



Ontario Branch Newsletter

Leading, Promoting, and Advocating for Environmental Health Professionals in Ontario

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SUMMER 2022 EDITION

PRESIDENT & PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

*Lisa Fortuna, CIPHI Ontario Branch President
Shain Mergulhao, CIPHI Ontario Branch President-Elect*

It is our pleasure to provide you with an update on recent business and news from the Ontario Branch Executive Council (OBEC). As we dip into warmer temperatures and embrace the recent reopening of our province, this brings forward more change: the only constant these days, challenging our profession to recharge, reinvent and reinvigorate ourselves collectively. With the pandemic not in our rear view mirror just yet, monkeypox filling up our news feeds, in conjunction with this mysterious outbreak of severe acute hepatitis possibly linked to an adenovirus infection in children, more home-based food productions and short-term residential swimming pool rentals rising, imported dogs with rabies crossing our borders and keenly on our radar, a regular day in public health is a distant memory, as new and emerging issues, ways of operation, and technologies challenge our status quo mindsets, and future public health trajectories and priorities.

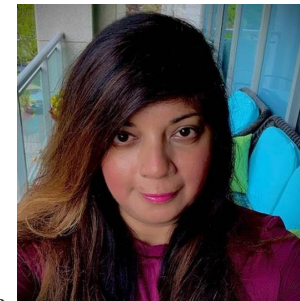
If this wasn't enough to whet your appetite and get your head spinning, we'd be remiss if we didn't acknowledge the tireless commitment, sacrifices, demonstrated flexibility, and aptitude to show up and take on higher than ever workloads; this was done to save lives and serve our communities across our public health organizations, while working closely and succinctly with multiple partners. Well into our third year battling the worst public health crisis in more than a century, this does not go unnoticed, unappreciated, or without personal suffering and reflection, being fatigued and still aiming to restore personal agency and autonomy. We are also transitioning into hybrid working options and moving towards advancing and applying racial and health equity lenses across all our work, and within the greater health system; this allows us to focus on the goal of establishing hiring practices that create more diverse teams and foster culturally safe workplaces. We are committed to better integration of social determinants of health promotion and better health outcomes at a provincial level.

With the provincial elections behind us, previously proposed restructuring of the provincial public health system on all our minds, and questions around the future of sustained funding as well as public health unit independence, we will be connecting with our stakeholders to discuss the situation and determine the best course of action to continue to meet our deliverables. We are also working with our National CIPHI counterparts to bring forward your personal concerns from directors across to frontline staff regarding memberships being revoked, increased stress in having to enter hours, and lack of flexibility surrounding mandatory membership, which warrants more leniency and better supports. We thank you for your patience and respect your sincere courage in sharing your recent experiences and frustrations with us both; it certainly struck a chord.

(Continued on next page)



*Lisa Fortuna
President, CIPHI Ontario Branch*



*Shain Mergulhao
President-Elect, CIPHI Ontario
Branch*

President & President-Elect's Message, continued

As our work resumes and we aim to meet in person later this year, we recognize the importance of advocating and supporting our partnerships with Toronto Metropolitan University and Conestoga College. We value these relationships as we support our future public health students and create more opportunities to work with their leaders. We are also keen on working closely with our the ASPHIO Executive to bring forward calls of actions that impact us all and continue to nurture our close relations with Public Health Ontario and Ontario Public Health Association.

We are excited to share that The National Annual Education Conference planning is well underway. The conference will be in Ajax and is hosted by Durham Region Health Unit. The website has been updated to include 2022 information related to hotels, rates, sponsorship opportunities etc.: [CIPHI Durham 2022 – September 11-14, 2022](#). The conference was updated to be a hybrid model to offer both in person and virtual attendance, expanding the potential number of up to 500 delegates. Registration is now open and the rates have remained at the 2019 rates. The call for abstracts is now closed and we have received many exciting submissions from across the country. We will be using an event app for our conference platform; this will make it more accessible, green, and engaging for both in-person and virtual audiences, with the ability to connect with colleagues, sponsors, exhibitors, and presenters. Information will be stored on the app and will be available to attendees for up to 1 year post-conference. We are in the process of finalizing social events and keeping COVID-19 prevention measures in mind, to help keep everyone on site as safe and comfortable as possible. We are exploring social venues that offer both indoor and outdoor areas. We look forward to seeing you there, as we value and recognize the importance of what makes us strong as a profession – our quality networks.

Shain and Kari-Engle Carter continue to co-lead the National Education CIPHI Committee, bringing forward virtual educational sessions focused on conscious leadership, emotional intelligence, career development, communication, health equity, diversity, inclusion, and mental health and wellness across Canada. The aim of this initiative is to provide equitable access to learnings across the country in a niche area, increase professional competence and confidence, as well as strengthen our resiliency, while creating a safe atmosphere for mutual connection, and preparing for a robust and sustainable workforce.

We wish to thank the rest of the Executive and Working Group Members who remain committed to serving CIPHI and its members. Thank you again to our wonderful members who make all this possible. Your dedication, agility, passion, and voice is critical to the integrity of this association, our leadership, and inspires us both as we look forward to a revitalized and bold future forward. Should you have questions or wish to share your thoughts, please contact us at communications@ciphi.on.ca.

Sincerely,

Lisa & Shain

Past President's Message

John Canaan, CIPHI Ontario Branch Past President

“They were the best of times they were the worst of times.” – this quote by Charles Dickens really has meaning for the last few years, with COVID-19 shutting down all social activities around the world. Normal activities for people, health units, and the Ontario Branch Executive Council changed drastically. Change, while uncomfortable, makes us learn new skills as circumstances force us to adapt to new situations. Virtual meetings are now a norm, wearing a mask is a common sight, and staycations are touted as the thing to do.

While my term as president was cut short, my term as Past President has been a little more productive. I recently started organizing the materials in the CIPHI Ontario Branch locker in Brampton. This locker has been used to store files and other memorabilia of our past history for many years. The problem was that a lot of this material was consolidated into boxes sometime in early 2000, without accurate sorting or maintaining an inventory.

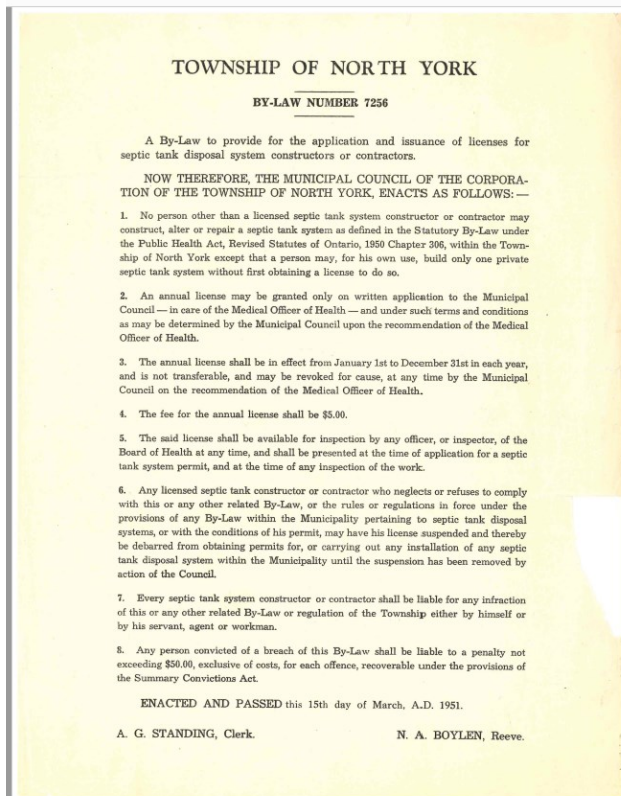
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Past President's Message, continued

As I have sorted these materials into boxes based on program or subject, I have come across an amazing variety of photographs, placards, documents, and conference programs. While some of the materials are of little interest to members, such as agendas and meeting minutes, there are many items that illustrate our past history; some examples are attached with this article.

I began by scanning all the 35 mm photos onto a jump drive. Some of the photos include names but many others have no identification at all. Some help from retired inspectors may be required to complete this task. Then, I came across old Health Unit stationary from a project past president, Larry Lychwood, started in 1974. Later, I found old legislation, some dating back to 1934.

There is a lot more, too much to detail here. When complete, the inventory, including the complete list of all materials, as well as scanned photos and pictures of the equipment, will be shared with the Executive Council.



Pictured: Township of North York, Sewage System Bylaw, 1951



Pictured: Class of 1956, lab work



St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valleys Health Unit
L'Unité Sanitaire de l'Outaouais et du St-Laurent

CENTRAL OFFICE: 340 PITT STREET, 2nd FLOOR, CORNWALL, ONT. • 933-1375



S, D, & G.

Pictured: St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valleys Health Unit letterhead

Bachelor of Environmental Public Health - Conestoga College

Simulating Inspections in the Conestoga College Professional Kitchen

Submitted by Cathy Egan

Conducting inspections of a food premises is a complex activity that requires students to use their knowledge of food science and risk assessment, along with their interpersonal skills. To allow Bachelor of Environmental Public Health (BEPH) students to practice conducting food safety inspections, Conestoga College designed and built a commercial kitchen and BEPH faculty worked with the college's Simulation Educators to learn how to use a "Standardized Participant" to play the role of a food handler. The Inspection Practices course concludes with a simulated inspection activity where several students volunteer to act in the role of a student PHI, while the rest of the class observes, and then all participate in a debrief discussion about the activity. Student evaluations have consistently reported that the simulation and debrief have been useful, and the faculty look forward to designing additional simulation experiences for students with increasing levels of complexity of infractions, as well as combative attitudes of the "food handler".



Racism and harassment towards frontline workers: experiences of environmental health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic response

Abstract submitted by Subrana Rahman

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted several challenges for Environmental Public Health Professionals (EHPs). This study aims to understand the experiences of EHPs during the pandemic to improve future crises and incidents that may arise. A mixed-methods, cross-sectional online survey was conducted in June 2021. Frequency tabulations were used to analyze close-ended survey responses, and both a conventional content analysis and thematic analysis were conducted on open-ended responses. A total of 80 eligible survey responses were received. Most respondents were located in Ontario (53.8%). Study results revealed that EHPs have faced incidents of harassment, frustration from the public, and a lack of support from management. These matters ultimately challenged the well-being of EHPs, placing them at increased risk of burnout, stress, and fear. Thus, it is crucial that support for mental health and reporting systems is improved for the future to ensure that EHPs are able to meet the demands of their work. Further studies should be conducted to examine the lived experiences of EHPs and barriers faced in more detail, including possible strategies to improve their working environments and well-being.



In Memoriam—Robert Coak

Submitted by Tim Roark, CIPHI National Historian

January 25, 1946 - Kenora, Ontario

February 7, 2020 - Calgary, Alberta

It is with much love and profound sadness that we announce Bob Coak, beloved husband of Laura Coak (nee Harlamow) of Calgary, AB, passed away on Friday, February 7, 2020 at the age of 74 years. He passed peacefully, surrounded by the love of his family and many friends.

Following a stroke in February 2019, in his typical headstrong fashion, Bob was determined to overcome this setback. He continued to rally and fought for another year, until his passing. Many wonderful and supportive friends had touched him and his family with their presence over the last several months.



Bob's life began in Kenora, Ontario. This is where he also continued to live until he completed high school. Following high school graduation, he enrolled in the Public Health Inspector program at Ryerson University (now Toronto Metropolitan University). During his university years, Bob continued to compete in many sports, including rowing, rugby, curling, and baseball. He graduated from Ryerson in 1967 and commenced working with the Northwestern Health Unit in Ontario. While working for the Health Unit in Fort Frances, Bob met the love of his life, Laura, whom he married on July 18, 1970. Following relocations throughout Ontario with Health Canada, Bob, Laura, and their daughter moved to British Columbia, where he was the Senior Environmental Health Officer with Health Canada in Victoria, serving Vancouver island. Bob and family finally settled in Calgary in 1983. This move to Calgary was a pivotal decision in the journey their lives would take personally and professionally.

Bob left his career with Health Canada, and after structuring and restructuring various businesses over the years, Control Chemical was born. His commitment to the success of this business took him to numerous countries around the world, acquiring new business relationships, friends, and the respect of the mining and drilling community. Bob travelled extensively throughout South America, South Korea, Australia, United States, Africa, the Philippines, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia, and China. Bob always spoke highly of the people he met in his business travels and how they provided him with valuable knowledge and advice, especially in the infancy stages of his business.

In his personal life, Bob enjoyed years on the golf course with his wife, playing at such courses as Torrey Pines, Harbour Town Golf Links, Kananaskis, Circling Raven, and in Portugal. A highlight of their golf trips was viewing The Masters Golf Tournament in Augusta, Georgia. He also had many memories having poker tournaments with family and friends, Stampeder Football tailgate parties, watching sports at Stavros Pub, trips to Coeur d'Alene, and travelling to various places throughout the world with his wife. Bob lived his life enjoying the journey, forging lifelong friendships along the way. This is part of the great legacy he has left behind.

Bob is survived by his wife of forty-nine years, Laura; daughter Tara and son-in-law Ron; and grandchildren, Taylor and Ryan "Captain".

Condolences, memories and photos may be shared and viewed on Bob's obituary at www.mhfh.com. If friends so desire, in lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made directly to the Dulcina Hospice, 110 Evanspark Manor N.W., Calgary, Alberta T3P 0N4 Telephone: 587-230-5500, or to the Canadian Liver Foundation/Calgary Liver Unit - "UCalgary Trust Fund", 801-3100 Steeles Avenue East, Markham, ON L3R 8T3 Attention: Karen Seto, Telephone: 1-800-563-5483 ext.4939.

A special thank you to all of the wonderful caregivers and doctors at the Foothills Medical Centre, Bow View Manor, and Dulcina Hospice. In living memory of Bob Coak, a tree was planted in the Ann & Sandy Cross Conservation Area.



2022 CIPHI NATIONAL ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Hosted by the Durham Region Health Department

We are excited to announce that the Durham Region Health Department has resumed planning for the 2022 CIPHI National Annual Educational Conference collaboratively with CIPHI Ontario! Public health has faced many challenges in the last 2 years during this unprecedented time so we look forward to celebrating with our public health professionals for their dedication and ongoing efforts during the pandemic. The conference will be held in Ajax, Ontario from September 11-14, 2022. The theme, "**Share the Vision, Transform Tomorrow**" will provide public health professionals from across Canada the opportunity to connect and share ideas that will help shape the future of public health.

We have renewed our contracts with all keynote speakers. Be prepared to be **Inspired** by Lieutenant-General (ret), The Honourable Roméo Dallaire, an advocate for human rights, author, government and UN advisor, and former Canadian Senator. You will be **Empowered** by Dr. Nicole Blackman, a Nursing Manager who brings Indigenous teachings to public health and the community at large. Lastly, you will be **Engaged** by Steve Patterson. Steve is best known as the host of CBC's "The Debaters" and HGTV's "I Wrecked My House", and he will teach us to bring humour everywhere, from the workplace to our homes.

Early bird registration begins on April 19, 2022. For information and updates about the conference visit our website www.CIPHIDurham2022.ca and follow us on Twitter @ciphi_national or Instagram ciphi.ontario and use #CIPHIDurham2022, #CIPHI2022 and #ShareTheVision2022. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person again at the 2022 CIPHI National Annual Educational Conference.

save
the
date

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
86th National Annual Educational Conference

Sept. 11-14, 2022

Ajax Convention Centre, Ajax, Ont.



#ShareTheVision2022

#CIPHIDurham2022

#CIPHI2022



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