

P.H.I. OBSERVER

Volume 4, Issue 1

April 2012

CIPHI is the professional association that represents Public Health Inspectors and Environmental Health Officers across Canada.

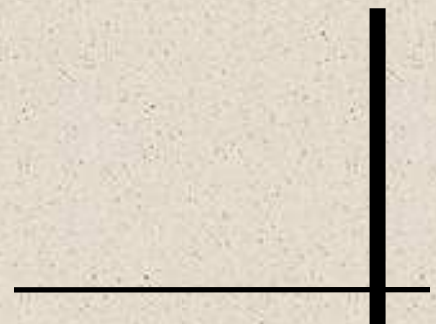
The Saskatchewan Branch represents the interest of the Public Health Inspection profession and the field of Environmental Health in the province of Saskatchewan.

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Prairie Lake Regional Park on Lake Diefenbaker
Photo submitted by Kevin Kapell



Message from the President



President Ryan Philipation

Hello Members:

As I write this message, I see the first few Canada geese have arrived in Melfort.....a sure sign that spring is approaching. Hope you all had a nice winter. Your Branch Executive have been busy since the last update. An Executive meeting was held to determine work portfolios and upcoming tasks for our Branch. New Executive members Kevin Kapell and Kari Engele-Carter have transitioned into their positions nicely.

I would like to thank all Members that applied for the new SK Branch Historian position. Congratulations to Wayne Johnson who has been appointed to the 3-year term position. Wayne's historical interest, knowledge and enthusiasm is a great fit for this position. I am excited to see how Wayne grows this position for the benefit of all Members. Our history is deep and there is no better time than now as we approach the National Centenary Celebrations to expose our SK roots for all Members. Keep posted for updates from Wayne.

The Branch continues to grow our partnership with First Nations University. The annual student pizza night was held in February. The evening was a great success as Environmental Health students had the opportunity to interact with many Executive Members. A special thanks to Councilor Verna Law for organizing the event. The Executive will continue to engage these students in an effort to heighten their knowledge and interest in CIPHI.

Work has begun on the 5th Annual Professional Education and Development Seminar. This great seminar will be held in Saskatoon in November, 2012. If you would like to volunteer for any area (sponsorship, social, registration etc.) please contact an Executive Member. More information to follow soon.

As a reminder, if you have not paid your 2012 CIPHI Membership yet, be sure to do so. Unpaid memberships past April 15, 2012, will no longer receive SK Branch email updates.

The Executive is always looking at new ways to engage membership. If you have an idea for our Branch, please speak up.....we would love to hear from you! Until next time, take care.

Respectfully,

Ryan Philipation

President
SK BRANCH

Editorial Policy

In the pursuit of the Branch's objectives, the Editor is authorized to publish this Newsletter on a periodic basis, as deemed appropriate. The objectives of the Branch are:

- The development and advancement of environmental health, and
- To support the advancement of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors.

The Branch Executive members have the authority to provide general direction respecting the content of the Newsletter and, in consultation with the Editor, to set policies regarding administrative matters of each issue. The Editor shall have the general authority to select material for publication in the Newsletter provided all material meets the criteria of being within the objectives of the Branch. Views, comments or positions within the contents of the Newsletter are those of the Editor and does not necessarily reflect those of the Branch Executive or its membership.

Message From The Editor

Hello members.

I hope everyone had a good winter and were able to travel away from Saskatchewan for a warm holiday. Actually, I think this has been one of the warmest winters ever in Saskatchewan.

The branch executive have been busy planning and organizing the next PEDS seminar as well as networking with the students and faculty at First Nations University of Saskatchewan.

Congratulations to Wayne Johnson who has been selected as the Branch Historian. Wayne has the taunting task of reviewing and organizing all past documents and photos relating to the Branch. Many of these documents and photos will be in future issues of the newsletter.

Board of Certification oral exams are on April 17th. Mike McCann is busy organizing the exam process again this year. As an examiner in the past, I want to congratulate Mike on a job well done. Good luck to all students taking the exams.

Enjoy the newsletter, and if you have anything you want submitted for the next issue, please forward the information to myself or one of the executive members.

Sincerely

Michael Hayduk
SK Branch Newsletter Editor



Websites of Interest

The following are websites which can be useful resources for PHI's:

- <https://gis.swa.ca/>
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Website. This website gives you detailed information on wells in Saskatchewan.
- <http://www.municipal.gov.sk.ca/Programs-Services/Municipal-Directory>
Contact information for urban and rural municipalities in Saskatchewan.
- <http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/details.cfm?p=786>
Public Health legislation. Very useful to refer people to by email or for quick reference and searching.
- <http://www.saskh2o.ca/MyDrinkingWater.asp>
Government of Saskatchewan website for municipal and private drinking water information.
- <http://sports.espn.go.com/espn/eticket/story?page=100725/stadiumconcessions>
An ESPN article on the public health risks of stadium concession booths for professional sports teams.
- <http://www.swa.ca/Publications/Documents/ALandownersGuidetoWaterWell%20Management.pdf>
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority website giving information to landowners on how to manage and maintain their private wells.

2011—2012 Sask Branch Executive



Left to Right: Kevin Kapell, Kari Engele-Carter, Ken Cross, Ryan Philipation, Michael McCann, Paul Ross, Verna Law, John Prince

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We have been telling our kids for years.....

"A study published in the journal of *Clinical Infectious Diseases* today supports what mom and dad have been telling kids for generations... DON'T EAT RAW COOKIE DOUGH!

The flour, not the raw eggs or chocolate chips, was likely the source of a 2009 outbreak of *E. coli* infection linked to Nestlé's Toll House cookie dough, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control reported. Because of that surprise culprit, the CDC is calling for fail-safe formulas for packaged raw cookie dough. Seventy-seven people in 30 states fell ill from exposure to *E. coli* bacteria. Thirty-five of them were sent to hospital; 10 suffered serious kidney injury. None died.

The authors also noted that eating cookie dough appears to be a popular practice, especially among adolescent females. A study of risky eating behaviors among college students found that 53% consumed unbaked homemade cookie dough. During interviews, several patients reported that they bought the dough with the intention of only eating it unbaked; they had no plans to actually bake cookies.

"My recommendation, the general recommendation, is that you should not consume raw cookie dough, regardless of who makes it, whether it's made at home or as a commercial product," Dr. Karen Neil, a medical epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in an interview from Atlanta".



Advertising In The PHI Observer

Starting in the next issue of the PHI Observer, space will be made available for advertisements relating to public health and environmental issues, products and services. Advertisements which the branch executive conclude are contrary to good public health practice or environmental protection goals will not be accepted

The PHI Observer is a newsletter from the Saskatchewan Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI). The PHI Observer is published three times year, and is used to provide public health related information to Public Health Inspectors, Environmental Health Officers, and other federal and provincial colleagues. We encourage business and industry to support the Saskatchewan Branch, and to use this newsletter to advertise products and services. Advertisers will receive free electronic issues of the newsletters containing their ads. Advertisements may be submitted in any electronic format (jpg file, PDF file, WORD document, etc.). Please e-mail ads to Michael Hayduk at mhayduk@kthr.sk.ca For more information, please call (306)862-7235.

Advertising Rates (Save 20% for six issues)

Full Page: \$75.00 per issue (or \$360 for six issues)

Half Page: \$50.00 per issue (or \$240 for six issues)

¼ Page: \$30.00 per issue (or \$144 for six issues)

Bus. Card: \$20.00 per issue (or \$96 for six issues)

First Nations University of Canada Update

Hello, I took over as the CIPHI Saskatchewan Branch First Nations University of Canada Rep from Mike McCann in December 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike for his work in this role and I look forward to working on this portfolio.

The Branch held a pizza night at the University for students of the Environmental Health and Science program on February 28, 2012. There were 10 students in attendance as well as Dr. Doyle Anderson, the University's President, Dr. Lynn Wells, the VP of Academics, and Carmen Buschow, the Acting ENHS Program Coordinator. There were four Branch Executive Members in attendance. They were Ryan Philipation, Verna Law, Mike McCann and Kari Engele-Carter. Verna organized the event and gave a presentation on the benefits of a CIPHI Membership. Mike gave a presentation about the Board of Certification process. By all accounts the pizza was very good and the presentations were well received by the students who felt the night was very worthwhile.

Since the pizza night, Acting ENHS Program Coordinator, Carmen Buschow, has managed to secure CIPHI memberships for all new students who enroll in the program.

I attended an ENHS Program Advisory Committee meeting on March 8, 2012. A lot of very important topics were discussed. The program currently has 14 students enrolled in it. Efforts and resources are being focused on recruitment to the program and promoting our profession in an effort to boost enrollment numbers. The Branch has partnered with the University of Regina and the First Nations University of Canada to help fund the printing of 500 posters and 2 display boards for advocacy of the profession and the school. Both the First Nations University President Dr. Doyle Anderson and the VP of Academics, Dr. Lynn Wells are very excited about the partnership and are looking forward to working with the Branch.

Respectfully,

Kevin Kapell

Councilor
SK BRANCH



From the Desk of the CIPHI SK Branch Historian

A couple of weeks ago, I was thrilled to learn I had been appointed to the newly created Historian position with our Saskatchewan branch of CIPHI. I would like to thank the Executive for this opportunity and I look forward to providing interesting historical insights to the membership. My initial duties include collecting, organizing, and preserving branch documents. I'll be scanning the documents into an electronic format and, once complete, organizing the documents into a database. Once I have had a chance to examine these documents, I will present items of interest to the branch membership either through this newsletter or during our annual conference. In the near future I hope to track down and interview some retired public health inspectors. These interviews will provide valuable insights into how our professional practice has evolved. Lastly, I will document the activities and accomplishments of the branch and its members throughout each year and provide regular reports to the Executive.

Our professional organization is approaching its centenary and branches across Canada are preparing to celebrate this important milestone next year in Winnipeg. I get a great personal sense of pride knowing I belong to such a long standing organization however our profession vastly pre-dates our organization. The earliest record of an environmental public health figure can be found in Egypt 5000 years ago where the Vizier, a religious figure whose role was similar to a Prime Minister, was responsible for inspecting water supplies every 10 days. The Aediles from ancient Rome cared for sewers, aqueducts, and cleaning of streets and due to their religious nature, they were also responsible for supervising public morals. For our earliest analogue, perhaps we look to France where, in 1350, King John II established sanitary police to serve the population. The functions of these sanitarians was to keep hogs out of the streets, keep streets clean, and prevent butchers and fishmongers from selling spoiled meat and fish*. The prevalence of environmental public health practices throughout history illustrates how universally importance and practical our work is.

Thanks again and I look forward to the opportunity of contributing to our branch by looking back at the people, places, and events that shaped our profession.

Taken from: Ben Freedman, M.D., M.P, H., Sanitarian's Handbook: Theory and Administrative Practice (New Orleans: Peerless Publishing Co., 1970), 2-7.



Wayne Johnson

Below is an article from the February 15, 2012 edition of the "Prairie Post" newspaper. The article was written by Matthew Liebenberg.

Cypress Health: Safety A Key For Piercings/Tattoos

A decision to get a tattoo or body piercing is not something to be taken lightly, especially when it comes to safety. These are invasive procedures that carry a high risk if proper measures are not followed to ensure a sanitary environment and to sterilize equipment.

Tattoo artist Sue Goreham, who owns Good Vibe Tattoo in downtown Swift Current, said people do not always appreciate the importance of safety. "Unfortunately many believe that a new needle is all that is required to be safely tattooed," she mentioned. "In reality, the entire tattoo process must follow a safety protocol."

Tattooing injects ink into the second layer of the skin while piercing breaks the skin and inserts jewelry. The various safety measures, which are regulated by the Cypress Health Region's public health inspectors, are aimed at preventing viral and bacterial infections as well as other health issues. According to Senior Public Health Inspector Jacqueline Treen the health risks of improper tattooing and piercing practices include viral infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C as well as bacterial infections such as Streptococcus and Staphylococcus. People may experience allergic reactions or sensitivities to tattoo ink or other supplies used during these procedures. The body's reaction to foreign items such as ink or jewelry can result in small knots or bumps, called granulomas.

The Cypress Health Region issued a news release last week to highlight the importance of safety whenever a tattoo or body piercing is done. "We want them to do it safely, so that's why we're putting out the public announcement," Treen said. "We're not trying to stop it. We know it's going to happen, so we just want to make the public aware."

Kelly Jewitt is a certified body piercer and owner of Eden's Apple store in Swift Current. Following cor-

rect procedures is an absolute priority for her. "If a piercer doesn't sterilize the needles or the tongs properly then you can pretty much get anything bad," she said. The use of household cleaners, rubbing alcohol and peroxides aren't sufficient to disinfect working surfaces. "I use high-grade glutacide and I also use a high-grade disinfectant wipe that is more thorough than spray because I'm actually wiping the whole surface," she said.

Jewitt and Goreham both emphasize the importance of only using and inspected and approved facility. All personal service facilities that are inspected by Cypress Health will receive an inspection certificate. "It will be posted in public view and if it isn't, you can ask for it," Treen said. "We ask that they post it for the public to see and that way they know that we've been there."

Another important thing to ask from a tattoo or piercing artist is his or her latest spore test results. This proves the autoclave, which is used to sterilize equipment and tools, is working properly. Approved methods of sterilization include steam autoclaves, dry heat sterilizers and approved chemicals. It is not acceptable to treat instruments by boiling, soaking in chlorine or other chemical solutions or bead sterilizers.

Goreham felt these intensive inspection procedures are necessary to ensure the safety of professional tattoo facilities. "Kitchen tattooers, who are not part of the commercial tattoo industry, fail to meet this standard and therefore represent a great risk to public safety," she said.

Goreham and Jewitt are both aware of some unapproved tattooing and piercing services in Swift Current. Treen said the existence of such activities in the health region also came to the attention of public health inspectors in recent months, which prompted the recent news release to increase public awareness. "We don't want to prevent the business from happening," she emphasized. "We want to just make sure it's done safely but when they start advertising to the public and they're not inspected by us is where it becomes difficult."

Jewitt said it happens "all the time" that people will come to her with an infected piercing they got somewhere else. She cautions future tattoo clients to ensure their chosen artist works in a safe, inspected facility.

Close Cuts For Cancer Fundraiser

Jonathan Tieszen, branch member from the Sunrise Health Region, has been growing his hair for many months for the “Close Cuts For Cancer” fundraiser. On May 28th, Jonathan will shave his head with the hair going to make a wig for someone going through cancer treatment.

Information on the fundraising event can be found on page 10. A donation form is on page 11. Any branch member who would like to donate money to this worthwhile cause can complete a pledge form and mail it to Jonathan. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Jonathan directly.

I like having a longer hair style but I don't like it too long. It was time for a haircut when Crystal, my wife, suggested I keep growing it out for a few more months. By doing this I could get it long enough to donate for a wig and raise money for Close Cuts for Cancer. I thought that was a great idea and here we are. It wasn't very much effort on my part and, considering it will make a big difference to someone who needs it, it was an easy decision. Please feel free to donate online or fill out an attached donation form and you will get a tax receipt for it.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Tieszen





INSTRUCTIONS:

ONLINE DONATIONS

To collect pledges online, go to <http://iconvia.cancer.ca/goto/closecuts2012> then join this team and set up your own fundraising page.

DONOR'S EMAIL ADDRESSES

Whenever possible, please get your donor's email address. This will enable us to allow for e-receipting, which significantly reduces our receipting time and cost. PLEASE RECORD THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESS CAREFULLY.

NOMINATE A SHAVE

If you know of someone who you feel needs to get rid of some hair or facial hair, please email their contact info to us and you can have a fundraising duel with them to see whose opinion is the winner.

NOTE – The sooner you turn your money and balanced pledge sheet in on bank day or before, the sooner you will be able to shave your head at the event.

Pledge sheets must be completed carefully and legibly. PLEASE PRINT.

The Canadian Cancer Society will automatically be mailing receipts for donations of \$20.00 or more. All donations, regardless of amount, will be emailed if an email address is provided. Please ensure cheques are payable to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Brayden Ottenbreit
Close Cuts For Cancer



- Balance and turn in money and pledge sheets on:

"BANK DAY"

TBA
from

9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

at the

CANCER SOCIETY OFFICE
#29 – 2nd Ave. N, Lower level
YORKTON

- Show up to get your head shaved at:
**BRAYDEN OTTENBREIT
CLOSE CUTS FOR CANCER
SATURDAY, MAY 28th
Before 10:00 a.m.**
at the
**PARKLAND MALL
YORKTON**

- There will be forms at the event to fill out if you wish to donate your hair. Hair must be:
 - ✓ Clean, dry & free of styling products
 - ✓ Minimum of 8 inches long
 - ✓ Unprocessed
 - ✓ Less than 5% gray
 - ✓ Bundled in a ponytail at both ends or a braid

- Our website is:
<http://www.bravdenscutsforcancer.com>

BACKGROUND:

Close Cuts started in 1998 when Brayden Ottenbreit, a young boy from Yorkton, was diagnosed with cancer. To support him in his battle, his dad Greg, his uncle Grant, and a group of friends decided to shave their heads and turn it into a fundraiser for the Canadian Cancer Society. In the last 14 years, this event has raised over \$580,000.00 with every penny going straight to cancer research and local cancer initiatives.

Sadly, Brayden passed away at 5 years of age in February of 2000, but through this event, his spirit lives on. Brayden's determined fight with cancer continues to inspire people who have never had the opportunity to meet him.

Thank you for your commitment to finding a cure for cancer. If you have any questions, please contact:

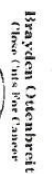
LEONE & GREG OTTENBREIT
23 Bull Crescent
Yorkton, SK S3N 3Y5
Phone: (306) 783-2637
Email: closecuts@sasktel.net

THE CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY
29 Second Ave. N, Lower Level
Box 746
Yorkton, SK S3N 2W8
Phone: (306) 782-2788
Email: park.ccask@sk.cancer.ca



Canadian Cancer Society

Brayden Ottenbreit Close Cuts For Cancer



Participant's Name		Mailing address		City/Town		Prov.	
Postal Code	E-mail	Tel(day)		Tel(evening)		Page _____ of _____	

Your Supporters' Information
 Please print clearly. No receipts can be issued without the complete name and address.
 Please make cheques payable to the Canadian Cancer Society. Receipts will automatically be issued for donations of \$20 or more.

<input type="checkbox"/> Please e-mail my tax receipt. My e-mail address is:	Name	Mailing address	City/Town	Postal Code	Donation \$	Exp date
	Tel(day)	Tel(Evening)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	Card #	/ /	Mo Yr

<input type="checkbox"/> Please e-mail my tax receipt. My e-mail address is:	Name	Mailing address	City/Town	Postal Code	Donation \$	Exp date
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<input type="checkbox"/> Please e-mail my tax receipt. My e-mail address is:	Name	Mailing address	City/Town	Postal Code	Donation \$	Exp date
	Tel(day)	Tel(Evening)	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard	Card #	/ /	Mo Yr

Your privacy is important to us. We collect and use your personal information for the purpose of providing a tax receipt and to communicate with you about other Canadian Cancer Society events, services and periodic consumer surveys. If you have any questions or concerns about our privacy policy or you wish to be removed from future mailings, please call 1 877 977-HOPE, e-mail ccsk@sk.cancer.ca or visit our website at www.cancer.ca

Rev. 08/10 Our charitable registration number is 11882 9803 RR0004.

TOTAL THIS SHEET

Cash	\$ _____
+ Cheques	\$ _____
+ Cr/Cards	\$ _____
= Total	\$ _____

Meet The PHI's From The Kelsey Trail Health Region



Doug Terry
Director of Environmental & Public
Health Services

I followed my father's footsteps in becoming a public health inspector. I received my professional education from the British Columbia Institute of Technology before returning to Saskatchewan to commence work with the Melfort-Tisdale Health Region in 1973. I was promoted from a PHI 1 to PHI 2 in 1981 and, in 1995, became the Senior Inspector for the North Central Health Region. In March 2002, I was promoted to Coordinator of Environmental Health Services and became Director of Environmental Health for the Kelsey Trail Health Region in November 2002.

An active CIPHI member throughout my career, I have served as both Saskatchewan Branch President and a councilor. I also served on the National Executive when the decision was made for CIPHI to take over certification of Public Health Inspectors from the Canadian Public Health Association. I have been actively involved in furthering the profession of Public Health Inspectors over the years, playing an instrumental role in setting up the original Environmental Health Enforcement Training course with the RCMP Training Academy, providing input into a significant portion of the province's current public health legislation, and establishing the first regional Solicitor's position endorsed by the provincial Department of Justice to prosecute under the Health Act.

My community involvement has included being a founding member of the Melfort St. John Ambulance Brigade and serving eight years as the Melfort Presiding Justice of the Peace. I'm presently serving my fifth term on Melfort City Council and as of October 2011 have been the Mayor.



Ryan Philipation
Supervisor

Being a plumber's son, I observed many inspectors coming to my father's worksites. I soon realized that I would be better suited holding a clipboard rather than a shovel. My interest in becoming a PHI began. I Graduated from BCIT in 1998 and started working in Melfort that summer (where I have resided ever since).

I have been a member of CIPHI since 1998. In 2001 I became a Councillor with the SK Branch and have remained on the Executive since. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities to grow professionally that CIPHI has provided. The Annual Professional Education and Development Seminar hosted by our Branch continues to be a highlight for me.

I enjoy my spare time playing hockey, baseball, skidoing and camping, however my favourite time is spent watching my two kids play and grow.

**Bill Tyckon**

I grew up on a farm in north western Ontario (Fort Francis) where a friend's father was a PHI. I worked one summer at the health unit as a student and thought that it was a pretty cool job. Eventually I went to school at Ryerson and was certified in September 1981. I accepted a job in Melfort in November 1981 and have been here for the past 30 years.

My wife, Lorraine, and I have three children—two daughters and one grandson in Prince Albert, SK and one son, Paul (a PHI in the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region).

I enjoy family get-togethers, gardening, cooking, riding my Harley motorcycle and travelling, especially to the Caribbean in the winter.

**Michael Hayduk**

I grew up on a farm just south of Prince Albert, SK. After obtaining my degree in Applied Microbiology from the University of Saskatchewan in 1993, I worked for a couple of years in Regina. I wanted to go back to school to further my education and wanted to take course which I could use my microbiology degree towards. A work colleague at the time suggested I look into becoming a public health inspector.

In the fall of 1995 I entered the Environmental Health program at BCIT and became certified in February 1998. During my schooling, I had summer practicums in Prince Albert, SK and the Boundary Health Unit in Surrey, BC. After a six month temporary position in Prince Albert in the winter of 1997 I accepted a position in Nipawin and have been here for the past 14 years. I've been the branch newsletter editor for the past three years and enjoy working with the executive to ensure members are kept up to date with what is occurring within the branch.

I have a son, Riley, and a daughter, Alysha, who keep me very active on evenings and weekends chauffeuring them to all of their activities. During the summer I enjoy golfing and fishing, and during the winter I enjoy watching hockey and organizing the annual Sask Branch hockey pools.

**Chelsey Bednarz**

Home for me is a mixed farm north of Melfort. After high school graduation in 2005, with encouragement from Darcy Garchinski, a relative and Director of Environmental Health in Alberta, I headed south to The First Nations University of Canada. I completed my practicum with the Kelsey Trail Health Region during the summer of 2008, and finished university in 2009. I was hired by KTHR in June of 2009 as a student inspector until I successfully completed the BOC in the fall.

I have grown to love Nipawin and area over the past three years. I cover the eastern part of the region and have had the opportunity to work with all types of people and facilities not to mention have seen some of the most beautiful scenery.

Aside from work I enjoy spending time at the family farm, camping, fishing, hunting, singing and playing guitar and spending time with friends. I have taken up golf since moving to Nipawin and have been awarded the longest drive and most honest golfer award in the same tournament. I am looking forward to summer on the Saskatchewan River catching walleye and working on my golf swing.

Hope this Newsletter finds everyone well!

PHI Grapevine

Jason Wang, formerly of Markham, ON, has joined the staff of the Sunrise Health Region. Jason is a recent grad from Ryerson University. He worked as a PHI in Peel Health Region before accepting the position with Sunrise.

Welcome, Jason!

Congratulations to Justin Lemieux, Nicole White and Karli Gammack who were recently certified in October 2011.

Thanks to SK Branch Members Kim Krett and Kari Engele-Carter for volunteering to participate on a National module review on Risk Based Food Inspection Online Learning Project being lead by the NCCEH.

In February, Michael McCann did a presentation to faculty and students at FNUC on behalf of the Board of Certification. The presentation was well received by all in attendance. This year's exams are Tuesday April 17th in Regina.



Below is a story of Typhoid Mary found on the website www.About.com. The website has articles based on events which occurred in the 20th century. The author of the Typhoid Mary article is Jen Rosenberg. She is a historian who has had a lifelong passion for history. She has been a fact-checker for several books and a writer for both online and offline publications.

Typhoid Mary

The Sad Story of a Woman Responsible for Several Typhoid Outbreaks

Mary Mallon, now known as Typhoid Mary, seemed a healthy woman when a health inspector knocked on her door in 1907, yet she was the cause of several typhoid outbreaks. Since Mary was the first "healthy carrier" of typhoid fever in the United States, she did not understand how someone not sick could spread disease -- so she tried to fight back.

After a trial and then a short run from health officials, Typhoid Mary was recaptured and forced to live in relative seclusion upon North Brother Island off New York. Who was Mary Mallon and how did she spread typhoid fever?

An Investigation

For the summer of 1906, New York banker Charles Henry Warren wanted to take his family on vacation. They rented a summer home from George Thompson and his wife in Oyster Bay, Long Island. Also for the summer, the Warrens hired Mary Mallon to be their cook.

On August 27, one of the Warren's daughters became ill with typhoid fever. Soon, Mrs. Warren and two maids became ill; followed by the gardener and another Warren daughter. In total, six of the eleven people in the house came down with typhoid.

Since the common way typhoid spread was through water or food sources, the owners of the home feared they would not be able to rent the property again without first discovering the source of the outbreak. The Thompsons first hired investigators to find the cause, but they were unsuccessful.

Then the Thompsons hired George Soper, a civil engineer with experience in typhoid fever outbreaks. It was Soper who believed the recently hired cook, Mary Mallon, was the cause. Mallon had left the Warren's approximately three weeks after the outbreak. Soper began to research her employment history for more clues.

Mary Mallon was born on September 23, 1869 in Cookstown, Ireland. According to what she told friends, Mallon emigrated to America around the age of 15. Like most Irish immigrant women, Mallon found a job as a domestic servant. Finding she had a talent for cooking, Mallon became a cook, which paid better wages than many other domestic service positions.

Soper was able to trace Mallon's employment history back to 1900. He found that typhoid outbreaks had followed Mallon from job to job. From 1900 to 1907, Soper found that Mallon had worked at seven jobs in which 22 people had become ill, including one young girl who died, with typhoid fever shortly after Mallon had come to work for them.¹

Soper was satisfied that this was much more than a coincidence; yet, he needed stool and blood samples from Mallon to scientifically prove she was the carrier.

Capture and Isolation of Typhoid Mary

In March 1907, Soper found Mallon working as a cook in the home of Walter Bowen and his family. To get samples from Mallon, he approached her at her place of work. Having a strange man come up to you, to accuse you (who seems completely healthy) of spreading disease and of killing people and then be asked for some of your blood and excrement, well, it does seem it would make just about anybody skeptical.

I had my first talk with Mary in the kitchen of this house. . . . I was as diplomatic as possible, but I had to say I suspected her of making people sick and that I wanted specimens of her urine, feces and blood. It did not take Mary long to react to this suggestion. She seized a carving fork and advanced in my direction. I passed rapidly down the long narrow hall, through the tall iron gate, . . . and so to the sidewalk. I felt rather lucky to escape.²

This violent reaction from Mallon did not stop Soper. Soper tracked Mallon to her home. He tried to approach her again, but this time, he brought an assistant (Dr. Bert Raymond Hoobler) for support. Again, Mallon became enraged, made clear they were unwelcome and shouted expletives at them as they made a hurried departure.

Realizing it was going to take more persuasiveness than he was able to offer, Soper handed his research and hypothesis over to Hermann Biggs at the New York City Health Department. Biggs agreed with Soper's hypothesis. Biggs sent Dr. S. Josephine Baker to talk to Mallon.

Mallon, now extremely suspicious of these health officials, refused to listen to Baker, Baker returned with the aid of five police officers and an ambulance. Mallon was prepared this time. Baker describes the scene:

Mary was on the lookout and peered out, a long kitchen fork in her hand like a rapier. As she lunged at me with the fork, I stepped back, recoiled on the policeman and so confused matters that, by the time we got through the door, Mary had disappeared. 'Disappear' is too matter-of-fact a word; she had completely vanished.³

Baker and the police searched the house. Eventually, footprints were spotted leading from the house to a chair placed next to a fence. Over the fence was a neighbor's property.

They spent five hours searching both properties, until, finally, they found "a tiny scrap of blue calico caught in the door of the areaway closet under the high outside stairway leading to the front door."⁴

Baker describes the emergence of Mallon from the closet:

She came out fighting and swearing, both of which she could do with appalling efficiency and vigor. I made another effort to talk to her sensibly and asked her again to let me have the specimens, but it was of no use. By that time she was convinced that the law was wantonly persecuting her, when she had done nothing wrong. She knew she had never had typhoid fever; she was maniacal in her integrity. There was nothing I could do but take her with us. The policemen lifted her into the ambulance and I literally sat on her all the way to the hospital; it was like being in a cage with an angry lion.⁵

Mallon was taken to the Willard Parker Hospital in New York. There, samples were taken and examined; typhoid bacilli was found in her stool. The health department then transferred Mallon to an isolated cottage (part of the Riverside Hospital) on North Brother Island (in the East River near the Bronx).

Can the Government Do This?

Mary Mallon was taken by force and against her will and was held without a trial. She had not broken any laws. So how could the government lock her up in isolation indefinitely?

That's not easy to answer. The health officials were basing their power on sections 1169 and 1170 of the Greater New York Charter:

The board of health shall use all reasonable means for ascertaining the existence and cause of disease or peril to life or health, and for averting the same, throughout the city. [Section 1169]

Said board may remove or cause to be removed to [a] proper place to be by it designated, any person sick with any contagious, pestilential or infectious disease; shall have exclusive charge and control of the hospitals for the treatment of such cases. [Section 1170]⁶

Freedom for Typhoid Mary

Mary Mallon believed she was being unfairly persecuted. Wasn't she healthy? She could not understand how she could have spread disease and caused a death when she, herself, seemed healthy.

I never had typhoid in my life, and have always been healthy. Why should I be banished like a leper and

compelled to live in solitary confinement with only a dog for a companion?⁷

In 1909, after having been isolated for two years on North Brother Island, Mallon sued the health department. During Mallon's confinement, health officials had taken and analyzed stool samples from Mallon approximately once a week. The samples came back intermittently positive with typhoid, but mostly positive (120 of 163 samples tested positive).⁸ For nearly a year preceding the trial, Mallon also sent samples of her stool to a private lab where all her samples tested negative for typhoid. Feeling healthy and with her own lab results, Mallon believed she was being unfairly held.

This contention that I am a perpetual menace in the spread of typhoid germs is not true. My own doctors say I have no typhoid germs. I am an innocent human being. I have committed no crime and I am treated like an out-cast -- a criminal. It is unjust, outrageous, uncivilized. It seems incredible that in a Christian community a defenseless woman can be treated in this manner.⁹

Mallon did not understand a lot about typhoid fever and, unfortunately, no one tried to explain it to her. Not all people have a strong bout of typhoid fever; some people can have such a weak case that they only experience flu-like symptoms. Thus, Mallon could have had typhoid fever but never known it. Though commonly known at the time that typhoid could be spread by water or food products, people who are infected by the typhoid bacillus could also pass the disease from their infected stool onto food via unwashed hands. For this reason, infected persons who were cooks (like Mallon) or food handlers had the most likelihood of spreading the disease.

The judge ruled in favor of the health officials and Mallon, now popularly known as "Typhoid Mary," "was remanded to the custody of the Board of Health of the City of New York."¹⁰ Mallon went back to the isolated cottage on North Brother Island with little hope of being released.

In February of 1910, a new health commissioner decided that Mallon could go free as long as she agreed never to work as a cook again. Anxious to regain her freedom, Mallon accepted the conditions. On February 19, 1910, Mary Mallon agreed that she "is prepared to change her occupation (that of cook), and will give assurance by affidavit that she will upon her release take such hygienic precautions as will protect those with whom she comes in contact, from infection."¹¹ She was let free.

Recapture of Typhoid Mary

Some people believe that Mallon never had any intention of following the health officials' rules; thus they believe Mallon had a malicious intent with her cooking. But not working as a cook pushed Mallon into service in other domestic positions which did not pay as well. Feeling healthy, Mallon still did not really believe that she could spread typhoid. Though in the beginning Mallon tried to be a laundress as well as worked at other jobs, for a reason that has not been left in any documents, Mallon eventually went back to working as a cook.

In January of 1915 (nearly five years after Mallon's release), the Sloane Maternity Hospital in Manhattan suffered a typhoid fever outbreak. Twenty-five people became ill and two of them died.

Soon, evidence pointed to a recently-hired cook, Mrs. Brown. Mrs. Brown was really Mary Mallon, using a pseudonym.

If the public had shown Mary Mallon some sympathy during her first period of confinement because she was an unwitting typhoid carrier, all of the sympathy disappeared after her recapture. This time, Typhoid Mary knew of her healthy carrier status - even if she didn't believe it; thus she willingly and knowingly caused pain and death to her victims. Using a pseudonym made even more people feel that Mallon knew she was guilty.

Mallon was again sent to North Brother Island to live in the same isolated cottage that she had inhabited during her last confinement. For twenty-three more years, Mary Mallon remained imprisoned on the island.

The exact life she led on the island is unclear, but it is known that she helped around the hospital, gaining the title "nurse" in 1922 and then "hospital helper" sometime later. In 1925, Mallon began to help in the hospital's lab.

In December 1932, Mary Mallon suffered a large stroke that left her paralyzed. She was then transferred from her cottage to a bed in the children's ward of the hospital on the island, where she stayed until her death six years later, on November 11, 1938.

Typhoid Mary Lives On

Since Mary Mallon's death, the name "Typhoid Mary" has grown into a term disassociated from the person. Anyone who has a contagious illness can be termed, sometimes jokingly, a "Typhoid Mary." If someone changes their jobs frequently, they are sometimes referred to as a "Typhoid Mary." (Mary Mallon changed jobs frequently. Some people believed it to be because she knew she was guilty, but most probably it was because domestic jobs during the time were not long lasting service jobs.)

But why does everyone know about Typhoid Mary? Though Mallon was the first carrier found, she was not the only healthy carrier of typhoid during that time. An estimated 3,000 to 4,500 new cases of typhoid fever were reported in New York City alone and it was estimated that about three percent of those who had typhoid fever become carriers, creating 90-135 new carriers a year.

Mallon was also not the most deadly. Forty-seven illnesses and three deaths were attributed to Mallon while Tony Labella (another healthy carrier) caused 122 people to become ill and five deaths. Labella was isolated for two weeks and then released.

Mallon was not the only healthy carrier who broke the health officials' rules after being told of their contagious status. Alphonse Cotils, a restaurant and bakery owner, was told not to prepare food for other people. When health officials found him back at work, they agreed to let him go free when he promised to conduct his business over the phone.

So why is Mary Mallon so infamously remembered as "Typhoid Mary"? Why was she the only healthy carrier isolated for life? These questions are hard to answer. Judith Leavitt, author of *Typhoid Mary*, believes that her personal identity contributed to the extreme treatment she received from health officials. Leavitt claims that there was prejudice against Mallon not only for being Irish and a woman, but also for being a domestic servant, not having a family, not being considered a "bread earner," having a temper, and not believing in her carrier status.¹²

During her life, Mary Mallon experienced extreme punishment for something in which she had no control and, for whatever reason, has gone down in history as the evasive and malicious "Typhoid Mary."

Notes

1. Judith Walzer Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public's Health* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996) 16-17.
2. George Soper as quoted in Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 43.
3. Dr. S. Josephine Baker as quoted in Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 46.
4. Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 46.
5. Dr. S. Josephine Baker as quoted in Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 46.
6. Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 71.
7. Mary Mallon as quoted in Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 180.
8. Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 32.
9. Mary Mallon as quoted in Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 180.
10. Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 34.
11. Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 188.
12. Leavitt, *Typhoid Mary* 96-125.

Bibliography

Leavitt, Judith Walzer. *Typhoid Mary: Captive to the Public's Health*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.



An illustration of Typhoid Mary that appeared in 1909 in *The New York American*.

Sask PHI's 2011-12 NHL Regular Season Hockey Pool

Congratulations to Kari Engele-Carter for winning the annual Saskatchewan PHI NHL regular season hockey pool. With a very strong team, Kari had a large lead over second place for most of the season. Rob Stadnyk finished a respectable second while Andrew Carolus won the battle for third place over Ken Startup. The payout was for the top three teams.

With the conclusion of the NHL regular season, branch members are reviewing the stats and peering into their crystal balls while selecting their annual Saskatchewan PHI NHL Playoff Hockey Pool teams. Entries need to be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on April 13th. Contact any of your executive members for the entry forms. Good luck to all participants.

Rank	Name	Points	Points Behind Leader
1	Kari Engele-Carter Team 3	1920	0
2	Rob Stadnyk Team 1	1823	97
3	Andrew Carolus Team 3	1808	112
4	Ken Startup Team 3	1788	132
5	Andrew Carolus Team 2	1757	163
6	Ryan Philipation	1735	185
7	Andrew Carolus Team 1	1730	190
7	Mike McCann Team 1	1730	190
9	Michael Hayduk Team 3	1719	201
10	Mike McCann Team 2	1686	234
11	Ken Startup Team 1	1679	241
12	Kari Engele-Carter Team 1	1676	244
13	Michael Hayduk Team 2	1669	251
14	Paul Ross	1659	261
15	Rob Stadnyk Team 3	1642	278
16	Kevin Kapell Team 2	1637	283
17	Ken Startup Team 2	1622	298
18	Mike McCann Team 3	1611	309
19	Michael Hayduk Team 1	1598	322
20	Kari Engele-Carter Team 2	1593	327
21	Rob Stadnyk Team 2	1579	341
22	Kevin Kapell Team 1	1562	358
23	Kevin Kapell Team 3	1532	388

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