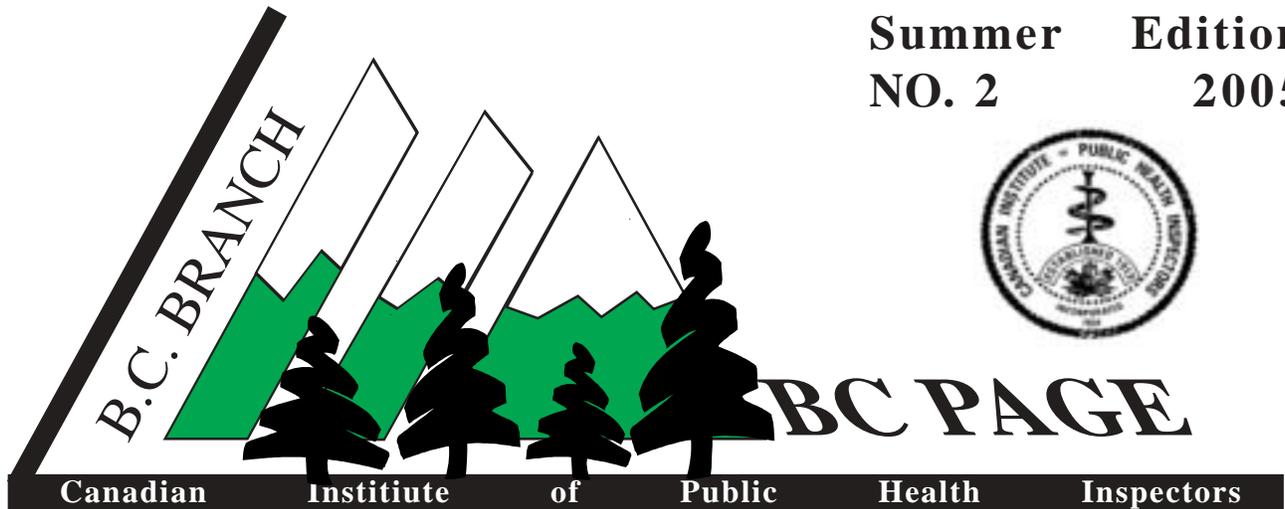


Summer Edition
NO. 2 2005



Richmond Wins 2005 President's Cup



The BC Branch President's Cup softball tournament was held at Wesburn Park in Burnaby June 26. The Richmond team (pictured above) took the title. Additional photos from the event are throughout this issue.

- Back row (left to right) - Andy, Carrie Robb, Chris Miki, Brenda, Eric de Castro
Front row (left to right) - Kevin Westell, Steve Chong, Michael Dean, Albert Wong
Missing - Art Hamade

BC Branch Executive 2005

www.bc-ciphi.ca

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BC Branch Update: August 2005

Although the BC Branch executive has not met for the last 2 beautiful summer months, members have been hard at work. First of all I would like to make you aware of our redesigned website. This site is easy to navigate and will hopefully become a great resource to all of you. Please check out the new site at www.ciphi.bc.ca and feel free to provide feedback to your BC Branch executive.

The Branch hosted a softball competition for the Presidents cup in June with the hopes of this fun filled day becoming an annual event. EHO's from Richmond, Vancouver, and Surrey participated. After a hard fought game, Richmond players were honored as the recipients of the "Presidents Cup". Of course no social event would be complete without a great barbeque and some cold beverages! Check out the photos on our website.

Considerable time and effort have been put into the BC Health Act Renewal Project. Gord Stewart has provided great leadership to complete this important task. It is an important initiative to provide critical input to define our role as Environmental Public Health Professionals and the committee continues to meet with Ministry representatives to provide input into the process.

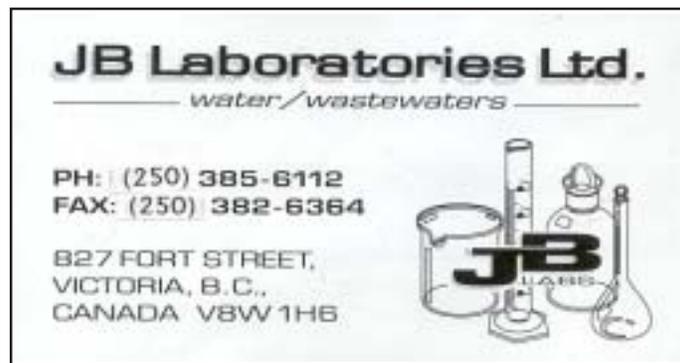
Our education committee is planning for our next education conference at Sun Peaks in 2006. If you have any suggestions for topics and/or speakers please feel free to contact the chair, Salima Kassam (salima.kassam@vch.ca) or the co chair, Brent Zaharia (brent.zaharia@interiorhealth.ca). For those of you attending Toronto's Conference in September enjoy all the educational sessions.

In closing I would like to congratulate our President on becoming a proud father to a healthy baby boy. All the Best Steve to you and your family!

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmina Egeler

Jasmina Egeler
BC Branch Vice President



The Healthy Planning Seminars 2005

Purpose

The Healthy Planning Seminars are a joint event sponsored by the Planning Institute of British Columbia (PIBC), local Health Authorities, the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), and the Ministry of Health (MoH), and supported by the CIPHI, BC Branch. The goal is to bring together people in planning, health and local government to talk about what healthy planning means in their communities. The seminars will focus on practical ways in which planners, health professionals and other key stakeholders can work together to encourage the creation of healthier communities.

Background

The roots of planning in Canada are closely tied to public health and environmental conservation. They date back to the early 1900s and the Commission on Conservation and the work of Charles Hodgetts and Thomas Adams. Although a gulf has opened up between these fields in the intervening years, links are starting to be re-established. In 2005, the Ministry of Health identified Healthy Communities as a Core Public Health function for Health Authorities. In January, PIBC was invited to participate in developing a framework for a new BC Healthy Communities Coalition (HCC). Recognizing the impact planning has on health, attendees at the March 2005 Obesity Forum sponsored by the BC Pediatric Society recommended that a Healthy Planning Conference be held. Through the work of a committed group of planning and health professionals, that idea has developed into the Healthy Planning Seminars.

Where and When

The Healthy Planning Seminars will be one day events held around BC, in each of the 5 Health Authorities. Sessions are anticipated for Prince George, Kelowna, Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo (or area), and Langley (to be confirmed). The seminars are planned to take place during the mid to late fall of 2005 or mid-winter, 2006. The Kelowna session is the first to get off the ground and is planned for October 20, 2005. An invitation to the Healthy Planning Seminars will be extended at a pre-conference session of the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) on September 26, 2005 ("Health Promotion and Communities").

Who Should Participate

The seminars are intended to bring together planners, public health and other health authority staff, municipal staff and politicians, interested NGOs and community members. Branch members who attend will be eligible to earn continuing education credits.

Seminar Format

The seminars will be full (or in some places, half) day events featuring keynote addresses, local case studies, and workshops. Keynote speakers will be leaders in the health promotion and/or planning fields who can demonstrate the critical connections between the two fields. Local case studies will use real planning exercises to illustrate the links between health and planning and will include using Health Impact Assessment tools to determine how effective the case studies were in improving health. Each seminar will be tailored to the realities of the host community. All participants will learn about some of the latest research on the links between the built environment and health.

More Information

Details about the Healthy Planning Seminars will be available from PIBC, UBCM and the local Health Authorities. For more information, please contact Roger Parsonage (see page 2 for contact information).

2005 Branch Conference A Success

The 2005 B.C. Branch CIPHI Education Conference, held on March 15th and 16th at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Hotel in Burnaby, was by all accounts a success. The two-day packed agenda saw approximately 100 delegates per day, with the most out-of-town registrations at a B.C. Branch conference to date. This year's collection of speakers ranged just as widely as their topics - from a professional football player to an expert on tree fungus. The following is only short synapses of what was covered over the two-day event.

Day one kicked off with a keynote address by Dr. John Clague, professor and Canada Research Chair in Natural Hazard Research at SFU. His presentation entitled "Tsunami Warning: How Safe are We?" provided delegates with scientific background on tsunamis and the state of our current detection system. His presentation prepared us for what many felt was the highlight of the conference, a heart wrenching personal account from our very own Greg Baytalan, an EHO working in Kelowna who spent several weeks volunteering in Thailand in the aftermath of last December's tsunami disaster. Although sometimes disturbing, the presentation was an eye opener that really reinforced the importance of basic sanitation principles.

After such a riveting presentation, which most speakers would be wary to follow, successful Albertan solicitor, Rob O'Neill, of Ogilvie LLP, took up the challenge and entertained delegates with an amusing presentation on his personal accounts and insights into prosecuting under Alberta's Public Health Act. That brings us to just before lunch, where an update on E.coli outbreaks this past year in BC, co-presented by Dr. Gilbert, and EHO's Liz Nelson and Lis Vallaster, wet our appetites for a delicious hot lunch. After lunch, we were further treated to presentations on Canada's Food Illness Outbreak Response Protocol, GIS, Tree Fungus, and to end the day a presentation on GI outbreaks relating to raw oysters consumption (in which EHO delegates were tactful reminded on the importance of proper instructions on stool specimen collection).

Day two got the adrenaline going after a keynote address by retired BC Lions player, Jaime Taras. His motivational talk on mastery will not be forgotten especially by those delegates involved in his interesting demonstration of might and brawn. What followed were presentations on the topics of injury prevention, Community Care and Assisted Living Act, role of EHO's in assisted living regulations, emerging infectious health threats, bed bugs, and the new provincial Food and Meat Safety regulations. Also of interest, were regional updates from Ann Thomas of Vancouver Island Authority, Iqbal Kalsi of Northern Health Authority, and a "special guest" for Vancouver Coastal Health - which we believed the aliens had abducted Domenic Losito and replaced him with a supposed impersonator of Ron Burgundy.

Although the conference agenda was packed, the organizing committee strove to provide information of interest to all delegates and the opportunity to connect with colleagues. We appreciate all your feedbacks, and especially thank those who took the time to fill out the feedback forms. So, what's next you may ask? Keep your eyes open for updates on next year's conference to be held at Sun Peaks Resort. The 2006 BC Branch CIPHI Education Conference Chair, Brent Zaharia and Co-chair, Salima Kassam, would be happy to hear your thoughts!



2005 Branch Conference



Photos clockwise from top: Pam Shaw and Doug Glenn; Claudia Kurzac enjoys coffee with Jennifer Flor; the registration and exhibitors committee of Jasmina Egeler, Joanne Lum, Jennifer Montgomery and Patricia Tymiak; more of the organizing committee - Jasmina Egeler, Salima Kassam, Roopy Khatkar and Joanne Lum; delegates socialize at the pub after the conference.



B.C. ADDS 12 WATER SPECIALISTS TO IMPROVE PROTECTION

The Government of BC is investing \$1.2 million to hire 12 additional water specialists to focus on groundwater and surface water protection in the Minister of Water, Land and Air.

“Our government is committed to protecting water from its source to the tap,” Bill Barisoff said. “With these new specialists, together with our provincial drinking water officer and our 20 regional drinking water officers already in place, we’ll have staff in every region of the province providing that source-to-tap protection.”

The positions, two ground water hydrologists, four groundwater protection officers, five drinking water source protection specialists and one database administrator, will be located throughout the Province. Communities getting the new positions include:

- Penticton and Prince George (ground water hydrologists).
- Nanaimo, Surrey, Kamloops, Nelson, Prince George and Victoria (groundwater officers and/or drinking water source protection specialists).
- Victoria (database administrator).

The 12 new water specialists will work closely with local government, health officials, water suppliers and the well drilling industry to further protect and manage B.C.’s water supplies and safety.

Among the responsibilities of the new specialists will be to assist with the implementation of B.C.’s new groundwater protection regulations. Introduced last year, the regulations are the first of their kind in B.C, designed to protect the province’s groundwater supplies. About 750,000 British Columbians get their drinking water from groundwater supplies.

“Every British Columbian needs and deserves access to safe, clean and abundant water,” Barisoff said. “That’s why we are investing \$80 million in a new water and waste water infrastructure program. Since 2001, in partnership with the federal and local governments, over \$600 million has been invested in water-related projects.

“B.C.’s booming economy has meant that we can invest in the province’s priorities, and clean water for communities will always be among our highest priorities.”

Barisoff made the announcement in Kelowna during a demonstration of a pilot project using global positioning systems to pinpoint locations of surface and groundwater sources and water treatment facilities. The information will be added to the provincial database so it is available to water suppliers, local government and health officers to assist them in making water management decisions that are based on the latest science and information.



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The Vancouver team (right)....



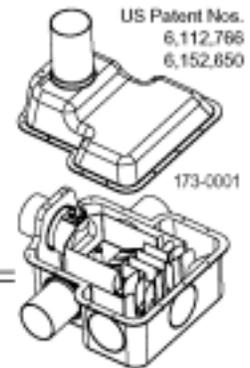
....and the Fraser team (left).

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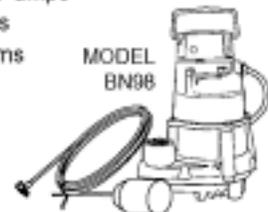
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NOTE: No issues of the BC Page were produced in 2001



The Richmond team still celebrating (above); Julie Lee, Joanne Lum and Tara Hluchy operated the BBQ's.

ANNOUNCING

B.C.'s first Emergency Response Field Manual for use by PHI's, EHO's, MHO's and other environmental health specialists and practitioners is ready to go to print immediately. The manual is intended to supplement existing emergency plans and contains the most essential information that environmental health staff will need in time of an emergency or disaster.

The projected cost is currently \$35.00 each including taxes, handling and postage. You will be advised of any changes before you receive your order. Do not send payment at this time.

To order your copy contact Tim Roark at: Tim.Roark@shaw.ca

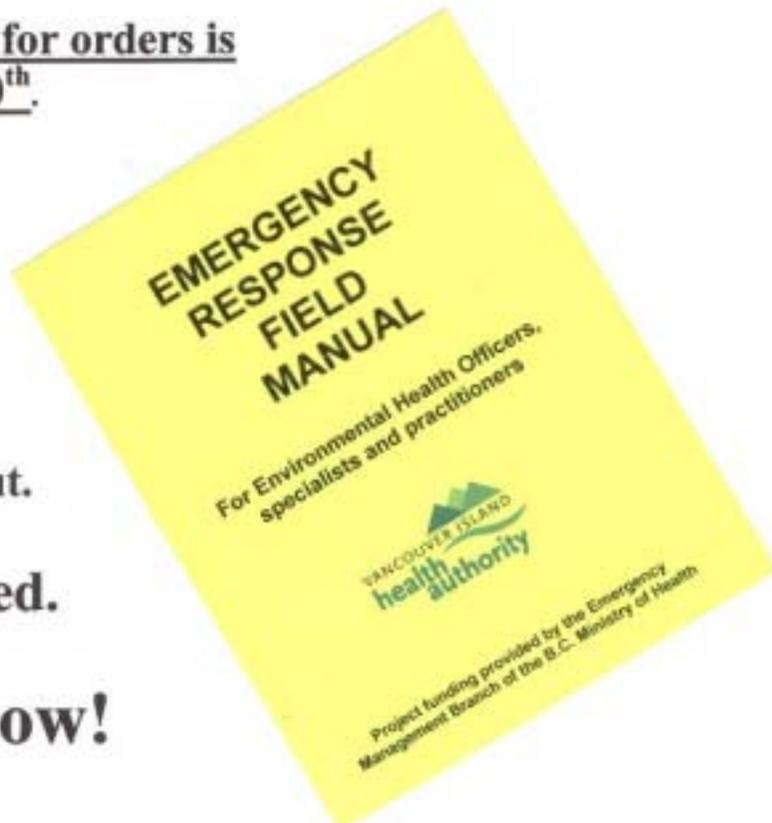
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Ground Water Protection Regulation - Phase 1

Protecting the Ground Water Resources of British Columbia

By David Icharia, Communication & Project Manager

On July 7, 2004, in Chilliwack, the Honourable Bill Barisoff, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection publicly announced that the government has enacted the Ground Water Protection Regulation (GWPR). The GWPR is designed to protect British Columbia's valuable ground water resource.

The GWPR deals with aspects of well construction that significantly enhance ground water protection — i.e., installing effective surface seals around wells, securely capping and floodproofing wells, and permanently closing unused wells to protect ground water quality. The GWPR also establishes the qualifications for well drillers and well pump installers and provides for a provincial registry of those possessing the qualifications.

Several sections of new GWPR and amendments to *Water Act* come into force Nov. 1, 2004. The remaining amendments in the Act will come into force in Nov 1, 2005.

New Ground Water Provisions in the *Water Act*

- Part 4 ~ Water Management Plans
- Part 5 ~ Wells and Ground Water Protection
- *Water Act* provisions come into force November 1, 2004
- GWPR Regulations come into force in 3 phases, commencing November 1, 2004

Structure of the Phase 1 Regulation

The GWPR is comprised of two main parts:

Part 1

- Qualifications and registration of well drillers and well pump installers.

Part 2

- Well identification
- Standards for well construction, maintenance, and closure:
 - Surface sealing of well casing
 - Closing or deactivating a well
 - Well caps and covers
 - Floodproofing community wells
 - Protection of the wellhead
- Appendix A - "Minimum rules" in the Code of Practice.

GWPR Applies to Several Well Types

- Water supply wells – (a) domestic, and (b) non-domestic (e.g., irrigation, open-loop geothermal wells)
- Monitoring wells
- Recharge / injection wells
- Dewatering / drainage wells
- Remediation wells
- Geotechnical wells (including boreholes, closed-loop geothermal wells)

Note: Wells regulated under other provincial statutes (e.g., oil and gas wells, coal bed methane extraction wells) are exempt from the GWPR.

Qualifications of Well Drillers and Well Pump Installers

- Recognize ITA and CGWA certification.
- Qualified well drillers & well pump installers to register with Province, beginning Nov. 1, 2004.
- Grand-parenting provision (available until Nov., 2006).

Surface Sealing of Well Casings

- All new permanent wells to have surface seals (beginning Nov., 2005).
- Well owner must maintain surface seals.

Well Identification

- Province supplies well identification plates.
- Drillers to attach identification plates to new water supply wells.
- All existing community wells to be tagged by Nov., 2006.

Floodproofing Community Wells

- New community wells to be floodproofed to prevent direct entry of floodwaters.
- WLAP Engineers may require floodproofing for existing community wells.

We would like to acknowledge the following people as sources of information for this article:

Mike Wei, P. Eng. *Sr. Groundwater Hydrologist* Water Protection Section Water, Air and Climate Change Branch
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

**The new provisions:**

- Specify qualification requirements for well drillers & well pump installers,
- Set standards for constructing, maintaining & closing wells, and for protecting well heads, and
- Provide for legally binding water management plans to address water quality and quantity issues.

Implications and benefits to local government:

- Performance standards for well drillers & well pump installers ~ level playing field
- Improved integrity and safety of wells
- Reduced risk of degradation of water quality
- Clarifies responsibility of well owners
- Improved public health and safety
- Minor increases in well construction & maintenance costs

Issues / Challenges

- Over 750,000 persons in BC use ground water for drinking water.
- There are more than 100,000 water supply wells; 3000 new wells are drilled annually.
- Historical lack of enforceable well construction and well closure standards
 - hundreds of wells may be abandoned yearly (e.g., replaced with hook-up to municipal water system) but few are properly closed
- Three-quarters of the ground water extracted annually is used to support the economy (e.g., processing, agriculture).
- One-third of aquifers are highly vulnerable to contamination.
- Quantity and quality problems are occurring in some aquifers.
- Inadequate local government authority to deal with groundwater, especially quantity conflicts / concerns.

Ground Water Protection Regulation**Emphasis on:**

- Prevention / risk-based
- Industry-led certification process
- Greater role for qualified professionals

3 Phases:

- Phases 1 & 2 ~ Well Standards & Reports
- Phase 3 ~ Aquifer Protection
 - regulations related to implementing water management plans
 - quality, quantity, and use; drilling authorizations in critical areas

Effective Dates – Phase 1**November 1, 2004:**

- **Water Act** – 2001 amendments adding new provisions for water management planning and ground water protection
- **GWPR:**

Part 1 of the GWPR (registration of qualified well drillers and well pump installers)

November 1, 2005:

- **GWPR:**
 - Part 2 of the GWPR (well standards)
- **Drinking Water Protection Regulation**
 - Amendment harmonizing the well flood proofing requirement in the DWPR with that in the GWPR

Keys to Success

- Flexible, outcome-based regulation, developed with strong industry input
- Work with BCGWA and industry to implement on the ground
- Maximize compliance with complementary non-regulatory tools (e.g., industry training, public education and awareness, aquifer characterization, ambient ground water monitoring)

Roller Skiing Across Canada With Alex Nilsson

The country of Canada is approximately 7,500 km from coast to coast (in a straight line). Starting June 25th, 2005, Alex Nilsson of Creston, B.C., Canada, will be beginning a cross-country odyssey to roller ski across the entire country of Canada from west coast to east coast. Starting in Victoria, British Columbia, Alex is planning to complete the entire trek across the country in approximately 8 weeks. Alex, now 70, is a former Public Health Inspector in the Kootenays.

The purpose of this journey is not only one of personal fulfillment but to help raise awareness for Diabetes Education. Diabetes is a serious disease which affects millions of people on a daily and ongoing basis. You can read more about his journey, view photos and check his progress at the trip website:

<http://www.fitstep.com/ski-site/index.html>



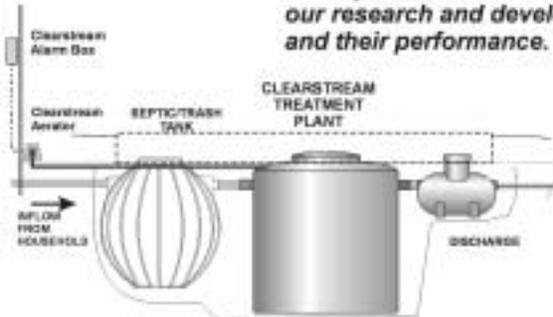
Photos: Alex was greeted by a number of Health Unit staff when he passed through Cranbrook in July.

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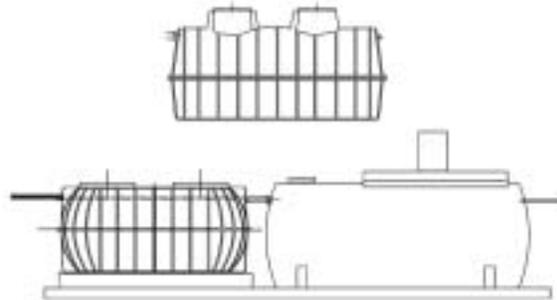


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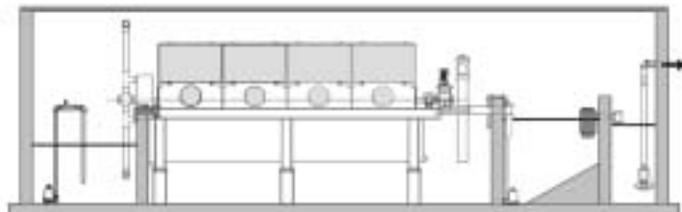


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