

SK Branch Newsletter

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors

Fall 07



A beautiful autumn prairie scene. Submitted by Jacqueline Treen

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[A Message From The President](#)

I hope you all had an enjoyable hot prairie summer and shifting into the coolness of autumn. Lately the term Global Warming is starting to make sense. Oh well in a couple of months we'll be complaining about the cold.

I spent some of my summer holidays in Kelowna attending the CIPHI Annual Educational Conference and related CIPHI meetings on your behalf. Congratulations to the BC Branch for hosting a well attended and enjoyed conference. A beautiful venue was chosen for the conference and all enjoyed the hospitality as well as the multiple educational tracks. SK Branch had Members in attendance that represented our Branch very professionally. Many exhibitors still raved about our conference in Regina and questioned when we were hosting again. It seems we made a very favorable impression on those who attended. Well done to all the 2006 Conference Committee.

My week started well before others arrived and I took in the NEC, BOC and EHFC Meetings.

NEC: I presented the final budget and report on the 2006 Annual Educational Conference hosted by the SK Branch and received accolades to pass on to all involved in a very successful conference. The core competency project is moving forward as scheduled and it is moving closer to implementation with every meeting. Your NEC is working diligently with others to increase our profession. Continue to monitor the national web site www.ciphi.ca to keep up to date on all the CC happenings. One major decision was to change the National Office to keep with the new direction CIPHI is taking. CIPHI National President, Claudia Kurzac sent out a letter explaining the announcement to all Members. On behalf of the SK Branch I thank Debra Losito for her years of service to CIPHI. Interim measures have been implemented to keep CIPHI operational in the changing process, thank you for your patience. Your NEC will address all inquiries.

BOC: I presented the excellent report from Leanne Stricker Director of FNUC and all were very impressed by the detail and workings of the FNUC. I informed all that the working relationship between SK Branch and the FNUC is maturing and both sides are working for the benefit of the students. The certification requirements were discussed and work continues to streamline the process. Congratulations to all new certified PHI's across the country. On Thursday after the conference wrapped up I attended and participated in the BOC Examiner Workshop, as did fellow SK Branch Member Verna Law. Throughout this process all learned the need for more questions to increase our National Bank of Questions for exams. Those who participated realized and appreciated the work involved in producing questions with a national flare.

EHFC: New and existing projects were reviewed and progress is ongoing. The awards were reviewed and some increased bursaries. Please visit the EHFC link on the national website. I put forward the recommendation to make a national scoped video for PHI's and all are interested in seeing this developed. I was asked to Chair this project and talks are underway to develop this material. Stay tuned for progress.

At the Annual General Meeting the motions put forth passed and I thank you for your proxies on these pivotal decisions. The AGM was well attended and discussions that arose proved that Members are using their privilege to address the NEC and help guide all into the future. I urge all to attend not only the National AGM's but the Branch AGM as well. We sometimes forget that CIPHI is operated and managed by volunteers who are working their regular jobs and are participating in CIPHI for all Members benefit. It's your professional organization and only you can make the changes that you want.

When I returned from the AEC, I picked up where I left with the SK Branch operations. Ryan Philipation worked with Dwayne Djkwich to host the Sewage Installer's informational session in Blackstrap. All in attendance enjoyed the professional delivery and took away new information for their perspective HR's. Thank you to Ryan and Dwayne for a very successful partnership and for another learning opportunity for SK Branch Members.

The SK Branch is working on presenting the Annual Educational In-Service later this fall. Due to the unforeseen Provincial Election Call, our SK Branch In-Service has to be postponed. I would like to thank Ryan for all his hard work at organizing the event for all Members and non-members, guest speakers and sponsors who were planning on attending. I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, and the SK Branch will keep all informed as to its rescheduling dates. We have approached Sask Health to continue with our collaborative educational commitment and are preparing to offer another excellent learning opportunity for all SK Branch Members and non-members. Watch for announcements on the SK Branch Web page www.ciphi-sk.ca and your emails. I would also like to thank as always the Members who see the worth in Membership and invite non-members to join your professional organization. I continue to work with an excellent Executive Council and thank them all for their help and dedication to the SK Branch. I invite all inquiries and questions/suggestions from all Members. I continue to work on your behalf as your SK Branch President.

Sincerely, Ken Cross

SK. CIPHI MERCHANDISE

All merchandise is available at new low prices!



Pins
Members \$2.50

Non-members \$3



Ball Caps
Members \$10

Non Members
\$12

Long sleeved shirts, CIPHI Stickers and Chlorine and Iodine Test Strips are also available (just to name a few). For all SK Branch merchandise, send a cheque payable to CIPHI SK Branch to Mike McCann, RQHR 2nd Floor, 2110 Hamilton Street, Regina, Sask, S4P 2E3

Websites Of Interest

Keewatin Yatthé Regional Health Authority
<http://www.kyrha.ca/>

Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority
<http://www.mcrrha.sk.ca/>

Prairie North Regional Health Authority
<http://www.pnrha.ca/>

Prince Albert Parkland Regional Health Authority
<http://www.paphr.sk.ca/>

Kelsey Trail Regional Health Authority
<http://www.kelseytrailhealth.ca/>

Heartland Regional Health Authority
<http://www.hrha.sk.ca/>

Saskatoon Regional Health Authority
<http://www.saskatoonhealthregion.ca/>

Sunrise Regional Health Authority
<http://www.sunrisehealthregion.sk.ca/>

Cypress Regional Health Authority
<http://www.cypressrha.ca/>

Five Hills Regional Health Authority
<http://www.fhr.ca/>

Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authority
<http://www.rqhealth.ca/>

Sun Country Regional Health Authority
<http://www.suncountry.sk.ca/>

If you have websites you would like to share,
please forward them to the editor.

BOC UPDATE

April 17, 2007

Four candidates sat the oral examination in Regina. Two of these candidates also submitted two written reports each. The other two had passed their reports the previous year.

Because some of the examiners knew some of the candidates, four separate panels were formed. Also by having more panels, more PHIs gained experience with the new examination process. The members of these panels were Morag Lyon, Paul Ross, Michael McCann, George Koutsoulis, Ryan Philipation and Yvonne Graff.

Paul Ross, Ryan Philipation, Michael McCann and George Koutsoulis marked the reports.

The newly certified PHIs are:

- Lu Wang
- Yuriy Sholdra
- Brad Aucoin

Make sure we welcome and congratulate our newly certified inspectors.



CPHI(C) is now proudly displayed as a registered trademark of CIPHI. That means we are one step closer to making Membership in CIPHI mandatory. This is an exciting and giant step forward for our profession!

Ken

Hugh Grocott 1912 – 2007

The SK Branch would like to extend our condolences in losing an inspirational and successful Inspector - Hugh Grocott.



Taken from the Regina Leader Post
Published: 0/02/2007

GROCOTT _ Dr. H. C. "Hugh " Grocott died on September 30, 2007 at the age of 86. He was born and raised in Ilford, England. He served as an officer in the Dorset regiment of his majesty the King and suffered serious wounds in France during battle in 1944. Following the war, he entered the University of London from which he received his medical degree. His medical training continued in England, the United States, and ultimately Canada where he eventually settled. He practiced pediatrics in Regina from the Medical Arts Building until he joined the Provincial Department of Health as the Director of Child Health and Maternal Welfare, where he worked until retiring in 1987. Dr. Grocott served on numerous community boards including that of the Harrow de Groot School, the South Saskatchewan Youth Orchestra, and the Regina Catholic School Band. He was an avid reader, a lover of music, a student of history, and an amateur botanist. Many days were spent out at "the Butte " identifying wildflowers and, much to his wife's dismay, bringing home wood ticks. Hugh is survived by his wife, Dorothy, his daughter Ruth Grimes (Michael) of Winnipeg, son Hilary (Shivaun) of Winnipeg, son Simon (Ariana) of England, and eight grandchildren. A funeral mass will be held in Regina at Christ the King Roman Catholic Church, 3239 Garnet Street on Wednesday, October 3rd at 11:00 a.m. with a reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Burial will take place in Winnipeg later in the week. Flowers are gratefully declined; however donations in his memory may be made by those who wish to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, 2360 2nd Avenue, Regina S4R 1A6 or any other charitable organization.

An online book of condolences may be signed at www.speersfuneralchapel.com

Ned Helfrick October 3, 1919 - June 16, 2007

The SK Branch has lost a great champion of our profession in the passing of Ned Helfrick. Our condolences go out to his family.






Ned retired as the Sr.PHI in Saskatoon after serving for over 35 years. He will be remembered for his unwavering loyalty to the SK Branch. Ned planned and coordinated the yearly Educational In-Services at the University of Saskatchewan for many, many years. He served as the SK Branch President and planned and hosted several National Educational Conferences as well as representing our Branch at other National conferences through the years. Ned believed in on-going and available education for all Public Health Inspectors to remain current and effective.

His networking contacts seemed endless, as he was always able to make things happen with just a phone call. Ned was honored with a Life Membership Award in the Institute, something he valued very much. Ned saw many changes in our field in his time and he was always delighted with the ability and enthusiasm he witnessed in the new and younger Inspectors. The SK Branch is indebted to Ned for the groundwork and leadership he provided to enable us to be where we are today. Ned's other accomplishments were he held the position of President of the Sask. Public Health Association and was the National Vice President of CIPHI.

He was the founding member of the Knights of Columbus Indoor Games and a former Grand Knight of Council 5104. Ned also was a founding member and Director of the Special Olympics in Western Canada and involved with the Canada Winter Games.

The original obituary can be viewed through the Saskatoon Star Phoenix.

Meet The PHI'S Of The Sun Country Regional Health Authority

	<p>Grant Paulson – Regional Director of Public Health</p> <p>Grant Paulson is the Regional Director of Public Health for the Sun Country Regional Health Authority. Grant graduated from Ryerson in 1972. He worked in Moosomin, Swift Current and Shaunavon before moving to Weyburn in 1992. Grant and his wife Nancy have two married daughters; one in Weyburn and one in Cold Lake, Alberta. They have five lovely Grandchildren. Grant's interests include Carpentry/Cabinet building and History.</p>
	<p>Ken Cross – Public Health Inspector</p> <p>Ken graduated from BCIT in 1989. He got his start in Public Health Inspection in Regina working as a PHI Apprentice in the summer of 1986. His practicums were in the PA/Melfort Region and then he took a brief position in Humboldt. He moved to Weyburn in 1989 where he remains as a PHI for the Sun Country Regional Health Authority. Ken has been a CIPHI Member since 1989 and has been involved with the SK Branch throughout these years. He is our current SK Branch President and continues enjoying the challenges of that position. His interests include, but are not limited to, hunting, house renovations, working in the yard, and being a very proud Grandpa.</p>
	<p>Derrick Mooney – Public Health Inspector</p> <p>Derrick received his degree from BCIT in 1998 and began his career with a series of term positions in Invermere BC, Courtenay BC and Saskatoon. Derrick's first permanent position began in 2000 with the Sun Country Regional Health Authority where he remains. Derrick has been a CIPHI member since 1996. Personal interests include music, collecting DVD's, camping, canoeing, hiking, operating his part-time dance music DJ business, leading the local Scouts Canada troop, and building life-size ice castles. Derrick is newly single with two married daughters (Gull Lake & Winnipeg), a son in Kelowna, and a teenage daughter in Weyburn.</p>

	<p>Tom Shaw – Public Health Inspector</p> <p>Tom started his credentialing in Agriculture at the University of Guelph. He completed a Business Degree in Hotel & Food Administration, course work in marketing from NAIT and courses towards a Masters in Foods at the University of Alberta. After numerous years working as a Food Service/Production Manager, Tom left the world of management to pursue his interest in the Environment and Human Health. He completed Concordia University College’s After Degree Diploma in Environmental Health. After several short work terms in Alberta, Tom headed to northern Saskatchewan as the Creighton Public Health Inspector to work with some terrific folk. After nearly 4 years in the north Tom went south and joined the dynamic work group within the Sun Country Regional Health Authority where he continues to enjoy his exciting posting as the Estevan PHI! Tom has been a CIPHI member since 1998. His interests include research, study and practice with food & drink, enology, travel, photography, fishing, “Off the Grid” research relating to alternate energy choices, and the proverbial “Honey Do List” when he visits his family in Calgary.</p>
	<p>Paula Sampson – Public Health Inspector</p> <p>Born and raised in Terrace, BC, Paula moved to Edmonton, AB where she obtained a Bachelor of Science from the University of Alberta with a major in Biology and a minor in Music. She is a recent graduate of Concordia University College’s Bachelor of Environmental Health program. She has been a member of CIPHI since 2004. She started her practicum in November of 2005 for the Sun Country Regional Health Authority where she remains as a PHI and Needs Assessment Coordinator. She lives in Estevan with her boyfriend Darcy. They have a six-toed cat named Kona. Paula enjoys spending time with friends, listening to music, dancing, sewing, skiing, and camping!</p>



Your Sk Branch Executive Left to Right – Travis Philipation, Mike McCann, Ryan Philipation, Doug Terry, Ken Cross, Ron Belak, Jon Gaudry. Missing Jacqueline Treen.

REMINDER

The new mailing address for CIPHI IS

**#720 – 999 West Broadway
Vancouver, British Columbia
V5Z 1K5**

CIPHI SEWAGE DISPOSAL SEMINAR '07

By Ryan Philipation

On June 28, 2007, CIPHI SK Branch along with the Saskatoon Health Region hosted a one-day Sewage Disposal workshop. The workshop was held at Blackstrap Lake and was attended by 40 delegates. Jim Webster along with Dwayne Djkwich presented material on the installation of a Type II mound. A contractor was onsite to present and explain the components of a package treatment plant and the actual mound construction.

Sk Branch would like to thank all those who attended and give a special thanks to Dwayne Djkwich for his hard work organizing this event. Your Branch looks forward to offering future educational opportunities to members in the future. If you have any ideas please forward to one of your councilors!

Successful SK CIPHI Bursary

On behalf of SK. Branch, we are happy to congratulate Doug Terry and Paula Sampson for meeting all the requirements of the bursary program. Doug and Paula were sponsored by the CIPHI SK Branch to attend the AEC in Kelowna. The following are their write-ups from the conference, one of the conditions that were met.

AEC June 2007 – by Doug Terry

I considered myself fortunate to have been able to attend this conference- Saskatchewan was only represented by about eight of us and Ken did a professional job as our SK Branch president. And of course, B.C. was heavily represented. The conference setting was spectacular as Kelowna is a beautiful city located on a lake amongst mountains.. The wine tasting tour was unbeatable, but the hospitality night was expensive having to pay to enter, and pay for door prize raffle tickets. I did see some old classmates and the many former Saskatchewan PHI's now working elsewhere.

My eyes were opened immensely with Brian Johnston's presentation on his inspections of 54 Vancouver downtown hotels and rental rooms that are solely occupied by individuals with mental health and addictions problems as well as drug dealers. He actually placed orders on the hotel room tenants as opposed to the hotel owners, (their preference as compliance was more obtainable) This area of Vancouver has over 5,000 discarded needles picked off the streets monthly and a special effort (dedicated container truck and crew daily) of waste collection and junk removal over a period of a few months did not reduce the problem whatsoever as all the 15,000 hotel residents discard all their refuse out their window. It made me realize that our scale of problems here in Saskatchewan is minor compared to theirs.

Dr. Ray Copes, Scientific Director for the National Collaborating Center for Environmental Health, spoke on the need for public health to use evidence based practice, but pointed out all the problems and gaps associated with implementing this, concluding it is easier said than done, and much work, study and funding is needed to accomplish this. The old question of why do we do what we do, is always challenged by the need for direct evidence, the fact we have a healthy population and low disease incidence can't be used to substantiate our programs.

My favorite presentation was from Guy McDonald, a lawyer in B.C. that represents the health authorities in all their court proceedings and charges. I found Guy to be very knowledgeable and very practicable. His advice and wisdom on progressive compliance policies mirrored Saskatchewan's somewhat, but he really emphasized due process. Guy dictated 10 rules to follow for Discretion (something all PHI's exercise) and 10 rules for Fairness. If these rules are not followed in a progressive enforcement, it can jeopardize your success in achieving successful enforcement. I intent on implementing these rules in my region. He also emphasized that the inspector's own discretion and judgment cannot be overridden by policy.

Overall the organizers should be commended for a great conference. I concluded the conference organizational team was much larger than Saskatchewan's was last year. While the geographic setting bettered Saskatchewan's, I did honestly overhear that the Saskatchewan Hotel rooms last year were preferred over this years. I did also notice the introduction and thanking of the speakers last year was more professional than I witnessed this year

I thank the Branch again for sponsoring me to attend; it was an opportunity I valued very much.

The CIPHI 73rd Annual Educational Conference in Kelowna was a great experience! By Paula Sampson

As I flew through the gloomy clouds into Kelowna I didn't know quite what to expect. It was raining when I arrived! Luckily, the weather took a turn for the beautiful for the remainder of my stay. The "Grand" Reception was a great opportunity to get a lay of the land...what an impressive location. The Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference Center had plenty to offer and the food was just amazing. I was pleased to spend some time with our fellow Saskatchewan Public Health Professionals who made the trip out. It's nice to learn a little more about each other. I managed to track down some of my classmates from Concordia and I made some new friends! It was especially exciting to meet a couple young women who work as Public Health Inspectors in my hometown of Terrace, B.C. They are new to that area and it was good to connect with them. I hope to show them my old haunts when I return there later this summer.



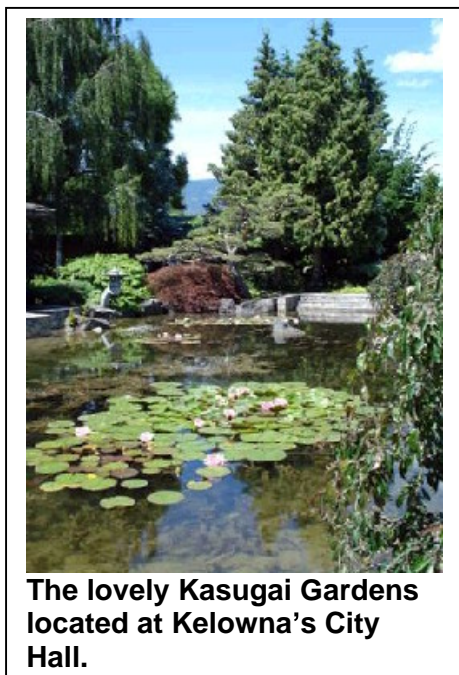
A terrific view of the Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference Centre off in the distance (taken from Knox Mountain Park)

The Opening Ceremonies got us off to a great start on Monday with warm welcomes from conference organizers and locals. Keynote Dr. Robert Conn of Smartrisk talked about injury prevention in an optimistic light. He made us think about the awareness efforts put towards diseases such as cancer and heart disease; while people continue to ignore injury prevention. We can have an impact by identifying risks and taking the initiative to eliminate those risks. We should be careful when we use the term "accident"...was it an "accident"? If it can be prevented it's not an accident! I then took in a lecture about Administrative law and Public Health Inspectors given by Guy McDannold. Though he spoke about law in B.C., he gave us some useful tools for preparing for court. The main goal is to take all steps, plus an extra step (or two, or three), when dealing with clients and to be able to prove all these steps was taken throughout the enforcement process. Judges like to hear you are dealing with "Health & Safety" legislation because it's an area where they may not be as experienced. The Networking Lunch was fantastic; everyone wanted to be outdoors! After lunch Keynote Dr. Lawrence Frank of UBC gave a talk about The Built Environment as a Health Enabler or Health Disabler. In short, our new and complex subdivision designs may be severely hindering us.

We are relying more and more on our vehicles to get us further to work, the grocery store and even to our children's schools. The ways our communities are designed and planned will impact our physical activity and the environment. If we can walk or ride our bikes to work, to the grocery store, or to our schools we will be in better shape and we may be able to save ourselves time in our vehicles! At a presentation by Dr. Paul Hasselback regarding the New Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) as a Risk Communication Tool I learned that the original Air Quality Index (AQI) does not average or mean the amount of contaminants in our air. If one contaminant is high, then the AQI is high, whereas with the AQHI, if one contaminant is high and the rest are low, it will give you a better representation of the risk level associated with those contaminants and provide the public with a measurement system they can understand. Monday Evening was capped off with the Winery Tours, Tasting and West Coast Dining. I had the pleasure of attending the Summerhill Pyramid Winery event. It was a surreal experience, with beautiful sites, wonderful wines, and fun with friends.

Day two started with a seminar by Keynote Philip Jones for "Busy, Stressed Health Inspectors Only". Are any of us like that? His humorous presentation talked about making changes to reduce the stress in our lives; since there really is no good time to schedule a heart attack! I then listened to stories and viewed pictures of Brian Johnston's 54 Hotels in the Downtown Eastside (Vancouver) – Through the Eyes of a Health Officer. He worked together with other agencies to help control problems within some poorer communities. It took a sensitive understanding to work through some of the issues and I was impressed with the heartfelt message he presented. Some unique approaches included working with the tenants to improve their surroundings. Greg Baytalan of the Ministry of Health in B.C delivered my next session. He spoke about his travels and volunteer work with Rotary International in Amreli, India. He got back to basics while conducting a sanitary survey and provided the community with some ideas and recommendations for some basic public health principles such as handwashing, drinking water, and sewage disposal.

Then to something we face down here in Southeast Saskatchewan...the mosquito and West Nile Virus! Cheryl Phippen of BWP Consulting in B.C. offered her expertise on biological vector and nuisance mosquito control programs. Shendra Brisdon of Fraser Health then discussed her experiences in dealing with a Salmonella Outbreak associated with dog treats. There are virtually no controls on the pet food industry and we need to be aware of this when following-up with clients. Have they handled pet treats? Did they wash their hands? Etc. I then listened to a presentation given by Chris Komorowski of Waterloo Public Health on an Outbreak of Hepatitis A Associated with an Infected Food Handler. They were able to link the genotype of Hep A found in the cases to the index case who had just returned from a visit to Sri Lanka. He stressed the importance of working together with other agencies, including the media, and on risk communication. For example, the Hep A Hotline they set up received about two thousand calls! Tuesday was concluded with the President's Banquet, which offered a very special meal (so good) and music from the Timebenders. Some of these Health Inspectors can really rip it up on the dance floor! I, personally, was afraid of the entertainers who would try to drag inspectors up on stage for some good-natured embarrassment!



On the last day of the conference I'm sure everyone was a little more tired, but we persevered with the first Keynote Andrew Hazlewood, Deputy Minister of Population Health & Wellness in B.C. He explained the ActNow BC initiative and how all-provincial ministries can work together to further their province's progress in Preventive Healthcare. I then listened to a presentation from Dr. Pierre Payment on Boil Water Orders, Turbidity, Disinfection, Coliforms and Pathogens: Myths and Realities. We must be careful when issuing boil water orders, as they may reduce the intensity of the outbreak, but they do not prevent outbreaks. We need to think about the pros and cons associated with these orders. What is the percent of the population receiving the message, vs. the percent understanding the message, vs. the percent taking action? Duncan Ellison and Klaus Seeger of the Environmental Health Foundation of Canada shared with us their comparisons across different health jurisdictions regarding Preparedness Patterns for Waterborne Illness Outbreaks: Municipal Alerting Practices and Public Health Unit Response. There are some basic similarities, but also some significant differences across the provinces, however, most exceed legislative requirements. As many messages from various presenters focused on communication and working with our partners...this was no different, as developing a positive working relationship with your water operator is important. They provided some "best practices" information that was useful. We then enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by the hotel for the awards lunch! After lunch I sat in on a discussion about climate change initiated by Manon Fleury, biostatistician with PHAC.

Climate change will have an impact on Public health (for example, the impacts of foodborne, waterborne and zoonotic diseases will change), the extent of which is hard to determine. Domenic Losito, Regional Director for Health Protection, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority then expanded on this topic by highlighting what environmental public health professionals can do, whether it is large or small scale to help manage this situation. This session was followed by a panel discussion including David Noble, founder of 2degreesC, a consultancy that works primarily with municipal and health sector clients to understand and address sustainability challenges. And, as a final presentation, I listened to Heather Larratt of Larratt Aquatic Consulting speak about Cyanotoxins in Canadian Drinking Water: An Increasing Problem. She provided us with some interesting points, including the fact that there are products being sold in stores and on the internet that contain blue-green algae (supplements, conditioners, etc.) and she cautioned us to not use them! She explained that copper sulphate is a band-aid treatment; we need long term control and watershed protection. The conference concluded with the BC Branch Social Night at the historic Laurel Packinghouse where most of us stood out on the large deck to talk, joke, laugh, and have fun.

All a great time and I hope to participate in conferences to come. Many thanks go out to all those involved with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors who work hard to keep us connected and educated!

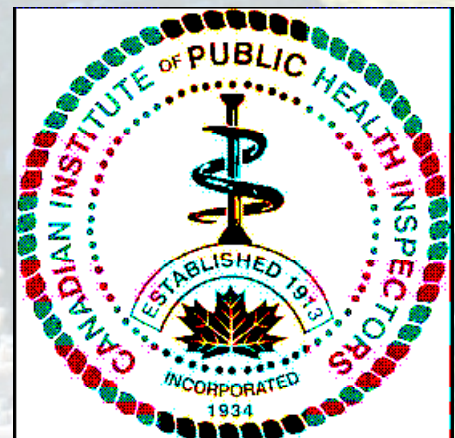
BEYOND THE HORIZON

**THE 74TH ANNUAL
EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC
HEALTH INSPECTORS**

**JULY 20-23, 2008
ST. JOHN S, NL**

The first time in Newfoundland
and Labrador!

Follow the conference link on
www.ciphi.nl.ca
for more information.



British Hospitals Ban Long Sleeves, and Neckties

An Excerpt From The Associated Press, September 17, 2007 at 1:51 PM EDT
Jacqueline Treen

LONDON - British hospitals are banning neckties, long sleeves and jewellery in an effort to stop the spread of deadly hospital-born infections, new rules published Monday stipulate. Hospital dress codes typically urge a doctor to look professional, which, for male practitioners, has usually meant wearing a tie. But as concern over hospital-born infections has intensified, doctors are taking a closer look at their clothing.

"Ties are rarely laundered but worn daily," the Department of Health said in a statement. "They perform no beneficial function in patient care and have been shown to be colonized by pathogens."

The new regulations would mean an end to doctors' traditional white coats, Health Secretary Alan Johnson said. Fake nails, jewellery and watches, which the department warned could harbour germs, are also out. Mr. Johnson said the "bare below the elbows" dress code would help prevent the spread of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), the deadly bacteria resistant to nearly every available antibiotic.

Popularly known as a "Superbug," MRSA accounts for more than 40 per cent of in-hospital blood infections in Britain. Because the bacteria are so hard to kill, health-care workers have instead focused on containing its spread through improvements to hospital hygiene. A 2004 study of doctors' neckties at a New York hospital found that nearly half of them carried at least one species of infectious microbe. In 2006, the British Medical Association urged doctors to go without the accessories, calling them "functionless clothing items."

The dress code comes into force next year.

Food Safety First

In recognition of the dedication, service and support that CIPHI Sask. Branch provides Public Health Inspectors, *Food Safety 1st* would like to donate to the CIPHI Sask. Branch an infrared thermometer.

Food Safety 1st, a relatively new company, appreciates the work of CIPHI Sask. Branch and all Public Health Inspectors and hopes that this and future contributions will be accepted as a token of appreciation.

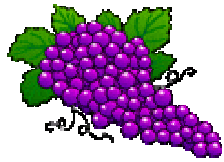
Than You
Russell Scott



The SK Branch Newsletter is having a photo contest. Send us the good, the bad and the ugly Environmental Public Health photos. At the end of the year, if the SK. Branch Executive chooses your picture, you will receive a SK Branch Merchandise item!

Please include your name, photo credits, and caption or commentary (optional). E-mail your photos to Jackie.treen@cypressrha.ca. Good luck!

PHI GRAPEVINE

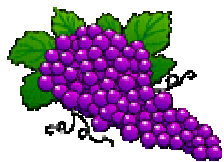


The SK Branch would like to congratulate Rob Schuba on winning this year's playoff hockey pool. Rob had a very strong pool and was able to hold off a late rush from a few other entries. Thanks to all those who supported this Branch pool and make sure to enter the regular season pool coming in September. So get thinking about the CIPHI 2007-08 NHL Regular season hockey pool. Michael Hayduk will be administering the pool this year. He said there would be a new format to challenge all the hockey minds out there!! I look forward to this year's pool as it nears to see who can challenge Rob 'Pool King' Schuba for the title!
Ryan Philipation

Ewelina Dziak started with The Sunrise Health Region in May. Welcome!

Ryan and Lana Philipation are new proud parents to 7.5 lb. Kaylee Rae born on June 12th. CONGRATS and try to get some sleep!

Ken Cross is a Grandpa again to Whitney Dee, born April 30, 2007.



Editor's Corner

By Jacqueline Treen

Well, the weather is getting colder, only to get really cold soon. Time to start bundling up (which is not my favorite thing), but if it means slowing down and winding up the West Nile season, I'm all for it! Many of us in the province are now playing "catch up" with regular work as the only thing we were focused on for 2 months was mosquito bites. This is yet just another illness that is coming forth in the world that we are responding to. HATS OFF to all that worked so diligently with SK Health on West Nile follow-ups and entering it into iPHIS. Now, we are able to look forth to Norovirus. And with that, cold and flu season is here AGAIN!

We are extending contest of Name Your Newsletter. We received a couple ideas, but more are wanted. The executive would like a wide range of ideas to pick from. Please send them to me by November 30 at Jackie.treen@sasktel.net.

On behalf of the SK Branch Executive, I again want to thank everyone once again for supporting our Newsletter.

Happy reading.

The SK Branch Newsletter encourages the submissions of articles, pictures, or other items from the membership to share with the profession. The editor reserves the right to refuse any submission in part or in whole if it does not meet the goals and thoughts of the CIPHI or the CIPHI SK Branch. Note that all articles, views and comments in this Newsletter are those of the author and are not necessarily those or reflect the editor, the Institute, the SK Branch Executive or it's Members.

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