



## 12th Annual Fall Educational Workshop

“The Future of Public Health”

Delta Calgary South  
Calgary, AB

October 3-4, 2011

Visit <http://www.ciphi.ab.ca>

for more information



Government House, Edmonton

## Message from the President

What does it mean for an organization of volunteers to turn 40 years old? For me, it speaks to maturity, stability and pride. July 22, 2011, marked the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CIPHI Alberta's incorporation under the Societies Act. I encourage us all to take a moment to embrace this special moment in our Branch history. Personally, it is a humbling honour to be your President during this special year, and also as we look ahead to the CIPHI National Centenary celebrations in 2013.

My message for this edition revolves around the question “What does CIPHI do for me?” When I started as President this spring, I took the newer Executive members aside and told them that

their roles as volunteers with the Branch will be very rewarding, but often the most difficult question to answer is “What does CIPHI do for me?”

I approach this question with the understanding that our profession is not defined by who employs us. Rather, our profession is defined by the credential we maintain and by the Institute we belong to. The good fortune of being employed does not make any one of us “professional.” I also believe that attaining your CPHI(C) does not transform you into a professional either. The term “professional” is a moving target that is earned by demonstrating our ability to

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## Message from the Editor

In June, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the CIPHI Annual Educational Conference in Halifax. The opportunity to network with my colleagues across the country reinforced the important role that CIPHI has nationally. And the lobster was good, too!

I'd like to extend my thanks to several Branch members. First, President Jason MacDonald, for continuing to be so supportive of the Branch News. Second, thanks to Karen De Wet and Imtiaz Ahmed for submitting an interesting first-hand account of their involvement in setup and monitoring of

Slave Lake resident evacuation centres. And finally, my thanks to the Newsletter Committee members (Karen Emde, Tony Thepsouvanh, Wojciech Drobina and Phi Phan) for agreeing to continue participating on the committee for another round.

As always, I encourage you to please email your feedback and submissions to me, at:

abn.editor@gmail.com

- Lance Honish, Editor

### 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.

## Message from the President con't.

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use our skills effectively in the field. It also involves promoting and supporting the Institute's legacy and initiatives, because without a strong CIPHI, our profession is weakened.

It can be easy to lose sight of the fact that Environmental Public Health Professionals wear "two hats." The hat that we must always put on first is that of the credentialed professional. The other hat we then wear is the one our employers place on us when our work day starts. I believe we need to be conscious of which "hat" is most dominant in our work lives. Over the last 40 years of public health in Alberta, many employers have come and gone. Regardless of who has employed us, CIPHI has remained the foundation for the profession - for 40 years in Al-

berta and nearly 100 years in Canada. Embracing an ethic of being a "CPhi(C) first" will lead our profession to continued greatness.

So, to answer the initial question, CIPHI gives you the platform to launch and grow your career. The CPhi(C) designation is no longer a static credential. Rather, it is now vitally linked to the continued growth of your own professional competency and the way our profession is outwardly viewed. Thus, the answer becomes CIPHI does for you what you do for yourself as a professional.

Speaking of continued professional competency development, I hope to

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# Slave Lake Forest Fire Evacuations: An EHO's story

**Editor's Note:** EHOs involved with inspection of evacuation centres in Athabasca set up for Slave Lake residents evacuated due to a May 2011 forest fire have kindly provided some of their first-hand experiences.

## Not just another Monday

Monday May 16, 2011 started off the same as any other Monday until I heard on the 6:00am radio news report that there was a huge out-of-control fire in Slave Lake and that about 2000 Slave Lake residents were being evacuated to Athabasca. Our town's population was about to double overnight; and as I was driving to work, I was going over checklists in my mind as to what I needed to look out for when I visited the evacuee centre that has been set up overnight at the Regional Multiplex. I arrived at work and let my supervisor know what had happened and that I was on my way to the Multiplex to assess the situation.

## Athabasca Multiplex evacuation centres

I met with the manager of operations at the Multiplex that morning and did a general tour of the facility; they had done a fantastic job of setting up the facility overnight as they had only got word that people required shelter at about 7:00pm the previous evening. Mattresses had been put out in a designated sleeping area in the field house as well as the lounge upstairs to accommodate the people who had arrived during the night. More cots were expected to arrive



Slave Lake, Alberta and approaching forest fires—May 2011

Photo supplied by Karen De Wet



Supply and dining areas, Multiplex Evacuation Centre, Athabasca

Photo supplied by Karen De Wet

from Red Cross, who makes these available for emergencies. These cots actually travel all over the world to various disaster zones as required.

Just some of the issues that EHOs were involved with at the Multiplex evacuation centre:

- Diaper changing areas and supplies
- Shower facilities
- Garbage storage/removal
- Pet area (evacuee pets included a big snake, frogs, turtles, racing pigeons, hamsters, birds and of course lots of dogs and cats who were all terribly traumatized)
- Animal bite incidents
- Preparation/storage of food for evacuees
- Fielding evacuee questions about health services

## Two more evacuation centres

Another two evacuation centers were established in the area, one at the Reformed Church venue in Athabasca and another one at the Community Centre in Smith. My colleague and I worked together to ensure that we were able to visit all these facilities regularly and attend to any requirements that they may have. We carried out regular monitoring inspect-

(Continued on page 16)

# 2010 Stanier Institute Opinion Paper Contest Winners

Congratulations to **Jason MacDonald** and **Michael Sidra**, who are the 2010 Stanier Institute Opinion Paper Contest Winners! Their winning paper is entitled “Finished Product Inspections Will Not Prevent Hazards: Why the EHO must embrace HACCP to succeed in performing meaningful inspections of Personal Service Settings.”

Jason and Michael have donated their \$1000 prize to “Clinica Verde”, a non-profit charitable organization formed to help improve maternal and infant health in Nicaragua. **Read more about the charity and a fundraising challenge to Branch members on page 7.**

The Stanier Institute/Institut Stanier is a scientifically-minded group committed to development of the public health sciences. The Stanier Institute/Institut Stanier, in partnership with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors ([www.ciphi.ca](http://www.ciphi.ca)), invites practicing certified Public Health Inspectors to submit a feature opinion paper – in English or French – offering ideas and suggestions that address any issue applied to the present day activities of Public Health Inspectors. Any member in good standing of CIPHI is eligible to enter. The Stanier Institute awards \$1000 for the opinion paper assessed to be the most interesting and original submission.

The paper is posted on the CIPHI website via a link in the Member Service Centre. Here are some excerpts from the winning paper, reprinted with permission of the authors, that summarize their position statement.

**“The inspection of personal services is a growing facet of environmental public health in Canada. From coast to coast, new legislation and inspection protocols are being set out to ensure that personal services, from tattooing to esthetics to hairstyling and more, are safe.**

**Many reasons exist for the challenges faced by the EHO in personal service settings. Some provinces do not have legislation for personal services, while others have antiquated laws. Despite their immense popularity nationally, there are few regions that require facilities to have a permit to operate – meaning that the**

**majority of studios open without any sort of public health intervention or educational opportunity. Further, there are few legislated requirements for operator competency in Canada, meaning that practitioners are not likely to be aware of public health expectations. Lastly, outside of physical monitoring of sterilization, there are few establishments that utilize written policies or tracking forms, meaning that accountability for vital safety points are not monitored. Too often, the EHO has to rely on “snapshots” to determine the safety of a studio, when in fact we know very little about the associated processes.**

**The ‘snapshot’ taken during a typical routine inspection offers very little assurance that the situation encountered by the EHO is actually representative of safe conditions. For example, we cannot simply walk into a studio, see a jar of disinfectant and confidently state that all instruments are being cleaned and disinfected in a suitable manner. Visual observation of static events happens all too often during inspections and we can do better. We need a new approach.**

**Verification, not assumption, of critical steps involved in personal service facility operation is needed. HACCP based concepts can be used in personal service establishments. Operators would demonstrate in writing that they continually obviate critical safety points, thus the EHO is able to provide a much better analysis of the safety of the studio. Ultimately, the EHO would evolve beyond the inspection of finished products and into an audit of the infection prevention and control processes.”**



- Lance Honish, Editor

# Alberta Branch Awards 2011

The 2011 Alberta Branch Awards winners were officially announced earlier this year. Congratulations to this year's recipients:

**Medical Officer of Health Award: Dr. Vivien Suttorp**

*This award is given to a Medical Officer of Health, who in the eyes of a member(s) of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (Alberta Branch) has demonstrated support of EPH programs and/or EPH Professionals.*

**L.E. Stewart Award: Nick Skipplings**

*This is awarded to a member of the Alberta Branch, who, in the eyes of his or her colleagues, has made a significant contribution to our association, the profession and/or the community.*

**President's Outstanding Academic Achievement Award:**

**Geoffrey Tomko and Jessica Ponto**

*This is awarded to a graduate of the Concordia University College of Alberta Environmental Health Program who has achieved outstanding academic achievement and obtained their Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada).*

**Court Case Award: Sarah Nunn**

*This award is given to a member of CIPHI (Alberta Branch) who in the preceding year has had an EPH situation proceed to the Alberta, Northwest Territories or Nunavut court system in an effort to protect and promote public health. The member dedicated time and effort from the beginning of the situation to the presentation of the case in the courts by way of meticulous documentation and providing a clear and concise brief for the courts to review.*

**Community Service Award: Pamela Hodgkinson**

*This is awarded to a member of the Alberta Branch who is working in the field of Environmental Public Health (EPH), has received their Certificate in Public Health Inspection (Canada) and volunteers their time and resources in the community.*

**Environmental Public Health Manager Award:**

**Brian Dalshaug**

*This award is given to a member of the Alberta Branch who has demonstrated commitment and support of the Alberta Branch and its activities and/or shown perseverance in advancing the profession of Certified Public Health Inspectors.*

**Innovation Award: Jeremy Donaldson**

*The award is given to a member of CIPHI (Alberta Branch) whose innovative thinking and dedication to the field of EPH has led to changes in the practice of EPH by their employer, within the province or on a national level.*

**Daniel Robert Vujevic Promising New Professional:**

**Sarah Yusuf**

*The Daniel Robert Vujevic Promising New Professional Award recognizes a member of the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors who, in the eyes of his/her colleagues, has actively demonstrated outstanding service to the Institute and/or the profession of environmental public health.*

- Jason MacDonald, President

## Message from the President con't.

*(Continued from page 2)*

see each and every one of you at our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Educational Workshop in Calgary on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. We are again embracing a forward looking theme entitled "The Future of Public Health" which will encompass several practice areas. There will be something for everyone. Check our website or talk to your Zone Councillor for more information. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank our outgoing Executive for their time and dedication to the Branch and the Institute. This Institute is kept strong through the time and ef-

fort put forward by those members who make a little more time each day for the good of the profession. Koreen Anderson will continue on as Past President after two years of success in the President's role, both provincially and with the National Executive Council. After a term as Zone Councillor in Calgary and most recently as Secretary, Karen Clarke has taken a bit of time away from the Executive to focus on her Masters studies. Knowing Karen, her helping hands won't be too far away when the call for help goes out in the future.

*(Continued on page 13)*



# CIPHI Alberta

Invites you to participate  
in the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Provincial

## 2011 September Sock Challenge

September 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>

Socks collected will be donated to  
agencies in your communities who help  
disadvantaged populations

Proudly sponsored by:



Winning zone will be announced at the 2011 Alberta Branch 12th Annual Fall Workshop

## Branch Fundraising Challenge: “Clinica Verde”

Hey Branch Members, let's turn \$1000 into \$10,000 and beyond to support public health in Nicaragua!

Clinica Verde, meaning “Green Clinic,” is a nonprofit charitable organization formed to build and assist sustainable health clinics that improve maternal and infant healthcare, beginning in Nicaragua. Nicaragua is the second poorest country in Latin America and has one of the highest rates in the hemisphere of both adolescent fertility and maternal mortality. The need is, obviously, great.

Clinica Verde is helping to fill that need!

They promote socially responsible design and green technologies in the developing world while creating health partnerships with communities in need.

Part of the efforts of the Clinica Verde organizers includes the development of basic public health programs such as education to mothers on healthy nutrition, food safety, and eventually water safety and other environmental issues.

As a public health profession we have a responsibility to do what we can to support these efforts. 100% of the 2011 Stanier Institute opinion paper award (\$1000) will be donated to support Clinica Verde.

We believe with the 1500 CIPHI members and their close professional and personal associates can raise at least 10 times that amount (\$10,000).

Show your support for this great cause while demonstrating that our profession can make a difference in people's lives all over the world!



To learn more about this worthy charity and how you can provide your support please visit the following website:

<http://www.giveforward.com/stanierawardfundraiser>

An income tax receipt will be mailed to donors.

Show your support for this great cause while demonstrating that our profession can and does make a difference in people's lives both here and all over the world.

**DONATE TODAY!**

- Michael Sidra, Jason MacDonald & Sharon Regimbald



## Happy 40th Birthday, Alberta Branch!

On behalf of the your Executive, I wanted to take a moment to pass along an exciting CIPHI Alberta Branch milestone. **Forty years ago this year (July 22, 1971 to be exact) CIPHI Alberta Branch was born !** That was the day we registered as an official society here in Alberta.

We are pleased to share this exciting news and occasion with you. We would be remiss if we did not thank our in-house graphic designer, Jason Feltham from Calgary, who donated his time to put together a very nice logo (**pictured right**) to help us mark this occasion. Further, another thank you goes out to our 2011 Fall Workshop team in Calgary, particularly the Social Committee, as they continue preparations for a fun, 70's-themed social event for us in October.

Please take a moment to reflect on what 40 years of certification, advocacy, education and professional competency means to you as a member. Personally, I cannot be more excited or proud to represent the Alberta Branch at this time and as we continue our journey toward our national centenary in 2013.

- Jason MacDonald, President



## Alberta Branch representin' in Halifax

In June, several Branch members (and others from Alberta) had the opportunity to attend the CIPHI 77th Annual Education Conference in Halifax. Pictured right, left-to-right: Jeremy Vaughan, Mark Kane (Calgary Police Service), Sue Wall (Calgary Bylaw Services), Jeremy Donaldson, Kelly Kennedy, Dale Nelson, Tony Mak, Daria Romanish, Ihsan Sassi, Christina Ngo, Lena Jobb, Jason MacDonald, Angela Kim, Sarah Yusuf, Simon Sihota, Lance Honish, Jon Elliott and Phi Phan.

- Lance Honish, Editor

*(Photo supplied by Ihsan Sassi)*



## Concordia Corner

Greetings from Concordia and Environmental Health Student Association (EHSA). As the previous cohort graduated in April, we wished them good luck and received the new cohort with a warm welcome. The new cohort consisted of people from various backgrounds and cultures, making for a diverse class. We organized a barbecue to welcome the new cohort and gave them a chance to network with the older cohort. The event brought both cohorts closer and gave a chance for students to know each other on personal basis. As the semester progressed we had more events where people enjoyed being part of Environmental Public Health and learned through interactions with each other.

Summer semester was full of excitement and interesting activities in classroom. In this semester we got a chance to take a health promotion class with Carla Eskow. Her enthusiasm, interest and attachment to Environmental Health gave us a new perspective about our field. As a part of her course, we got a chance to attend PechaKucha night on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Presenters talked about various topics which most of our class found very interesting. This was a unique way of presenting information because presenters had to wrap up 20 slides in just 6 minutes and 20 seconds. What made PechaKucha even more interesting was that students in our class had to use this style of presentation to present their final project. Despite the similarity of style, every student had some unique skills that made their presentations interesting and engaging. In fact, a majority of the class voted that presenters in CIPHI conferences should use this style of presentation because it is short, precise and interesting.

In addition to Health Promotion, Ethics with Glenn Sinclair too was a very interesting and engaging course. This course challenged our reasoning as Public Health Inspectors. Various assignments, skits and presentations helped us learn about a variety of ethical dilemmas that health inspectors face while performing their duties. The class enabled us to effectively handle such dilemmas. Students put a lot of effort and time and even attended lectures during our days off. The most interesting part of the course was the final debates on



Welcome Barbeque at Concordia University College of Alberta

public health ethical issues. Students were very professional and brought a wide variety of interesting arguments about those issues. Due to the interesting and informative nature of the course, the students are very excited to apply the information they learned to ethical dilemmas faced in the field.

Since many people in our class were not from Edmonton and some were from outside of Canada, they were very interested to be a part of community events and gatherings. To ensure that they are active and know what is really going around in the community, EHSA provided students free tickets to Capital Ex. Students not only had a good experience, but also learned a lot about the role of health inspectors during community and special events. The year was wrapped up with a grad dinner organized by EHSA. Students had a lot of fun at the dinner. The night was made especially interesting because EHSA vice president and the incoming President had to give a speech and a toast. It was very sentimental for the all those gathered there, not least because of his upcoming wedding. Congrats Cecil Lebby on your marriage! Students and EHSA also arranged a gift for Cecil and wished him good luck for the marriage. It was an amazing experience being part of this program. I leave with only the best wishes for the new cohort and hope they join us in the field very soon.

Syed Z. Naqvi, President EHSA

# EHOs Get Their Yukigassen On!

Yukigassen is a snowball fight tournament that originated in Japan, and was introduced to Canada just this year. Team YukiEHOs (Yuki - means snow or snowball) braved the -15C weather to participate, and included eight Branch members (Candace Fraser, Kyle Wonsiak, Tony Thepsouvanh, Danny Thepsouvanh, Chris Kelly, Sarah Yusuf, Lena Jobb and Team Capitan Angella Kim). Our team made it to the finals! We were also featured in the March 6 Edmonton edition of "Metro" (front cover!) and in the Edmonton Journal. We didn't play in the playoffs though because the team went home... we didn't think we actually made it! Yukigassen was a lot of fun, and though we had only won 4 out of our 7 games, we still wore our uniforms (Tyvek suits) with pride and definitely hope to do this again next year. Hopefully we can get a second EHO team in next time around!



Team YukiEHOs pose before their epic Yukigassen snowball battle

- Sarah Yusuf

# Branch Golf Tournament 2011

The 2011 Branch Golf Tournament was held on June 25 at the Ponoka Community Golf Club. It was (mostly) a dry day on a very soggy course, which made for entertaining golfing! One team (that shall remain nameless) managed to get their golf cart stuck in a bog, but pushed it out before anyone noticed or took a picture.

Here are the winners in each category:

Dr. C.G More Trophy (lowest gross score)	Peter Dushenski
Dave Davis Award (lowest net score)	Dan Richen
Men's Longest Drive	Thor Hameister
Women's Longest Drive	Krista McKnight
Longest Putt	Kevin Jeroncic, Jim Murphy
Closest to Pin	Krista McKnight, Thor Hameister



Tournament organizer Michael McKnight (right) and his wife Krista

A big thank you to Michael McKnight for organizing the tournament. See you in 2012!

- Sarah Nunn

# CIPHI 77th AEC, Halifax: Bridging the Gap

**Editors Note: Branch members Lena Jobb and Pamela Hodgkinson were recipients of Education Sponsorship from the Branch in 2011, and used the funding to attend the 77th CIPHI AEC. They've submitted this information to acknowledge the sponsorship she received.**

## Lena:

This past June I was fortunate enough to attend the CIPHI 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Educational Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was evident throughout the conference that the theme 'Strengthening Collaboration, Strengthening the Profession' is an essential element in Environmental Public Health. With the aid of other agencies Environmental Health Officers are able to institute best practices to provide a service to the public like no other profession can.



Using the bridge that links Halifax and Dartmouth as inspiration for the conference (pictured above), our fellow Environmental Health officers organized an outstanding week of educational opportunities interspersed with all the right things; lobster, boats, tours, great weather, extraordinary scenery, fun, and fellowship.

Although delegates were able to choose the daily seminars they wished to attend, the underlying message of collaboration remained throughout. I decided to attend seminars which I felt were most pertinent to the field in which I currently work: inner city housing. In housing especially, collaboration is a necessity that must be based

on good working relationships with other agencies such as Safety Codes Officers and plumbing professionals, electrical professionals and hoarding experts.



So, with these relationships in mind I asked myself, if collaboration is such an essential element in public health, how are these relationships built? And I came to the conclusion that there is no one specific answer but a series of case-dependent responses which enable collaborative efforts. Over time these responses become routine and of course all parties must possess a willingness to work towards a common goal where all benefit from the outcome and public health and safety is achieved, or at the very least strived for.

Interestingly, collaboration not only involves other professional agencies but it also involves engagement of the public, a party that is often forgotten. The public has varying degrees of influence within public health such as participation, consultation, and information. Examples of this may include, but are not limited to, company partnerships, public hearings, appeals, data collection, or publication of advisories. Therefore, it is the involvement of both public and professional sectors which enables an array of stronger and more effective relationships.

Most importantly, we must utilize the existing partnerships that have been tried and tested and look to the future to build new relationships. By doing this we will be able to draw on a board range of experts, bridging gaps, protecting public health, and creating a progressive profession.

I would like to thank our Eastern counterparts for organizing and executing a successful national conference, and also CIPHI for providing sponsorship opportunities to its members. The experience was very informative and much appreciated.

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# CIPHI 77th AEC, Halifax, con't

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## **Pamela:**

What an excellent opportunity I was afforded to attend the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference in Halifax. The east coast was splendid - the scenery, the local food, and the great watering holes!

As this was the first time participating in a national conference, I was particularly impressed by the organization of the three-and-a-half days. There were plenty of activities to participate in and the efforts of both the conference chairs and conference volunteers were evident. I would like to extend my appreciation on the efforts of the organizing committee for their excellent work.

The conference theme was ***Strengthening Collaboration: Strengthening the Profession***. As Public Health Inspectors, we understand the incredible importance of collaboration. In almost every facet of our day to day work, we are working with different agencies, different organizations and different people. Building strong relationships creates a foundation on which strong environmental public health work can be conducted. As an environmental public health professional in a rural community, I learned at the very start of my career that if you build a strong and trustworthy relationship with your local municipality, you will earn respect that will last for the years to come. Dr. Brian Evans, Chief Food Safety Officer and Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada, keynote speaker, spoke very clearly on the importance of collaboration.

If you have not heard the phrase “**One Health**” I suggest you become familiar with this principle. The concept of considering ecosystem health, animal health and human health is a principle that is growing with popularity and, I believe is a principle Public Health Inspectors practice daily, whether or not we define our work as such. But nonetheless, the concept of **One Health** is something we need to embrace. I also believe that as Environmental Public Health professionals, we will be and are an important piece of **One Health**. Our diverse training and education, direct involvement with the public on a daily basis and keen risk assessment abilities creates a perfect

opportunity in future health protection scenarios. This concept was discussed on many occasions during the three days.

One of my favourite presentations was from Dr. Andrew Hedra. He works for the Nova Scotia College and also with the Department of Agriculture. Dr. Hedra gave a presentation on the different pests common in the household and prevention methods. The speaker also gave a brief account of the many different “bugs” that have arrived in Canada by the port of Halifax, re-telling his story of when a pit viper was found in a shipping container of lettuce arriving from overseas. I would not have wanted to be that employee that found that lovely little surprise!



I thoroughly enjoyed the lobster feast (**that's me on the left in the picture above!**), but being an Alberta farm girl, was hoping that a little Alberta beef was available for the second course! It was this night, and during the social gathering on the cruise ships after the dinner, that I met many great folks from other provinces. There was a lot of lively and friendly chat, and some new friendships formed with colleagues across the country.

Thank you CIPHI, Alberta Branch for sponsoring my attendance at this workshop! The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference in Halifax was spectacular. I am looking forward to attending more workshops in the future and encourage each of you, if given the opportunity to attend workshops in the future.

## EHO on the Run: Canadian Death Race 2011

Geoff Tomko, an Environmental Health Officer in Lethbridge, was part of a team that completed the infamous "Canadian Death Race" in Grande Cache, Alberta on July 30, 2011.

The Canadian Death Race, for those unfamiliar, is a 125km all-terrain extreme adventure race course that includes three mountain summits and 17 000 feet elevation change. Geoff, as part of a relay team, completed two legs of this grueling race for his team.

Geoff, pictured right, is looking pretty limber along one of the legs of the race.

Congratulations to Geoff and his team.

- Pamela Hodgkinson



EHO Geoff Tomko participating in the 2011 "Canadian Death Race"

## Message from the President con't.

*(Continued from page 5)*

Outgoing Vice-President Debra Langier-Blythe's passion and enthusiasm are also missed this term. Debra was a tremendous support to Koreen both provincially and nationally. Thank you all for your selfless service to the Branch.

- Jason MacDonald, President



## Introducing: Fletcher MacDonald

Congratulations to Branch President Jason MacDonald and wife Heather on the arrival of their new 10 lb bundle of joy! Fletcher (pictured right) was born on August 4.

- Ihsan Sassi



## Introducing: Mr. & Mrs. Phi & Mystique Phan

Phi Phan (current CIPHI National President) and Mystique Wendel (Branch member) were married in Edmonton on August 13. Congratulations to the newest EHO "power couple" in Alberta!

- Lance Honish, Editor



Photos: Phi & Mystique Phan

# Branch Hockey Pool 2011/2012 and 2010/2011 Final Standings

With the Summer (?) rapidly winding down, Hockey Season will be upon us shortly. In fact, the 2011 - 2012 NHL Season starts the second week of October with games from Europe. That means the next Alberta Branch Hockey Pool is about to begin!

The Branch Hockey Pool is open to all members of the Alberta Branch - including students. And best of all it is FREE. All you have to do is select a team consisting of 2 Left Wingers, 2 Centres, 2 Right Wingers, 4 Defensemen, 2 Goal-tenders and 1 NHL team.

So, if you fancy yourself a Poolie and want to challenge your colleagues and other Branch members, start putting together your team. It's FREE, it's FUN and you get a chance at a bit of money if you end up in the Top Three! So look for the invitation coming to your email In Box shortly.

## The winner of the 2010/2011 pool is... Karen Clarke (Calgary)!

Actually, it was quite a tight race throughout the season but Karen pulled ahead in the final month to edge Quentin Schatz (Red Deer) who ended up in second place and Andrew Lum (another Calgary member) who took third.

The top three Poolies take home some cash, but we can't forget the others in the Top Ten: It was a tight knit group in Calgary, as Tanya MacNeil took fourth place and Dale Nelson was seventh. Ken Longmore (Medicine Hat) was in top spot for much of the year, but like the Calgary Flames he just tuckered out in the home stretch, and ended up in fifth. Kos Ng (Grande Prairie) was the only rep from the North Zone in the Top Ten; he took sixth place. National President Phi Phan and Sarah Stephen carried the Edmonton colours in seventh and ninth place. Manny Ahmad (Red Deer) rounded out the Top Ten.

And there were a whole bunch of also-rans serving as the foundation for the Branch Pool. Cheryl Galbraith takes home the Pool Anchor Award (formerly the Phi Phan Award), finishing just 81 points out of second-last place!

I know that Todd Baxter (Medicine Hat), Chai Tang (Edmonton) and Dianne Brownless have reasons for ending up near the bottom of the pile, but I'm not so sure that pool veteran Ken Fujioka (Edmonton) can come up with a good excuse. My excuse is that I was too distracted maintaining the Pool Stats... honest!

- Dan Richen

RANK	Name	TOTAL
1	Karen Clarke	999
2	Quentin Schatz	995
3	Andrew Lum	991
4	Tanya MacNeil	989
5	Ken Longmore	984
6	Kosoo Ng	979
T7	Dale Nelson	974
T7	Phi Phan	974
9	Sarah Stephen	973
10	Manny Ahmad	968
11	Kevin Jeronic	966
12	Jason MacDonald	953
13	Dean Rombough	951
14	Dave Fong	950
15	Tricia Herridge	949
16	Trevor Meiklejohn	942
17	Michel Gervais	939
18	Kristen Dykstra	935
19	Lena Jobb	934
20	Chad Beegan	933
21	Marilyn Dahlgren	932
22	Keith Lee	919
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**Alberta Branch News**

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

**The Editor, Alberta Branch News**  
 Box 1674  
 Drumheller, AB T0J 0Y0  
 Phone 780-342-0321  
 Fax 780-342-0146  
 Email [abn.editor@gmail.com](mailto:abn.editor@gmail.com)

*Alberta Branch Executive Board*

President	<b>Jason MacDonald</b> <small><a href="mailto:jason.macdonald@albertahealthservices.ca">jason.macdonald@albertahealthservices.ca</a></small>
Vice-President	<b>Jon Elliott</b> <small><a href="mailto:jon.elliott@hc-sc.gc.ca">jon.elliott@hc-sc.gc.ca</a></small>
Treasurer	<b>Marilyn Dahlgren</b>
Secretary	<b>Ihsan Sassi</b> <small><a href="mailto:ihsan.sassi@albertahealthservices.ca">ihsan.sassi@albertahealthservices.ca</a></small>
Past President	<b>Koreen Anderson</b> <small><a href="mailto:koreen.anderson@albertahealthservices.ca">koreen.anderson@albertahealthservices.ca</a></small>
Arctic	<b>Robert Savoury</b> <small><a href="mailto:robert_savoury@gov.nt.ca">robert_savoury@gov.nt.ca</a></small>
Northern	<b>Adrea Simmons</b> <small><a href="mailto:adrea.simmons@albertahealthservices.ca">adrea.simmons@albertahealthservices.ca</a></small>
Central	<b>Tricia Herridge</b> <small><a href="mailto:tricia.herridge@albertahealthservices.ca">tricia.herridge@albertahealthservices.ca</a></small>
Southern	<b>Wayne Quan</b> <small><a href="mailto:wayne.quan2@albertahealthservices.ca">wayne.quan2@albertahealthservices.ca</a></small>
Edmonton	<b>Jessica Ponto</b> <small><a href="mailto:jessica.ponto@albertahealthservices.ca">jessica.ponto@albertahealthservices.ca</a></small>
Calgary	<b>Daria Romanish</b> <small><a href="mailto:daria.romanish@albertahealthservices.ca">daria.romanish@albertahealthservices.ca</a></small>
Federal	<b>Andrea Germann</b> <small><a href="mailto:andrea.germann@hc-sc.gc.ca">andrea.germann@hc-sc.gc.ca</a></small>

*Alberta Branch News*

Editor	<b>Lance Honish</b>
Committee Members	<b>K Emde, W Drobina, P Phan, T Thepsouvanh</b>
Design	<b>Lance Honish, Phi Phan</b>



Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors  
 Box 1674  
 Drumheller, AB  
 T0J 0Y0

Email: [branch@ciphi.ab.ca](mailto:branch@ciphi.ab.ca)  
 Homepage: <http://www.ciphi.ab.ca>

## Slave Lake Evacuation, con't

*(Continued from page 3)*

-tions and provided advice and health education as required during the two weeks of operation.

### Rotavirus Outbreak

On May 19 we received reports from the Multiplex first aid station that a number of moms were bringing children in with symptoms of diarrhea and some were also vomiting. An outbreak was declared by our MOH and we received instructions to remove and isolate affected individuals by that night. With the help of the management at the multiplex we managed to contact and isolate the affected individuals by relocating them to various hotels in the area. We assisted with ensuring that other outbreak control measures were also put into place. These control measures assisted in controlling the outbreak; by the end of the two weeks, we only had 13 cases reported (two lab confirmed rotavirus) out of about 2000 people.

### Standing down, and parting thoughts

We had regular meetings with the Alberta Emergency Management agency which was really helpful as it gave all agencies involved a chance to share information. By May 28 everybody had left the evacuee centers in Athabasca as they were able to return to Slave Lake.

Something that really struck me during the two weeks was this amazing sense of community and team work that made this exercise a success. Although it was tragic for many of the evacuees to have lost almost everything they possessed, it was a wonderful feeling to be part of the whole team that was working together to help them during their time of need. This experience has been invaluable and has strengthened my belief in the importance of working together as a team and building solid relationships in order to reach a common goal.

- Karen De Wet and Imtiaz Ahmed