



73rd Annual CIPHI Educational Conference

Grand Okanagan Lakefront
Resort and Conference Centre
Kelowna, BC

June 17—20, 2007

Go to <http://www.ciphi-bc.ca/conference.htm> or see page 6 in this issue.



BC winter hike — Ania Stokowski

Message from the President

Incredibly, we find ourselves nearly into 2007! And once again everything that has been started and ended this year has to be condensed down into a few short lines. Definitely a tall order, but something that I look forward to because CIPHI has indeed been busy this year and we finally have time to reflect and evaluate our successes!

First off, I would like to acknowledge the continued support of the regional health authorities and other employers in assisting CIPHI to promote the field and profession by encouraging their staff to be members, to attend educational opportunities such as our

Workshop and to serve on various committees and the Branch Executive.

As well I would like to acknowledge the continued efforts of the hard-working volunteers that make CIPHI Alberta a viable professional organization. It may be long hours, no pay and little respect, but it's a necessary task to be done, otherwise the field of environmental public health risks being left to the wayside in the evolving public health realm.

So in short, what are the successes? Membership is at a record high, the Fall Workshop was a huge success in Red Deer, the Golf Tournament was well attended and well received.

What can we expect for 2007? More of the same I hope, so if you're interested in becoming involved elections are coming up, so start thinking! I wish I could say more, but space is limited in this edition, so on behalf of the entire Executive, best wishes for all members and their families in the new year! - Phi Phan

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Alberta's food safety audit

In 2005, Alberta's food safety system was put under the microscope. Some of the issues identified were issues at a system level, consistency, electronic information systems, inspection processes and accountability. It wasn't until fall of this year that the report was made public and received a lot of attention. There were a lot of administrative issues but on a field level it portrayed Environmental Public Health Professionals (EPHP), as being too lenient, not performing enough inspections and not using enough enforcement.

Enforcement, however, may well be a short-term solution, as the same problems, tend to resurface down the road. Prosecution under the current system is time consuming and expensive, and may not always be beneficial. If this is the expectation of the inspection process, would it be better to issue fines for a violation, which increases with every re-offence?

Throughout Canada, food safety inspections are handled differently for various reasons. Many of these differences stem from different regulations, some being more prescriptive to those that allow discretion and interpretation. The regulation specifically specifies what you must do, whereas Alberta regulations do not specifically state what those methods are. This is part of the education and discretion component of inspections, EPHP's are educated to make proper risk based decisions. A large part of, an EPHP's role is to use their, ex-

pertise to, further educate operators, whether it be at the time of inspection or through, various formal courses, .. swimming pool, food safety, etc.

Another difference, among the provinces, is the disclosure of inspections. Some health authorities in different provinces use websites where you may look up recent inspection reports of your favorite eatery. How about the red, yellow and green system, where restaurants are given a different color depending on the inspection report? I would assume these systems keep the restaurant operators more accountable. If you receive a poor inspection report on a website or a yellow sticker, it may lead to a decrease in patronage and image. Operators will be calling for re-inspections and will want to score high all the time but have they learned anything from the experience, will they know why they need to do certain things?

Nevertheless, we should view the report as an opportunity to move forward and make improvements.

- Adam Stokowski

Editorial Policy

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

- The development and advancement of environmental health, and
- 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 and/or the author, respectively, and does not necessarily reflect those of the Association Executive or its' membership.





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



Fall Educational Workshop - 2006

This year's fall educational workshop took place in Red Deer. The theme was, "Prepare for the worst by being your best" and the focus was on emergency preparedness and oil and gas. As greater demands are placed on Environmental Public Health Professionals as a resource, we need to continually learn. Workshops help build this knowledge base and familiarity to issues that might not be as familiar. This year's conference was no exception. Much information was gained from the speakers' presentations and attendance to the event was great. But let's not forget the social, because let's face it we all have to unwind sometime. New friends were made and for some new places to sleep. Congratulations to the workshop committee for organizing a great event.

- Adam Stokowski



President & CEO for DTHR John Vogel-



Garth Gosselin (workshop chair) with Kathy Ahearn Director of Population Health DTHR



Keynote Speaker—Janet Lane from Harris County Health, Houston, Texas, USA



Garth Gosselin with Dean Blue



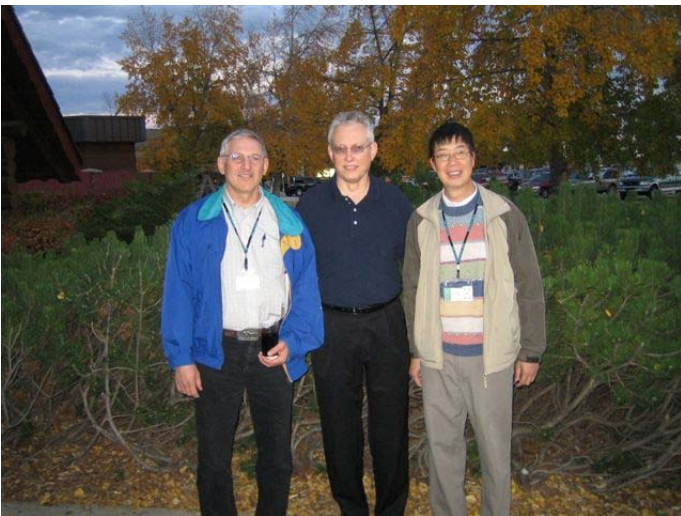
Workshop delegates



Darren Barber, Rob Elliot, Elson Zazulak, and Greg Ritz



Committee members unwinding



Elson Zazulak, Doug Johnston, and Tony Mak



The after party

Upcoming events



Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

L'Institut canadien des inspecteurs en santé publique



JOIN US IN KELOWNA

British Columbia

June 17-20, 2007

73rd Annual Education Conference

Vision: Visiting the Core ~ Building the Future

Mission: Revisiting and Reaffirming Core Competencies for Public Health Inspectors/Environmental Health Officers

About the Conference:

The BC Branch, in conjunction with the Interior Health Authority, is excited to host the 73rd Annual Education Conference of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors in Kelowna. The Conference theme will allow delegates to critically examine core competencies for Public Health Inspectors / Environmental Health Officers with a view to preparing a base upon which to face our future challenges.

The triple stream conference will be held at the beautiful Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort & Conference Center and will offer a tailored professional program focusing on Air, Food, Water and Community Sanitation. The National CIPHI Awards luncheon and traditional President's Banquet, after-hours and partner activities will include golf, tours and a trademark wine tasting evening.

Ken Christian - Chair
Roger Parsonage, Domenic Losito - Co-Chairs

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CAVEPM Conference 2007

The Canadian Association of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine (CAVEPM), the Food Safety Division of Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), and the Alberta Veterinary Research Institute (AVRI) are proud to present a major conference on animal health and food safety surveillance with two associated short courses. This event will be held from 6 to 15 June 2007 on the University of Alberta campus in Edmonton, Alberta.

For more information please see: <http://www.avri.afhe.ualberta.ca/cavepm-2007/>

Run for the Cure

Once again CIPHI Alberta Branch participated in the CIBC Run for the Cure on October 1st, 2006. This is the third consecutive year that the Branch was represented in what has become the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's most important fundraising event. A total of 24 Alberta Branch members ran in Calgary and Edmonton and a total of \$1305.00 was raised for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. Special mention should be given to Kara Bascom in Calgary and Phi Phan in Edmonton. These individuals went beyond the mandatory registration fee and raised significant donations on their own.



The Branch will continue to participate in the Run for the Cure in future years to help the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation raise money to fund innovative and relevant breast cancer research, education, and awareness programs in the communities where you live. We hope other members will join us next year.

- Tony Thepsouvanh
Run Coordinator



CIBC Run  for the Cure
CANADIAN BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

Alberta Branch News

The 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.

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Is that right?

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) - Play or plague?

Producers of the Jean-Paul Sartre play, "The Flies," at Brown University will subject the audience to 40,000 fruit flies to bring to life the existentialist work about flies sent to plague the city of Argos in ancient Greece.

Production Workshop, the student-run theatre producing the play, built a "cage" of netting three-metre-high by five metre by seven metre to surround the stage and about 70 audience members, and to keep the flies from infesting the theatre.

"There's a sense of containment and quarantine and pestilence, which ties in with the play very well," said James Rutherford, a senior theatre arts major who is directing the play.

Rutherford hit on the idea a long time ago, he said, but finally decided to do it when he talked with a friend who studies drosophila fruit flies at Brown's Biomed Center.

She told him it was easy to breed fruit flies, and it was.

They planned to have 30,000 flies at the play's opening Friday, but Rutherford said they got 10,000 extra because the flies reproduced better than anticipated.

The play tells the story of Orestes and Electra, and Rutherford said the flies represent the Greek furies and people's feelings that they are unable to act.

What's it like to be in an enclosed space with 40,000 fruit flies?



"Basically, like a co-op kitchen in the summer," Rutherford said.

Brown required the students to spray the netting with flame retardant to satisfy fire codes, and Rutherford said it was perfectly safe to sit with the bugs for the hour-and-45-minute play.

"They're not drawn to blood or anything, or people or meat. It's like vinegar and grapes and that kind of thing," he said.

Theatregoers know what they're getting into. Rutherford said the flies' presence has been heavily advertised, and anyone who reserves a ticket on a Brown online ticketing service is greeted with a disclosure:

"I am aware that there will be 30,000 live drosophila in the audience area at this production," the message reads, next to a box that must be checked before reserving tickets.

After the production's six-play run ends Monday, the theatre will leave the net up and freeze the flies to death by turning down the heat. But Rutherford said people shouldn't feel sorry for them.

"They're vile," he said. "They're really disgusting little creatures."