



Word Power

copius

(KOH-pee-uhs),
adjective)

1. Affording an abundant supply; plentifully furnished; lavish.
2. Large in quantity; plentiful, profuse; abundant.
3. Full of information or matter.

President's Message

It is finally over! The **69th AEC** has come and gone and I hope you would agree with me that it that it one of CIPHI's most successful conferences ever in terms of speaker presentation, poster presentation, exhibitors, sponsors and social activities!

I would like to thank the Conference Committee for a job well done and raising the bar for all future CIPHI AEC conferences.

There were many issues discussed by the National Executive Council (NEC) while in Edmonton. As the NEC begins to implement its **Strategic Plan** there are five goals that we wish to achieve:

- 1) Membership Satisfaction;
- 2) Increased Membership;
- 3) Increased Profile;
- 4) Increased Corporate Partnership; and
- 5) Additional Revenues.

The Crowstnest Pass

- Vern Decoux

An executive summary of the Strategic Plan will be posted on the National CIPHI website in the upcoming months.

The **CIPHI/NEHA Sabbatical Exchange** has been just completed by Stacey Kelley. She will be presenting her experience at the 2004 AEC conference. The deadline for 2003 candidates is September 30, 2003. Check the CIPHI website for more information on how to apply.

Final details are being worked on for the **CIPHI/Denmark Twinning Exchange Program**. The

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The Dog Days of Summer

It really has been a busy summer, for one and all, including members of the Alberta Branch.

At the end of May, the Branch held it's **Annual General Meeting** where many items were discussed and many decisions made. The minutes of both the AGM and the Executive Meeting that took place before (and after) the AGM are available on the website, <http://www.ciphi.ab.ca/>, shortly.

Discussed at the meeting, as well as being published in the Spring 2003 Alberta Branch News, a decision was made to realign the Branch zones to coincide with the new RHA boundaries. Of the options, it was voted that the new zones would be:

- **Arctic** — Northwest Territories and Nunavut
- **North** — Northern Lights Health Region (#9), Peace Country Health Region (#8) and Aspen Health Region (#7)
- **Capital** — Capital Health (#6)
- **Central** — East Central Health Region (#5) and David Thompson Health Region (#4)
- **Calgary** — Calgary Health Region (#3)
- **South** — Palliser Health Region (#2) and Chinook Health Region (#1)

There will be time, however, to adjust to the new zones as they will not come into effect until the next AGM when new councillors are chosen.

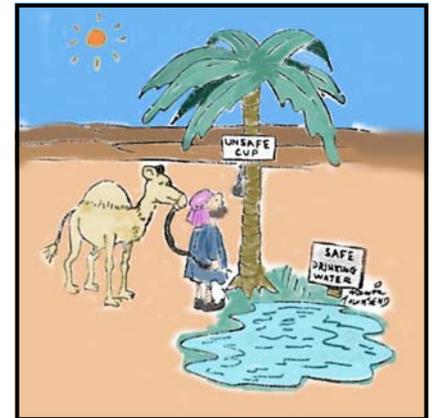
As well this summer, the **69th Annual Education Conference** has come and gone, with kudos going to the tireless efforts of the organizing committees, subcommittees and volunteers! Although I personally have no reference point, the conference was well received by both delegates and sponsors. Without straining ourselves too much, the Alberta Branch should give itself a pat on the back for a job well done.

Well, that will do it for me this issue. However I should make one more plea here, that to continue publishing the Alberta Branch News in it's current format, more support is needed from the membership! Support can be things such as interesting anecdotes, quippy observations or article submissions. If you require ideas, drop me a line and I can certainly steer you in the right direction.

Like the adage says, you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.

Enjoy the rest of the summer! ♦

- Phi Phan, Editor



Editorial Policy

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

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

The Association Executive Board has 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 Association.

Views, comments or positions within the contents of the Newsletter are those of the Editor, Editorial Staff or the author, respectively, and does not necessarily reflect those of the Association Executive or its' membership.



2003 President's Achievement Award

The 2003 President's Achievement Award was presented to this year's recipient during the Annual General Meeting held in Red Deer at the end of May by Alberta Branch President **Victor Mah**.

The award recognizes outstanding achievement by a student enrolled in the Environmental Health program at Concordia University College in Edmonton.

The award of \$500.00 is granted to the graduate of the program who demonstrates the highest level of achievement in academic and practicum components of the program.



This year's winner was **Kristen Kliciak**. Kristen completed her practicum training with Headwaters Health Authority during the summer of 2002.

Upon completion of her practicum, Kristen successfully obtained her Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) in the Fall of 2002.

Kristen is currently a Executive Officer/Public Health Inspector with the Calgary Health Region's Environmental Health Program.

Ms. Kliciak's career has certainly started on the right track. Please join the Alberta Branch in congratulating the 2003 Outstanding Achievement Award recipient, Kristen! ♦

- Phi Phan, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

(Continued from page 1)

details will be posted on the CIPHI Website and Environmental Health Review in the near future, so stay tuned.

CIPHI is pleased to have developed a partnership with **Health Canada – Centre for Surveillance Coordination** in providing the membership with another avenue for continuing education.

The first two Alberta Branch Members were presented with a certificate of recognition at the CIPHI Awards Luncheon for completing all three modules in a facilitated format. These individuals were **Jennifer May-Hadford** from Okotoks and **Craig Nowakowski** from Yellowknife. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

For those at the **CIPHI AGM**, there

was some good discussion by the membership on the NEC position paper on the hiring of non-holders of the C.P.H.I. (C) designation. The CIPHI Advocacy Committee was given some good feedback on the position statement and other avenues that should be looked at.

The NEC has also been busy participating at the table on the BSE/Mad Cow issue. CIPHI has been a valuable player at the table and has been taking forwarding information to the membership as it comes available.

Environmental Health Week 2004 is proceeding ahead as the NEC is looking to develop brochures that promote our profession. These brochures will promote a variety of things that we do across the country to the various sectors such as high schools, post-secondary institutions, and the public. Environmental Health Week 2004 is

scheduled for January 5 – 11.

Finally, the NEC has made the following appointments to the various CIPHI Committees:

EHFC = Environmental Health Foundation

IFEH = International Federation of Environmental Health

SMPIC = Strategic Marketing Plan Implementation Committee

BOC = Board of Certification

If you have any issues you would like me to forward to the National Executive Council please do not hesitate to contact me. ♦

- Victor Mah, Alberta Branch President



PHOTOS FROM THE 69TH AEC



Photo Credit: P Phan

C Eskow, C Fraser, K McDonald and F Fong



Photo Credit: T Wawrykow

K Woodard and Nigel



Photo Credit: P Phan

The National Executive Council at President's Banquet



Photo Credit: T Wawrykow

G Thibault, T Wawrykow, R Steeves



Photo Credit: P Phan

B Van Mulligen



Photo Credit: P Phan

C Fraser and B Dalshaug



Photo Credit: P Phan

A Jensen, S Robison and T Herridge

More pictures next issue!

Noteworthy North — The latest news from the Northern Zone is that **Tony Thepsouvanh** has left us here in Grande Prairie to pursue greener pastures in Athabasca. That leaves an opening in the Grande Prairie office.

The position in Peace River has been filled by **Christine Boutilier** from Charlottetown, PEI. Christine will be starting in September.

Since Jim Meagher has been on vacation the rest of the staff in Grande Prairie have been hopping. They have dealt with a fire at the logging mill brilliantly located within city limits and a stone's throw away from the boss's house!

There were severe water shortages in two municipalities, blue green algae water advisories for several recreational lakes and a Hepatitis A food handler case. The staff in Grande Prairie are considering writing an Executive Officer's order to Jim Meagher banning him from taking a vacation ever again.

On a happy note, **Darcy Garchinski** won't be quite so lonely nowadays as he has successfully recruited candidates for vacancies in Ft. McMurray. ♦

- Koreen Westly, Northern Zone Councillor



Comedy Central — The Central Zone only consists of David Thompson Health Region and East Central Health Region now. Aspen RHA is now part of Northern Zone.

Currently, the Medical Officer of Health from East Central is providing interim coverage to Aspen Health Region.

Oh yeah, a dead bird was found in Camrose. Whooeee. **Gord Corcoran** and **Dr. Benade** (MOH) held a telehealth session on June 22nd regarding West Nile virus in conjunction with the Provincial Public Health Lab (South). ♦

- Jay Jorgensen, Central Zone Councillor



officials have not developed a specific recommendation about eating cow brains, mostly because there have been no cases of mad-cow disease in the United States, said Jim Murphy of the state health department in Montana.

"At this point, we don't have a reason to say, don't do this," he said.

But Murphy also noted that the incubation period of the human form can be decades, meaning health officials won't know about any outbreak until long after someone is infected.

"If people want to go the extra mile to make themselves safe, they could avoid these things," he said of cow brains and other spinal tissue.

The brains Baker gets come frozen and complete. They are mostly round and still have the brain stem connected.

Earlier this spring, Baker had to find a new supplier after his old brain source found better money selling to people using them to cure leather.

At the Ox, a plate of brains and eggs costs \$6 and comes with hash browns and toast. For some, it helps to douse them in Tabasco sauce or lots of gravy. Some chase it down with a shot of whiskey.

Keeland, the short-order cook, said some orders are placed by college freshman going through an initiation of some sort.

"I've had to write actual notes verifying that so-and-so ate the brains and eggs," she said.

And, of course, the Oxford crowd has never seemed overly concerned about minuscule health or safety risks. Open 24 hours a day, the Ox was for years known as a tough bar, where fights were common and police visits frequent.

It's in that venue that brains and eggs stayed at the top of the menu.

"I liken it to a roller coaster," Baker observed. "There's the illusion of danger - but actually no real danger." ♦

A Rose By Any Other Name...

Professional titles define ones occupation, duties, responsibilities and credentials. In the field of environmental health there have been several attempts to capture the best title that accurately describes such a diverse and evolving occupation. Unfortunately there has never been longstanding consensus among environmental health professionals on what is “right”.

“Today the bulk of the name change argument centers on two titles, the “Environmental Health Officer” (EHO) and the “Public Health Inspector” (PHI).”

All holders of the CPHI(C) designation know this certification is evidence the bearer has completed the necessary training requirements which demonstrate professional expertise in the field of Environmental Health. A problem, however, arises when someone outside the field asks the CPHI(C) holder what they do for a living. What do you say? Health Officer, Health Practitioner, Health Specialist. To anyone outside of the field the response is “HUH?” which is then usually followed by you saying, “I’m a Public Health Inspector”.

There are those however that have felt the “health inspector” title doesn’t truly represent the qualifications, responsibilities and role in the community. It has been criticized as being an archaic tag that conjures up images of stern older men in white

coats or that “inspector” makes it sound like part of the realm of technical trades. While a large part of the work is spent inspecting the belief is that the diverse responsibilities in other areas, CDC, education, etc., are not accurately reflected. As a result, over the years several title changes have occurred ranging from “Sanitary Inspectors”, to “Sanitarians” and then “Public Health Inspectors”. Today the bulk of the name change argument centers on two titles, the “Environmental Health Officer” (EHO) and the “Public Health Inspector” (PHI). For simplicity sake let’s look at these two titles.

The term “officer” is not new. In Canada it had been put forward as early as 1955 but never seriously adopted until the late 1980s and early 1990s. It was added to the terminology “Environmental Health” which was intended to reflect the diversity of the field and became “Environmental Health Officer”. In order to truly understand the title you must break it down to its defined components. “Environment(al)”, meaning the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal or plant lives or operates. “Health”, the state of being free from illness or injury and “Officer”, a person holding a position of authority in the armed services organization or the government. So based on a combination of these words EHOs are persons of authority who make sure the place where you, Fido and your ficus live is free from illness or injury. This title

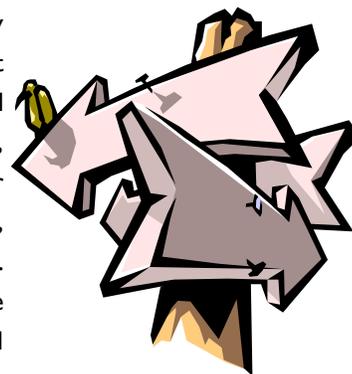
may accurately describe a housing or building inspector but fails to incorporate the diversity of responsibilities previously mentioned. In addition, “environmental” has been so overused by professional associations and agencies that it has diminished the meaning, often being confused with housekeeping services or tree-hugging activists.

On the other hand lets dissect “Public Health Inspector”. “Public”, having to do with or availability to the people as a whole, involved in the affairs of the community. “Health” state of being free from illness or injury and “Inspector”, the act or process of inspecting or looking at carefully; a strict or prying examination; close or careful scrutiny; investigation. So this identifies a PHI as a person who carefully examines, scrutinizes and investigates to ensure that the people and the community as a whole are in a state of being free from illness or injury.

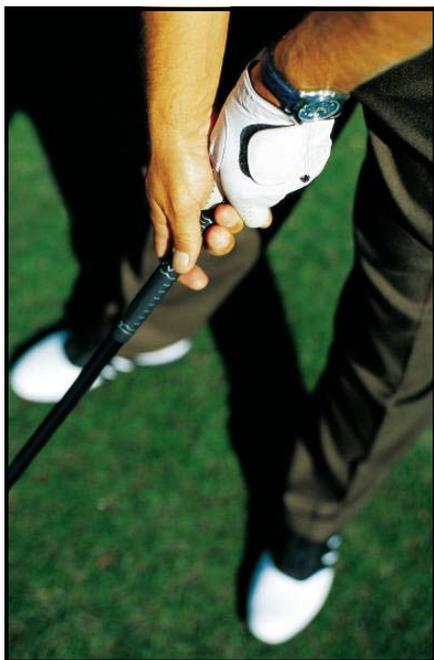
I leave the choice of which one better reflects the profession up to you but as much criticism as “PHI” takes I’ll be perfectly honest, I have never liked

the term “EHO” and have yet to have heard a convincing argument for it. In particular the word “officer” to me implies the image of a badge-flashing regulator. If the image and mindset is to

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Branch Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 16, 2003

Tee-off @ 11:00am

Barrhead Golf & Country Club
Barrhead, AB

Registration begins at 10:30. The format will be *stroke-play*.

Members — \$67.00

Non-members — \$75.00

Price includes green fee, 1/2 power cart, and a steak dinner. This event is open to all Branch members, spouses, invited guests, colleagues and friends.

Participants are asked to register before August 6.

Contact **Jay Jorgensen** if you require more information and to register at 780.778.5540 or email jjorgens@aspenrha.ab.ca

2003 Fall Workshop

Thursday, October 2 to

Friday, October 3, 2003

Bernard Snell Hall
WMC Health Sciences Centre
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB

Contact **Sauna Dimock** for information at 780.413.7935 or email sdimock@cha.ab.ca



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be one of solely “comply or else” then you have defeated the goal of being professionals. Enforcement is only one tool in an ever-expanding toolbox to accomplish the primary function of protecting public health. Give me enough bananas and I’ll train a monkey to carry a clipboard and conduct nothing but enforcement-style, check box inspections.

So how do we deal with the title dilemma? I would caution that the continuous name change game to accommodate the flavour of the month is not very effective. In fact I would argue the opposite, that the term “Public Health Inspector” is already an established and widely recognized title among the general public. Instead of

wasting time struggling over new titles why not keep the existing foundation and put more effort into educating the public as to what is included in today’s diversity of roles and responsibilities. This is, in fact, the biggest challenge our national body, the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. The CIPHI needs to develop and implement a strategy to promote the field to the masses, encourage students to pursue the occupation, to develop professionals as well as sustainability for the profession. I believe failure to do so will lead to the quick dissolve of this field.

So does calling a rose by another name make a difference? In the end it may mean little, as the actions of the individual professional will set the opinion regardless. I have said it before and I’ll say it again, there is more to

being a professional than the letters after your name or the title you bear. I’m not saying the title doesn’t mean anything. Quite the opposite, I believe it does, but not on its own. You get a lot more respect from the public and other agencies based on WHO you are rather than WHAT you say you are. Failure to carry and promote your title in a professional manner is another nail in the coffin of this occupation. You won’t have to worry about what to call yourselves at that point, as you’ll be quickly replaced with “check box” inspectors. I’ll still be around though... me, my monkeys and a crate of bananas!

◆
- Stephen Parker, CPHI(C),
Public Health Inspector



Alberta Branch — Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors
Box 1674
Drumheller, Alberta
T0J 0Y0
Email: ab-ciphi@telusplanet.net
Homepage: http://www.ciphi.ab.ca



IS THAT RIGHT?

Brains and Eggs Remain Menu Mainstay

By Matt Gouras, Associated Press

MISSOULA, MT — Short-order cook Dianna Keeland looks a little disgusted as she takes a cow brain from the fridge and tosses the grayish, softball-sized organ onto the grill.

"They look like something a human being shouldn't eat," Keeland said.

She chops the sizzling mass into bite-size bits, scrambles in some eggs, onion and peppers and serves the steaming plate to a waiting customer at the Oxford restaurant bar.

Even with hashbrowns, toast and a beverage chaser, two chewy bites are enough to confirm it is an acquired taste.

Across the West and South, brains and eggs are still a menu mainstay. Southerners consider pork brains a delicacy, but here, in the heart of beef country, Keeland fries up cow brains - and the orders haven't stopped despite mad-cow disease scares.

"That's the trademark dish here," said manager Ralph Baker, who eventually volunteers he's a vegetarian and has never tried brains and eggs himself.

"Frankly, if I was even eating steak every day," Baker said, "I wouldn't eat 'em."

At Big Ed's City Market in Raleigh, N.C., owner Richard Watkins serves up pork brains. He gets about a half-dozen orders a week, mostly from older customers who remember eating it growing up.

"Back in the Depression, you didn't waste anything on a hog," he said.

Watkins said his dish, served at the family owned-restaurant for 40 years, tastes similar to ham and eggs.

"It's very tasty," he said. "I love it."

At the Oxford in Missoula, a landmark bar and grill for a half century, the dish has been on the menu from the beginning - and it has always been cow brains.

Even news this spring that five bulls linked to a Canadian cow infected with the disease were traced to Montana didn't slow orders - about a dozen or so a week, often from drunken college students. Livestock officials eventually found no evidence any of the animals - all of them already sent to slaughter - were infected.

"I think you're just as likely to get West Nile virus as the mad-cow disease," Baker says. "Nobody worries about it."

There have been no confirmed cases of mad-cow disease in the United States, nor have there been any confirmed cases of anyone contracting the human variant in the United States from eating infected meat products.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the risk of getting the human variant of the disease even in the United Kingdom - where most cases occur - is perhaps about 1 case per 10 billion servings.

Unlike other illnesses that can be found in meat products, such as E. coli, the agent that carries mad cow cannot be killed by cooking it at high temperatures. But health

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alberta branch news

alberta branch news is published quarterly by the Communications Committee of the Alberta Branch to provide current information on the many activities of the Alberta Branch. The newsletter is distributed to members and friends of the Alberta Branch.

Any inquiries, correspondence or change of address should be forwarded to:

The Editor, Alberta Branch Newsletter
c/o Chinook Health Region
5009 — 56 Street
Taber, AB T1G1M8
Voice 403 / 223 . 4403
Fax 403 / 223 . 8733
Email pphan@mail.chr.ab.ca

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alberta branch news

Design	P Phan
Contributors	J Jorgensen, V Mah, S Parker, T Wawrykow