

Toxic Shock Death From Piercing

An Opinion from the Industry - By Elwood

Recently it was reported in the media of the death of a 17-year-old girl from toxic shock syndrome arising from a nipple piercing. This tragedy underlines the fact that there are risks involved in body modification and that health and safety standards must be adhered to at all times within this industry.

The report by the media stated that this girl was pierced in someone's basement. It went on to state that the area "met industry standards" as far as health and safety was concerned. To me, this raises the question of what are the industry standards. I know from personal experience that "industry standards" are alarmingly low. When the tattoo shop that I currently work in was opening, the health inspector came in and said, "I don't really know what I am looking for, what do you think I should know?" This really does not instill a lot of confidence in the only regulatory body for the industry.

The first red flag is the fact that she was pierced in a private home. Assuming that everything about this area was clean, and that proper health and safety standards were being observed, then we have to look at what else went wrong in this particular case. Staphylococcus Aureus bacterium are primarily found on the skin and in the mouth, which brings to mind two scenarios that may have happened. One is that there was a distinct lack of general hygiene and the pierced area was left atrociously dirty. The second possibility is that there was oral contact with the piercing,

which led to the build up of the bacterium. Either way, aftercare would have been a major issue with this situation.

In my work environment, I have heard all sorts of different theories about the best way to care for a piercing. Everything from rubbing alcohol, peroxide, and iodine, to

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Message from the Editor

As the new editor of the BC Page, I must say that I have big boots to fill. My predecessors have all produced a very wonderful newsletter for BC CIPHI members. I would like to thank Roger Parsonage for sharing his wisdom and expertise in helping me take on this new challenge.

To most readers I am probably a new face, so here is a little bit about myself. I was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta and after high school plus a short stint taking general post-secondary courses I made my way out to British Columbia to become a health inspector and enrolled in the Environmental Health program at BCIT. I graduated from BCIT in 2001 and since then I have been employed as a public health inspector in New Westminster for the Fraser Health Authority.

In this issue and upcoming issues the BC Page will undergo some cosmetic changes to make it even more colorful and add in some new sections to give it a little more diversity. At the same time the quality of the content will be maintained. My goal will be to strive to keep up the standards of the BC Page and attempt to keep the readers informed on the most current news and information relating to our profession.

We are constantly looking for feedback from the readers of the BC Page. If there is something that we can change or improve we will do our utmost to make those changes. If you have an idea or an article for submission please feel free to contact the Editorial team and we will include it in an upcoming issue.

We are also looking for volunteers to join our Editorial team. Anyone who has an interest in writing, either as a hobbyist or a freelance writer, s/he would be especially valuable to us, so if there is a budding writer out there please consider this opportunity. If writing is not your forte, we also have a variety of small projects that require extra man-power to have them completed. As a volunteer, all we ask is that you share your spare time with us and bring your enthusiasm.

If anyone has an article for submission or would like to provide feedback on any article or the BC Page in general, or would like to volunteer, please feel free to contact our Associate Editor, Tim Roark or myself.

Alex Law, Editor

2006 Awards Nomination...

The Awards Committee of the National Executive Council of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) would like to remind you of the deadline for the National Award Nominations. Each year CIPHI recognizes individuals and organizations for their outstanding contributions to the field of environmental public health and/or to the Institute. Awards are presented to individuals and agencies that have been deemed to have made a significant contribution to the professional association, the field of environmental public health and/or to the betterment of public health.

For those interested in submitting a nomination, please ensure that the required information for the particular award is forwarded to the National Office by May 26, 2006. For a full list of the awards, detailed criteria, and nomination forms, please visit the National website at www.ciphi.ca/awares.htm.

BC BRANCH UPDATE

Spring 2006

It is crunch time for the Education Committee as most of the planning is in its final stages for the 2006 Education Conference at Sun Peaks. So far the **BC Branch** expects to welcome a large contingent from all our Health Authorities, Health Canada, and the Public Health Agency. Our list of exhibitors is growing steadily and it is our expectation that we will have over 100 attendees. The collaborative work of our committee members from Interior Health and the lower Mainland will certainly pay off with another successful event.

Staying with the conference theme, Interior Health is hosting the 2007 AEC in Kelowna at the Grand Okanagan Resort. Of course the organizing committee is looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested in helping please contact conference Chair, Ken Christian at ken.christian@interiorhealth.ca, or co-chair Roger Parsonage at roger.parsonage@interiorhealth.ca.

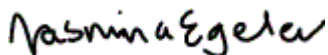
The BC Branch Social Committee hosted a Bowling tournament in Richmond on February 26, 2006. The event was enjoyed by all who attended. Loads of prizes were provided. Congratulations to the Richmond gang for capturing the Presidents Cup.

The BC Branch Executive is currently involved in drafting a position paper concerning a BCIT Credential name change for the Bachelor of Technology Degree. Concern has been raised by recent graduates that the business and graduate school community at large do not equate a BTech with Environmental Public Health professionals. In order to achieve better branding, the Branch supports the review, development, and use of a common credential for all schools of Environmental Public Health.

The BOC exam process is currently under review. Recommendations have been made to the Board and are awaiting implementation to ensure consistency between Provinces for the certification of Environmental Public Health professionals. This should lead to a standardized exam process and Gord Stewart has been heavily involved with this process as the Branch's Corresponding Member to the BOC, Gord Stewart was appointed to assume this role. A big thank you goes out to Shawn Mitton for his efforts and dedication as outgoing Corresponding Member.

Finally, for those of you attending the Branch Conference I look forward to seeing you also at our AGM. If anyone is interested in becoming a councilor on the executive feel free to let the BC Branch know.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jasmina Egeler
Vice President, BC Branch



Agence de santé
publique du Canada

Public Health
Agency of Canada

Administrateur en chef
de la santé publique

Chief Public
Health Officer

Message from Dr. David Butler-Jones, Chief Public Health Officer
Message de l'administrateur en chef de la santé publique

On behalf of the Public Health Agency of Canada, I am pleased to congratulate the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) as it promotes Environmental Public Health Week, January 2-8, 2006. Environmental public health professionals play a critical role in protecting the health of Canadians. Whether ensuring safe food and water supplies, promoting tobacco free environments, ensuring safety at public facilities or providing communicable disease control, environmental public health professionals provide the foundation for health protection and the health and safety of our communities. Environmental public health professionals have extensive technical and leadership expertise which makes them a cornerstone of health and the health system.

It is appropriate that Environmental Public Health Week corresponds to the date of incorporation of CIPHI. CIPHI plays a critical role in shaping this profession through information sharing, advocacy and certification. CIPHI is one of the Agency's partners and stakeholders working to mobilize Pan-Canadian action to improve Canada's public health workforce. For example, the Public Health Agency of Canada is pleased to have worked with CIPHI in the development of a continuing professional competence program for the profession. In addition, CIPHI has been a leader in exploring the role of retired environmental public health professionals in building public health capacity and identifying enumeration strategies for the profession. CIPHI's work with other professionals and public health disciplines in moving public health forward in Canada is highly commendable.

Au nom de l'Agence de santé publique du Canada, je suis heureux de féliciter l'Institut canadien des inspecteurs en santé publique (ICISP) tandis qu'elle fait la promotion de la Semaine de la santé publique environnementale, qui se déroulera du 2 au 8 janvier 2006. Les professionnels de la santé publique environnementale jouent un rôle crucial dans la protection de la santé des Canadiens. Qu'il s'agisse d'assurer un approvisionnement sécuritaire en aliments et en eau, de promouvoir des environnements sans tabac, d'assurer la sécurité des installations publiques ou de lutter contre les maladies transmissibles, les professionnels de la santé publique environnementale assurent le fondement de la protection de la santé ainsi que la santé et la sécurité de nos collectivités. Les professionnels de la santé publique environnementale possèdent un savoir-faire technique approfondi de même que de solides aptitudes de leadership, ce qui fait d'eux des éléments essentiels de la santé et du système de santé.

Il est approprié que la Semaine de la santé publique environnementale corresponde à la date de la constitution en société de l'ICISP. Ce dernier joue un rôle crucial dans la formation de cette profession par le biais du partage de l'information, du rôle de porte-parole et de l'agrément. L'ICISP est l'un des partenaires et intervenants de l'Agence qui travaillent pour le renforcement de la main-d'œuvre en santé publique au Canada par le biais d'une mobilisation pancanadienne. Par exemple, l'Agence de santé publique du Canada est fière d'avoir travaillé avec l'ICISP sur la mise au point d'un programme de développement continu des compétences professionnelles pour la profession. De plus, l'ICISP a fait preuve de leadership en explorant le rôle des professionnels de la santé publique environnementale dans le renforcement des capacités en santé publique au Canada. L'organisation assume en outre un rôle de leadership pour ce qui est de l'élaboration de stratégies d'énumération. La collaboration de l'ICISP avec d'autres professionnels et disciplines liés à la santé publique dans le but de faire avancer le domaine de la santé publique au Canada est tout à fait remarquable.

.../2

The year 2006 will especially important for environmental public health professionals. This profession is on the cusp of exciting work as the public health community at large works to build public health capacity across Canada. The work that you do each and every day to protect and improve the health of Canadians is greatly appreciated. The Agency looks forward to continuing its relationship with CIPHI as we work together on strengthening public health human resources.


L'année 2006 sera importante pour les professionnels de la santé publique environnementale. Cette profession se situe dans un créneau des plus stimulants tandis que la communauté de la santé publique d'un bout à l'autre du Canada travaille sur le renforcement des capacités de santé publique au pays. Le travail que vous effectuez chaque jour en vue de protéger et d'améliorer la santé des Canadiens est grandement apprécié. L'Agence se réjouit à la perspective de maintenir sa relation avec l'ICISP et de continuer la collaboration sur le renforcement des effectifs en santé publique.

Dr. David Butler-Jones
Chief Public Health Officer / Administrateur en chef de la santé publique

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FHA Drinking Water Program

An article from the BCWWA's Fall 2005 issue of Watermark

Fraser Health Authority covers a geographic area from Burnaby and Delta on the west to Boston Bar and Manning Park on the east and serves a population of approximately 1.47 million people.

Within this area, there are almost 500 public water systems that must provide potable drinking water to 94% of the area resident population; while the remaining 6% of the resident population are single family residents that are on private domestic water systems and not regulated by the Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation legislation. Seventeen of the above 500 systems are municipalities that provide drinking water originating mostly from Greater Vancouver Regional District's Capilano Lake, Seymour Lake and Coquitlam Lake (surface water) reservoirs and Fraser Valley Regional District's Dickson Lake / Norrish Creek (surface water) reservoir, to approximately 1.36 million people or about 93% of the resident population. There is also a significant seasonal



Above: FHA Drinking Water Team (Left to right) Marc Zubel, Blair Choquette, U, Tin Tun, Martin Macleod, Brian Standing, and Dean Scovill. Missing: Judi Ekkert

transient population that visits regional and provincial parks in the area. Populations served by these water systems can vary from hundreds of people a day to tens of thousands per day.

Following the enactment of the province's Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation (DWPA/R) in May, 2003, Fraser Health Authority created a Drinking Water Program and organized a Program Team with delegated powers by three provincially appointed Drinking Water Officers (i.e., FHA Medical Health Officers), to exercise the provisions of the DWPA/R. The Program Team includes a manager, five public health inspectors and a public health engineer, and have their headquarters at the Bourquin – Abbotsford Health office.

In conjunction with the organization of the Program Team, a three year action plan clearly articulating the objectives, activities and performance indicators was developed and adopted by the Team. The main objectives included the creation of a regional information management system; providing ongoing staff in-service training; the development and implementation of action plans on the use of terms and conditions on operating permits, inspection of water systems, treatment standards, water quality monitoring, responding to water quality problems, reporting requirements for water purveyors, and water system assessments.

Current challenges that the Program is facing include ensuring that water systems using surface water and shallow groundwater sources have adequate treatment level standards for bacteria, viruses and protozoa; water systems meet their water quality monitoring criteria; those systems with high hazard ratings improve their systems to

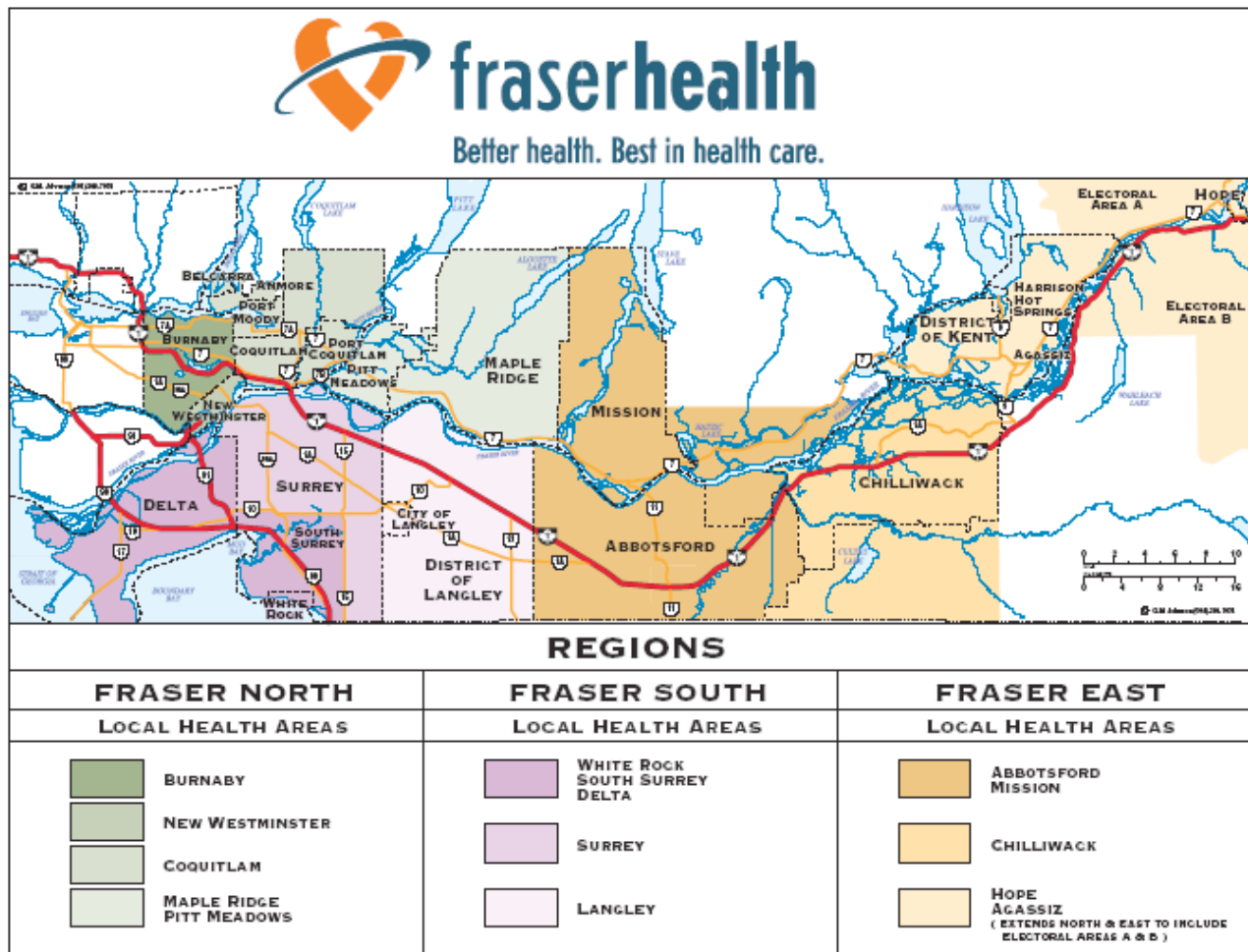
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minimize or eliminate hazards and health risks; water systems on Boil Water Advisories, currently 36, implement a time-dependent action plan to respond to their water quality problems; all water systems are operated by adequately trained and certified operators; source water protection assessment needs and strategies are developed and implemented for all water systems. For more detailed information about Fraser Health Authority's drinking water program, please see the following FHA web report: <http://www.fraserhealth.ca/HealthInfo/PublicHealth/HealthProtection/Drinking+Water.htm>

Marc Zobel is a professional engineer since 1978; has worked in the field of hydrogeology since graduating from UBC in 1976; and has come to Fraser Health from the former BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, where he was employed as a regional hydrogeologist out of the Surrey office. He joined the Program Team in March of 2004 as the new Program manager and provides expertise in regional hydrogeology and links through his contacts with other water professionals in the province.

Prepared by Marc Zobel, P.Eng.
 Manager, Drinking Water Program
 Fraser Health Authority



Continued from page 1

sea salt, Epsom salts, and saline solution is being recommended, depending on whom you talk to for any aftercare questions. No wonder people do not take care of their piercings when there are no standards for aftercare within the industry!

At this point it seems clear to me that we need to have some sort of standardization within the body modification industry. However, before we randomly start trying to implement rules and regulations, it is important to have the health authority understand what exactly goes on in the body modification industry, and the body modification industry has to understand what the health authority's concerns would be. It is only by having both industries working together that we can avoid this sort of tragedy from happening again.



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Elwood is a body modification specialist, photographer, and Reverend. His practice is located in Richmond, BC where he provides a variety of body modification services. Elwood is a certified advanced body piercer, a certified body brander, scarification artist, and flesh hook specialist. Elwood received his training at the Fakir School of Body Piercing & Branding in San Francisco. Apart from the regular services he provides at his shop, Elwood is also a guest instructor at Fakir's school, and provides many demonstrations and lectures of his own. You can learn more about Elwood at: www.allaboutelwood.com.



Above: Elwood performs *strike branding* during a demonstration.



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Above: Nigel Headley & Jasmina Egeler



Right: Lynda Quan



Below: Wilbert Dy & Roopy Khatkar



Above: Steve Chong and wife Cindy

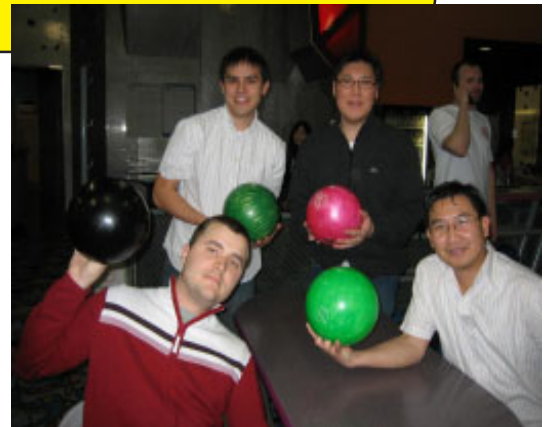


President's Cup Bowling Tournament

Once again, Richmond dominated the President's Cup! It was an enjoyable event overall and everyone left with a great door prize! The event was held at The Zone Bowling Centre in Richmond on February 26th. Thank you to the members of the BC Branch Social Committee and everybody who helped with the organization and participation of the event.



Left: Shawn Parhar & Chris Losito



Above (left to right): Chris Losito, Chris Miki, Steve Chong, & Wilbert Dy



Above (left to right): Nigel Headley, Lynda Quan, Joanne Lum, Tara Abraham, & Serena Lai



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

PROMOTIONS

Earlier this year, Steve Chong was appointed as Manager of Health Protection for Richmond Health Services. On April 3, 2006, Steve officially started his new role.

Steve joined the Richmond Health Services in 1993 as an Environmental Health Officer. Over the years, he took on leadership roles progressively within the program. Some would know Steve as the “mosquito expert”, from his role as the RHS lead in Richmond’s West Nile Virus preparations.



Apart from his duties as Manager for Health Protection, Steve is also a member of the VCH Health Protection and Quality Improvement Team, ensuring continued excellence in the Richmond health protection programs within the Regional VCH Health Protection network. Also, Steve has been tireless in his efforts as our BC Branch President.

Congratulations Steve!

BIRTHS



Danielle Tardi (BCIT '98) and David Wong became proud parents on Feb 26, 2006 to Sydney Lauren who weighed 6lb 2oz. The happy family is doing very well.



Tim Roark
President

Tim Roark & Associates
Environmental Health Consultants

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In Memoriam

Dr. R. Neil Lowry, noted consultant to the pool industry in Canada and the United States, passed suddenly Tuesday, March 28, 2006. The Newmarket, Ontario, resident had just returned home from a day long session at a Toronto hotel teaching water chemistry to pool operators when he collapsed. He was 67. At the time of his death, Dr. Lowry was serving as principal-in-charge of Lowry & Associates, a nationwide distributor of specialty chemicals which has exclusive representation of Taylor Technologies' water-testing products in Canada; owner and chief educator for the Lowry School of Pool & Spa Chemistry; and a contributing writer and commentator for numerous trade publications, most notably Pool & Spa Marketing magazine. He was an active member of the Pool & Hot Tub Council of Canada and the only Canadian voting member of the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals' Recreational Water Quality Committee whose water quality guidelines are followed by public pools and spas throughout North and South America. He also served as an advisor to the board of directors of the Professional Pool Operators of America. Dr. Lowry's ability to make a complicated subject understandable for the average person was coupled with an enthusiasm for his subject matter that most people could not resist, and this made him a sought-after public speaker. Most recently he took part in a panel discussion on preventing recreational water illnesses at the 26th annual Canadian Pool & Spa Conference in Toronto. Said Richard Hubbard, the Markham, Ontario-based publisher of Pool & Spa Marketing, 'Neil was one of the pool industry's finest and most respected educators, and one of its greatest friends. He was passionately devoted to elevating the understanding of water chemistry among aquatic facility managers, public health inspectors, and pool builders, service companies, and pool supplies retailers. He always said, 'Over ninety percent of pool problems are caused by poor water chemistry.' Without him, the level of discourse in our industry will be diminished.' His influence on Canada's \$1.2-billion-a-year pool and spa industry is pervasive. Dr. Lowry contributed to the present regulations for public spas under the auspices of the Ontario Ministry of Health. He also designed the model labels for pool products regulated under the federal Pest Control Products Act. He was the original author of 'Pool & Spa Chemistry: A Testing & Treatment Guide,' widely regarded as the bible of water quality management. Over the course of 26 years, thousands across Canada became certified pool water technicians by his pool school. Robert Neil Lowry was born in Windsor, Ontario, to Mac and Marjorie Lowry and was a loving big brother to David Kent Lowry and Lynda Jane Parker. He earned a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the University of Western Ontario in nearby London; a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York; and a master's in business administration from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. But Neil Lowry was no ivory tower academic. He spent the early part of this career with three Canadian chemical companies: first in pool chemical sales at Kert Chemical Industries, Inc., then as pool chemical products manager at Swan Recreational Products Limited, and finally as technical services director for Mursatt Chemicals Limited. He established Lowry & Associates in 1985 with his wife Gabriele as his business partner. Lowry & Associates became the master distributor for Taylor Technologies in Canada in 1989, but the two firms' relationship goes back even further. 'Neil and I worked together for 26 years,' said a saddened Paul Wooden, president of Taylor. 'He

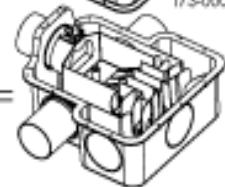
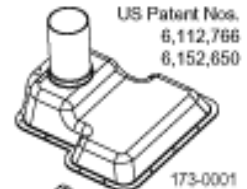
was more than a trusted business associate. He was a good friend to me, and to many others at Taylor. He was an incredibly smart man and so funny! We loved spending time with Neil at the end of a long day at a trade show; he kept us in stitches with his jokes and parlor tricks. His sudden passing has left us all numb with grief.' One of his friends at Taylor was marketing VP Patricia Fitzgerald. 'Dr. Lowry had a fierce intellect and a blunt manner of speaking that took some getting used to. He was an avid reader, a student of history, and always up on current events. In a debate of any kind he took no prisoners. But if he had the roar of a lion, he also had the heart,' Fitzgerald reminisced. 'I will miss him greatly.' He met Gabriele Adelman in Boston, Massachusetts, and the pair married shortly thereafter in July 1972. While growing their business together they also grew a family, producing sons Michael and Derek, now ages 30 and 28 respectively, and daughter Sarah, age 17. He was a devoted husband and father. When Mackenzie, 3, Andrew, 18 months, and Erik, 1 month, were born to Michael and his wife Jennifer, the grandchildren became his pride and joy. Derek Lowry and his spouse Sheila Starrett are both involved in running Lowry & Associates; Michael Lowry too is following in his father's footsteps by being a part of the industry. 'We all have not only lost a loving husband, father and grandfather we have also lost our very best friend.' A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, April 3rd, at the Old Mill Inn, 21 Old Mill Road, Toronto, in the Brule A Room on the first floor (416-236-2641). All friends and colleagues are welcome. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Church of Christ Scientist, Etobicoke, where Dr. Lowry was a member. Arrangements entrusted to the Roadhouse & Rose Funeral Home, Newmarket, (905-895-6631), www.roadhouseandrose.com

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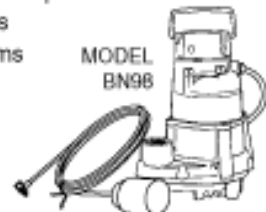
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Editorial Policy

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

The views, comments, or positions within the contents 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.

Advertising Policy

The BC Branch will accept advertising relating to health & environmental issues, products, and services. Advertisements which the Editorial team concludes are contrary to good public health practice, environmental protection goals, are offensive or not in good taste will not be accepted.

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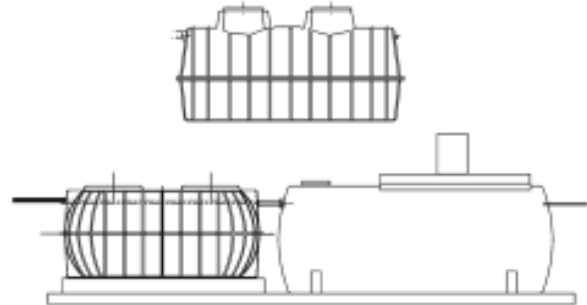


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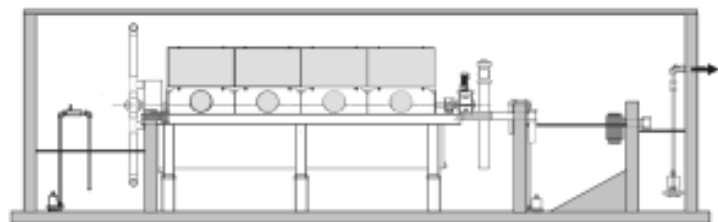


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- Many configurations to reduce installation and operating costs.



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