



Introducing the new BC Page header!

Well folks, it's Summertime again, and with that (and some new faces on the editorial team), we've decided to update the publication's header with a fresh new look. It's interesting to look back at the various headers that have graced the top of the BC Page over the 36-odd years it has been produced:



First header (Winter 1979—no header was used on the very first edition)



Spring 1980 (approx.) - slight variation



Spring 1989 update



2002/2003 update (used until this edition)

Archiving and historical information credit goes to Tim Roark, branch historian, for supplying the images and timeline information. One of Tim's side projects is currently the digitization of past issues from 1978 through to 2002, when the issues first went electronic. These will be placed on the CIPHI BC website for all to view.

B.C. Branch C.I.P.H.I

Upcoming Events

July 13-16

AEC: CIPHI Conference 2014 - St. John's

September 21-27

Environmental Public Health Week

September 25

World Environmental Health Day

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Letter from the President Elect

Hello everyone! I know that you have all been eagerly awaiting the next edition of the BC Page and here it is, new and improved! With some recent transitions happening with the editorial team, the decision was made to combine the Spring and Summer editions to facilitate the handover process. Along with the new look, please welcome our new editors! Stacey Sowa and Todd Stanaway will be co-editors of the BC Page and share editorial and publishing duties. I will allow them to introduce themselves, but I am very excited to see the ideas and energy and they bring to the position. Along with the changes to the editorial team with the BC Page, there are many new councillors on the executive team. A complete list is included at the end of the newsletter. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please don't hesitate to contact your local councillor!



In April, our BC Branch President Crystal Brown met with the BC Regional Directors to discuss how CIPHI and the Health Authorities can collaborate. One result of this meeting was the decision to go ahead with another educational webinar series! It will take place this fall, and the BC Branch executive is gearing up to plan and organize these sessions. If you or your colleagues have any ideas or suggestions for topics, please let us know!

In July, Crystal will be heading off to NFL to represent BC at the 80th National CIPHI Conference taking place in St John's Newfoundland from July 13th to the 16th. This Annual Educational Conference is the showcase CIPHI event for Environmental Public Health Professionals and other environmental public health officials in Canada. Not only is this conference about education, it's the perfect opportunity to meet other motivated professionals working to improve the health of Canadians!

May 4-10th, 2014 was Drinking Water Week in BC. The theme was "Get to Know Your H₂O". CIPHI partnered with BCWWA to help promote the event while encouraging communities to learn more about where their water comes from, where it goes when they are finished with it and what you can do to protect it. Drinking Water Week was proclaimed and supported by more than 30 communities across BC. For more information check out www.drinkingwaterweek.org

June 7-14 was Safe Kids Week 2014. The theme for this year was "Safe Swimming, Safe Splash, Safe Kids". In the last 10 years more than 570 children have drowned in Canada. This is equal to almost 10 school buses. CIPHI BC Branch decided that this was an important week to promote. As Environmental Public Health Professionals, the work that we do around recreational water is an important part of this initiative.

September 21st till the 22nd is Environmental Public Health Week. The theme for the year is "Looking forward to the next 100 years". Keep an eye open for more information from the BC Branch on ways that you can help promote and celebrate our profession.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all of the successful BOC candidates who have recently passed their BOC's from the April session. I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!

Dale Chen, President Elect

Since the last issue, a few staff changes have occurred at the BC Page office. Sarah MacDougall has stepped down from her role as head Editor, Alex Kwan has stepped down from his role as Past Editor, and Stacey Sowa and Todd Stanaway have volunteered to fill in the gaps, as co-editors. On behalf of everyone on the publication team, we would like to thank Sarah and Alex for all their hard work and time in helping put together the BC Page.

A brief introduction from the new editors:



Todd Stanaway lived in New Zealand until 2005, when he came to Canada, and decided to pursue further education after working various jobs here. In addition to his B. Tech. from BCIT and CPHI(C), he holds a BSc. (Tech.) from the University of Waikato in New Zealand.

Todd completed his EHO practicum in Nanaimo and Parksville, and started work as an EHO at the Surrey office of Fraser Health in 2012. He has worked on editing and proof-reading projects in the past, including work on several legal publications.



Stacey Sowa is a native to the Canadian prairies. She lived in Manitoba until 2009 when she started her education at BCIT. She completed a Bachelor of Science, majoring in microbiology at University of Manitoba in 2009 and the BTech program at BCIT in 2011.

Stacey completed her practicum with Fraser Health out of the Delta office. Following the practicum, she spent 8 months with Health Canada's First Nation's and Inuit Health Branch. She moved on to Manitoba Health, in the Steinbach office, until early 2013 at which time she settled into a position with Island Health in Duncan, BC.

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 the icon to go and search BC Branch on Facebook to *Like* the page



Click the icon and *Follow* the Branch on Twitter

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM 2014 GRADUATING CLASS



Back Row (L to R): Oguz Erel, Winifred Lao, Celine Lee, Ketan Minhas, Debbie Lee, Victoria Chatten, Evan Sudiono, Radha Lochan, Erin Nielsen, Amy Luan
3rd Row (L to R): Victor Tam, Scott Christie, Derrick Mah, Denny Zheng, Karen Edgar, Cathy Wong, Bobbie Lojpur, Alexander Lui
2nd Row (L to R): Adam Chan, Peter Lu, Daisuke Serizawa, Paul Cseke, Elden Chan, Alicia Parayno, Andrew Hou
Front Row (L to R): Wilson Yu, Vu Nguyen, Michael Nguyen, Amrita Bassan, Kerrilyn Wong, Kimberly Wrixon

Changing of the Guard – BCIT Environmental Health — June 2014

All good things must come to an end. It's time for me to "exit stage left" after 25 years at BCIT. I know I'm leaving the program in good hands – our faculty are dedicated and knowledgeable. Martin Macleod took over as Program Head as of June 1 and Vince Crozier will take on the Practicum Coordinator role in September. I will be on campus over the summer and for the first three weeks of September, working with Martin and Vince to help them settle into their new roles. Both of them will continue to have teaching responsibilities as well.

It has been my privilege to cross paths with all the students who have joined our program since 1989 (over 600 grads by my count). A special nod to my classmates who graduated with me from the Diploma Program in 1979. Former students and classmates alike: please drop me a note and let me know where you are and how you are doing. My e-mail address will remain active into early 2015 (lorraine_woolsey@bcit.ca).



BCIT will celebrate its 50th anniversary in the 2014/15 academic year so the stars are aligned for my retirement to coincide with this milestone. New adventures await!

Lorraine Woolsey
Former Program Head
BCIT Environmental Health Program

2014 Award Recipients



John A. Stringer Bursary Award

Helen Janssen (left), daughter of John Stringer, presenting the John A. Stringer Bursary Award to Zachary Der (right).



Bill Leith Award

Nova Do (right) receiving the Bill Leith Award from Lorraine Woolsey (left), BCIT Environmental Health Program Head.



Recipient of the John A. Stringer Bursary Award, Zachary Der (center), with award presenter Helen Janssen (left) and Tim Roark (right)."



Zachary Der, award recipient, with his mom and friend at the BCIT Awards Ceremony.



Zachary Der, award recipient, and Tim Roark, CIPHI BC Branch Historian.

Throwback



John Pelton (left), Chairman of the BC Branch Bursary Committee presents a cheque for \$3,000.00 to Duncan McGregor (center), Bursar at BCIT to support the new John A. Stringer Bursary. Tim Roark (right) Branch President and Ticket Sales Chairman looks on (Spring 1978).

Early Bird Registration Prize

The 2014 Early Bird Registration Prize, of a free CIPHI membership, has been won by Daliha Yousuf.





"Past CIPHI BC Branch President Gary Tam suggested a Mosaic Banner as a part of the CIPHI Centenary activities that would profile photos of past and current CPHI(C) that would also act as a fund raiser for an EHFC Donation Project Water-Can's initiative "Clean Water for Health". The "Mosaic Banner" project created a keepsake that would immortalize CIPHI members for future generations and would be used at future CIPHI events and conferences. The project raised an additional \$2,033.27 toward the Clean Water for Health project. Congratulations and thank you Gary Tam for seeing this exciting project become a reality!"¹

Planning to avoid disaster: the state and fate of flood mapping in BC

Authors: Anna Warwick Sears, PhD, Executive Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board; and David Sellars, Civil Engineer and Hydrologist. (May 1, 2013)

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina rocked North America with footage of flooded neighbourhoods, and people waving for rescue from their roofs. In 2011, Lake Manitoba had a one-in-2000-year flood event, with high waters displacing 7100 people from their homes across the province. Hurricane Sandy, in 2012, reminded the world that even the centres of western civilization are not invulnerable to flooding. Insurance companies are rushing to reconfigure their policies and financial models, as water damage is the fastest growing source of insurance claims.

Far from being immune ourselves, British Columbia has fallen behind on basic risk assessments, while the



risks themselves are increasing. Storm water and wastewater systems are particularly susceptible to flooding, whether the high waters come from sea level rise, intense storm cells, or over-bank flow from rivers and streams. The full impact of floods can range from water quality to economic stability, and threaten to bring the effects of climate change directly into our homes and basements.

A recent report on sea level rise from the BC Ministry of Environment put a \$9.5-billion price-tag on dike raising and reconstruction for coastal areas, reinforcing the urgency to re-map floodplains. It's not just municipalities and the water sector that are concerned. On March 8th, 2013, a floodplain mapping workshop, convened by the BC Real Estate Association, drew nearly 70 people from the BC government, local governments, academic institutions, the business community, and First Nations.

Humans have a long history of settling in floodplains. Early BC settlers made an obvious choice to site farms and villages on flat bottom lands instead of on mountain sides. The soil is rich, waterfront homes are highly sought after, and level ground near waterways is prized for roads, rail lines, mills, and shipping terminals. Bottom lands are also a favourite location for wastewater treatment plants, with low pumping costs. Collectively, this puts some of our most expensive infrastructure in the path of flood waters.

Climate change only increases the need for rigorous risk assessments. In an uncertain future, as weather patterns shift, many parts of BC could experience storms to occur with greater intensity, frequency, and duration. With bigger storms, changes in precipitation, and higher tides from sea-level rise, the best way to avoid flood damage is to estimate where it may happen, and make plans to reduce impacts or move critical infrastructure out of the way.

Floodplain maps are the first step for understanding flood risks. Typically, BC maps show areas that can be expected to flood every 200 years – a somewhat

misleading statistic, which actually means there is a 0.5% chance of a flood in any given year. Over the life of a 30-year mortgage, a house in a floodplain has a 15% risk of getting wet (although levels and damage will vary). Floodplain maps can also show the normal location of watercourses, surrounding land elevations, and the total geographic area within the floodplain zone. The extent of actual damage depends on what structures or land uses are flood-prone, whether areas have been protected with dikes or other measures, what bylaws or other development regulations are in place, and the length, violence, and magnitude of the flood.

Like most maps, designated floodplains are essentially snap-shots of existing conditions. Climate change, alteration in forest cover, watershed hydrology and riverbed geomorphology, alter the probability of flooding over time, and best engineering practices recommend that floodplain maps be updated every 10 years. Yet, of the 87 floodplain maps currently on the website of the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, 69% are at least 20 years old.

So, why are so many of BC's floodplain maps decades out of date? While everyone agrees that floods are potentially devastating for a wide variety of reasons, there are persistent disincentives, a lack of education, and dysfunctional policies that slow progress. It's an old problem, made worse by jurisdictional struggles and uncertainty about where liabilities lie.

The first major provincial floodplain mapping program began in 1974, and accelerated with the 1987 Canada-BC Floodplain Mapping Agreement, which ended in 2003. In 2004, the responsibility for floodplain mapping was transferred to local governments. Only a handful of communities have mapped flood-prone areas since that time. Without new maps, local governments – who have the authority for land use and development decisions – continue to allow construction according to old flood zoning, and in

some cases, in low-lying areas with no flood zoning at all.

From the perspective of local governments, flooding is a chronic disaster that crosses jurisdictional boundaries, and is exacerbated by factors outside of their control (sea level rise is an extreme example). Mapping is expensive (one estimate puts a \$5-million price-tag on floodplain mapping for BC's coastal communities), and elected leaders may be reluctant to inform property owners that their property values may decrease. There are also presumed concerns that official designation of floodplains could increase local government liability if they are unable to follow provincial guidelines for floodplain management.

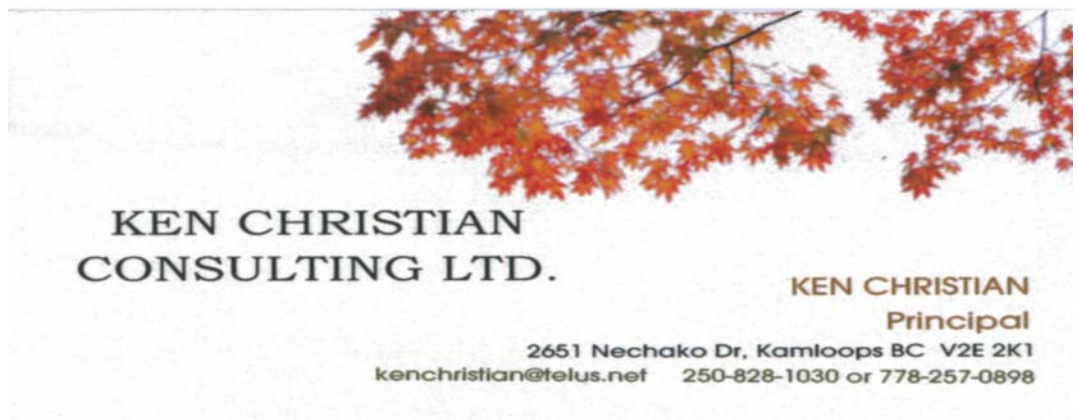
From the perspective of provincial and federal governments, mapping floodplains is of little use unless there is follow-through by local governments to control floodplain development and reduce potential flood damages. A 1995 paper by David Sellars, written for the Canadian Water Resources Association, speaks of a "sense of frustration among provincial and federal government staff," because mapping efforts didn't translate to changes on the ground. Given this history, it's not surprising that responsibility for mapping was eventually transferred to the local level.

Another problem is that (with the exception of a few flood protection programs) senior government financial assistance is often only available after a disaster has taken place. The Director of the Flood Protection Program for Emergency Management BC, speaking at the March 8th workshop, stated that for every dollar spent on floodplain mapping there is a \$30 savings in avoided damages. However, workshop participants raised the issue that the mapping dollar is paid by local governments, and much of the savings is made

by senior government. This arrangement reduces the incentive of local jurisdictions to fund flood mapping – despite being on the front lines for responding to the full economic, environmental, and social consequences of a flood.

The good news is that there is broad support for change: across government, civil society, and the water sector – and many new tools. Recoiling from the \$9.5-billion price tag for dike building and reinforcement, \$5 million for mapping coastal floodplains sounds like good value, especially if costs are shared across many communities. Knowing more precisely where flood hazards are highest could greatly refine plans for protective dikes, and highlight alternative lower-cost solutions. These could include engineered flood-storage (where certain areas are allowed to flood to protect homes and infrastructure), new setbacks, building codes, and in some cases relocating structures in vulnerable areas – what's called a "flood-resilience" approach.

We have become much more sophisticated in designing storm water systems, back-flow preventions, and green-infrastructure for intercepting and rechanneling water where it falls on the landscape. Mapping tools have also improved dramatically. High-resolution LIDAR can provide precise digital elevation contours, and powerful computers drive new hydraulic models that can much better predict the distribution of flood flows in complex floodplains. The problems now are less likely to be related to scientific limitations, but rather to tangles in policy and finance.



In the end, changes will come from the ground up. As the public becomes more aware of the potential impacts of climate change, they will provide political support to move forward. There are a number of local governments that are leading by example, with steady progress to redesign their community: accepting and anticipating that – if flooding is inevitable – they will act now to reduce future flood damage.

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of BC has recognized the need for raising the profile of flood issues and recently published their Professional Practice Guidelines for Legislated Flood Assessments in BC. The March 8th workshop generated an action plan to update BC floodplain maps, and the BCWWA hosted a workshop on flood risk assessment as part of the 2013 annual conference.

It is clear that everyone needs new floodplain maps, and that these are best done at a regional scale. The water sector needs maps to protect water delivery, treatment, and drainage systems. Local governments need them to prepare land use plans and regulate

floodplain development. Senior governments need the maps to reduce the costs of emergency programs and compensation for damages. And the public needs assurance that homes and businesses are safe from chronic flood hazards, to make investment decisions – and to avoid loss of homes and livelihoods. Nonetheless, getting beyond our current inertia will take coordination, communication, and action by all levels of government with broad-based support from the professional community, industry associations, and civil society.

This article was made possible through collaboration with the BC Real Estate Association - drawing on the materials generated by the March 8th, 2013 workshop: “Planning to Avoid Disaster.” The resulting action plan is available at www.bcrea.bc.ca.

Special thanks to the BCWWA and authors for permission to reprint this article, originally published in *Watermark*.

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Drinking Water Week—May 4—10, 2014

The BC Water and Waste Association (BCWWA) has had another successful Drinking Water Week (DWW).

This past May 4 - 10th, BC celebrated DWW with nearly 7000 pledgers, 19 municipal and provincial proclamations, and 11 municipal supporters from all over the province. The week was packed with events; including the “Best of the Best” tap water taste test challenge held up in Whistler. With over 10 contestants and a panel of four water connoisseurs, City of Kelowna reigned supreme with the best tasting tap water.

DWW is used to raise awareness of the value of water and how the public can contribute to safe, sustainable water. BCWWA released three “everyday actions that British Columbia can undertake today to protect water resources (BCWWA, 2014)”, these included:

1. “Getting to know where your drinking water comes from, and what activities may be impacting water quality or availability within your watershed. Look for information about facility tours and activities at www.drinkingwaterweek.org.
2. Disposing of household waste such as expired medications, cleaners, paints and grease responsibly instead of putting them down the sink or toilet. Flushing these items can result in costly backups in homes, problems at your local wastewater treatment plant, and harm to the environment.
3. Reducing your water use by installing a water-efficient fixture or appliance at home and limiting outdoor watering (BCWWA, 2014).”

As safe, sustainable water becomes a greater issue, the necessity for public involvement increases significantly. BCWWA’s Drinking Water Week is the province’s largest drive to inform the public and spread the word.

Community Proclamations:

Proclamations:

City of Armstrong

City of Kamloops

City of Parksville

City of Vancouver

District of Saanich

City of Colwood

City of Dawson Creek

City of Kelowna

City of Port Alberni

District of Central Saanich

Province of British Columbia

City of Cranbrook

City of New Westminster

City of Port Moody

District of Kitimat

City of Duncan

City of North Vancouver

City of Prince George

District of Mission

Supporters:

Capital Regional District

City of Vancouver

City of Richmond

City of Abbotsford

City of Kamloops

Regional District of North Okanagan

City of Coquitlam

City of Penticton

Okanagan Basin Water Board

City of Dawson Creek

City of Powell River

SAFE KIDS WEEK

June 7-14 is Safe Kids Week and this year's theme is: **Safe Swimming. Safe Splashing. Safe Kids.**



Did you know that in the last 10 years more than 570 children have drowned in Canada? This is equal to almost 10 school buses. Parachute Canada is a National, charitable organization dedicated to preventing injuries and saving lives. More information about safe kid's week can be found at <http://www.parachutecanada.org/programs/topic/C68?gclid=CID7woKXz74CFZJefgodWCsAow>

The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors BC Branch is taking this opportunity to promote this week since Recreational Water Safety is one of our large areas of focus as Environmental Health Professionals.

Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) in British Columbia enforce the *Pool Regulation* under the *Public Health Act*. The regulation sets out minimum safety and water quality parameters that all public aquatic facilities must follow. The B.C. Guidelines for Pool Design and Pool Operations detail a number of important issues such as signage & pool rules, operator training, pool safety plans, procedures for serious injury, emergency or incident, lifesaving & first aid equipment, supervision, preventing suction hazards, and many others.

EHOs inspect pools on a routine basis and respond to concerns raised by the public. We work with operators to ensure they know how to provide a safe swim environment and we offer pool operators courses as necessary. EHOs order pool closures when unsafe conditions warrant immediate action. During a swimming pool inspection an EHO will look for such items as: trained personnel, up to date logs of water quality parameters & incidences, any unsafe conditions in & around the pool such as drowning, suction & entrapment hazards, adequate lifesaving equipment, and the EHO will complete a series of water quality tests. We can determine, for example, if there is sufficient disinfectant in the pool to reduce infection risks or if there may be too much acid in the pool leading to skin & eye irritation.

EHOs are also involved in assessment of bathing beaches where appropriate. Samples are collected and we respond to potential health hazards such as infections transmitted by disease-causing micro-organisms and nuisance conditions.

The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors would like to remind families to stay safe while swimming, boating and fishing this season. Children are vulnerable and we need to take extra care around water. If you have any concerns regarding your local swimming hole, please don't hesitate to contact your local Environmental Health Professional.

Paula Tait, BC Branch Executive Councilor

Paula earned her CPHI(C) designation in 2006 and worked in Estevan, SK for 4 years. She has worked in Prince George, BC for almost 4 years. She enjoys spending time outdoors with her little boy, who loves being outside, and especially loves water!

Glen Embree Retires

Ninety friends and colleagues gathered together recently at the Eagle Ridge Coyote Club to give Glen Embree a rousing send-off after 40 years in Public Health Inspection. The food was delicious and the stories about Glen were great. Retired MHO Roland Guasparini was a lively MC who kept the stories coming and the evening fun. Stories like the time the government car was being gassed up in the Burnaby municipal works yard but unfortunately the car was in neutral and the park brake wasn't on. The car just rolled away. The list of story tellers included Kent Hillman, Ralph Sears, Karen Rehbie, Janet Elver, Dr. Larry Gustafson, Dr. Nadine Loewen, Randy Hielbron, Brian Standing, Cliff Van Alstyne and Tim Shum. All spoke about how enjoyable it was to work with Glen

with his very competent quiet approach, how they enjoyed his great sense of humor and how he will be missed. Tim Shum spoke of his significant contribution to the program over the years. Cliff Van Alstyne said he was in Burnaby on the day Glen started and was so pleased to be able attend his party and wish him all the best in his retirement. Other retirees in attendance included Kelvin Higo and Tim Roark.

Glen started as a field inspector in June of 1973 after having graduated from BCIT in Public Health Inspection. He was promoted to a Supervisor in Burnaby around 1985 until regionalization occurred. In 2001 he took on a new position of CD Specialist and moved to the

Maple Ridge office and then a subsequent move back to Burnaby. In 2003 he moved to Surrey and in 2006 he was appointed as Program Manager with primary responsibility for the CD Program and stationed in North Delta. Glen held this key position until his retirement in 2014.

A very enjoyable time was had by all including Glen, his wife Cathy, daughter Gayle and grandson Dylan. Two huge cakes were provided and most folks ate way too much.

Glen, we wish you all the best for a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

—Tim Roark, CIPHI BC Branch Historian



Glen



Glen receiving presents



Glen & friends



Glen & family



Karen, Jessie & Ralph



Roland Guasparini — MC



Cliff Van Alstyne & MC



Glen & cakes

RETIREMENTS (Continued)

The man with New Westminster's toughest job

It's quite possible you don't know Keith Coueffin. He's been the city's **Manager of Licensing and Integrated Services**. A yawn of a title. If you'd asked a few years ago, I wouldn't have had any idea what this job entailed. Ask today, though, and I'll say Keith's actions have impacted every resident in the city, for the better. And it's not just because of what his job requires—which includes dealing with everything from slum landlords to homelessness to pot shops to graffiti. It's how Keith did that job.

I first met him almost 10 years ago, before working at this paper. I'd just moved to New West and was troubled by what I saw in my 12th Street neighbourhood. Prostitution, graffiti, a couple of flop houses and the like. I called the city and was passed to Keith, and he suggested we go for a walk in the area and chat. I showed him the graffiti, and an apartment building with a rotation of drug dealers. We talked about the issues. He explained what the city had done, the tools the city had, and he told me what I could do to help him do his job. I felt empowered.

I learned a lot about what the city can do to compel bad landlords to mend their ways. Or about who to call when the mailbox got tagged again, or another shopping cart was abandoned on our block.

When Keith retired on May 15, after 34 years working for the city, he left an impressive legacy in his wake. Metal thieves stealing everything from electrical wire to the plaque in front of the Armoury? Keith dealt with that. Marijuana dispensaries? Keith. Honduran drug dealers, homelessness? He had a hand in addressing those issues too. His has been one of the most complicated, acrimonious jobs at the city. The stress alone would have crushed an average person like a bug. **"Keith was the only guy in the whole organization that had job security,"** City CEO Lisa Spitale told me, quoting a running joke at City Hall. **"No one wanted his job."**

His job has been tough, but his approach has made it easier for everyone around him. He took emotion out of the equation, Lisa says, and immediately put people at ease with his calm, measured, business-like approach. Lisa describes sitting with Keith and a shady business owner in a "show cause" hearing, which is effectively a meeting where the city explains why they are cancelling someone's business licence. The business man was an intimidating looking fellow. Despite the unsatisfactory outcome for the man, Keith made him feel respected. "He did it in such a way that people would shake his hand after the meeting, and thank him," Lisa says. "I'd say to him after, how do you do that?"

By example, Keith taught his colleagues that even when dealing with files rife with potential conflict, an approach of compassion and collaboration will more often lead to success. "It really changed how we talked about enforcement," Lisa says. "If it's always a fight, it doesn't work. Keith brought a diplomacy to enforcement that grew from there."

A few weeks ago, Keith called me and said he'd enjoyed a recent column I'd written. I thanked him, we chatted briefly then I was about to hang up. "Oh," he said. "I was wondering who I'd talk to about some of your papers that are blowing around in the wind outside a couple businesses. I've had a couple of complaints." I was more than happy to help.

Courtesy of Chris Bryan, Editor, New Westminster NewsLeader



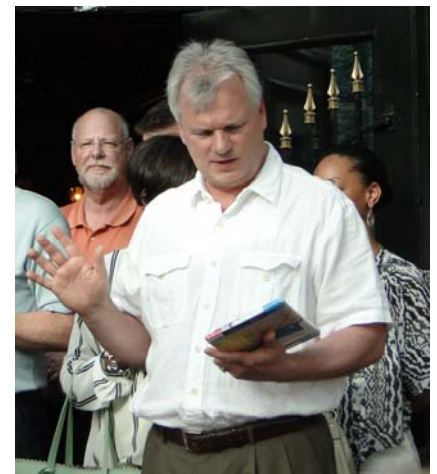
Ken Bennett and other NW City colleagues listening to presentations



Police Chief telling stories about Keith



Bert Dobson former BC Branch President presents a BC Branch Award to Keith in 1979.



Keith graciously accepting his gifts



Arrival of delicious food



Lisa Spitale, CEO thanking Keith for his great service to the City



Keith's retirement banner

Keith graduated from the PHI program at BCIT in 1979. He received his CPHI(C) in 1980 and started his career as a Public Health Inspector at the New Westminster Health Department. Although the Simon Fraser Health Unit was a provincial health unit it included the New Westminster Health Department which was a division of the City of New Westminster. In 1990 Keith was promoted to Chief Public Health Inspector in New Westminster, a position he held until the provincial regionalization of health services in 1996. After 16 ½ years in public health Keith made the decision to stay with City of New Westminster. In 1999 Keith was appointed the Assistant Director of Strategic Services and in 2006 was promoted to Manager of Licensing and Integrated Services.

On May 15th a retirement party was held for Keith at the Rivers Reach Pub and it looked like almost everyone from City Hall attended. The Chief of Police was the MC and speakers included the Directors of Planning and Building, CEO Lisa Spitale and others. All had nothing but great things to say about Keith and his ability to solve difficult problems in a calm, cool and collected manner. A delicious meal was served to all the attendees who included former public health colleagues Cecilia Harris, Ken Bennett, Glen Embree and Tim Roark. Keith's wife Laura and their family were there to enjoy the celebration.

In an announcement to city staff and press, the CEO stated, "Keith is considered a leader in the region and in the province for his balanced and strategic approach to bylaw enforcement, community livability and business-friendly regulations. Keith has a stellar reputation for promoting actions that solve problems and building relationships. He has been instrumental with developing strategic approaches in the organization and amongst all departments regarding bylaw compliance and enforcement matters."

Keith clearly enjoyed his 34 ½ years with the City of New Westminster. In his interview with the Royal City Record he stated, "I would like to say that the city really has treated me extremely well. It's an organization I am very proud to have worked for. I have had the opportunity to work with a lot of amazing people. The city is a very good employer. I feel very fortunate."

Tim Roark
BC Branch Historian

Keith, congratulations on a wonderful career in public health inspection and municipal administration. All the best for a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.

Editors, BC Page

B.C. Branch C.I.P.H.I

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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.

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