

Ontario Branch News

Marg Whelan: The First Female Sanitary Inspector in Ontario

By: Dennis Persaud, PHI
Peel Public Health



Margaret Whelan 1919– 2009

(Photo is from Marg's SI application, 1950)

Margaret was the fourth Etobicoke Township SI, the others of course, being men. The men were busy investigating septic tank complaints and building sites in new subdivisions since there were no sanitary sewers. An attractive brunette with an engaging and charming personality, Margaret was a competent and compatible addition to the Etobicoke health department staff. Wally Johnson, the Chief SI opined that 'it showed how progressive Etobicoke was in employing the first qualified woman in Ontario. We were pleased to have her'.

Margaret Isobel Whelan (nee Conn) earned the distinction of being the first qualified female Sanitary Inspector (SI) in Ontario and the tenth in Canada. Also, to the Township of Etobicoke belonged the distinction of being the first Canadian municipality to employ a woman as a SI. Margaret's work with the Etobicoke Department of Health commenced with the inspection of food stores, beauty parlours and restaurants. Who was better than a woman to inspect these establishments at that time?

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Submissions Criteria:

- All topics must be relevant to the Public Health Inspection Field
- Articles must be submitted in MS Word
- Articles submitted should be approximately 150 words (feature articles a maximum of 500 words).
- Feature articles will be determined by the OBN editorial team.

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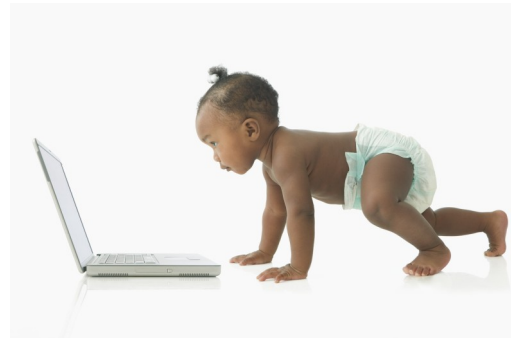
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Message from the Editor

Where has the summer gone? Did it ever arrive? For those of us who spend all winter pining for the heat and sun of the summer months, this season has been a bit of a bummer.... For those who don't like it hot, I'm sure they have been reveling in the cooler, less humid temperatures we've been experiencing.



Aside from waiting for the weather to co-operate, summer has otherwise flown by for myself and the rest of the Executive. I have been occupied with the birth of our new website. The creative thinkers at Mindspin Studio have been working very hard to not only put together a new website for us, but to do the necessary needs assessment that goes along with making it an effective website, not just a pretty one. And judging by the drafts I have seen so far, they are far exceeding expectations! We are all eagerly looking forward to its unveiling at the upcoming Educational Conference in London. The rest of the Executive have been busy with their own projects, preparing for our upcoming AGM and all the while answering 101 questions from me about content for the new site.

Sadly, this summer also marked the passing of Marg Whelan. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting her, after reading the obituary prepared by Dennis Persaud for this issue of the OBN, I wish I had had the opportunity to get to know Marg. It came as a surprise to me to hear that she had been the first female PHI in Ontario. As it seems our profession now has a large number of women involved—possibly the majority in future years—it never occurred to me that at one point it was entirely dominated by men. How good it is to know that we have progressed so far in equality in the workplace that such exclusionary practices are relics of the past. But women PHI's wouldn't be here today if it weren't for the groundbreaking efforts of extraordinary women like Marg Whelan. She will be missed by many.

Sandy Stevens,
Editor
Ontario Branch News

Marg Whelan Obituary

Continued from front page

Margaret originally trained and worked in the Bacteriology Department at Connaught Medical Research Laboratories. She did technical work on antibiotic and immunization research. Thinking nothing of injecting 300 mice a day, Margaret never felt any inclination whatsoever to whine, objecting only when obstinate rodents bit her!



Margaret's Retirement party at Peel Public Health. The picture is a painting she received as a gift from Peel Region.

As a result of her work in the lab Margaret encountered many Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) professionals, which aroused within her a profound interest in pursuing a career as a SI. Completing her studies, cum laude, and obtaining her Certificate in Sanitary Inspection (Canada) [C.S.I. (C)] under the CPHA, she was excited to put her experience and knowledge in bacteriology to practical use in field work.

Margaret, affectionately known as "Marg" was born in Buffalo, New York on August 7, 1919. Her father, Dr Thomas Conn, an intern at a hospital there, died before she was born and her mother brought the baby back to Toronto to continue her profession in nursing.

With this medical background, it was no surprise that Marg joined the staff at Connaught Medical Research Laboratories after completing her schooling at St Basil's in Toronto and Shelbourne High School in Shelbourne, Ontario. One of the small class of technicians the lab trained, she spent ten years in their employ.

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Marg Whelan Obituary

Continued from page 4

Talking about the correct way to ensure the destruction of pathogenic bacteria on dishes in a restaurant, Marg said that 'it took two to three minutes in potable water at a temperature of 170 to 180 degrees F to kill harmful bacteria. A good detergent, not soap, should be used. Dishes should then be rinsed in hot water and immersed in a sanitizing solution. Therefore, it was imperative to monitor the water temperature when dishes were being cleaned in restaurants. If tea towels were used they should be clean and changed frequently'.

On January 8, 1965 Marg remitted five dollars Canadian to the Board of Certification of CPHA to exchange her old certificate, CSI (C) for the new, CPHI(C).

Marg's favourite sports were tennis, swimming, skating and skiing. Fond of ballet, she studied with Bettina Byers for many years. Also, she was fond of music and reading.

Marg was married to Frank Whelan, a pleasant, genial, educated Irishman from Dublin and the Treasurer of the Borough of Etobicoke. After his demise, Marg moved to Peel Public Health in Brampton, ON where she worked as a Public Health Inspector (PHI) for many years until her retirement in the mid 1980's. Suddenly, on July 10, 2009, she died peacefully at her home in Etobicoke in her 90th year leaving behind her only child, Michael.

Acknowledgements

I am extremely grateful to Michael Whelan and his spouse, Patricia, for taking the time to meet with me, graciously loaning me photos and for the provision of copious, career-related information. Also, to Tim Roark, our CIPHI Historian for his indefatigable search of our archives, provision of some historical facts and a photo from 1950. Without input from these individuals, this dossier would not have been possible.

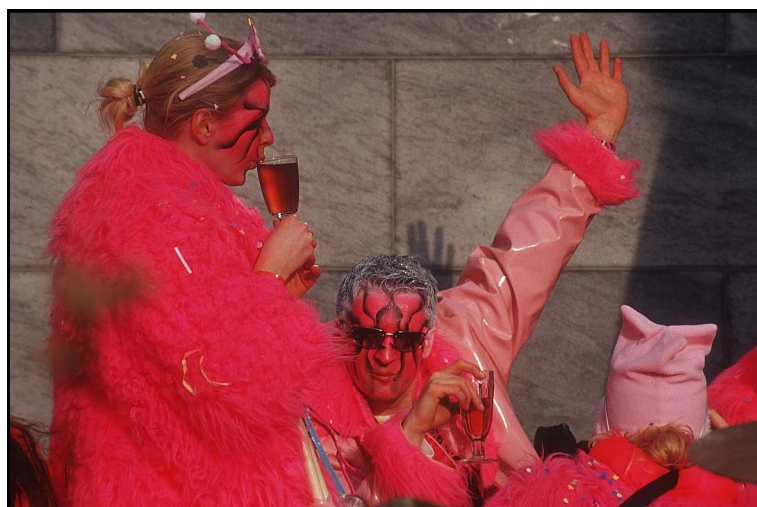
See You in London!

Travelling by plane or automobile, sleeping in a strange bed, sitting through a series of lectures. I can't wait for the 70th Annual CIPHI Educational Conference!

There is nothing like a well-planned educational conference to get my brain juices flowing, broaden my knowledge base and to return with fresh ideas. I get to put a face to the many people whom I have "met" through e-mails and telephone conversations. There is an opportunity to hone my skills, explore a new city, listen to grisly war stories from colleagues who face the predictable challenge of tight deadlines, printing glitches, contingency plans, grammar conundrums, and of course, the requisite coffee addiction. Oh! And how I love to sleep in a bed that I did not have to make.

Crazy? Perhaps, I like to think that I am enthusiastic about what I do and it is with this same spirit that I plan to attend the 70th annual CIPHI (ON. Br) Educational Conference in London, Ontario from October 4 - 7, 2009.

Not planning to attend? Why not? Whether you attend as a delegate, a visitor or an exhibitor, the conference offers the opportunity to experience first hand the inner workings of our professional organization, to listen to erudite speakers providing insight and education on a myriad of environmental and public health issues. Also, it is a chance to hear from the real innovators in the industry.



Active and enthusiastic participation is always welcome!

The theme of this year's conference is **Achieving Excellence Through Change**. This endorses change as an integral part of what we do, aiming at improving our ability to fulfil our goal of promoting and protecting public health. Your presence or the presence of your health unit is proof positive that members are committed to building a strong professional organization that can ultimately rise beyond its challenges.

Educational Conference

Continued from page 6

This year, our conference has as its psychological backdrop the fact that public health officials and infection control experts are hunkering down in preparation for the return, possibly with a vengeance, of the novel influenza A virus (H1N1 virus) this fall. While public health officials are putting out calm messages about the global flu pandemic that most of the illness has been mild, behind the scenes they are preparing for the worst.

Notwithstanding this threat, our Annual CIPHI (Ontario Branch) Educational Conference is one of the few opportunities we have to sit down and be with our whole CIPHI "family". Unfortunately not everyone can attend, but for those who do it is a great opportunity to recharge and reconnect.

Changes and challenges. They are part of the pilgrimage of public health professionals as we move forward in mission. At the very least I trust that you will find out who your delegate is to this year's conference and share your questions and concerns so that she or he may truly represent you and your health unit at the gathering.

I hope to see you there!

Dennis Persaud

Membership Councillor

For more information, or to register for the conference, please go to

www.ciphilondon09.com



Annual Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for Awards to be presented at the Ontario Branch Educational Conference this October.

Please go to the Branch Business page at www.ciphi.on.ca for further details of the awards available and nomination forms.

Any questions can be directed to John Cannan at healthpr@ciphi.on.ca



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (Ontario Branch) Inc. will be held on **Monday, October 5, 2009.**

*FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LONDON
1150 Wellington Road South
London, Ontario
Canada*

The purpose of the meeting is to conduct the annual business of the Branch, including proposed amendments to the By-laws of the Ontario Branch and to elect Officers.

This year nominations for **Secretary-Treasurer and four councillors** will be accepted. Anyone interested in standing for election to the Branch executive should complete a "nomination and consent" form no later than **September 4th, 2009.**

Return the completed form to:

C.I.P.H.I. (ON. Br.) Inc.
Westmount P.O.
Box #22045
50 Westmount Rd. North
Waterloo, On
N2L 6J7

Any proposed changes to the Ontario Branch By-laws must be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer **August 21, 2009.**



ONTARIO BRANCH NOMINATION AND CONSENT FORM

I, _____, being a member in good standing of the **Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (Ontario Branch) Inc.** wish to nominate:

Residing at: _____

For the Office of: _____

For the Term 2009 - 2011.

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

I, _____, being a member in good standing of the **Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (Ontario Branch) Inc.**, hereby **accept the nomination** and will let my name stand for election to the office of:

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

Brief History (e.g. # of years as CIPHI member, work history etc.; use separate page if necessary):

Send completed form to: Elaine Reddick, Secretary-Treasurer, CIPHI (ON Branch) Inc., Westmount P.O, Box #22045, 50 Westmount Rd. North, Waterloo, ON, N2L 6J7



Linking Hygiene to Health

Stanier Institute

Stanier Institute Opinion Paper Project

The Stanier Institute/Institut Stanier with support of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (www.ciphi.ca) invites practicing certified Public Health Inspectors to submit a feature opinion paper – in English or French – comprising ideas and suggestions that address any issue applied to the present day activities of Public Health Inspectors.

Who Can Enter?

The invitation is directed to Certified Public Health Inspectors across Canada who are members in good standing of CIPHI.

Award

The Stanier Institute will provide a \$1000 award (Stanier Prize) for the opinion paper assessed to be the most interesting and original submission.

Details

The submissions should be 1000 to 1500 words in length, typed double-spaced and sent by email as an attached plain text document to stanier@mco.ca or as a hard copy mailed or faxed to the Stanier Institute at the address given below. Opinion papers should be received at the Administration office of the Institute by no later than December 31, 2009.

Stanier Prize Awardees

2008 – No Prize Awarded

2007 – Sharon Regimbald and Keara Shaw (2008) Getting the Message Across: Overcoming Language Barriers in Food Safety Training. *Environmental Health Review* **52**(1): 14-15,22

2006 – Warren Boychuk, (2007) Urgency for Environmental Public Health Intervention in Disasters. *Environmental Health Review* **51**(3): 94-96

2005 – Allan Stirling (2006) Faecal and Nutrient Pollution of Sensitive Lakes and Watershed in Ontario Originating from On-line Residential Sewage Systems: A Model for Environmental Health Evaluation. *Environmental Health Review* **50**(1): 5-9

2004 – Adam Grant (2005) Trust and Credibility: The New Currency of Public Health. *Environmental Health Review* **49**(4): 131-134

2003 – Shawna Bourne (2003) Strengthening the weakest link in food safety *Can J Infect Dis* **14**(4): 190-191

Objectives and Address

The Stanier Institute/Institut Stanier is a scientifically-minded group committed to development of the public health sciences. The aim is to provide ways and means to advance education and research in these disciplines. Those preparing to submit an essay should inform the Institute ASAP at the given address where further information may be obtained. A note will be sent to acknowledge all submissions upon receipt.

Stanier Institute

c/o MCO Business Group Inc.
11 Rosemount Ave., Suite 400
Ottawa, ON K1Y 4R8 Canada

Telephone: (613) 728-2188

Fax: (613) 728-5298

Email: stanier@mco.ca

The Stanier Institute/Institut Stanier reserves the right to alter contest details as conditions warrant.



Membership/Renewal Application Form 2009

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 of CIPHI? _____ *

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: _____

Please check the type of membership you require:

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

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

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

British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba	Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	Nova Scotia/PEI	Nfld/Labrador
\$175.00	\$155.00	\$155.00	\$155.00	\$155.00	\$105.00	\$155.00	\$150.00	\$130.00

* Payment is made by:

Cheque

Money Order

Employer (cheque attached)

Payroll Deduction

Spousal (2 PHIs/home)

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express

Number on Card: ____/____/____/____

Expiry Date: ____/____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

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

Please make cheques payable to C.I.P.H.I. and forward your application by postal service to:

C.I.P.H.I., #720-999 W. Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5Z 1K5 Canada

Fax: 604-738-4080 or Phone: 604-739-8180 (Toll free: 1-888-245-8180)



RESOURCES ORDER FORM

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

Resource	Price	Quantity	Cost
<u>COMMUNICABLE DISEASE</u>			
Communicable Disease Fact Sheets are available on our website at www.ciphi.on.ca	FREE	Unlimited	\$0.00
Rabies Poster 11 X 17	\$0.75		
<u>INFECTION CONTROL</u>			
Handwash Sign	\$0.75		
Tattooing and Body Piercing Inspection Guide	\$25.00		
<u>FOOD SAFETY</u>			
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: Oxford County Public Health
 c/o Peter Heywood, 410 Buller St., Woodstock ON N4S 4N2
 Email: president@ciphi.on.ca Phone: (519) 539-9800 Extension 3502 Fax: (519) 539-6206

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



Ontario Branch News

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the Ontario Branch
website. Find out about
the latest branch news
and events.*

*Job postings
are 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

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Look for our Next Issue..... Autumn 2009

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



C/O

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