

# ONTARIO BRANCH NEWS



WINTER 2008

## “Mr. Public Health” Retires

By Francine Paquette

On December 31, 2007, an era came to an end. After 35 years as a Public Health Inspector, Klaus Seeger turned off his blackberry and called it a day. His many years of dedication to the field of Public Health is reflected in his long and impressive list of achievements.

As a student, Klaus’ future success was foreshadowed by his two years as President of the Ryerson Public Health Inspection Student Council. After graduating and certifying with CIPHI in 1973 Klaus began working with the Huron County Health Unit, and has been an active member of CIPHI ever since. In the years that followed, he continued to expand his focus in the field of public health inspection.

Klaus was appointed the first editor and publishing coordinator of the Ontario Branch News in September 1979 and continued as editor until 1989. During this time he was also a Councillor for the Ontario Branch Executive, and served as President of CIPHI (Ontario Branch) from 1989-1991. If that wasn’t enough, he also held the position of vice-president of CIPHI’s National Executive Council at the same time.

Most remarkably, in 1985 Klaus and his family had the opportunity to spend a year in New Zealand while Klaus participated in the first work exchange between public health inspectors in Canada and New Zealand. He assumed the duties of Chief Environmental Health Officer for a town of 18,000 people, supervised a staff of 18 and introduced the first Food Safety certificate program in that region.

In his continued efforts for the betterment of the field, Klaus has acted as an examiner for CIPHI’s Board of Certification for more than 10 years. He is also a long-time member and Chair of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada, as well as serving on the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Education Committee for the Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education.



*Klaus Seeger*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Letters to the Editor	4
Environmental Health Week By John Cannan	5
Temperature Data-Loggers By Dean Rudd	6
Who We Are By Sandy Stevens	8
The Past President Asks... By Mike Duncan	10

(continued on page 6)

**Editor****Communications—Sandy Stevens**

Brant County Health Unit  
 e-mail: [communications@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:communications@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (519) 753-4937 ext. 252 Fax: (519) 753-2140

Published quarterly by the Canadian Institute of  
 Public Health Inspectors—Ontario Branch Inc.  
 Subscriptions for non-members available for \$12.00  
 per year.

Mailing Address: Attention: Sandy Stevens  
 Brant County Health Unit  
 194 Terrace Hill Street  
 Brantford, ON N3R 1G7

**Submissions Criteria:**

- All topics must be relevant to the Public Health Inspection Field
- Articles must be submitted either on computer disk or by e-mail in MS Word (hand-written articles will not be accepted).
- Articles submitted should be approximately 150 words (feature articles a maximum of 500 words).
- Feature articles will be determined by the OBN editorial team.
- Graphics or pictures included with the submission must be a resolution of 150—300 dpi.

**Ontario Branch Executive—Councillors 2007-2008****President—Adam Grant**

Ministry of the Environment  
 e-mail: [president@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:president@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (519) 873-5090 Fax: (519) 873-5096

**Past President—Mike Duncan**

North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit  
 e-mail: [pastpresident@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:pastpresident@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (705) 382-2018 ext. 4204 Fax: (705) 382-2931

**President Elect—Peter Heywood**

Region of Waterloo Public Health  
 e-mail: [pres-elect@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:pres-elect@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (519) 883-2008 ext. 3484 Fax: (519) 622-1235

**Communicable Disease—Lucie Imbiscuso**

Wellington-Dufferin Guelph Health Unit  
 e-mail: [communicable@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:communicable@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (519) 821-2370 ext. 2229 Fax: (519) 836-7215

**Food Safety—Ken Diplock**

Region of Waterloo Public Health  
 e-mail: [foodsafety@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:foodsafety@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (519) 883-2008 ext. 5435 Fax: (519) 883-2226

**Healthy Environments—Sandi Amorim-Daly**

Brant County Health Unit  
 e-mail: [healthyenviro@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:healthyenviro@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (519) 753-4937 ext. 305 Fax: (519) 753-2140

**Health Promotion & Professional Devel.—John Cannan**

Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit  
 e-mail: [healthpromo@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:healthpromo@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (613) 966-5500 ext. 209 Fax: (613) 968-1481

**Membership Services—Dennis Persaud**

Region of Peel Health  
 e-mail: [membership@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:membership@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (905) 791-7800 ext. 7527 Fax: (905) 501-0305

**Partnership & Liaison—Cameron Weighill**

Simcoe-Muskoka District Health Unit  
 e-mail: [partnership@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:partnership@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Tel: (705) 684-9090 ext. 7713 Fax: (705) 721-1495

**Secretary Treasurer—Elaine Reddick**

Oxford County Health Unit  
 e-mail: [treasurer@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:treasurer@ciphi.on.ca)  
 Phone: (519) 539-9800 ext. 3405 Fax: (519) 539-6206

## *Message from the Editor*



Welcome to the Winter edition of the Ontario Branch News. At the CIPHI Conference in September 2007 elections were held and a few new names were added to the list of Ontario Branch Councillors. I am one of them, having taken on the Communications portfolio which includes the position of Webmaster and also Editor of the OBN (what was I thinking?) Also joining us is **John Cannan**, who is heading up Health Promotion and Professional Development, and **Cameron Weighill** who will be kept very busy with his new responsibilities in Partnership and Liaison, connecting with our numerous stakeholders. And last, but not least, **Elaine Reddick** has bravely taken on the Executive position of Secretary-Treasurer, and is the person who keeps us organized. We all look forward to serving our members and offer a big Thank You to those who took the time to cast a ballot in this year's elections.

Traditionally winter is a slow time of year for most PHI's, which gives us a chance to tell the world (ok, our local communities) about ourselves during our recent Environmental Health Week. We should be sure to make the most of opportunities such as this as we strive to emphasize our status as a profession. John Cannan took the lead on coordinating some activities this year and gives us a brief update on page 5.

Keeping up to date with technology is also an important part of what we do. An introduction to data-loggers is presented on page 6 which I hope you will find informative if these are new to you (as they were to me).

On a personal note, I would like to comment on the retirement of Klaus Seeger. I first met Klaus when he hired me as a student a number of years ago. Working for him that summer I came to know and respect a man who lives and breathes Public Health, and who seemed to know everything off the top of his head. And if the answer wasn't there, it was to be found *somewhere* in his office. Our profession is fortunate that we will still be able to draw on Klaus's expertise as he moves into his new role at an advisory level. Thank you, Klaus, for giving me and many others our start in this exceptional profession. I wish you peace and contentment in your new path.

*Sandy Stevens*  
*Editor*

*abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz*

## Letters to the Editor...

*To submit comments, questions and any other letter to the editor,  
please email [communications@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:communications@ciphi.on.ca)*

*(Editor's Note: After uncovering a box full of old OBN's dating back to the 1970's, it was entertaining to go through some of the back issues and read the concerns of the day. Here is a much-shortened version of a letter to the Editor first printed in the Winter 1983 edition of the OBN. We've come a long way!)*

### **Proposed Egg Regulation Stinks**

A certain matter has been bothering me lately which I feel I must get off my chest. I have been informed that our Food Premises Regulation will soon incorporate a new section, dealing with the grading of eggs.

Most of the rural grocery stores in my area seem to sell a few dozen of these eggs a week. They appear to be clean, un-cracked, odour-free and most decidedly fresher than those in the large supermarkets.

What I would like to have explained to me is the reason for the projected inclusion of egg grading into a public health law. Perhaps someone out there would enlighten me. Please don't mention refrigeration. In reading recent U.S. "hazardous foods" law, the refrigeration of clean, uncracked, odour-free eggs is not considered necessary. No, I believe that egg grading is purely a marketing procedure for financial reasons and protection of egg producers.

A colleague rubbed his hands in glee that soon we would be able to "fix" those recalcitrant grocers by giving them "tickets" until they smartened up. I did not enter public health to become a ticket wielding law enforcement officer. Now we shall soon have the power to dish out tickets willy-nilly to those who may appear tardy in our eyes to doing what we say. If one of them pleads "guilty with an explanation" I sincerely hope the judge or the store owner's lawyer asks me the public health reason behind issuing the ticket for un-graded eggs. I shall truthfully be able to say "Your Honour – I haven't a clue".

*(Author's name withheld to protect the innocent!)*

## Environmental Health Week Activities

By John Cannan

CIPHI, Ontario Branch Councillor

Health Promotion and Professional Development

For PHI's the big event recently was Environmental Health Week, (January 15-21, 2007). This year's theme was "The Changing Face of Environmental Health". Promoting our profession allows us to educate the public about the duties and issues Public Health Inspectors routinely handle as part of our job.

A package of posters, along with a survey requesting details of activities held during EHW, was mailed out to all Health Units just before Christmas. Unfortunately there was a delay in the mailing of the posters due to the printing of the posters. One package was returned due to an incorrect address. To date no surveys have been returned (please return them ASAP as they will be of help for planning next year's activities). All the members of the Health Promotion and Professional Development committee will be contacted in the near future to discuss the coming year's events and timetable. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future activities, please let me know as they would be very welcome. Suggestions can be sent to [healthpromo@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:healthpromo@ciphi.on.ca).

**ciphi** CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

**Proudly Announces:**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**  
 January 15 - 21, 2007

Environmental Public Health Week recognizes the hard work of all Environmental Public Health Professionals across Canada and the importance of environmental public health programs in our healthcare system.

We are dedicated professionals who are committed to promoting and protecting public health and continually meeting the new challenges from our environment that can affect human health.

**Environmental Public Health Professionals provide services in:**

- Food Safety • Drinking Water Quality
- Rental Housing Conditions • Recreational Water Quality
- Personal Services Facilities • Childcare & Institutional Facilities
- Air Quality • Tobacco Reduction
- Outbreak Management • Injury Prevention
- Onsite Sewage Disposal Assessments • Landuse Management
- Infection Control & Communicable Disease Consultation

*"Protecting the Health of Canadians"*

To learn more about our profession, our organization and career opportunities in the field, contact your local health office and visit us on the web at [www.ciphi.ca](http://www.ciphi.ca)



Retirement (*continued from front page*)

Amongst these many commitments, Klaus attained an Honours degree in Environmental Health from Ryerson in 1993.

After 28 years with the Huron County Health Unit, Klaus joined the Public Health inspection team at the County of Oxford Public Health Division in 2000.

Klaus Seeger's many contributions to the field of Public Health were recognized in 1999 when he was awarded the Alex Cross Award from CIPHI in 1999, and again in 2005 when he received its Life Membership Award.

The degree of Klaus Seeger's dedication and contribution to the field of public health inspection is best seen by the example he set throughout his career. As a person dedicated to family, home and principle, with a never-ending commitment to Public Health, his can only be described as an enduring success story...and one whose ending has yet to be written.

## Temperature Data-Loggers:

### A Useful New Tool

*By Dean Rudd, Cameron Instruments*

In a recent presentation to a group of Health Inspectors we discussed the concept of "a movie is worth a thousand pictures". This is not the statement we are used to hearing. Normally it is "a picture is worth a thousand words". The latter statement comes from the idea that in a picture you may capture and deliver a substantial amount of information - but it is still just a snapshot in time. When we are investigating a situation a single snapshot may be useful, but even more useful is a "movie" showing the whole picture over time.

This is where data-loggers come in. These are small devices that can be placed in a refrigerator (for ex-

ample) that records the temperature of that unit *over time*. When investigating temperatures in a food premise it would be great if we could get more information than just a single spot check that is obtained by reading a thermometer at that moment. This is the "picture", but it can be misleading. If the reading is warm, do we know if it is a temporary situation, or an ongoing one? Data-loggers allow us to answer this question by recording the temperature of that unit over a pre-determined period - giving us a "movie" of the temperature fluctuations of that refrigerator over a day or more.

These instruments allow us to collect information where we want, when we want and how frequently we want. From discussions with several inspectors the norm has been to take individual temperature measurements during an inspection and then rely on the operator to monitor temperatures if more information is required. This method can create problems for both parties. It takes control out of the inspector's hands, and it relies on the operator to follow through on the record keeping. There is a great possibility that information will not be gathered correctly, if at all. Instead, a data-logger could be placed in the refrigerator overnight and collected by the inspector the next day. It merely stores the temperature of the unit at pre-defined intervals (minutes to hours) and there are no external settings that can be tampered with. Once retrieved, it is connected to a computer where a simple software program will chart the temperature fluctuations recorded over time.

Here are some suggestions on features to look for in data-loggers. The software should be easy to use and portable from one computer to the next. The unit should not have a "Stop" button, which ensures the unit cannot be turned off inadvertently. Always ask if the unit comes with a Certificate of Calibration as most basic loggers do not (there is usually an extra cost involved). Some units are available with internal or external sensors, and single or multiple parameters (temperature, humidity, pressure). The technology is available to provide you with the most in-depth "movie" your investigations require.



*Examples of data-loggers available, with and without probes.*



## Who We Are

By Sandy Stevens

Yesterday, I could have destroyed a man's dream. He called me, this dreamer, looking for the stamp of approval of his local Public Health Inspector for the new restaurant he has been lovingly – and expensively – renovating. Months ago I first noticed the shiny new sign over the old store-front, and the windows covered in paper, blocking the view of the construction going on inside. "Opening Soon!" the sign proudly proclaimed. Soon is relative, I thought, as I drove by month after month with no outward sign of progress, or contact from the owner.

Finally, he called me. We chatted a bit, and I asked him when he planned to open for business. "Next week" was the excited reply. Well then, I better stop in soon and see what you have in the way of equipment, and if it meets our requirements. How is this afternoon for you?

The moment I set foot in the renovated 100 year old shop, I could tell a considerable amount of planning and money had gone into this restaurant. The renovations were well done, the equipment was brand new, and the menu, concept and advertising were appealing and suitable for the area. It looked like a winner. But – something was missing. A big something. Not an easy or inexpensive thing to fix – but also one that did not have a negative impact on the safety of his operation or the food he would be producing. I double-checked my Food Premises Regulation, and there it was in black and white. "Thou shalt have..." (the "what" doesn't really matter here). Wow, I thought. If I stand firm on this requirement, I may not be able to approve him for opening. And he was also quite candid that the money tree had shed its last dollars. There was no money for a last-minute major renovation after all the work that had been done.

I struggled over this dilemma, and finally came up with a work-around solution. One that would make him technically compliant with the Regulation, but not with the spirit of it, and not be impossible for him to achieve. I told him to continue planning for

his opening – I would not let this issue stand in his way.

Later, I returned to the office and discussed the situation with a colleague. "Oh", he says, "I have a memo about that from the Ministry from years ago. That requirement doesn't apply to certain types of premises. Your guy is okay without it." Relief washed over me. I had been uncomfortable with the idea of bending the rules, but was even more uncomfortable with the idea of an inflexible bureaucrat (me) standing unnecessarily in the way of a chance for someone to succeed. It felt good to know that others had faced a similar situation, and a solution had been found similar to mine.

This situation made me realize the power we have over the lives of others. We may know of loopholes and technical issues that can weaken our legislative powers, but to the general public, we are the voice of Authority. Our decisions can support or shatter dreams and livelihoods with the stroke of a pen. We have a responsibility to our operators – our *clients* – to ensure we have as much information as possible, combined with the experience and knowledge to weigh it appropriately, when making those decisions. Not only do our decisions impact on public health – which of course should be our prime consideration – but they also directly affect the lives of the operators. It would benefit us all to empathize with their situation whenever possible in our decision making process.

This incident also brought home to me the value of institutional memory. The Ministry memo my colleague referred to had been written before I entered the field of Public Health. There is no centralized storehouse for such missives, and it is only through discussions with other PHI's that we sometimes learn of solutions that may be available for our dilemmas.





*CIPHI members hard at work sorting through boxes of records.*

Recently the Ontario Branch Executive and Councilors had the pleasure of working our way through approximately 50 boxes of documents gathered by our branch over the course of its existence. I say it was a pleasure – even though it was a lot of work – because it brought to light the rich history we have as an organization. There were records and membership lists going back over half a century. This is *our* institutional memory, recording our issues, concerns, successes and challenges throughout our history in this province. As a new councilor it was a revelation to me that there really was this much

history of what he have done, and much of it had been carefully preserved by the keepers of old.

Someone once said that you “can’t know where you are going until you know where you have been”. Not only do we need to know where he have been, but we need to keep that knowledge alive so we can draw from it as our profession evolves. It isn’t just Public Health that we hold in our hands, but people’s dreams, too.

---

# The Past President Asks...

In 2004 the Government of Ontario announced a three year action plan (*Operation Health Protection*) to enhance the public health system. As part of the action plan a Capacity Review Committee (CRC) was established to assess the current capacity of Ontario's local public health units and their ability to meet future public health challenges in Ontario. The Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (Ontario Branch) Inc., along with numerous other Ontario public health stakeholder agencies, provided input into the capacity review process. One category of issues under consideration by the CRC related to public health research and knowledge exchange. This issue relates to the various ways the public health system collects, processes and interprets information to inform decision making regarding program delivery.

From an environmental health perspective I realize that one way we inform our colleagues and the public health system regarding best practice is by sharing information through the publishing of reports, technical papers, etc. It is my impression that the publishing of work by the Environmental Health field occurs but perhaps is not achieving its full potential.

## Question

If we recognize that sharing our experiences is necessary to inform best practice, what measures are necessary to support and enhance routine publishing by environmental health practitioners?

*Send your thoughts and suggestions in to the OBN at [communications@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:communications@ciphi.on.ca) and we will print a selection in the next edition of the OBN.*

*Also, if you or your health unit has been involved in an interesting or unusual situation, please write up a short piece describing the events and submit it to the editor to share with our fellow members.*



## Ontario Branch News

*Please Visit  
the Ontario Branch  
website. Find out about  
the latest branch news  
and events. **Job postings  
will now be linked to the  
CIPHI National  
website.** Take advantage  
of resources like the CD  
fact sheets. Post  
information that you  
would like other PHI's  
across Ontario to see.*

[www.ciphi.on.ca](http://www.ciphi.on.ca)

The comments and opinions expressed in the Ontario Branch News are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Editors, Publisher, the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors or any of its officers. We reserve the right to edit material submitted, solicited or unsolicited, for brevity, clarity and grammatical accuracy. Material from this publication may only be reproduced with the permission of the Editors.

# Look for our Next Issue..... Spring 2008

If there is anything that you would like to see in the OBN let us know. Contact the Editor at: [communications@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:communications@ciphi.on.ca)



C/O

Sandy Stevens

Brant County Health Unit

194 Terrace Hill St.

Brantford, ON N3R 1G7

[communications@ciphi.on.ca](mailto:communications@ciphi.on.ca)



## Membership/Renewal Application Form 2008

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. **(Complete sections with a "\*" only, unless information has changed.)**

\* Name: \_\_\_\_\_ \* Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Surname First Middle Month Day Year

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

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code Area Code

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

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

C.P.H.I.(C) Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Issued: \_\_\_\_\_ How many years have you been a member? \_\_\_\_\_

**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 endeavour, to the best of my ability, to guard their interests honestly and wisely. I will be loyal to the government division or industry by which I am retained.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia/PEI	Nfld/Labrador
\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$155.00	\$75.00	\$125.00	\$100.00	\$100.00

\* Payment is made by: Credit Card: .. Visa .. MasterCard .. American Express

Cheque Number on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Money Order Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Employer (cheque attached) Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Payroll Deduction Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Spousal (2 PHI's/home)

-send forms together & deduct \$30 for one person, only one E.H.R. subscription will be received.

## RESOURCES ORDER FORM

<b>Agency:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>City:</b>	<b>Postal Code:</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Courier/Account Number:</b>	

Resource	Price	Quantity	Cost
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE			
Communicable Disease Fact Sheets are available on our website at <a href="http://www.ciphi.on.ca">www.ciphi.on.ca</a>	FREE	Unlimited	\$0.00
Rabies Poster 11 X 17	\$0.75		
INFECTION CONTROL			
HANDWASH SIGN (GENERIC)	\$0.75		
Tattooing and Body Piercing Inspection Guide	\$25.00		
FOOD SAFETY			
SAFE FOOD HANDLING BROCHURE	\$0.75		
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS			
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR BROCHURE	\$1.15		
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DISPLAY	FREE	CALL TO RESERVE	
	TOTAL:	\$	

**Please send orders to:   Region of Waterloo Public Health**  
 c/o Peter Heywood 150 Main Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Cambridge, Ontario, N1R 6P9  
 pres-elect@ciphi.on.ca   Phone: (519) 883-2008 Extension 3484 Fax: (519) 622-1235

<b>Agency:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>City:</b>	<b>Postal Code:</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Courier/Account Number:</b>	