# Ontario Branch New

#### **Health Inspectors Charge Food Operator at Late-Night Dance Party**

Dennis Persaud, Region of Peel Public Health

On April 12, 2008, Michael Argana and supervisor Ralph Stanley, Region of Peel Public Health

Inspectors, investigated a food operator preparing and selling hazardous foods to patrons at a late-night dance event. The food operator had set up his food station outside and in front of a banquet hall, in a van beside a barbeque grill and a canopy. Argana and Ralph were accompanied by Peel Police, City of Brampton Fire and By-Law officers, and liquor inspectors. During this joint inspection, they found no hand-washing station available for food preparation by the food operator, no refrigeration unit to store hazardous foods, hazardous foods not protected from adulteration and contamination, and hazardous foods stored between 4 and 60 degrees Celsius. The operator was preparing, cooking, and serving barbeque chicken, jerk chicken, fried fish, corn soup, and unpasteurized juice. The food operator did not have a food vendor licence to sell foods to the public, nor did he notify Peel Public Health of his intent to operate a food premise in the Region of Peel, contrary to the HPPA, Section 16(2).



Stanley took internal temperatures of chicken storage in a grocery bag located inside the van. The food operator claimed this chicken to be cooked 2.5 hours prior to the inspector's arrival. The internal temperature of the chicken was 9.5°C and 10°C. Internal temperatures were also taken of chicken stored in a non-food graded container located inside the van. The food operator claimed this chicken to be pre-cooked. The internal temperature of the chicken was found to be 12°C and 17°C. The inspectors seized and condemned 10 lbs of chicken that had been temperature abused, contrary to the HPPA, Section 19(1)(4).

In January 2009 the food operator was summoned to court. He was charged with failure to provide hand washing basin in food preparation area, contrary to Regulation 562 of RRO, 1990 under the HPPA, s20(1) (c); failure to protect food from contamination or adulteration, contrary to

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Regulation 562 of RRO, 1990 under the HPPA, Section 26; and maintaining hazardous foods at internal temperatures between 4 degrees Celsius and 60 degrees Celsius, contrary to Regulation 562 of RRO, 1990 under the HPPA, Section 33(2). The food operator plead guilty to his food safety violations and was ordered to pay \$1000 in fines.

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Published quarterly by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors—Ontario Branch Inc.

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#### **Submissions Criteria:**

- All topics must be relevant to the Public Health Inspection Field
- Articles must be submitted either on computer disk or by email 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.

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ONTARIO BRANCH NEW PAGE 3

## Message from the Editor

Firstly, I would like to apologize for this issue of the Ontario Branch News being published a little later than usual. The reason it is late is that I have just returned from a three week vacation to India.

Secondly, I would like all of you, wherever you are, and whatever you are doing, to stop for a moment. Close your eyes, take a few deep breaths, and consciously GIVE THANKS that you live in one of the cleanest and most prosperous lands on this planet. We may think we know how lucky we are, but I believe few of us truly, deeply, understand what that means for us and our loved ones. Of all that I have learned in the past few weeks, this is the one message that will stay with me till the end of my days.



Delhi street scene

India is a land of remarkable contrasts. Of the 1.1 billion people who live there, 80% still reside in rural areas. Their space program has just launched its first lunar mission, while a large proportion of the population – urban or rural – have limited access to clean, or even running, water. Nuclear weapons have been tested in the Thar desert, while local police are still armed WWII era bolt-action rifles.



A simpler way of life.

Continued on next page...

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#### Message from the Editor continued..

Although I have been fascinated by India for decades, and read as much as I could about the country prior to my visit, nothing prepared me for the in-your-face nature



Bathing ghat on the Ganges River, Varanasi

of life on the streets. And that is where life is lived, in all its glory and pain, for everyone to see. Poor families live in shacks consisting of nothing more than some poles and torn tarps, in the midst of the city. Others may have only a blanket and a scrap of sidewalk to sleep on. Laundry, cooking, sleeping and toileting are all performed in public by those unfortunate enough (and there are many of them) to be unable to afford a home of their own. Even for those with a home, the morning routines of the day often still begin out

of doors amongst their neighbours, for all the world to see.

From a public health perspective the challenges in India seem insurmountable. I would not even know where to begin to address issues which to us, in clean and prosperous North America, are fundamental. Outside of Jodhpur, in the desert region of Rajasthan, new sewage pipes are being laid alongside the main road to the villages. Farmers are permitted to tap into these lines with generators and pumps, in order to access the raw sewage for irrigation of their food crops. In a land where water is a scarce commodity, nothing can be permitted to go to waste.

Animals of all descriptions are commonplace in towns and cities. Dogs, pigs, goats, monkeys, and of course the sacred cow, roam freely. Far from being pests, they form part of the local infrastructure by being the backbone of the garbage disposal system. There is little evidence of organized refuse collection in most areas and rarely were garbage cans seen in public areas.

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# Message from the Editor continued..

Food debris and anything else considered edible is consumed by the animals. Untouchables (people of the lowest caste who perform the numerous undesirable tasks required by any society) gather what may be recyclable, and may or may not be hired by the local government (depending on the region) to corral some of what remains. Unfortunately this includes vast quantities of plastic shopping bags which in some places litter the trees like a second set of leaves.



Everyone gets along...



Disposable cups, India style

There is a connectedness to the cycle of life that we have lost, here in the West. Cow pats are collected, dried, and used as fuel by vast numbers of people. Environmentally, this is extremely sustainable, and far better than our reliance on trees and fossil fuels. (It also provides a particularly pungent aroma to the little fires dotting the streets.) Cups for masala chai – a delicious spiced tea, which is sold everywhere – are frequently made from clay, like terracotta pots. After drinking your chai, the cup is discarded on the street, to eventually be ground back into dust and returned to the land. The ingenuity of this is breathtaking if you stop to think of the consequences of only plas-

tic or paper being used instead for the millions of cups of chai consumed every day. (Plastic is used in many places, and on the trains. The mess of these discarded cups is significant.)

Continued on next page...

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# Message from the Editor continued..

Even though it was nice to return home to my comfort zone, I have not returned with a sense of superiority regarding life in the West. Yes, it is cleaner, safer and healthier here. But, for me at least, India has shown me what we also lack. The joy of living life to the fullest,



Cow pats drying to be used as fuel

without feeling inhibited by things that should come naturally, is not an approach we tend to embrace. Even though I do feel lucky to live in Canada, with all the benefits that brings, I also feel a little sad that we lack the enthusiasm towards life that others, who have far less than us, rejoice in every day.

Namaste,
Sandy Stevens,
Editor
Ontario Branch News

#### Correction Notice

In the Fall 2008 issue of the OBN, the author credited to the article entitled "<u>Clostridium Perfringens</u> in Potluck Chili Implicated in an Outbreak of Diarrhea" was incorrect. It was in fact jointly written by Cheryl Tung, B.A.Sc., CPHI(C), and Elaine Reddick, MPA, CIC, B.A.Sc., CPHI(C).

Sandy Stevens

Editor

Ontario Branch News

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# ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK CELEBRATION IN PEEL

By Dennis Persaud, Peel Public Health

Peel Health, Environmental Division, proudly celebrated EPHW on January 21 and 22, 2009 respectively in both the Mississauga and Brampton offices.

Dennis Persaud conveyed best wishes on behalf of his colleagues on the CIPHI Ontario Branch executive. He reminded his colleagues that CIPHI was incorporated on January 3, 1934 as a result of much sacrifice, dedication and com-



Peel MOH, Dr. David Mowat, Celebrating EPHW Week, January 2009

mitment of dedicated individuals. The achievements of CIPHI, from this embryonic stage to the present, were by no means easy. The volume of work that continues to be required to run our professional body warrants our acclaim. We cannot afford to lose this legacy, but must continue to build it. Persaud reminded his colleagues that it is necessary for them to become members, or to renew lapsed memberships, if CIPHI is to maintain its heritage and move forward to greater accomplishments.

Peel Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Mowat complemented the organizational promotion of our EPHW celebrations. We have every reason to be proud of our achievements and successes as environmental/public health professionals and it was suggested that we should continue to share them with other partners.

Paul Callanan, Peel's Director of Environmental Health, noted that CIPHI has adopted the theme "State of the Profession" for our EPHW celebration this year. "This was a very appropriate theme at this juncture in the history of our profession. We have a long and storied history in Canada of protecting food and water, preventing enteric and zoonotic disease, and investigating health hazards, dating back well over a century. Of this, we should be justifiably proud. Today, we continue to provide programs and services in these and other important areas of health protection, and our focus has broadened to include environmental health education and promotion, research and advocacy in environmental issues".

He continued by saying, "as CIPHI leads the charge towards 'mandatory professionalism' for public health inspectors, it seems that it is also appropriate to consider the state of the profession with respect to the core competencies needed to meet the challenges of the future. In this regard Callanan was confident that we are all positioned to continue to play an integral role in a reformed and revitalized Ontario public health system".

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By Lou D'Alessandro

Chair, 2009 Bonspiel

Grey Bruce Health Unit

The 2009 PHI Bonspiel was a wonderful event enjoyed by all who participated. The event was hosted by the Grey Bruce Health Unit and held in Owen Sound on Feb 20-21. The finale was an exciting finish. With two tied for first place the tie breaker rule was used. To do this, both skips, Dave Dodgson and Bruce Kemball, had to throw one rock to the house – with the closest rock to the centre of the house winning all.

Five rows of anxious faces watched the tie breaker from behind the glass. Dave Dodgson was the winner, throwing the closest rock to the centre of the house. Dave later commented that this was one of the most nerve-wracking things he has ever done. But well-done it was!

We also resurrected and re-furbished the long lost tail-ender trophy. This trophy had been missing since 1985. In the audience this weekend there were 3 of the 4 1985 tail-end trophy winners who presented the trophy to the new winners.

The winning team consisted of Dave Dodgson, John Cannan, Eric Serwotka and Andrew Landy. The runners – up were, Bruce Kemball, Jacques Beauvais, Norine Schofield and Alicia Lowe. The tail-enders were Henry Chong, Elaine Pacheco, Vivian Hu and Andy Psiachos.

A huge "thank-you" is extended to the sponsors, whose generous support helped to make this a very successful event, with some very nice prizes, hospitality and meals. And a big "thank-you" also goes to all who participated. Without you it would not have been such an enjoyable weekend.

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**2009 PHI Bonspiel Champs!** 

Dave Dodgson (Skip), John Cannan (Vice), Eric Serwotka (Second) and Andrew Landy (Lead)



**2009 PHI Bonspiel Participants** 

Thanks to all who came out and made it a great day!

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#### Who are the OB Executive and What Do They Do?

## Here's a quick guide to some of your Ontario Branch Executive

## **Healthy Environments**

The areas of responsibility for the Healthy Environments portfolio include, but are not limited to, water quality, drinking water and recreational water, indoor air quality including arenas, land use, and playground safety.

My current areas of interest are Small Drinking Water System and the promotion of self testing and monitoring of arena air quality.



John Yan, Health Environments



Sandy Stevens (and friend)
Communications

#### **Communications**

The Communications portfolio involves editing the quarterly issues of the Ontario Branch News, and acting as Webmaster for our website at www.ciphi.on.ca

The aim is to ensure our members are kept informed about what your CIPHI (Ontario Branch) Executive are doing on your behalf, and to respond to any queries or concerns our members may have. Your input is always welcome!

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### 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, 2008.

#### **Stanier Prize Awardees**

Sharon Regimbald and Keara Shaw, 2007 Warren Boychuk, 2006 Allan Stirling, 2005 Adam Grant, 2004 Shawna Bourne, 2003

#### **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

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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.)

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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..... Spring 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



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