, Bill transferred to the Upper Fraser Valley Health Unit to become the Deputy Chief PHI for the Abbotsford area. In

2010, he retired from the Fraser Health Authority as a Manager in Environmental Health Services. Bill always enjoyed the challenges of his work and the pleasure of working with the great crew of people in Fraser Health. Upon retirement, he focused his energies on his family, world travel with the best of friends, his home and garden, the little cabin in the Interior, and his favorite sport, fly fishing.

Bill fought a valiant fight against the lethal diagnosis of Mesothelioma, a rare cancer caused by asbestos.



Bill and his daughter, Laura.

Bill and I worked together in the CFVHU from 1979 until 2002. He was just the kind of employee you'd want when you arrive as the new Chief. He was level-headed, experienced, open to suggestions and new ideas, dependable, hardworking, a team player and always had a smile on his face. I will miss him as a friend and colleague.

Tim Roark

BC Branch Executive 2018

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Editorial Policy

The objective of this newsletter is to keep the members of the BC Branch and other colleagues informed of the local and national events that are of interest and importance to them.

The views, comments, or positions of the BC Page are those of the Editorial Team or the author and do not necessarily reflect those of either the BC Branch or the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

The Editorial Team reserves the right to edit material submitted, solicited or unsolicited, for brevity, clarity, and grammatical accuracy.

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