

Summer Edition
NO. 2 2003

BCIT Environmental Health 2003 Graduating Class



Standing, left to right:

Kuljeet Chattha, Sophia Yip, Sarah Shoung, Braden Wong, Sarah Leung, Petrus Atmadja, Christine Sullivan, Mary Dawoud, Fatemeh Emami, Heather Hutton, Mariannina Cusano, Christine Valdez

Seated, left to right:

Shawn Parhar, Yvonne Liang, Jennifer Flaten, Hayley Li

BC Branch Update, August 2003

In the last BC Branch update, I made mention of the BC Branch Annual General Meeting scheduled for May 13/03 and made a plea for members to attend. Well, you did!! Thanks to all of the members who made the effort to attend the AGM and actively participated. You will notice some changes on the BC Branch Executive, Karen Cummings, Lynne Magee and Denis Semail have stepped down after volunteering their time to CIPHI for many years. Many thanks to the three of you for all of your hard work. I would like to welcome Richard Taki, Past President, Shendra Brisdon, Vice President and Joanne Lum, Recording Secretary to the BC Branch Executive. Both Richard and Shendra are returning to fill vacant positions that we were having some difficulty filling. I look forward to their active participation and know they will be contributing a wealth of experience on the BC Branch Executive. Joanne is a first time Executive member and has bravely jumped in to fill the recording secretary vacancy.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Alan Kerr and Greta Kos for undertaking the daunting task of the BC Branch Nominating Committee and ensuring all vacant positions were filled. This is no small task, it is always a challenge to find volunteers who have time to donate to CIPHI and is made all that more difficult as not all EHO's have the support of their employers to volunteer for CIPHI. Most disappointing for me personally, we were unable to find a candidate for the President's position. I have agreed to stay on, as Branch President however I feel there is a very real need for someone else to "step up to the plate". It is an honour to hold this position but I strongly feel change is also necessary. CIPHI can only benefit from someone with fresh ideas and energy.

Also, a huge thank you to all the executive members who agreed to stay on for another year, Roger Parsonage, Jasmina Egeler, Lynne Brewer, Steve Chong, Roopy Khatkar, Alan Kerr, Karen Larson, Neil Nabata, Guy Osachoff, Lynn Richards, Gord Stewart and Patricia Tymiak.

There has been no progress on the EHO/PHI professional designation front. Hopefully with summer drawing to a close we will see some progress.

Claudia Kurzac, President
BC Branch CIPHI

Barry Willoughby

Since retiring as the Director of Environmental Health with the Ministry of Health, Barry Willoughby has spent much of his time out standing in his Dahlia garden in Saanich. Outstanding is the correct word as Barry's beautiful Dahlias are sold internationally and are continuously receiving coveted awards. All the best to Barry in his new career as a Horticulturist.



Announcing:

Beware of the banana! April 9th 2001: I was at Lake Cebu in the Philippines and informed my hosts that Shelly (Stetsko) and I were trying to have a baby. They told me if I ate this double banana, we would have twins! So I gobbled it all up - what were the chances that this little banana was the real deal??

Now it's April 8, 2003 and here I am introducing Ty and Reegan!

Ty is on the right and Reegan on the left. They were born 10:24 pm (Ty) and 10:33 (Reegan) on April 7th (I believe in the banana!). Ty weighed in at 6lbs 2 ounces, and Reegan at 6lbs 4 ounces.



Mother and babies are doing fine.

Thanks to James (the proud father) for providing this. Shelly is an EHO in Castlegar.

In Memory of ANDREA DENISE SCHRECK July 19, 1965 to June 29, 2003



Andrea was a graduate of the Ryerson Environmental Health Degree Program in 1989. She obtained her CIPHI certification in October of 1989.

Andrea's first years in Public Health were in Ontario for both the Sudbury and District Health Region and later at the Porcupine Health Unit.

Andrea was the successful candidate for a position in Abbotsford and started her career in BC in January of 1992. She worked as a generalist inspector throughout the Abbotsford area. Andrea took ownership of the itinerant food program in Abbotsford and worked countless hours on weekends and at holiday events over many years. Her favorite event was the Abbotsford International Airshow. She

took particular delight in this annual event. She was always trying to get a demonstration ride in a jet fighter.

Andrea was the eldest daughter of Denise and Karl Schreck of Ontario. Andrea is survived by her parents, her sister Christine, and her brother Stefan. Andrea will be dearly missed.

A Memorial Fund is being created in Andrea's name with the funds being donated to the Peardonville Women's Treatment Centre. It is hoped that a special project can be arranged in Andrea's name.



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Doug Quibell Moves To Qatar

After interviews over a period of 5 months Doug Quibell, has accepted a position at the University of Qatar located in the capital city of Doha. According to Doug, "That's right near Iran and Iraq." His position involves building a three year Environmental Health Program and then instructing for a renewable 3 year term. There may also be involvement on a Bioterrorism Committee.

Doug advises they already have 40 students who are busy trying to bring up their English skills before the fall semester. "This is pretty exciting stuff since there is nothing of the sort in the country." Doug also indicates the University has been absolutely welcoming and is supporting him in working towards a Ph.D. It appears a second Canadian may also be going to Qatar to assist with establishing and instructing in the program in the near future.

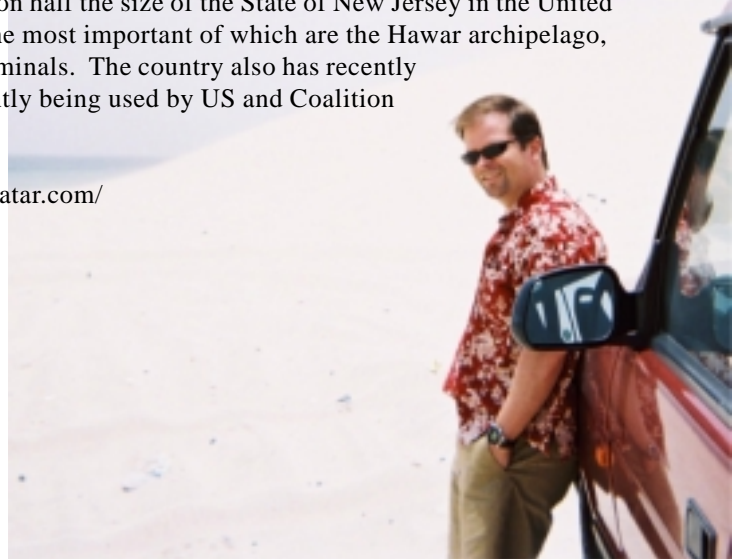
Doug's wife Kim is even more excited about the adventure. She had two positions to choose from and has chosen to take a position with the Qatar Foundation. Doug indicates he expects to get close to 3 months leave each year and hopes to explore Asia, Africa and come home for visits. Last year he understands the Canadian group went to Thailand and Kenya. Until this past Spring, Doug was the Deputy Chief EHO for the North West CHSS and the Quibell family lived in Terrace, BC. Doug is a 1992 graduate in Environmental Health from Ryerson University.

It appears the College of the North Atlantic - Qatar (CNA-Qatar), located in the capital city of Doha, is being developed in conjunction with the College of the North Atlantic here in Canada. This is one of the most diverse post-secondary and skills training institutions in Canada. Located in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, it has 18 campuses offering more than 80 full-time programs and over 300 part-time courses. College of the North Atlantic - Qatar is being established as a comprehensive post-secondary institution offering internationally recognized Canadian Engineering Technology Programs such as Petroleum, Mechanical, and Electrical (Industrial Controls). A broad range of other programs and services are also provided such as Office Administration; Business Management; Information Communications Technology as well as Health Sciences, including the Environmental Health Technology program.

College of the North Atlantic-Qatar was developed from an inspiring vision championed by the State of Qatar. According to Trent Keough, President of CAN - Qatar, "We are a world-class comprehensive college partnering with industry and business to meet the human resource requirements of the State of Qatar. CNA-Q students are registered directly and immediately with College of the North Atlantic, Canada. Our local admission, performance and training standards are identical to those applied in our parent institution. Graduates of CNA-Q will have achieved the same competencies and completed the same programs as their Canadian based counterparts."

For readers who wonder where Qatar really is located, Qatar is a peninsular nation that lies halfway along the West Coast of the Arabian Gulf. The country borders Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to its south. It has a total area of 11,437 sq km, making the whole nation half the size of the State of New Jersey in the United States! The country includes a number of islands the most important of which are the Hawar archipelago, Shira'ouh, Al-Ashat and Halul for its oil export terminals. The country also has recently constructed a billion dollar air base which is currently being used by US and Coalition forces.

Take a look at the CNA-Qatar web page www.cna-qatar.com/



Shendra Brisdon - 2003 Member of the Year Award Recipient



We, the undersigned, hereby nominate Shendra Brisdon for the BC Branch CIPHI Member of the Year Award for 2003. We believe Shendra has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the profession and to the BC Branch CIPHI and would be a deserving recipient of this award.

Shendra began her career in Manitoba and in 1993 saw the light and moved to British Columbia to continue her career with the former Boundary Health Unit. Shendra continues to work in this area for what is now the Fraser Health Authority.

As a long time volunteer for CIPHI in Manitoba, Shendra among other things, was the editor of the Manitoba Branch newsletter. Readily volunteering for CIPHI is second nature to Shendra and in B.C., Shendra volunteered for the BC Branch Executive as Councillor and later as Vice President. During her time on the BC Branch Executive, Shendra played a major role in organizing BC Branch educational opportunities for Branch members and went to great lengths to ensure every attendee and speaker was looked after. Shendra can always be counted on to lend a hand during other Branch functions such as the BC Branch Christmas lunches and the CIPHI Conference 2000. If you're looking for Shendra at a CIPHI function, she's the one circulating the room with a friendly smile and always something nice to say!

Recently, Shendra helped to organize a very well attended retirement celebration for Bill Rogers and Nick Potter, two long time BC Branch members. For those of us attending, the care and creativity that went into this evening was very evident and of course, Shendra played a key role in organizing the evening.

Shendra's idea of "taking a break" from the BC Branch Executive board includes volunteering as a Board of Certification examiner and sitting as board member of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada.

Somehow, Shendra manages to balance her volunteering for CIPHI with a busy career and private life. When not teaching FoodSafe or attending health fairs, Shendra keeps busy renovating the house in North Delta she shares with her son Savon and dog Ace.

Dean Scovill

Gordon Stewart

CIPHI-NEHA Sabbatical Exchange Application Information



CIPHI is very proud to announce the second Annual Sabbatical Exchange with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). The sabbatical exchange will allow a CIPHI member an opportunity to study environmental health south of the 49th Parallel for two weeks. This is made possible by the funding and sponsorship of our good friends at NSF International and Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Only practicing CIPHI members in good standing may apply. The exchange is not open to members of the National Executive Council or members in the academic environmental health community.


There is still a significant amount of work to be done before this exchange occurs. The application deadline will be September 30, 2003. The winner will be announced at the National Executive Council Meeting in Toronto, Ontario in November 2003 and the sabbatical must be completed between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004.

Your sabbatical applications should include the following:

- A letter from your employer indicating organizational support for your participation in the sabbatical exchange program.
- A current curriculum vitae.
- An essay of at least 2000 words addressing the specific subject matter that you wish to study. The essay should include the specifics of the study area under consideration and why they are of interest to you and what benefits you wish to achieve through the sabbatical exchange program. Please include how the study are under consideration will be shared and what you anticipate other environmental health professionals may learn from your sabbatical exchange experience.
- Other material and documents including letters of support, personal references and other studies or research done in your area of interest or expertise.
- Six copies of you application package.
- Assurance that the sabbatical will take place between July 1, 2004 and December 31, 2004.
- Assurances that if selected you will attend the CIPHI Annual Education Conference in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island at your own expense to personally accept the award.
- A written commitment for a personal interview at your expense if selected as a finalist. The interview would probably be scheduled in Vancouver, BC; Toronto, ON or Winnipeg, MB

...continued Page 11

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INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES JAIL SENTENCE FOR HARVESTING IN A CONTAMINATED AREA

VANCOUVER November 26, 2002 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced today that a Vancouver resident, who was illegally harvesting oysters in a closed area, has been sentenced to jail.

On June 23, 2002, an individual was observed carrying a large cardboard box near the Tsawwassen Ferry Causeway towards his vehicle. He appeared to have changed his mind when he saw a Fisheries and Oceans Canada vehicle a little distance away, and instead tried to hide the box behind the highway safety barrier. Fishery officers subsequently questioned Hang Ngoc Huynh about his catch, when they found a total of two hidden boxes containing approximately 290 oysters. The oysters had been harvested near the ferry causeway, which is closed to shellfish harvesting due to contamination.

Many parts of the Lower Mainland are closed due to sewage contamination or Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP or “red tide”). Harvesting bivalve shellfish from closed areas is not only a violation of the Fisheries Act but also places one’s health at risk. Shellfish contaminated with shellfish toxin can cause serious illness, and cooking does not destroy the PSP toxin. Crab and shrimp are not affected by these kinds of toxins. Fish and shellfish that are being sold to the public are required to go through health and safety inspections.

Recently, in Delta provincial court, Mr. Huynh was found guilty of possession of illegally caught fish or shellfish. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail. Mr. Huynh had been convicted twice before for harvesting clams in a contaminated area.

Steve Brown

After a career in Environmental and Occupational Health spanning over 3 decades at the Vancouver Health Department and Workers Compensation Board, Steve Brown has retired from his position as Director of Field Operations to enjoy a more leisurely lifestyle with wife Debbie and son Daryl in their new home fronting on Okanagan Lake. They love visitors so be sure to look them up when you are in the “Lake Country” area.





Larry Hogg

With the retirement of Larry Hogg from his position with the Okanagan Similkameen Health Region, the BC Public Health system has lost another of its most experienced Environmental Health Officers. Many colleagues from around BC travelled to Penticton to attend the grand send off for Larry & his wife Alice. Larry lived through the many stories told about him and kept the audience in stitches with his humorous repertoire. Larry is pictured enjoying the evening with colleagues Ken Christian and Ian Flack.

Ron White


Many friends and colleagues attended the grand send off in Kelowna for Ron White who retired after over 35 years in Public Health Inspection in BC. Those in attendance were regaled by stories from Fred Ainley and Bob Smith about what really went on in the “good old days”. Ron survived the roasting, toasting and all the great food and was still able to cut his great retirement cake.





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...continued from Page 7

- A written commitment to submit a written report on the experience to CIPHI within three (3) months of completion of the sabbatical exchange.
- Assurance that, if selected as the sabbatical exchange recipient, you will serve as a CIPHI Ambassador helping the NEHA recipient plan his or her trip to Canada.
- Assurance that you will attend a future CIPHI Annual Educational Conference at your own expense if asked to present a paper on your study and subsequent findings.
- Assurance that you will prepare an article of at least 2,000 words outlining your findings during the Sabbatical Exchange for publication first and foremost in the Environmental Health Review prior to publication in any other journal or magazine.

An exchange stipend and round trip travel transportation funding will be provided by the program sponsors NSF International and Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

Please submit your application by September 30, 2003 to:

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ANN THOMAS MOVES SOUTH AGAIN



In her continuing quest to get as far from the North Pole as possible, Ann Thomas has moved again. Effective February 11, 2002 Ann has been appointed as Director of Health Protection & Environmental Services for the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA). Ann is now located at the headquarters of the VIHA on Fort Street in beautiful Victoria, a few blocks south of her former office in the Ministry of Health Headquarters on Blanshard Street.

The Vancouver Island Health Authority includes the Capital Health area, the Central Vancouver Island Health area and the Upper Island / Central Coast Health area. The Health Protection & Environmental Services program includes some 45 Environmental Health Officers and other professional staff.

Ann brings considerable experience to her new position having served as Director of Environmental Health Services for the BC Ministry of Health, Chief Public Health Inspector for the Peace River Health Unit in Dawson Creek B.C., Senior Environmental Health Officer serving the western arctic out of Inuvik, and as an EHO in Hay River, Northwest Territories. Ann is a 1988 graduate of the Environmental Health Technology Program at BCIT.

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Bill Rogers and Nick Potter Retire



The Sunrise Banquet & Conference Centre was the site of one of the largest retirement parties in recent memory with a joint gala send off for both Bill Rogers and Nick Potter. Family, friends and colleagues from around BC and even Alberta attended to give Bill and Nick the great send off they both deserved after a combination of over 60 years in the public service. Among other items, Bill and Nick received presents of great fishing vacations with the Oak Bay Fishing Group in BC. “Fish On!!” will soon be the shout you’ll hear from these retirees.



*At Left: Vince Chiodo, BCIT Instructor.
Vince accepted a position at BCIT in August
2001 and was featured in the Fall 2002 issue of
the BC Page.*

Remembering Arthur Joseph Keenan

March 25, 1930 to April 23, 1999

Arthur Keenan was born on March 25, 1930 in Portreeve, Saskatchewan and moved to Mission, B.C. in 1938. He later lived in Vancouver where he attended the University of British Columbia. Arthur decided to become a Sanitary Inspector, joining the staff at Boundary Health Unit as an Inspector in Training in 1954. Arthur received his Certificate in Sanitary Inspection (Canada) #918 in Cloverdale in 1955. His first posting was to Dawson Creek, where he met Teresa Magusin. They were married in 1957. Their first child Bernadette arrived 11 months later, to be followed by Eugene, Billy Louise and Gregory at regular 14-month intervals. After a break of 10 years, Sheila was born.

As a young Inspector, Arthur had to deal with some pretty basic sanitation problems. Decisive action was often necessary. In one instance, the owner of a number of tourist cabins repeatedly refused to repair the outhouses that served the cabins. Arthur got an axe, chopped them down and set fire to them for good measure.

In 1964, Arthur, Teresa and family moved to Kamloops where he accepted the position of Chief Public Health Inspector. He soon became highly respected in his community and within his profession. Ken Christian, who replaced Arthur as Chief said, "Art was truly one of a kind". His inspiration, vision and humour carried his staff through the best and the worst of times. Ken remembers many of the lessons that Art taught him, especially, "Never overestimate what the public knows, but never underestimate their ability to learn."

Arthur's office was a sight to behold with papers everywhere. To the casual observer, his filing system consisted of large, seemingly random piles. However, there was apparently method to his madness, because when one of his co-workers asked for a letter dating back to 1972, he reached deep into one of the many piles and pulled it out.

Arthur enjoyed many activities and participated in numerous community activities and projects such as:

- The Food Bank
- The Crisis Line
- The Good Morning Program
- The Kamloops Judo Club, where he played a large part in building the Judo Centre
- Singing with the Happy Choristers seniors' choir
- Directing the youth choir, a.k.a. the ESSO choir (Every Second Saturday Off)
- Instructing the Christopher Leadership Program
- The Kamloops Music Festival, and many more

Arthur was active right up to the very end, literally. He died of a heart attack just after a game of badminton. He and his 79-year-old partner had beaten a much younger twosome.

Of all the words and phrases used to describe him in the cards and letters people sent to his family after he died, his "great sense of humour" came up most often. When asked what he would do if he ever won a big lottery, Art replied that he would buy a really big dirigible. He said it would be the ideal form of transportation for traveling to Dawson Creek where many of his in-laws lived. Art listened to Spike Jones, and watched Air Farce, Mr. Bean and other comic shows. He enjoyed making others laugh just as much, or even more, whether it meant telling jokes, relating stories, performing the Swede in McNamara's Band, or even dancing a sailor's horn pipe with fellow Inspector Don Marks at his last health unit Christmas Party.

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Arthur climbed on his granddaughter's new sled and slid wildly all the way to the bottom of the stairs on one Christmas occasion. His granddaughter, Etella, was delighted and exclaimed, "Grandpa silly guy!"

Arthur had a lot of other great qualities that made impressions on his many friends, people he did business with, and his colleagues. He was honest, fair, reasonable and hard working. He was a leader and innovator in his profession. Although his distance from Greater Vancouver hindered his direct participation in the leadership of the Institute, he was a strong member and supporter of the association. Arthur proposed the creation of a 2 to 3 day annual in-service for PHI's in 1983. In 1984, he and the staff of the South Central Health Unit in Kamloops hosted the first of many such educational workshops to be held across BC. Seventy-seven PHI's from all health agencies in BC attended this first workshop. Arthur retired in 1988 after 34 very successful years as a Public Health Inspector.

Arthur Keenan had been greatly missed by his family, many friends and colleagues. He has touched many people during his lengthy career in Public Health, and has made our profession and us better for it.



*Art at work, January 1988 (left);
with Teresa at daughter Sheila's
wedding, June 1997 (below left);
and with granddaughter Etella,
Summer of 1998 (below right).*

*Many thanks to Sheila and
Bernadette Keenan, and
Ken Christian, for photos
and information.*

*Prepared by Tim Roark,
Historian.*

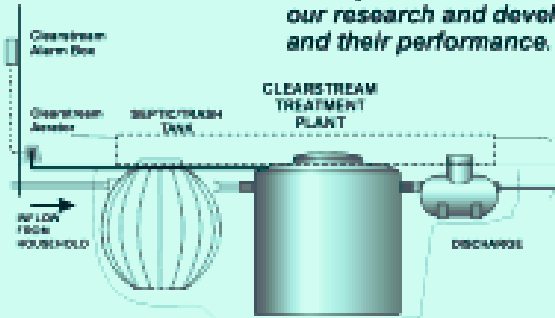


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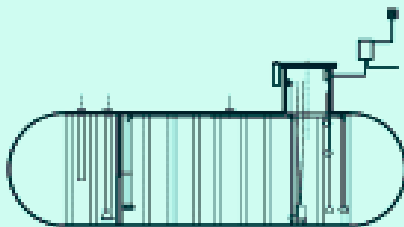
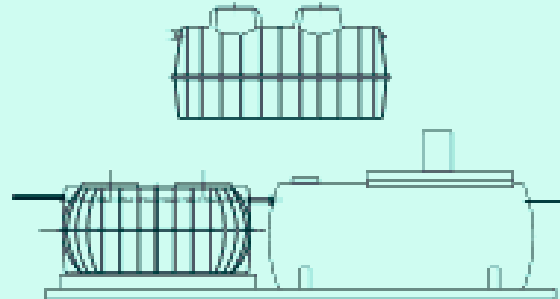


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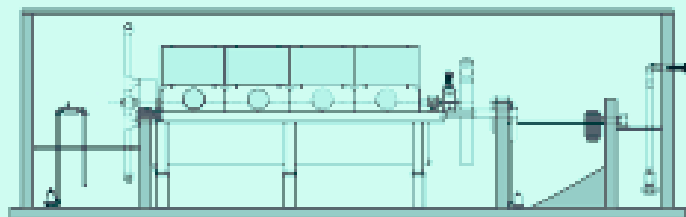


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