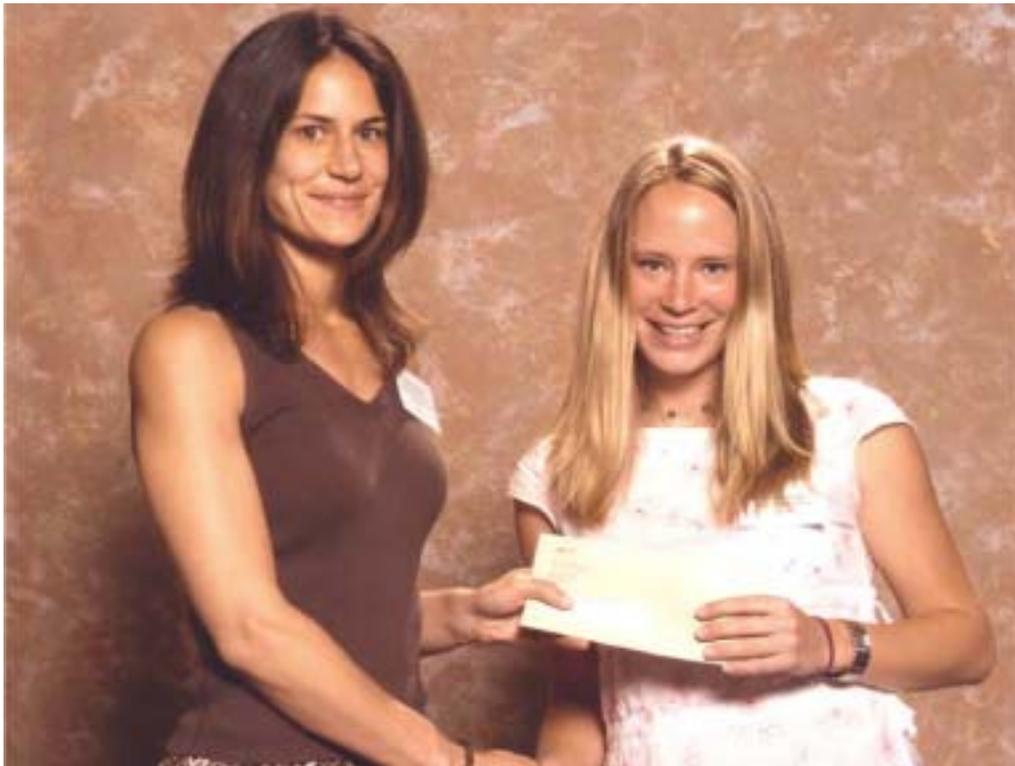


The 2004 Stringer Award: Jennifer Flaten



The award was presented at the BCIT awards ceremony in June by Jasmina Egeler on behalf of the BC Branch. To win the John A. Stringer Memorial Award Bursary, the candidate must be a graduating student at BCIT and belong to any Branch of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Candidates must also be of sound character with leadership potential as identified by the faculty of BCIT in consultation with the BC Branch.

Congratulations Jennifer!

BC Branch Executive 2004

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**The BC Page is published by and for the B.C. Branch of the
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BC Branch Update: August 2004

As you may know, I have taken on the challenging volunteer opportunity of CIPHI President and now the BC Branch has a new president, Steve Chong. Congratulations to Steve and kudos for taking on this challenge. The position of Branch President is no small undertaking and I know I can count on the BC Branch membership to lend their support to Steve. Other changes have occurred on the BC Branch executive signaling a “new generation” of leadership for the BC Branch. Looking at the BC Branch Executive, I see a dedicated group of professionals with a keen interest in furthering the profession and the energy to accomplish their goals. Congratulations are also in order to Jasmina Egeler, Vice President, Salima Kassam, Treasurer and Nigel Headley, Councilor for taking on new roles in the BC Branch Executive.

The BC Branch held another great educational conference this past April at the Hilton Hotel in Burnaby. The Conference covered a wide variety of topics and featured an update from Ken Christian, Regional Director, Interior Health. Since this conference, I have had the opportunity to meet with the Regional Directors Leadership Council and ask for their continued support of the Educational Conference. The Regional Directors are very supportive and there appears to be the opportunity to partner with a Health Region to bring in speakers from further a field. This is a great partnership for the BC Branch and I know you can look forward to another great BC Branch Education Conference in early 2005. (Tentatively early March) As always, we welcome your suggestions on topics and speakers.

A number of BC Branch members expressed their concern over the process used to bring in the new Sewerage System Regulations. The regulation was proclaimed July 6/04 and will replace the Sewage Disposal regulation on May 31/05. Both the regulation and the draft Sewerage System Standard Practice Manual, the partner document to the regulation, are available on the Public Health Web site, Land Use Section at <http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/protect/sewage.html>. This is a big shift in the traditional way in which PHI/EHO's have done business over the years but, I believe, does not signal the end of the world as we know it. I see opportunities for PHI/EHO's to redirect their skills to a higher level and add to our skill set in areas where we haven't had the time in the past. During my meeting with the Regional Directors, it was clear this change is not seen as an opportunity to reduce PHI/EHO positions but rather to re-direct limited resources.

Unfortunately, there is still no news on the professional designation of PHI/EHO's in BC. The BC Branch will continue to pursue this, look for updates in future editions of the BC Page.

During the National Executive Council (NEC) meetings in Charlottetown this past June, the NEC agreed to introduce the title of Environmental Public Health Professionals to the membership. The NEC believes this new title addresses the issue of are we PHIs or EHOs. The NEC believes this title clearly identifies our roles in Environment and Public Health. This clear identity is important as we see changes to Public Health and the creation of a National Public Health Agency.

I would like to extend a warm thank-you to all of the BC Branch members for your support over these past 5 years. It has been a great experience for me both personally and professionally.

Claudia Kurzac
Past President
CIPHI BC Branch

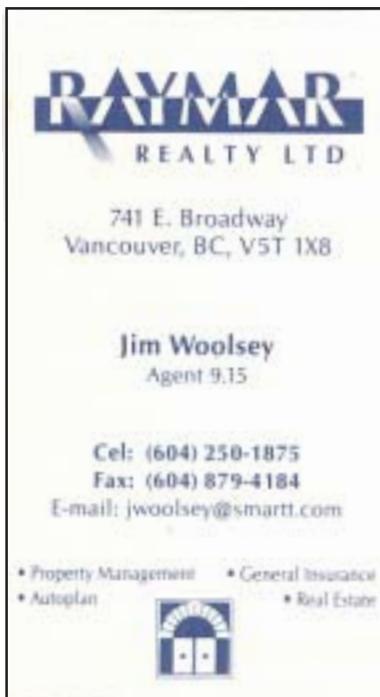
The Canadian Water and Wastewater Association's National Conference: A Special Report for the BC Branch of CIPHI

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association's (CWWA) National conference in Calgary on April 3-6, 2004. Held every two years, this particular conference had a strong emphasis on public health issues regarding water quality, and the Alberta Branch of CIPHI had a noticeable presence. Recently CIPHI and CWWA have collaborated in a partnership that will encourage more mutual participation and cooperation in the respective national conferences of each organization.

A broad spectrum of water quality topics and issues were presented in three "streams" of presentations, running concurrently. Throughout the three days, it was difficult to choose which presentation to take in; hearing one presentation would certainly be at the expense of two other interesting talks. I'll briefly summarize some of the topics that are of particular interest to public health:

- Research efforts to assess the presence of *Cryptosporidium* in wildlife that inhabit the GVRD watersheds.
- Chlorine disinfection by-products and control.
- The validity and objectivity of toxicity assessments by Health Canada relating to setting MAC values in the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines.
- Investigation of a contamination source in a small community water system in Alberta.
- A very interesting GIS mapping project of water systems on Vancouver Island.
- Water conservation strategies: lessons learned.
- Effective risk communication techniques for water regulatory officials.

I also attended a one day workshop on "HACCP for water utilities" presented by N.S.F. This is a relatively new application of the HACCP methodology (known well by EHOs for food safety applications) towards water treatment and distribution systems. In the water systems world, examples of critical control points are the chlorination stage, flocculation process, or UV disinfection stage. In a food establishment, a prerequisite program may be a cleaning and sanitation schedule; for water systems, examples of this are flushing distribution lines and source protection. Application of the rigorous HACCP methodology towards water systems makes a lot of sense as there is only one final product to focus on, as opposed to the multiple items prepared in any food premise. In many respects, the activities of HACCP (i.e., monitoring, reacting, verifying, and recording) are already being implemented by SCADA systems that control many larger water utilities.



At a higher level, HACCP principles have already served to develop the “business rules”, or “operational logic” that a SCADA system operates on. This is why I feel that there is more promise for HACCP applications on smaller, non-SCADA water systems. HACCP provides a trusted and sound framework to develop the various monitoring and verification systems that will ensure a safe water supply.

Other important themes also began to emerge from many of the conference presentations:

- Lessons learned from the Walkerton outbreak, and the subsequent O’Connor report’s recommendations.
- The necessity for a multi-barrier approach towards drinking water treatment.
- Source protection, the overlooked, and most important first barrier in the multi-barrier concept. This is where the preventative approach of public health authorities will play a crucial role.
- The need for objective, science-based, risk assessment methodologies.

If any topics mentioned in this brief summary have captured your interest, I would be happy to pass along any conference materials that I have collected. In addition, I would highly encourage all EHOs interested in water quality issues to attend the next CWWA national conference.

For my own part, I presented my BCIT research project from the Environmental Health program. This research effort focused on the risk factors that influence nitrate contamination of drinking water wells in the Hopington Aquifer of the Township of Langley. Response was good and nobody fell asleep during my 25 minute presentation! Perhaps you are wondering how a BCIT student ended up presenting his school project to a national water quality conference? It was simply a matter of having nothing to lose by submitting an abstract to the CWWA last December 2003, and hoping for the best. From that point, it became a BCIT research project took on a life of its own.

Thank you to Associate Dean, Andy Basi of the BCIT School of Health Sciences and the BC branch of CIPHI (Claudia Kurzac and the Executive) for supporting my expenses during the conference.

Thanks for reading, that’s all for now,
Darren Molder (darrenmolder@hotmail.com)

From the Editor

We are just about through the dog days of summer and still waiting (patiently?) for the arrival of West Nile Virus. If it is going to come, I wish it would hurry up - I don’t think I can take another year of preparation for the “inevitable”, and fewer magpies in my neighbourhood would be fine.

The BC Branch has been active this summer. With Claudia taking on the responsibility of National President, we welcome Steve Chong as our new Branch President, along with new faces and roles around the Executive table. Thanks to Claudia for all your hard work these past few years, and all the best in your new capacity. Thanks also to Steve and the others for being willing to take up the challenge.

The government has also been active, passing several new pieces of public health legislation, including the West Nile Virus Control Regulation. I was surprised that a “reduce red tape” government would grant such broad authority to Medical Health Officers to impact private property rights. One wonders if adulticide is inevitable should BC have human cases of WNV; the public debate will certainly be interesting!

Roger Parsonage, Editor

RETIRED PHIs & EHOs Residing in B.C.

On a fairly regular basis I am asked, 'Has so and so retired yet, or has he or she passed on, or where does someone live, etc?' The following is a list of all the retired PHIs and EHOs that I am aware of who currently reside in B.C. If you know of someone that I have missed and if possible where they live, please let me know and I will add them to my list. Many thanks.

Tim Roark
Historian
CIPHI

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Francis Thompson (?Deceased)	Bob Trerise	Cliff Van Alstyne
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Ron White	Bill Withers	Barry Willoughby
Charlie Young	Ted Zoltan	

New Health Legislation in BC

The *West Nile Virus Control Regulation* of July 22, 2004, makes WNV and anything that transmits or contributes to its transmission a health hazard. The Provincial or a Medical Health Officer can order a local authority to apply pesticide, including application on private property with or without an owner's consent. Where a local authority does not comply, the person who issued the order can take steps to carry out the work, including ordering or employing people to do so and recovering the costs from the local authority.

The *Sewerage System Regulation* replaces the existing *Sewage Disposal Regulation* May 31, 2005. The current permit system is replaced with a filing system, where registered practitioners and professionals design, supervise construction and certify works, and maintain systems. Owners are required to keep maintenance records. There are no obligations for Health Authorities to do any work other than receive filings; the one exception is that holding tanks will continue to require permits.

The *Meat Inspection Regulation* under the *Food Safety Act* replaces the existing Regulation September 1, 2004. It harmonizes provincial with national inspection standards. It imposes province-wide inspection of food animals, both pre and post-slaughter. Facilities that are currently unlicensed have 2 years to comply with the new requirements.

The *Groundwater Protection Regulation* under the *Drinking Water Protection Act* comes into effect in two stages: Sections 1-6 are effective November 1, 2004; the remainder is effective November 1, 2005.

Part 1 establishes registration and qualifications for well drillers and pump installers.

Part 2 addresses groundwater protection, establishing standards for installing, protecting and deactivating wells.

2004 Member of the Year: Karen Cummings

Claudia Kurzac presents the Member of the Year Award to Karen Cummings at the BC Branch Annual General Meeting in May. See nomination next page.

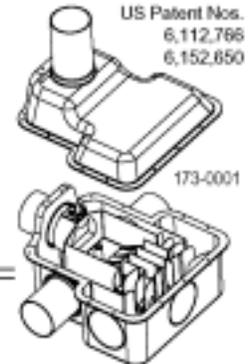


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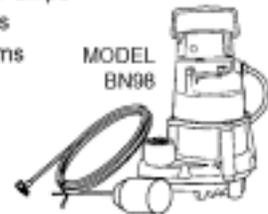
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2004 Member of the Year Award Nomination

We, the undersigned, hereby nominate **Karen Cummings** for the **BC Branch CIPHI Member of the Year Award for 2004**. We believe Karen has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the profession and to the BC Branch CIPHI and would be a deserving recipient of this award.

Karen began her career with the City of Vancouver Health Department in 1975 in an admin. support position in Environmental Health. Karen soon saw the light and took a leave of absence to go to BCIT and earn her diploma in Environmental Health. Karen returned to work following her certification as an EHO with the City of Vancouver and has worked there ever since although with regionalization the Health Department has evolved into Vancouver Coastal Health.

Karen has always been a strong advocate for CIPHI and a willing volunteer. Karen began her 10+-year stint on the BC Branch Executive around 1990 as a Branch Recording Secretary and continued on as a councilor and Vice-President. Karen participated in numerous committees during this time including the Branch Education Committee and volunteering on the CIPHI 2000 Conference Committee.

Karen has devoted many hours to projects/committees for CIPHI however; her outstanding effort on the CIPHI Conference 2000 must be noted. Karen spent countless hours helping to organize speakers for the education sessions and setting up the conference binder. Being a perfectionist, Karen was not satisfied until the layout of the binder was perfect and devoted many hours to nagging speakers for their presentations so the binder could be as complete as possible. On the first day of the pre-conference workshops, Karen could be seen at the BCIT downtown campus long before any participants were to arrive after working all night on the binder. Karen doesn't let a little thing like sleep get in the way of a project she is working on.

Karen lives in Coquitlam with her husband Bob, daughters Amber and Crystal and a dog. When not at work Karen devotes many hours to compiling her family history and is an avid gardener.

Claudia Kurzac and Greta Kos
April 2, 2004



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Tim Roark Retires From FHA After 35 Years

Over 100 friends and colleagues from across BC attended the recent retirement party for Tim Roark to celebrate his retirement after 35 years with the BC Ministry of Health, Central Fraser Valley Health Unit, Boundary Health Unit and Fraser Health Authority. Numerous speakers including Norm Clarkson, Larry Copeland, BC Branch President Claudia Kurzac, Rita Schick PHN, Lorraine Woolsey, BCIT Program Head, Dr. Roland Guasparini Chief MHO for the FHA and Dr. Lee Kornder former MHO for Boundary HU roasted and toasted Tim for his many years of service to public health and his profession. The party, chaired by Charlie Young, included a delicious buffet, humorous skits and songs and presentations from Mayor Kathy Morse of Maple Ridge, Ken Stewart, MLA and Steve Chan speaking on behalf of Tim Shum and the Fraser Health Authority.

Tim received a number of presents including a gift certificate towards a fishing vacation and his office chair of 25 years. In his thank you statement Tim indicated he planned to stay active in the profession and continue his volunteering with CIPHI and the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada. He encouraged all present to continue their important efforts to protect the public's health regardless of the economic restraints and roadblocks they face.

PHOTOS

Tim relaxes in his office chair (1979 to 2004), presented to him by the Fraser Health Authority, and receives a pin and citation from Mayor Kathy Morse of Maple Ridge for his years of service to the community.



Larry Percival Retires From Public Health

A great time was had by all who attended a retirement party for Larry Percival held in November in Abbotsford. Close to 80 friends, colleagues and family attended including Larry's mother, brother and sister-in-law and children, son and daughter as well as their spouses and children. The evening was hosted by Bill Koberstein and included a wonderful meal, best wishes from those who could not attend, and words of congratulations from many of Larry's friends including Dr. Roland Guasparini, Tim Shum, Nick Losito and Tim Roark who thanked him for his years of dedication as well as wishing him all the best for his retirement. Al Kraus, Manager of the Mission – Abbotsford Water System thanked Larry for the great cooperation and support provided by Larry over many years. In his speech Larry reflected on his thirty years in the field of Public Health Inspection, starting in Saskatchewan; of the many challenges he faced and accomplishments he achieved. He spoke on the importance of his family and their support over the years and his plans for retirement.

Larry was then kept very busy opening a host of presents, including great fishing gear and a lovely trip to the Tigh-Na-Mara Lodge on Vancouver Island. Guests were invited to leave well wishes for Larry on a video camera which had been set up for that purpose. A display of photos had also been set up showing Larry from a child to youth to young father and to the present as well as at work, with his family and friends plus enjoying his free time skiing, fishing and relaxing.

We wish Larry all the best for a well deserved retirement.

Tim Roark
Associate Editor
BC Page



Photos: Larry and Leslie are shown having just opened their present of a stay at Tigh-Na-Mara Lodge on Vancouver Island. Above, Larry is pictured holding up his new fishing vest with party host and long-time fisherman friend Bill Koberstein looking on.

Tragedy Averted At Christmas Luncheon

A terrible tragedy was averted at the CIPHI Christmas Luncheon in Victoria this past December with the fast thinking and professionalism of two EHOs, Maxine Marchenski and Gerry Acorn. The beef dip was the culprit and nearly took the life of a retired PHI who found it caught in his throat. Unable to breath or call for help the inspector fell to the floor and his face quickly started to turn blue. The Heimlich Maneuver was performed but only with partial success and his throat was quickly blocked again with stomach contents as the victim went into convulsions due to a lack of oxygen.

Seeing a friend and colleague in serious distress Maxine Marchenski and Gerry Acorn quickly jumped forward with Maxine performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and Gerry performing CPR to keep his heart pumping. Others present called 911 for the Paramedics. For several minutes Maxine and Gerry worked to clear the victim's throat, perform critical mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and CPR. After what felt like a life-time the Paramedics arrived and took over. The problem blockage was removed and the individual was rushed to the hospital for a full examination. The news was good and the retired PHI has since fully recovered thanks to the quick action of his two colleagues.

The BC Page salutes Maxine Marchenski and Gerry Acorn for their professionalism in this life and death situation. We have since learned that Gerry may have also saved the lives of several others with his knowledge and use of CPR in previous emergency situations as well. Congratulations and thanks to both of you.

Tim Roark
Associate Editor
BC Page

Maxine Marchenski (photo left) and Gerry Acorn (right) acted quickly to prevent a tragedy.



Spotlight on a Member: Geri Grigg's New Career

Geri Grigg started her career in Public Health in 1990 as an Environmental Health Officer with the Capital Health Authority in Edmonton. She had been a graduate of the Environmental Health Program at BCIT in and then completed her B.Sc. at Concordia University College of Alberta in 1996. In 96 and 97 Geri was also the Assistant Co-ordinator of the Environmental Health Program at Concordia and then in 97 and 98 she was a guest lecturer in that program.

In 1998 Geri returned home to Beautiful British Columbia to take on a new and interesting position as a Tobacco Enforcement Officer with the North Shore Health Region. This was the start of a significant change in the direction of Geri's career from enforcement to education. In October 2001 an opportunity arose which Geri jumped at as a Regional Tobacco Reduction Coordinator with the Fraser Health Authority in Surrey. Geri stated, "My work now focuses on the prevention component of Fraser Health's tobacco control plan. It has been exciting to lead our team to get a substantial Health Canada tobacco control grant for a media campaign targeting young adults. This is where we can really do the most good by preventing or stopping kids from smoking today and by changing the way we look at smoking as a society. The long-term health benefits are significant for each and every one we help." Geri was also successful in applying for a grant for a "Behind the Smokescreen" video contest.

Geri is pictured presenting Gloria Kuffner the FHA "Clearing the Air Award" for her work in designing and building a smoking cessation program based on the highly successful Mayo Clinic program.

Where her new career will head next Geri is really not sure but she knows that education is a very important part of the complex process to reduce tobacco use in Canada.

Photo below: Geri Grigg, Regional Tobacco Reduction Coordinator on the left, is pictured presenting Gloria Kuffner the FHA "Clearing the Air Award".

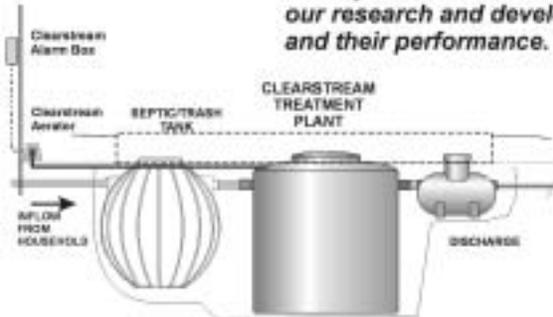


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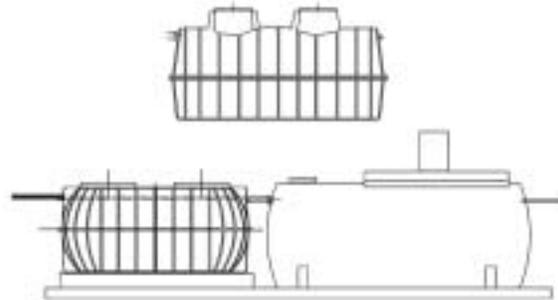


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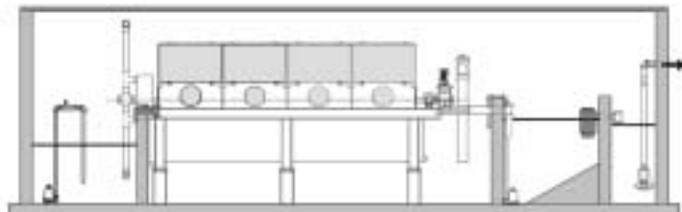


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