

BC PAGE



News for the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

2016: A Year in Review

The media far-and-wide was dominated by the political stage as Brexit and ISIS rocked the world and the “circus-show” US Election rocked it even harder. Occasionally, there was relief from politics as environmental public health found its way on to our screens. Exotic diseases, the worsening situation with fentanyl, and the never-ending food safety issues haunted our notifications, emails, and Facebook status updates.

Exotic communicable diseases splashed the headlines over the past year. In the spring of 2016, the World Health Organization was optimistic about the efficacy and feasibility of launching an Ebola vaccine program that had been expeditiously developed in light of the 2014 outbreak. The Ebola vaccine program would only be utilized in an outbreak situation with high risk contacts as opposed to a cross-population vaccination. There was an expectation that the vaccine would be available within the next one to two years (World Health Organization [WHO], 2016(2)). In December of 2016, the published results from the ongoing vaccine trials were encouraging. The vaccine was demonstrated to be highly effective against the Ebola virus and Dr Marie-Paule Kieny, WHO’s Assistant Director-General for Health Systems and Innovation confidently stated “. . . when the next Ebola outbreak hits, we will not be defenceless” (WHO, 2016(1)). On a less promising note, Zika virus was brought to the world stage. In January of 2016, the first two cases of Zika virus induced microcephaly were diagnosed in Brazilian babies. By the end of January, thousands of suspected cases of microcephaly were being reported reaching areas in the West Indies, multiple countries in South America, and other surrounding regions, including Hawaii. In addition to the

cases of microcephaly, an increased number of cases of Guillain Barré Syndrome were being linked to Zika. The World Health Organization flagged the Zika situation as a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern.” The fear of spread was heightened on February 2nd when the US reported a sexually transmitted case of Zika. It was no longer just locally acquired through native mosquito species; it had become widely known that Zika could be brought home to regions all over the world, sans the mosquito vector. As a result of the issue, travellers, including Rio Olympic athletes, were avoiding the afflicted regions in fear that they would bring the virus home. Vector control was the main measure being implemented to reduce the incidence of the viral infection. Throughout the year, ongoing research and control measures were being implemented. By November, the declaration of an emergency was discontinued; however, Zika was still being recognized as a great public health concern (WHO, 2016(3)).

. . . Continued on Page 3

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE. . .

- 2 Giardia’s Corner—Meet Janelle!
- 5 Branch Awards
- 13 Christmas Luncheons
- 18 Update from NCCEH

Branch Update

Happy New Year Colleagues,

Welcome to 2017! Hopefully you are finding ways to stay warm as winter has been rather cold in most parts of the province, if not unusually snowy ;) Most notably this year, we are excited to co-host, with our colleagues from Vancouver Coastal Health, the CIPHI National Annual Educational Conference in Richmond this November 5-8th. This year's theme will be "Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Innovation," so mark your calendars and consider some vacation time, as we hope to see as many of you in attendance as possible on the wild wet coast!

Our other key priorities for the BC Branch this year will include,

- Adjusting to the new legislative changes associated with the new BC Societies Act which was recently enacted,
- Updating our Branch By-laws, which are not only long overdue, but also must be updated in order to comply with the aforementioned legislative requirements, and
- Reviewing and revising as necessary our membership recruitment and retention strategy to accommodate enactment of mandatory membership for all new environmental health graduates.

With these initiatives, we will likely be looking to solicit input from you and the BC Membership at large, and will probably be in need of a few volunteers to help us achieve these objectives. So stay tuned for more details to come over the next few months.

We are still looking to fill the current vacancy of Recording Secretary with the BC Branch Executive Council. This is a great introductory position into the executive and requires only a limited time commitment each month.

Stay warm and don't forget to get your 2017 Membership Renewal in as soon as possible, if you have not already done so. As you will see in this issue, we have a great incentive this year for renewal. Any questions, please do not hesitate to give any one of us a call!

Wishing you all the best in Health, Wealth, and Happiness this year!



Gordon Moseley, Dip.T., B.Tech., C.P.H.I.(C)

President – Elect

CIPHI BC Branch

contact@ncech.ca to be notified', and 'See other resources www.ncech.ca'. The background of the flyer is a dark wooden surface with various fresh vegetables and meats." data-bbox="58 725 576 953"/>

2016: A Year in Review continued

Fentanyl continued to make headlines, as it did in 2015, throughout the entirety of 2016. The effects of the fatal drug were being experienced all over the nation. Dr. Perry Kendall, B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer declared a state of emergency regarding the extreme rise in the number of overdoses reported within the first three months of 2016. The numbers continued to climb throughout the year, regardless of the mass distribution of information regarding the risks of the drug being circulated. The battle is still ongoing as we see fentanyl and its variants ransack our streets; control measures such as the fentanyl antidote were useless against the variants, putting public health a step behind the issue again (National Post, 2016).

There were a number of highlight worthy food safety qualms in the media in 2016. Listeria reared its ugly head in a number of frozen ordinary, ever-day-kind of products. Frozen vegetables of all varieties were recalled throughout the year; even the mega-grocer, Costco, was wrapped up in numerous product recalls. Luckily, the recalls were all readily in place and there were no reported cases of Listeria related illnesses from these products (Healthy Canadians, 2016). The results from a Tofino based event in November did not have the same encouraging results. A large outbreak of norovirus, affecting over 100 people, was linked to a shellfish festival hosted in Tofino. The festival vendors served raw oysters from a number of different sources; in mid-December at least one harvesting site, in Lemmens Inlet, was closed due to the presence of norovirus. Into 2017, the outbreak was still ongoing with a trickle in of new victims (CBC (1), 2016). Following the theme of victims, a Quebec based restaurant was in the lime light when one of their servers was facing criminal charges after exposing a patron to an allergen. After being explicitly informed of the patron's severe salmon and seafood allergy, the waiter put his order into the computer and failed to inform the chef. After receiving their meals, the patron realised too late that his beef tartare was in fact salmon tartare. He went into anaphylactic shock and later at the hospital went into cardiac arrest and fell into a coma. The patron luckily survived the incident and the charges were later dropped on the server. Certainly not the most common type of food safety story that we hear about in the news (CBC (2), 2016).

2016 has come to an end and 2017 offers ample opportunity for environmental public health to make waves.

Happy New Year!

Stacey Sowa, Editor
BC Page



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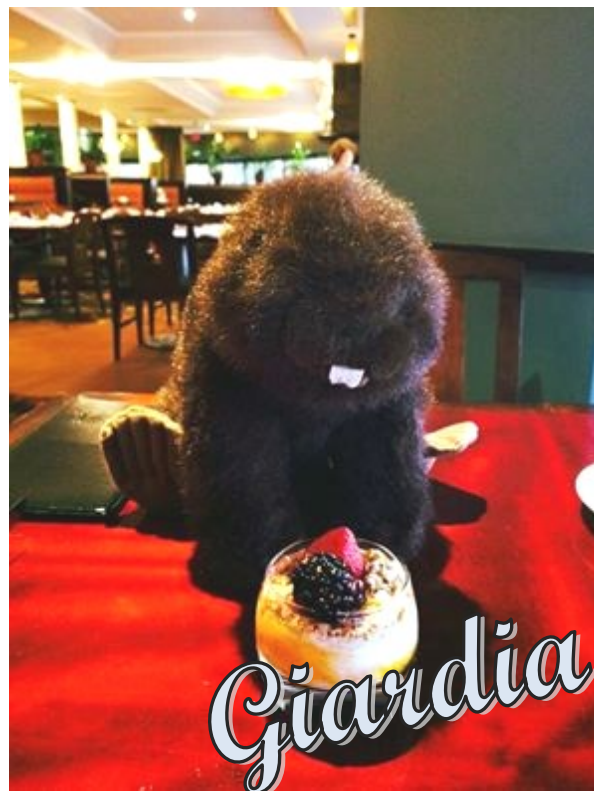
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Hello CIPHI members and environmental health professionals alike! Welcome back again to Giardia's Corner with me, Giardia! 2016 has come and gone. There was plenty to worry about with the fentanyl catastrophe, the daunting dispersal of the Zika virus, the US's political side-show, the Syrian refugee crisis, and the list goes on and on. On a positive note, our branch had some exciting developments: in partnership with VCH, the branch announced they will be hosting the 2017 AEC in Richmond and we have a new edition to our branch executive; welcome Janelle!

Quick Fact: Cotton k.o.'s Quats

Some quaternary ammonium sanitizer products are completely annihilated in the presence of cotton cloths. The process can take several hours but has been observed to happen within seconds.

200ppm—Gone in 60 Seconds.....



Janelle Rimell —Councillor

Q1: What school did you go to for the ENVH program? What year did you graduate?

A1: I went to BCIT and graduated in 2011.

Q2: Which office do you work from? Which health authority?

A2: I am based in the Vernon Health Centre and have been with Interior Health since August 2011

Q3: Legislative recognition for CIPHI passed in Sept 2013, what do you see as the next big goal for CIPHI's BC Branch?

A3: Working towards seeing mandatory membership come into effect for our profession. By having mandatory memberships and formally documenting/tracking our educational hours, this will help keep all EHDs current. I understand that many EHD's already are participating in educational opportunities as a part working with their respective health authorities.

If you could witness any event past, present, or future, what would it be?

- To watch the Team Canada vs. Team USA mens' gold medal game live inside Rogers arena during the Vancouver 2010 winter Olympics!

If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?

- David Bowie, he had passed away last year and was one of my bucket list concerts!

What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?

- George Harrison - What Is Life, Bill Withers - Lovely Day, Beck - Blue Moon, David Bowie - Let's Dance, Fitz and the Tantrums - Hand Clap

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER:

Go to a play or a musical?

- Go to a play, we usually go 1-2 times a year to the theatre

Go skiing or snowshoeing?

- Snowshoeing—one of our favourite winter activities we can do with our dog, Abby.

Have a night out or evening?

- Night Out!!

Camp in an RV or stay in a tent?

- I would totally 'glamp' in an RV if given the choice



CIPHI BC Branch Member of the Year—Gundie Volk

Tim Roark and Ron Popoff nominated Gundie Volk for one of the Branch's prestigious awards. Their kind and honest nomination (seen below) and of course Gundie's dedication and commitment to the world of environmental public health landed her the recipient of the BC Branch's Member of the Year Award for 2016. Congratulations Gundie and thank you for your dedication!

Gundie Volk graduated from the PHI Program at BCIT and received her CPHI(C) in 1974. She then joined the Institute in 1975 and as far as we know has been a member ever since, thus over 40 years. When you speak to colleagues who have worked with her, they express nothing but the highest regards for Gundie and her ability as a PHI. Ken Christian indicated that when the BC Branch held their 2006 Conference at Sun Peaks, followed by the CIPHI National Conference in 2007 in

Kelowna, Gundie was a great help with both conferences. Ken indicated that, *"Gundie has a passion for Public Health Inspection. She has been a model and mentor for many new and developing inspectors. She had that natural ability to advocate on behalf of clients and at the same time adhere to strong health protection principles."*

Ron Popoff, former BC Branch representative on the BOC, indicated that he invited Gundie to assist with the BOC examination process in 2013 first as an examiner and then to transition to the Exam Coordinator in 2014. She was the Examination Coordinator for 2 years (2014-16), during this time she mentored Kuljeet Chattha as her successor. The position was very challenging as there was a need to reform the finances and to encourage the em-

ployers / supervisors to allow their staff to participate in the examination process. Ron indicated that, *"Gundie has always been a strong advocate for our profession and particularly CIPHI, her staff and the Health Protection management team."*

Kuljeet Chattha indicated that organizing the BOC exams in BC is a very involved and time intensive process. She stated that Gundie did a wonderful job of arranging the Fall & Spring exams for about 50 candidates each year.

This includes providing oversight and management of the exams and written reports, finding sufficient examiners, arranging for overnight accommodation and rooms for the examinations, collecting and submitting the marks and comments, plus many more matters that had to be organized without any errors. Kuljeet indicated she really ap-

preciated the excellent mentoring that Gundie provided her.

In addition to volunteering with her profession, we also know that Gundie has been a long time volunteer in her community, particularly with the Girl Guides of Canada. She is happily married to Ken and they have two lovely daughters and five grandchildren with whom she spends a lot of time. We hear that she loves to travel to warm destinations and it's rumored she bakes delicious cakes.

We believe Gundie is a most worthy candidate as **BC Branch Member of the Year** in 2016 and we are very pleased and honoured to nominate her for this important award.



Gordon Moseley (right) presenting Gundie Volk (left) with her BC Branch's Member of the Year Award.

Alex Nilsson Award—Tim Roark

Tim Roark is a familiar name, especially if you've found yourself involved with CIPHI's BC Branch or National Executive Council, attended an AGM or Christmas luncheon, or been involved with Environmental Public Health in any capacity at all. Tim is an extraordinarily dedicated member of our field and recently the BC Branch was able to recognize him for all of his hard work and contributions.

Close friends, Charlie Young and the late Cliff Van Alstyne, recognized the extent of Tim's contributions and put his name forward for one of the branch's awards. Tim was the recipient of the 2017 Alex Nilsson Award. This award was created to honor an individual who has volunteered time, skill, and effort to bettering the BC Branch, CIPHI as a

whole, or their community. Tim has hit the mark on so many levels over the last several decades.

Tim started his journey with CIPHI back in 1971. By 1976, he started a six year stretch as the BC Branch President. In 1980, he served a 2 year term as the National CIPHI President. In addition to serving with the executive councils, Tim served as the Chairman of the BC Board of Registration and as an Editor and Associate Editor of the BC Page. Tim has been contributing to the BC Page in an irreplaceable way since 1978.

Tim was one of the founding creators of CIPHI's charitable organization, the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada, back in the late 80s and early 90s. He served as Chairman from 1989 – 1993, seeing the organization through its official Notification of Registration in 1991. Tim has also supported the organization through his role as the Treasurer; he has held this position since 2000.

In a professional capacity, Tim has been recognized for his above and beyond efforts. He has aided in the improvement of drinking water quality in communities suffering from long term boil water advisories and in developing education materials for private drinking water systems and on-site sewerage systems. As with everything he does, Tim has always offered a level of contribution that can never be recognized enough.

The BC Branch was honored to award Tim Roark with the 2017 Alex Nilsson Award; Dale Chen presented Tim with the award on December 8, 2016 at the BC Branch AGM. Thank you for all of your contributions in the past and your ongoing contributions into the future. Congrats Tim!

Stacey Sowa, Editor
BC Page



Tim Roark (left) receiving the 2017 Alex Nilsson Award from the BC Branch President, Dale Chen (right).

2017 CIPHI BC Branch: Membership Drive

JOIN/RENEW by February 28, 2017

for a chance to win one of two great prizes!

Option 1 :

FREE Early bird registration for the 2017 AEC in Richmond BC and travel up to \$500.00 AND a **FREE** CIPHI BC T-Shirt



Option 2:

FREE 2017 CIPHI membership and a **FREE** CIPHI BC T-Shirt

How can I renew?

On-line: [Member Service Centre](#)

Phone: 1-888-245-8180

E-Mail or Fax: [2017 Application Form](#)

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YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY GRINDS MY GEARS . . .

When you ask an operator if they have test strips and they respond with “oh, of course,” followed by fifteen minutes of searching through every drawer in their facility...

Please submit your “heard it a thousand time before one-liners” that you hear in the field over and over to stacey.sowa@viha.ca. Let’s all share in the hilariously annoying joys of our environmental public health experiences.

Baby Announcements



Jessica Boon and her husband, Vince, welcomed their second baby on December 29th, 2016. Baby Penelope weighed in at 6lbs 13 oz.

Congrats to the Boon’s!

Tracy Au-Yeung and her husband, Sam, welcomed Baby Ryland into the world. He made his planned arrival on November 7th weighing 8lbs 10 oz and 53.5cm long.

Welcome to the world Ryland!



News from Island Health



How Pumpkin Pies are Really Made

After a tough loss during a Christmas 2015 Contest, Bill Wrathall and Elizabeth Thomson battled back for a fall victory. Oceanside Health Centre hosted their Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest and the Health Protection & Environmental Services department reigned victorious. This is Bill and Elizabeth's second 1st place success.



Northern Health's Environmental Health Crew celebrated the holidays early with a Christmas potluck and gift exchange on December 1st.

News from First Nations Health Authority

2016 National Sanitation Foundation International Food Safety Award

Keir Cordner, FNHA Environmental Health Officer, based in Victoria and servicing Southern Vancouver Island communities, was awarded the 2016 National Sanitation Foundation International Food Safety Award for outstanding contributions to the promotion of food safety in Canada. This award was presented jointly by the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada and the National Sanitation Foundation International.

Keir was nominated by his peers on the FNHA Environmental Public Health Services (EPHS) team for this award, because he has displayed the highest level of dedication, commitment, inspiration, and leadership in the field of environmental health, especially in the areas of food safety and health education.

The award was presented to Keir in the Victoria office by Tim Roark, Trustee and Treasurer of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada. Congratulations, Keir!



Keir (second from the right) holding his certificate and (left to right) are John Gibb & Karen Larson, fellow FNHA EHOs, Tim Roark, who presented the award on behalf of NSF International and the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada, and Gethsemane Luttrell, Vancouver Island Regional EPHS Manager.

FNHA's Environmental Public Health Services Team Meets with INAC for Annual Meeting

FNHA's Environmental Public Health team gathered in Vancouver at the Pinnacle Hotel Harbourfront on November 30 and December 1 for their annual meeting with staff from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's BC Region. Environmental Health Officers and Technicians, Engineers, Capital Officers and Management collaborated over the two days on jointly related topics to work toward improved environmental health outcomes for their clients. After an opening prayer and remarks by Squamish Nation Hereditary Chief Janice George, participants engaged in presentations and breakout sessions on drinking water projects, wastewater management, and healthy housing.



Participants engaged in presentations and breakout sessions on drinking water projects, wastewater management, and healthy housing.

Guided by FNHA's fourth (of seven) directive, Foster Meaningful Collaboration and Partnership, these annual gatherings of staff from FNHA and INAC are a way to build relationships and establish processes that reduce impediments to better environmental public health for BC's First Nations communities.

News from Vancouver Coastal Health



2016 Environmental Health Officer's Christmas Brunch

Front: Front: Randy Ash, Richard Taki, Kelvey Watts, John Blatherwick, Patty Dalv, Jessica Ip, Anne Falcone, Jay Estoque, Garret Brouwer
Standing: Sarah Forsting, Jennifer Docker, Angelo Kouris, Ryan Hammel, Gurinder Saini, Christina Tonella, Serena Lai, Laura Zazzara, Arnaud Zondag, Sajan Joseph, Greg Adamson, Rika Lange, Karen Cummings (hidden), Kevin Kouris, Marta Jaeckel, Stuart Pike, Mark Ritson, Shelley Beaudet (partially hidden), Jen Kassimatis, David Jantzen (top of his head), Amber Murray, Hoda Storey (in red), Pam Rydings, Lis Vallister, Ian Stewart, Olga Bitzikos, Rebecca Mair (mostly hidden), Harry Dhaliwal, Iris Chan, Vicki Brar, Ryan Kruger (tall at back), Radha Lochan, Mo Flannigan, James Lu, Catharina Christiaanse, Coleen Hutton (white scarf), Kuljeet Chattha (rear), Gloria Bailey (pink scarf), Isabel Vitipoiing, Ausma Smith (peeking out in front of Isabelle), Noreen Hautala, Kuljeet Rai (back), Theresa Joseph (peeking out from Antoinette), Antoinette Cheung, plus the back three Vesna Miskin, Michael Wu, and John Carsley

Retirement—Greg Dunphy



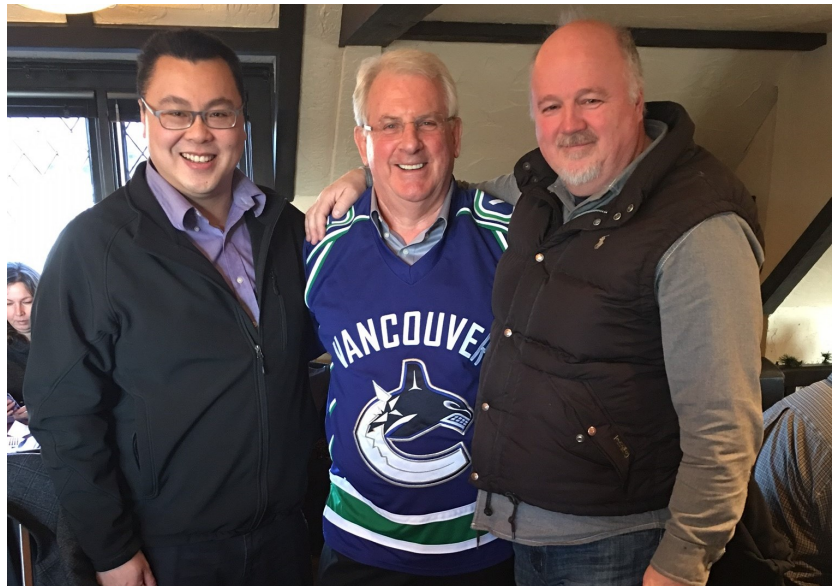
After nearly 45 years in the preventative medicine and public health fields, Greg Dunphy is parting ways with his career life and shifting into retirement life.

In 1972, Greg started his career with the Canadian Forces Medical Services as a Preventative Medicine Technician. He stayed in this role for over 23 years, until 1996. During this time, he completed his environmental public health field training with the Capital Regional District in 1990 and on October 21st of 1991, Greg received his certification. When he left the Canadian Forces Medical Services, Greg started part-time as an Environmental Health Officer in Victoria on February 12, 1996. In April of that same year, he moved into a full time position with Community Care Licensing, a position he continued with for 5 years. In December of 2003, Greg shifted back into the role of EHO. Greg covered rural areas including Salt Spring Island and Central Saanich but spent the bulk of this time, 10 years, working in downtown Victoria.

Greg felt fulfillment in his career with great people, a great office, and an enjoyable job. He believes in the educational approach with operators but brought out the heavy hand of enforcement when it was necessary. Greg stated “I really appreciate having had the opportunity to work for such a professional organization as Island Health. The past 20 years have given great memories and good friendships that will last well into my retirement years. Great supervisors and great staff have made my work enjoyable and productive”.

Greg and his wife, Joanne, have been married for 42 years and they have two children, a son in Vancouver and a daughter close to home in Victoria. Looking ahead to retirement, Greg is hoping to enjoy leisure and travel, perhaps Europe or Hawaii. He’s also hoping to stay in touch with existing staff and come by for a coffee.

Best of luck in your retirement years Greg!



Greg (center) with Eddie Fong (left) and Chris Laughlin (right) at Greg’s Retirement Party!

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.

Christmas Luncheons

South Island



Lower Mainland



Claudia Kurzac (right) was the 50/50 winner from the Lower Mainland Christmas Luncheon. She won \$150.00 and decided to hand it over to Tim Roark (left) to donate it right to the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada.

Tis' the Season of Giving!

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors BC Branch Continuing Education Webinar Series

Fall 2016- Spring 2017

“Fresh and Always in Season” - The MarketSafe Food Safety Training Program February 15, 2017 from 09:00 - 10:00 (PST)

The MarketSafe food safety training program is a food safety training program for farmers and producers who make, bake, or grow products to sell at local farmers' markets. It was developed by BC FOODSAFE, in partnership with the BC Association of Farmers' Markets. The association identified an urgent need for food safety education and training that was easy to understand and relevant to those making lower risk foods currently managed under the Temporary Food Markets Guideline. The course offerings have expanded since the inaugural in-person class in Spring of 2010. This presentation will cover what's new in the training program and how it continues to serve as a valuable educational tool for producers of lower risk foods.



Sion Shyng (left) and Keir Cordner (right)

Sion Shyng, Food Safety Specialist, BC Centre for Disease Control

Sion has worn many “hats and hairnet” in his 25 plus years in food processing and public health. Sion joined the Environmental Health Services team at the BCCDC in 2003, and splits his time between dairy inspections, food safety and processing consultations, and food safety education. He is a “Food Techie” at heart, and an advocate for food safety training. In 2009, the BC Food Safety Initiative project received the BC Premier's Award for collaboration. Sion was the project manager for the outreach element that developed the successful *A BC HACCP Training Program*. He has been involved with the MarketSafe food safety training program from its inception, and is the Chair of the MarketSafe Steering Committee.

Keir Cordner, Environmental Health Officer, First Nations Health Authority

Keir has over twenty years' experience working in his roles as a food safety officer, drinking water officer, communicable disease officer, small scale food processor project manager, and food safety educator. He graduated from Ryerson University in Toronto and quickly travelled west to work in Kelowna, followed by Port Moody, then Courtenay, and now Victoria. He is an active volunteer in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and has held the positions of BC Branch President, National Treasurer, and is currently the National Chair of the Council of Professional Experience. Keir has recently been a subject matter expert participating in the development of the BC MarketSafe online course.

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors BC Branch Continuing Education Webinar Series

Fall 2016- Spring 2017

Why are Good Agriculture and Collection Practices important to public health?

March 9, 2017 from 09:00 - 10:00 (PST)

The presentation will include a brief background of the Herb, Spice, Specialty Agriculture Association (HSSA), its associated programs, and mandate. The national Good Agriculture and Collection Practices (GACP) program will be outlined in detail from development and collaborations to benchmarking and delivery. It will outline how HACCP plays a role and what that means to those using the program. The presentation will use an example such as how a small scale producer/processor would use the program and why. The description will detail how a producer/processor gets involved and what is required of them. This is the only GACP program in Canada but the presentation will outline its relationship with other food safety programs across the country and in BC. The GACP program scope is field to shelf across the specialty agriculture sector. There is cross over between GACP programs and others across the country. MOUs have been developed to address these common areas.

Connie Kehler

Executive Director, Herb, Spice, Specialty Agriculture Association (HSSA)



Connie Kehler has been leading and supporting the specialty agriculture product industry for the last 25 years across Canada. She was program manager for the development of the across agriculture national on farm food safety programs (COFFS) and was Vice President of the development of the national traceability model (Cantrace). She has presented in Peru, China, Guatemala and across Canada.

Connie and her team (CHSNC) developed the Good Agriculture and Collection Practices (GACPs), from field and forest to plate, together with industry, the World Health Organization, American Herbal Product Association and other lead USA Herb research groups, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Environment Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Health Canada and Agriculture Canada

Connie sits on many national committees including the National Agrifood Sub Committee for Food Safety, both the Organic and Special Crops Value Chain Round Table and was also part of the industry liaison committee for Health Canada is in NHPD regulatory development. CHSNC goal has been to work with industry to develop and deliver tools that fit and meet industry needs. GACP training has been happening coast to coast with over 800 people trained.

In Memoriam—Bruce Stephen

Bruce Alexander Stephen was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 2nd, 1926. He grew up in Winnipeg, spending many summers with his family, in Gimli, Manitoba. Bruce enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and was trained as a rear gunner in the last year of World War II. When peace came in 1945, he left the air force and returned to Winnipeg where he worked in sales, followed by a time as a carpenter in Whitehorse. In 1949, Bruce received his Certificate in Sanitary Inspection #673 after completing training with the Manitoba Department of Health. Bruce was initially posted to Brandon, Manitoba and was in Winnipeg during the great flood of 1950. In 1951, Bruce re-enlisted in the RCAF for pilot training during the Korean War. When the armistice was declared, he returned to the Manitoba Department of Health and was posted in Stonewall, Manitoba. In subsequent years, Bruce worked as a Public Health Inspector in Swan River, Beausejour, Central Office, and St. James in Manitoba.

In 1964, Bruce married his wife, Jean, adopting her 2 daughters, Crystal and Lorrain. Shortly afterwards, they moved, as a family, to Victoria, BC where he worked for the BC Department of Health as a Public Health Inspector. Bruce and Jean also had a son, John, in 1969. Bruce worked as a Health Inspector for the city of Calgary for 6 months, returning after that to his job as a Health Inspector in Victoria at the request of the Victoria office. In subsequent years, Bruce worked as a Health Inspector in several other communities including Kelowna, Powell River, and Fernie until his retirement in 1988. However, Bruce soon heard the “Call of the North” and returned to the field in 1991 where he worked as an Environmental Health Officer in Iqaluit on Baffin Island. Other northern areas from 1991 to 1998 included Rankin Inlet, during the *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak, and Kitikmeot Region, out of Cambridge Bay. Bruce then returned to Baffin Island in 1994 and worked as the Senior EHO until 1996. During his time, in the three eastern arctic areas Bruce had the opportunity to visit every community in the course of his duties. In 1996, he relocated to Dawson City in the Yukon and then to Whitehorse as the Senior Health Inspector. Bruce retired for good in 2004.



Bruce donating a wheel chair to a BC Health Care Facility on behalf of the BC Branch.



Bruce receiving his CIPHI 50 Year Membership Award from fellow EHO, Lynn Richards.

In addition to his work, Bruce was a member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors since 1952. In the early 60's, Bruce served terms as the Secretary and Treasurer of the Manitoba Branch. From July 1968 to 1970, Bruce was a member of the National Executive Council both as a Councillor and a member of the Editorial Board. Bruce was a firm advocate of membership for all EHOs and PHIs. As a result of a lifetime of service protecting and enhancing the health of public and contributing significantly to his profession, Bruce was awarded **Life Membership** in the Institute in 2000. In 2002, he was presented with the CIPHI 50 Year Membership Award. In 2013, as part of the 100 year anniversary celebration of the Institute, Bruce received special recognition as a **“Member of Distinction”**.

Bruce’s hobbies were golfing, becoming a par 3 golfer and deep-sea fishing, building his own fishing boat. He also built his own racing boats and sports-raced for 3+ years when he was in his 30’s.

Bruce passed away April 25, 2016 in the Veteran’s Broadmead long-term care facility on Vancouver Island, near Victoria, at the ripe old age of 90.

Tim Roark, National Historian
CIPHI

Our sincere thanks to Mrs. Jean Stephen and her daughter Crystal Wolf for their assistance in providing much of this historical information.

In Memoriam—Clifford Edward Van Alstyne

Cliff Van Alstyne was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1927. After serving in the Canadian Armed Forces in WWII, Cliff received his **Certificate in Sanitary Inspection (Canada) #804** in 1952 at age 25 at which time he joined the Institute. Cliff worked in several rural Manitoba towns where he became involved in community organizations such as the Planning Commission and School Board. In North Kildonan, he was Commanding Officer of #695 Beaver Air Cadet Squadron. Cliff never forgot his roots as a Sanitary Inspector and soon became a member of the Manitoba Branch Executive where he was a Councillor, Secretary, and then Vice President. Cliff believed that the Institute needed to do a better job of communicating with its members and so he started promoting a branch newsletter. The members of the branch agreed and Cliff became the first Editor of the Manitoba Branch newsletter.



Cliff (left) & Harriet (right) celebrate with Ian McLean (center), a good friend from Kamloops.

When Cliff and family moved to BC in 1967, he transferred his membership to the BC Branch. Cliff started work with the BC Ministry of Health in Langley and then moved to the Municipality of Burnaby. In 1968, Cliff was elected as a Councillor on the CIPHI National Executive for a two year term of office. He use to say that he saw the light and joined the Medical Services Branch of Health Canada which he called the "SENIOR SERVICE". He became a strong supporter of Federal EHOs, joining the Institute and attending Branch and National Conferences. When Len Hiebert retired as Editor of the Environmental Health Review in 1977, Cliff and fellow EHO Harsh Thakore took on what proved to be an almost full time job as Editors & Publishers for the next 2 years. When that important task ended, Cliff and two of his colleagues took on the role as Editors and Publishers of the BC Page from Winter 1979 to the Spring of 1982.



Jim Pannu, Tim Roark, and Cliff (left to right) get ready for a great day of playing pool.

In 1990, Cliff retired from his position as "Chief" EHO for the South Mainland Zone of Health Canada. However, his interest in Environmental Health issues continued. He became a member of the GVRD Plan Monitoring Committee and was involved in issues such as recycling and environmentally friendly public transportation as a way to reduce vehicular pollution. He was appointed as a member of the Port Moody Heritage Committee. Even with these community responsibilities and seven grandchildren to keep in line, Cliff still had time to write letters to the Editor of the EHR encouraging PHIs and EHOs to volunteer for international projects in public and environmental health protection. Being from Manitoba, the birthplace of the Institute, he had a great knowledge of CIPHI's history and regularly assisted the Institute's Historical Committee with information about early events

and key members of the Canadian Institute of Sanitary Inspectors.

In light of Cliff's strong support as a member of the Institute for over 50 years, his participation at the Branch and National levels of CIPHI, and his continuing environmental health interests he was awarded **Honorary Membership** in the BC Branch in 2011. In 2013, the CIPHI National Centennial Committee recognized cliff as a "Notable Advo

... Continued on Page 13

In Memoriam—Clifford Van Alstyne continued

cate” for his life-long commitment to the Institute, Public Health and Environmental protection. Cliff was a true professional and real friend to all those who knew him. We shall certainly miss his good counsel and great sense of humour.

Cliff passed away on January 2nd, 2017 at Eagle Ridge Hospital in the company of his loving wife, Harriet. He is survived by his three children Tyla, Craig, and James plus seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

NOTE: The Van Alstyne family has initiated a new award to be known as the **Clifford E. Van Alstyne Award** which will be presented to eligible Institute members by the EHFC to recognize and honour Cliff’s distinguished career and his national contribution to our public health inspection profession.

Tim Roark, National Historian
CIPHI

Update from NCCEH



National Collaborating Centre
for Environmental Health

Centre de collaboration nationale
en santé environnementale

Community Impacts of Fuel Spills

Introduction

On December 15th, the NCCEH participated in a BCCDC Environmental Health webinar entitled *Community Impacts of Fuel Spills: a Case Study from BC’s Central Coast*. This webinar discussed the profound and still-unfolding effects of a diesel spill that occurred near Bella Bella, BC, on October 13th, 2016. The webinar drew on the experience of Chief Councillor Marilyn Slett, elected chief of the Heiltsuk Nation, as well as Linda Pillsworth, Manager of Environmental Public Health Services of First Nations Health Authority (FNHA).

In order to provide context for the Bella Bella spill, Dr. Angela Eykelbosh (National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health) first provided a short overview of the health effects of oil spills, based on the academic literature covering past marine spills. A key finding is that oil spills can have severe mental health impacts for individuals and lead to widespread disruption of the community, in addition to short-term, reversible toxic effects on clean-up workers and those living near the spill site. The full literature review (*Short- and long-term health impacts of marine and terrestrial oil spills*) can be found at www.vch.ca; a shorter summary document (*Health Effects of Oil Spills and Implications for Public Health Planning and Research*) can be found at www.ncceh.ca.

Chief Marilyn Slett then spoke regarding the complex effects of the spill on the community. The impacts of the spill were heightened due to its very close proximity to a traditional harvesting area, just weeks before a commercial har-

vest was to begin. The clam harvest (just one product collected from this area) is a critical economic activity for the community during the winter months, and its loss created deep concern regarding the ability of community members to meet immediate basic needs. Damage to the traditional harvesting area was also experienced as a cultural loss, and a threat to long-term food security. Furthermore, in addition to the spill itself, the Heiltsuk Nation noted a number of issues related to the spill response, including: 1) strained capacity to accommodate the large influx of responders; 2) issues with communication of spill information, particularly environmental data, and 3) difficulties interacting with the formal response structure. Finally, Heiltsuk first responders did not initially have adequate protective equipment while working at the spill site, resulting in potential exposure concerns during the first days of the spill.

The public health response to the spill was supported by FNHA. Linda Pillsworth spoke regarding the immediate actions taken to protect public health and the collaborative approach taken to support the community. Concern for first responders prompted the development and deployment of a rapid health assessment, the objectives of which were to identify first responders, document initial physical as well as mental health impacts, and provide appropriate care for those in need. This survey was developed in conjunction with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the BC Centre for Disease Control, and was delivered in-person by locally known environmental health practitioners. Community health was supported through the provision of mental health resources, including the FNHA Regional Mental Wellness Advisor, Disaster Psychosocial Services personnel, and Cultural Service Providers. Finally, the importance of integrating human health impact assessment into conventional environmental impact assessment was highlighted in the hope of better incorporating broader community health impacts.

This webinar was a part of NCCEH's continued efforts to improve knowledge sharing and capacity building around the public health emergency response to oil spills. The NCCEH thanks its collaborators at First Nations Health Authority and Vancouver Coastal Health, and we are very grateful to the Heiltsuk Nation for choosing to share their experience. If you were previously involved in a spill response in your professional capacity and would like to discuss sharing your experience, please get in touch via contact@ncceh.ca. In addition, please visit www.ncceh.ca for additional oil spill-related resources.

Angela Eykelbosh, NCCEH

Interested in getting involved?



The BC Branch is currently looking to fill the Recording Secretary position and a Councilor position. If you are interested in getting involved with the Branch, please contact:

[**president@ciphi.bc.ca**](mailto:president@ciphi.bc.ca)

for more information.

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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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