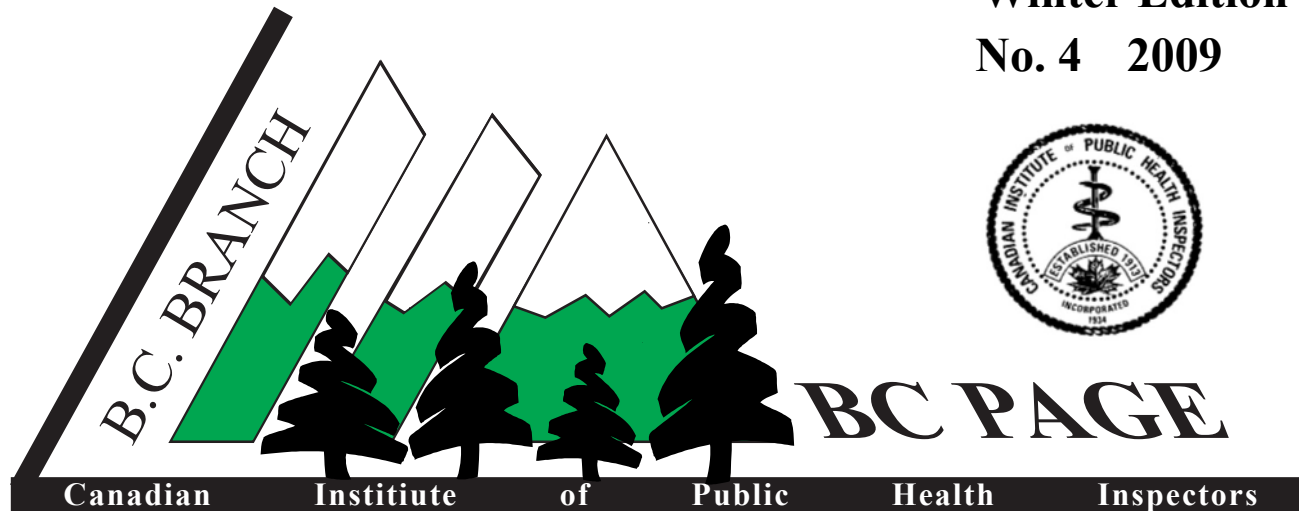


## Winter Edition No. 4 2009



### Retirees Appeal Supreme Court Decision

The class-action lawsuit over health care benefits denied to retired government employees continues. In the last instalment in the Fall Issue of the *BC PAGE* I indicated that Madame Justice Dorgan of the BC Supreme Court tossed out the retiree's suit. In her ruling Justice Dorgan stated the government did not have a "fiduciary duty" to fund the benefits, and that doing so would affect the level of benefits of future retirees.

The action was initiated because retiree Fred Bennett, the Plaintiff, alleges that the British Columbia Provincial Government breached its contractual and fiduciary obligations to members of the British Columbia Sector Pension Plan in October, 2002, when it unilaterally announced that it would no longer pay 100% of the cost of premiums for Medical Services Plan Benefits and Extended Healthcare Benefits of the retirees. The action seeks damages for breach of fiduciary duty and breach of contract. This case has already been to the Supreme Court of Canada where the right of the Plaintiff to initiate a class-action lawsuit regarding this matter was upheld by that Court.

The decision by Madame Justice Dorgan has now been carefully reviewed by Legal Counsel for the BC Government Retirees Association and with the overwhelming support of the association members at the Annual General Meeting and Table Offices, a decision was confirmed to proceed with an appeal. Retired Supreme Court Judge, Thomas Berger, will handle the appeal on a contingency basis.

Thomas Berger, O.C., Q.C., O.B.C., has been prominent in defending minority rights and establishing the rights of Canada's Aboriginal peoples. He served as a Justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia from 1971 to 1983. During that time, he was Chairman of the Royal Commission on Family and Children's Law, B.C, 1973-74, Commissioner of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry 1974-77, and of the Inquiry on Indian and Health Consultation 1979-80 for the Government of Canada. He is the author of *Northern Frontier, Northern Homeland* (1977); *Village Journey: a Long and Terrible Shadow* (1985); *Fragile Freedoms: Human Rights and Dissent in Canada* (1981), and *One Man's Justice: A Life in the Law* (2002). He acted as Conciliator in 2005-2006 with respect to a series of disputes between the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut; his report is called "The Nunavut Project".

Stay tuned for the next instalment in 2010 or 11. In the meantime should you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Lawrence Johnson, President, British Columbia Government Retired Employees' Association, PO Box 209, 1 - 5765 Turner Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6M4 or phone him at 250-751-8814.

Tim Roark, Member  
BCGRE  
January 25, 2010

## Message from the Editor



After almost four years and publishing 15 issues of the BC Page, I am now stepping down as the Editor of this newsletter. It has been very rewarding to have had the opportunity to put together newsletters that the membership finds interesting to read. It has always been my goal to ensure each newsletter

contained good quality content.

When I first took on the role of Editor I thought I had big boots to fill since all of the editors before me did such a great job. It turns out the learning curve was steep but not unmanageable. Of course I could not have done it without the support and assistance of my Associate Editors, Tim Roark and Isher Deol. Tim has always been there to provide his expertise and insight whenever it was critical and he is never short of content for the newsletter.

Isher joined our team about two years ago and brought along her enthusiasm and great ideas that have helped to make the BC Page more appealing. The encouragement and endless support provided by the BC Branch have also helped me focus on making the best newsletter possible.

Just like the Olympic torch bearers, I now pass the flame on to Sarah MacDougall whom I am sure will continue to provide a quality newsletter for our membership. Sarah brings with her lots of creativity and a fresh perspective for the BC Page. I trust that the BC Page will continue to be an interesting read under Sarah's leadership.

I have now left a small foot print amongst those of giants that walked before me.

Respectfully  
Alex Kwan - Editor

# Don't forget...

to renew your CIPHI BC Branch Membership. Renewal has never been easier - you are encouraged to try out the secure CIPHI Member Service Centre and renew online.

Online Membership Signup and Renewal at the Member Service Centre: [www.ciphimember.ca](http://www.ciphimember.ca)

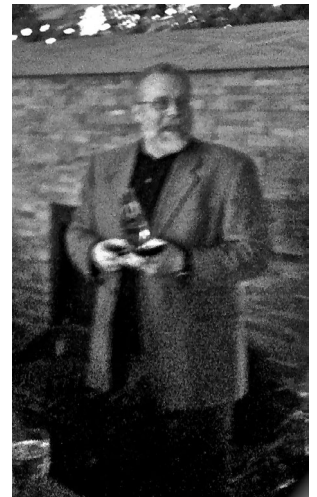
The printable 2010 Membership Renewal/Application Form can also be found on the last page of this issue. Please note that this form contains the new mailing address.

## MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



New Year is an excellent time to acknowledge the completed resolutions in the year before, and to determine new resolutions for the upcoming year. CIPHI – BC Branch & National have gone through a very eventful 2009; and I am very excited about the projects and events that are scheduled for 2010.

The BC Branch held a Special General Meeting in conjunction with the Lower Mainland Annual Christmas luncheon on December 2, 2009. We passed changes to the Constitution that allows voting by proxy for the election of Branch Officers. Proxy voting rights will improve the democratic process by allowing members from all corners of BC's expansive geography to participate in voting at future Annual General Meetings. Many EHO's in the local regional health authorities came and had great times mingling and enjoying the delicious food. We also had over 30 students and instructors from BCIT's Environmental Health program showing their tremendous support for the luncheon. Several door prizes, 50/50 draw winnings, and the President's prize were won. Everyone had a great time! The highlight of the event was the presentation of a CIPHI Honorary Member Award to Mr. George K. Bryce. He has been a great asset to the organization by acted as the legal Counsel for the BC Branch when it was seeking BC Government approval to establish a self-governing body for Environmental Public Health Professionals (EPHP's). He has also partaken as a volunteer in the coalition to review and comment on the new Sewerage System Regulation back in 2007, and was a driving force in the lobby for the creation of BC's drinking water regulations. His continue guidance and support in environmental health have been recognized nationally. It was an honour for the BC Branch Executives to present this prestigious award, in person, to Mr. Bryce. There were two more BC Branch luncheons held, one on Vancouver Island and another in the Interior, and they also had great success. Thanks to all members and executives for organizing these events to celebrate this joyous occasions.



**Above: Mr. Bryce receiving award**



Shortly after the luncheons, our CIPHI National President-Elect, Mr. Phi Phan, hosted a fireside chat, which discussed the details of the Continuing Professional Competencies Program (CPC). The fireside chat was a great success. Many EPHP's throughout Canada actively engaged in numerous fruitful discussions about this new Program. This Program promotes continuous professional learning for all EPHP's; and also creates various opportunities for education institutes to design professional courses. An online self-monitoring tool has been designed to monitor their progresses. There will be Ambassador Sessions scheduled in all provinces and territories throughout Canada in early 2010, so that EHO's can better understand the Program. The second resolution passed at the Special General Meeting was a bylaw change to dissolve the Board

of Registration (BOR), which should allow a smooth transition to the national Council of Professional Experience (CoPE) that serves similar purposes as the BOR. We have also begun compiling a list of courses available at the various educational institutes for all EHO's in BC. This list will be posted on the website, so stay tuned for the latest developments!

As we step into an eventful year of 2010, many people are looking forward to the Canadian Olympic Hockey team winning their first Olympic gold medal in the home land in Vancouver 2010 Olympics. For many EHO's in Vancouver Lower Mainland, they

will turn their focuses to Olympic planning in their respected local HSDA's to ensure that public health is protected during this international event. This is certainly an exciting time to gain valuable experience. We hope this will be a rewarding experience for everyone involved. Do not forget to mingle with the delegates in the International Congress of Environmental Health 2010, which will be held in this coming September!

Environmental Public Health Week 2010 was held on the week of January 18. Executives in the BC Branch contacted several local media stations to broadcast environmental public health messages, to inform British Columbians about our profession. A big round of applause to all dedicated executives and members who have been continuously promoting public health and gaining the respect that we treasure.

BC Branch also passed a change in our bylaws about regular membership fees. Fees remain unchanged despite an increase in dues nationally. Therefore, do not forget to renew your membership and enter into a great prize draw. Membership renewal can now be completed online at the CIPHI Members Service Centre so please give it a try!

I hope that you will enjoy the spirit of Vancouver 2010 Olympics, and GO CANADA GO!!!

Best regards,

Gary Tam  
Vice President, CIPHI BC – Branch



## BCIT STUDENT AWARDS

Amanda Anderson is pictured receiving the **Bob Herbison Award** from Gary Tam, BC Branch Vice President. The award is provided by the BC Branch CIPHI and presented to a second year student who has demonstrated a high standard when dealing with a variety of situations, has displayed leadership ability, integrity, and excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Congratulations to Amanda.



# 7x

**The number of times you should wash your hands daily to increase the likelihood of staying healthy.**

Source: Professor Marilyn Lee, Occupational and Public Health, Ryerson University, Toronto.

**Ever wonder if that food in your fridge or in the pantry is still okay to eat?**

[www.stilltasty.com](http://www.stilltasty.com)

## RECORD NUMBER OF PANELS HELD IN OCTOBER

A record number of six Board of Certification exam panels were all set to go for the 32 candidates expected for the Fall oral exams in BC. The Oral exams were held on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Four Seasons Hotel in Vancouver. Gord Stewart, Exam Coordinator indicated this was the largest number ever organized in BC and stated, "I can tell you it was quite a challenge finding enough experienced examiners available for October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> but we were successful". The good news is that the all the examiners and almost all the candidates showed up on time. One important part of the pre-examination process is now an in-depth review and discussion session for the examiners to ensure all are aware of the latest Board of Certification policies and procedures. This is intended to ensure all candidates are treated equally and fairly during this challenging and often nerve-wracking process. Gord was very pleased that all went off very smoothly and stated, "I really want to thank all the examiners and others who really helped organize this important day-long event".



Pictured are the Members of the Examination Panels waiting for the start of a very full day.

## EDITORS & PUBLISHERS OF THE BC PAGE

<b>Tim Roark</b> , 1 <sup>st</sup> Editor & Publisher	Summer 1978	Fall 1979
<b>Len Hiebert</b> , Editor & Publisher Tim Roark, Contributing Editor	Spring 1980	Winter 1988
<b>Ann Thomas</b> , Editor & Publisher Tim Roark, Associate Editor	Spring 1989	Summer 1990
<b>Ann Thomas</b> , Editor Tim Roark, Associate Editor Kirk Stone, Publisher	Fall 1990	Winter 1992
<b>Ann Thomas</b> , Editor Tim Roark, Associate Editor Lynne Brewer, Publisher	Spring 1993	Winter 1998
<b>Debra Losito</b> , Interim Editor Tim Roark, Associate Editor Lynne Brewer, Publisher	Spring 1999	Winter 1999
<b>David Fishwick</b> , Editor Tim Roark, Associate Editor	Spring 2000	Winter 2000
<b>Roger Parsonage</b> , Editor Tim Roark, Associate Editor	Spring 2002	Winter 2003
<b>Roger Parsonage</b> , Editor Tim Roark, Associate Editor Alex Kwan, Associate Editor (Spring 2005)	Spring 2003 <b><u>1<sup>st</sup> Electronic Version</u></b>	Winter 2005
<b>Alex Kwan</b> , Editor Tim Roark, Associate Editor Isher Deol, Associate Editor (Spring 08) Sarah MacDougall, Associate Editor (Fall 09)	Spring 2006	Winter 2009
<b>Sarah MacDougall</b> , Editor Tim Roark, Associate Editor Isher Deol, Associate Editor	Spring 2010	

*NOTE: No issues of the BC Page were produced in 2001*

*January 25, 2010*



**Environmental Health Foundation of Canada**  
**Fondation canadienne de l'hygiène du milieu**

## Lilli Ann Zahara Award

The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada announce the availability of an award in the amount of \$500.00 to be presented annually to a member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.



**Eligibility.** Those working in the field of public health who have been "a member in good standing" for a minimum of five (5) consecutive years in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors are eligible for nomination for this award. The recipient shall display the highest level of dedication, commitment, inspiration and leadership in the field of environmental health, particularly with a focus on food safety and/or health education. An individual can only be awarded the Lilli Ann Zahara award once. No current member of the National Executive Board of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors or Environmental Health Foundation of Canada Board of Trustees is eligible for this award.

**Application.** To nominate an individual, describe in a letter of no more than 500 words, how your nominee fulfils the above mentioned criteria. Forward the letter to Professor Marilyn Lee ([marilyn.lee@ryerson.ca](mailto:marilyn.lee@ryerson.ca)), School of Occupational and Public Health, Ryerson University, 350 Victoria St., Toronto, ON M5B2K3 by December 30<sup>th</sup>. The award will be presented at the next Educational Conference of the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors or at a mutually agreeable event should the candidate not be able to attend the conference.



**TIM ROARK**

*President*

**Tim Roark & Associates**  
Environmental Health Consultants

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## West Nile Virus Update

As was expected every summer since 2003, West Nile virus finally showed up in BC in August of 2009. In total, 2 human cases, 3 horses and 10 mosquito pools tested positive with almost all of the reported activity in the South Okanagan region. The lone exception was a horse reported in the Fraser South region of the Lower Mainland at the end of August, although exposure was likely much earlier. Risk modeling performed by the BCCDC correctly predicted the South Okanagan as a high risk area for WNV with its hot summer temperatures, abundant vector mosquito populations and connectedness to eco-regions in Washington State where disease activity was plentiful in 2009.

The single positive horse in the Fraser Valley was not as well predicted, especially as the first reported point of activity in the Lower Mainland. Despite a nearby crow roost and several mosquito traps within 10KMs of the horse property, no other activity was noted.

This serves up interesting possibilities for 2010. Ecological surveillance will certainly be enhanced in both regions where positive activity was noted in 2009. Having the benefit of large crow populations in the Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley portions of the Lower Mainland, early detection of avian disease activity should be possible provided dead corvids are reported and collected for testing. Public messaging about the corvid surveillance program will have to improve, especially in July and August when disease activity peaks.

The Okanagan will not rely as much on corvid surveillance as a measuring stick for disease activity in its areas, due to lower corvid densities. However, use of the BCCDC's online dead bird reporting will continue to be encouraged for the Interior. Mosquito surveillance was increased with the first positive in 2009. This extra mosquito surveillance will continue in 2010. There will also be increased emphasis on public education at the start of the season and, again, part way through season.

Fraser will again have a compliment of over 60 mosquito traps in use, although they may be less spread out in favour of a selection of trap groupings to improve catch volumes. Trapping will occur weekly from June through September.

Monitoring BC residents will again be done through Canadian Blood Services screening processes and reporting by clinical diagnosis through doctor's offices and Emergency rooms.

Many local governments and First Nations will also take part in the UBCM West Nile Risk Reduction Program. This program provides funding for eligible WNV control programs in areas at risk. A variety of control measures are employed in these programs to control mosquitoes and participate in public education initiatives.

Many thanks to Randy Heilbron, West Nile Coordinator, Fraser Health and Kevin Touchet, Manager, Environmental Health, Interior Health for their excellent update on the current situation.

Tim Roark



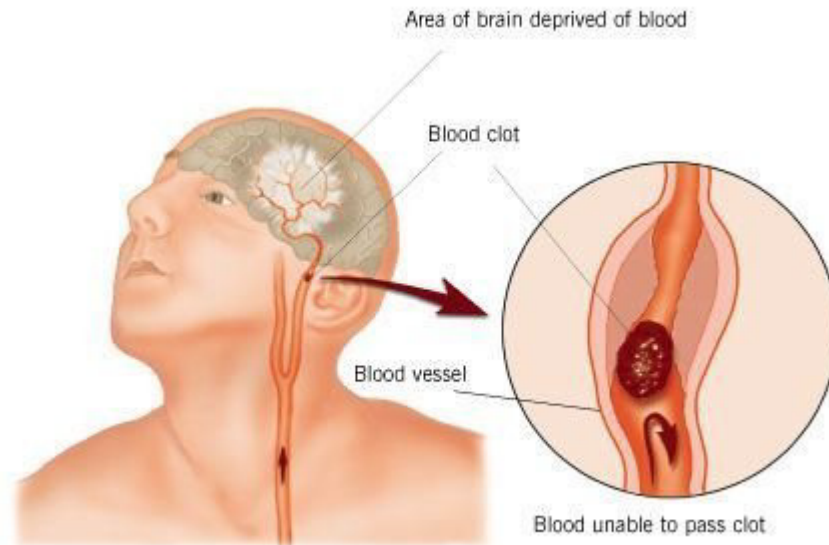
Above: Randy Heilbron



Above: Kevin Touchet



# Blood Clots/Stroke - They Now Have a Fourth Indicator, the Tongue



**STROKE:** Remember the 1st Three Letters ....S.T.R.

Doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

**S \* Ask the individual to SMILE.**

**T \* Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today.)**

**R \* Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.**

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

## New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

## Support the next generation of Environmental Health professionals!

The 11th World Congress on Environmental Health will be held in Vancouver in September 2010 – the first time it has come to Canada.

As British Columbia's leading educator in Environmental Health, BCIT is making every effort to allow our students to attend this unique learning opportunity alongside our faculty.

To ensure faculty and students can attend the Congress, the 2010 term will begin one week early on August 31, leaving the week of September 6-10 free of classes. The current first-year class is excited about the prospect of rubbing elbows with future colleagues from all over the world and they're gearing up to do some creative fund raising. Applicants to the Program for 2010 are being advised of the conference and our aim is for them to attend as well.

The conference organizers have generously offered our students a reduced rate and we are now working to secure additional funding so all students will have the opportunity to participate, regardless of their financial circumstances. We are therefore asking individuals and organizations to consider making donations to help the next generation of environmental health professionals in BC. Whether it's an individual donation or the proceeds of an office or community fund-raising event, your support will make a difference to our students and be greatly appreciated!

Donations to BCIT qualify for tax receipts and can be made in several ways, including:

**Cheque:** payable to BCIT Foundation and mailed to Krista Gerty, BCIT Foundation, 3700 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5G 3H2. Please include instructions that your donation is to support student participation in the IFEH World Congress, Environmental Health.

**Online:** visit [www.bcit.ca/foundation](http://www.bcit.ca/foundation) and click on Donate Today. Under the heading Donation Designation, please select "other" and in the comment box at the end of the form, include instructions that your donation is to support student participation in the IFEH World Congress, Environmental Health.

Thank you in advance!

Lorraine Woolsey - Program Head  
BCIT Environmental Health Program  
Phone: 604-432-8807 Fax: 604-433-0759  
Toll Free: 1-800-663-6542, ext. 8807  
Email: [lorraine\\_woolsey@bcit.ca](mailto:lorraine_woolsey@bcit.ca)

### BOARD OF CERTIFICATION SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES, B.C.

The BC Branch CIPHI is pleased to present the names of the latest group of candidates who successfully passed the Board of Certification Exam in B.C. on October 20, 2009. We extend our heartiest congratulations to each of you and wish you all the best in your new careers as Environmental Public Health Professionals.

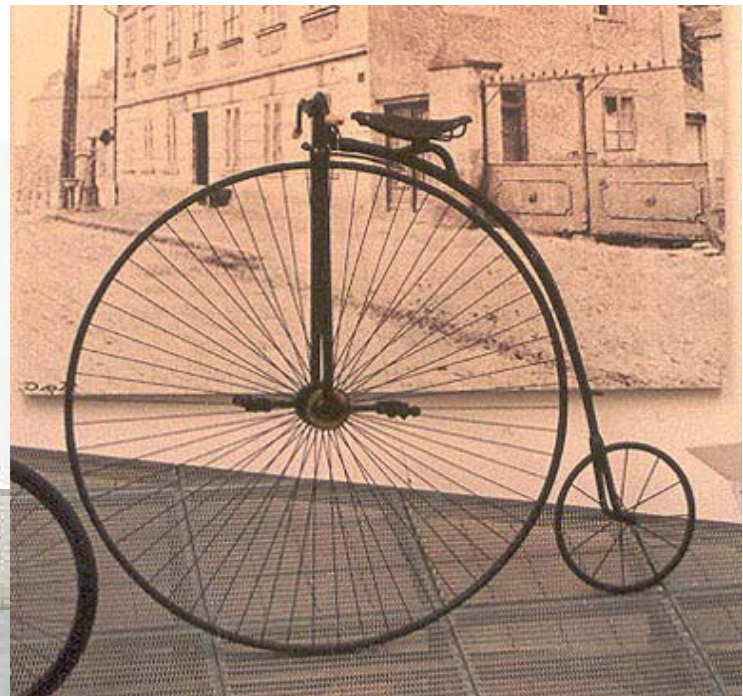
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Rory Beise  
Gurleen Bhatia  
Joanne Chang  
Sonam Chatha  
Tina Chen

Jeremy Chow  
Kevin Freer  
Juliana Gola  
Hui Hang  
Emily Ho  
Merima KostECKI

Raymond Lam  
Venus Lee  
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## In Memoriam



### Stephen Chamut October 3, 1915 – December 24, 2009

Stephen passed away peacefully on December 24, 2009 in the Nanaimo Regional Hospital with members of his family at his side. He was predeceased by his loving wife Doris; who passed away on December 1, 2003, after 61 years of marriage. He is mourned by his son's Robert, Patrick, and Brian, his daughters in law Vivian, Linda and Shirley, his grandchildren Stephanie, Kristin, Colin, Stephen and Kimberley and his great grandchildren Estelle, Connor and Selina.

Stephen was born on October 3, 1915 in Port Arthur Ontario and was the eldest of five children. Displaying the independence that characterized his life, he left home at the age of 16 to work in the lumber industry of Northern Ontario. In 1940 he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force, and trained to serve as a wireless air gunner eventually reaching the rank of Flight Lieutenant. During training, he met Doris Hider, a young nurse at the Calgary General Hospital, an event to that he regarded as the most fortunate occurrence in his life. They married on February 28, 1941. After completion of training, he volunteered to serve in Ferry Command, and spent the early years of the war based in Montréal flying aircraft across the Atlantic to resupply the British RAF. The many twists of fate that kept him safe from fatal accidents that claimed the lives of his colleagues convinced him that he had a personal guardian angel looking after him. He was transferred to the West Coast following the declaration of war with Japan, and spent time patrolling the coast of B.C. and Alaska. He volunteered to return to Bomber Command in Europe and arrived there just as the war in Europe ended.

Following the war, Stephen settled on Vancouver Island. He joined the provincial Public Service in 1958 and obtained his Certificate In Sanitary Inspection (Canada) in 1959. He worked as a Public health Inspector in Nelson, Campbell River, and Chilliwack. He retired in 1980 from the position as Chief Public Health Inspector for the Upper Fraser Valley Health Unit. He was an avid golfer and skier and it was a source of pride that he was able to keep up with his grandchildren on the ski slopes at the age of 85. Following the death of his wife, Doris, in 2003, he continued to live independently in Chilliwack until August 2009, when he moved to Origins at Longwood in Nanaimo.

The family's deepest thanks are extended to the staff at Origins for their care and attention, and for enhancing the quality of his final days. Steve had a long life, blessed with good health and good fortune. While he was demanding and at times difficult, he demonstrated through his behaviour the importance of honesty, duty, integrity, self-reliance and hard work in making your way in the world. He will be missed by all his family and friends.

No service was held by request.



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# BC Branch Executive 2010

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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.

### Advertising Rates

FULL PAGE.....	\$75 per issue
HALF PAGE.....	\$50 per issue
QUARTER PAGE.....	\$30 per issue
BUSINESS CARD.....	\$20 per issue

There is a 25% discount for a commitment of at least six consecutive issues. Changes can be made in the ad format or content during this period. Ads should be camera-ready; any extra costs necessary to prepare the ad material for publication may be charged to the advertiser.



# Membership Renewal Application Form 2010

I hereby make application for Membership (see list below) in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. This application implies that membership is to continue until resignation is tendered, or until membership is discontinued under the conditions contained in the By-Laws of the Institute.

CPHI(C) Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Issued: \_\_\_\_\_ How many years have you been a member of CIPHI? \_\_\_\_\_

No Changes From Last Year  Yes, Changes – See Below *(Complete section below only if personal information has changed.)*

\* Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \* Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname First Middle (For identification purposes) Day Month Year

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Province Postal Code

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code

Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code Area Code

Present Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Street Address

Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town Province

### Code of Ethics - As a Member of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, I acknowledge:

*"That I have an obligation to the sciences and arts for the advancement of Public Health. I will uphold the standards of my profession, continually search for truths, and disseminate my findings; and I will strive to keep myself fully informed of the developments in the field of Public Health.*

*That I have an obligation to the Public whose trust I hold and I will endeavor to the best of my ability, to guard their interests honestly and wisely. I will be loyal to the profession and Institute to which I belong.*

*That the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.*

*That being loyal to my profession, I will uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors and will, at all times, conduct myself in a manner worthy of my profession.*

*My signature hereon constitutes a realization of my personal responsibility to actively discharge these obligations."*

\* Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ \* Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Regular (see below)  Student \$50.00  Retired \$50.00  Fraternal \$120.00  International \$105.00  Associate \$130.00

\* Please circle branch you wish to belong to below: (Note: Province in which you reside unless you live in Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon or outside Canada)

"By checking this box, the applicant/undersigned does not give permission for the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors to provide his/her name and contact information to corporate/affiliate members of the Institute."

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