

# The AIHA Connection

Alberta Local Section Newsletter January 2008 | Volume 11, Issue IV

**AIHA Local Section Executive**  
2007 - 2008

**President**  
Luisa Su  
780.497.4230

**President Elect**  
Roy Clough  
780.415.0600

**Past President**  
Shivi Thusoo  
403.515.5780

**Treasurer**  
Rick Adams  
780.422.6201

**Secretary**  
Nasrin Dhanani  
780.492.6888

**Education**  
Tiffany Clayton  
403.237.4450

**Membership**  
Rhonda Lee Curran  
780.960.8600

**Public Relations**  
Mike Mills  
780.465.7431

**Maintenance Points**  
Tracy Carr  
250.420.2426

**Webmaster**  
Brent Yaschuk  
403.208.1065

**Newsletter Editor**  
Rhiannon Filip  
780.930.8662

## **President's Message** from the desk of.....Luisa Su

Happy New Year!!!!!!

Hard to believe another year has come and gone. Hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season, full of good times, good friends and great food. 2007 was definitely a challenging year for all - trying to keep up with the frantic economic climate, work pressures and scarce resources.

In November, both the HSCSA conference and fall technical session "Welding Health & Safety and Ventilation for Hot Work in Confined Spaces" were a wonderful success. On the family front, two of our executive members - Shivi and Tiffany, welcomed new 'additions' to their families. Congratulations to the proud parents! Hoping that your sleep deprivation days are waning.....

The executive continues to work on cross-communication of events and activities with other associations and we are adding to the resource manual developed and compiled by Ina Hildebrand last year. Unfortunately, our mentorship program has come to a halt. Although there was no shortage of mentors or learning partners, mentors found the tracking and paperwork requirements too cumbersome. Again, this may be a sign of the times and we will try to revitalize this program at a later date.

2008 promises to be a busy year. Remember to pencil in both March 27 (spring technical session on heat stress) and March 28 (symposium & AGM) in your calendars. Six of the present executive committee positions will be available at the AGM:

- Education director;
- Public Relations director;
- Newsletter Editor;
- Maintenance Points director;
- Membership director; and
- last but not least, Prez elect.

Please refer to Nasrin's Call for Nominations letter and the enclosed sheet for a description of duties. Don't be shy!! Do not hesitate to contact any of the executive members or Nasrin for more information.

We are also requesting nominations for the 2008 Award of Excellence. Note the submission deadline of February 29, 2008.

See you in March!

### **Notice of Alberta Local Section AIHA Dues Increase for 2009**

~ Alberta Local Section AIHA Executive ~

Please note that effective January 2009, the membership fees will be increased from \$35.00 to \$40.00. This small increase will provide the flexibility required to attract more technical industrial hygiene speakers for the association courses and the technical sessions. Thanks to all the membership for your understanding.



## Membership Director's Corner

By Rhonda Lee Curran

As of January 21, 2008, we have 203 regular members (pending the renewals) plus 3 retired members. Please put your hands together for a warm welcome to the following new members of our local section!

Leah Butler  
Mary Mason  
Lin Xiao

Ryan Campbell  
Cameron Mercer

Mohammad Iqbal  
Angela Phan

Glyn Jones  
Shamini Samuel

Michael Lawrence  
Ryan Smotra

For existing members, we hope you will continue your membership with us. The **membership renewal invoices for 2008 are enclosed with this newsletter** (note: new members who joined late in 2007 are exempt). Don't miss out on our event discounts, professional development and networking opportunities!

Also, if you interested in running for the Membership Director position, please submit a nomination form either before or at our Annual General Meeting in March. Volunteers are welcome for all open positions!

The Membership Director may be contacted at:

AIHA AB Section – Membership Director  
c/o Rhonda Lee Curran  
314 - 84 Street SW  
Edmonton AB T6X 1H8  
Phone: 780-960-8600 or 780-433-7741  
Email: [AIHA-ABmembership@hotmail.com](mailto:AIHA-ABmembership@hotmail.com)

*\*Please note that this is a volunteer-run position and the contact information will change after the executive election this Spring.\**

If you move or change jobs, please ensure that you forward your up-to-date contact information for follow-up. The information is used for our newsletters, e-mail distribution lists and is included in the annual Membership Directory.

Also, if you are interested in running for the Membership Director position, please submit a nomination form either before or at our Annual General Meeting in March. Volunteers are welcome for all open positions!

Thank you!

### *In This Issue:*

President's Message	Page 1
Notice of Alberta Local Section AIHA Dues Increase for 2009	Page 1
Membership Director's Corner	Page 2
H&SCAIHA Booth Draw Winners	Page 2
2008 Sponsorship for the Symposium	Page 2
A Message from the Education Director	Page 3
Employment	Page 3
PDC Summary	Page 4
Social – Calgary 2007	Page 5
Asbestos in Vermiculite	Page 5

### *Calendar of Events 2008*

March 27, 2008 – PDC Heat Stress in Edmonton  
March 28, 2008 – AGM & Symposium in Edmonton  
May 30 to June 5 – AIHce'08  
September – Edmonton & Calgary Social Events  
November – Fall PDC & H&S Conference

### H&SC AIHA Booth Draw Winners

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the booth, entered the draw and visited with us. The two lucky winners of the AIHA mugs and certificates are:

- Tara Garratt; and
- Greg Rausch

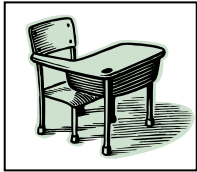
To everyone else, see you next year when you try again. ☺

### 2008 Sponsorship for the Symposium

Happy New Year everyone!

If you are interested in sponsoring the 2008 AIHA Alberta Local Section Spring Symposium and AGM please contact Roy Clough at [roy.clough@gov.ab.ca](mailto:roy.clough@gov.ab.ca) or at (780) 644-2308.

Symposium Date: Friday March 28, 2008-~~01-25~~  
Location: Executive Royal Inn, Leduc



## **A Message from the Education Director** by Tiffany Clayton

Our fall professional development course on November 5, 2007, “Welding Health & Safety and Ventilation for Hot Work in Confined Spaces” was very well attended by our members. Dr. Mike Harris did an excellent job in educating us on the health and safety hazards related to cutting and welding. Mike’s integrated experiences as a welder and an industrial hygienist allowed for practical discussions about solutions for controlling welding exposures. He brought with him video segments demonstrating the effectiveness of local exhaust that can be shared with our welders during future training sessions.

While it may be below freezing out there, I want you all to start thinking about the warm summer days to come, and attending our next professional development course “Heat Stress”. Please mark your calendars for March 27<sup>th</sup> to attend this technical session in Edmonton. This course will be delivered by Mr. John Oudyk, CIH, ROH, who is an Occupational Hygienist with the Occupational Health Clinics for Ontario Workers.

### **Employment**

~ Rhonda Lee Curran ~ Membership Director ~

Are you looking for a new job or are you an employer looking for the right candidate?

If so, we host relevant job postings on our website at [www.aiha.ab.ca](http://www.aiha.ab.ca) under the “Jobs” tab. Please note that these postings must be limited in size (summary form) and should provide a web link to further information.

Please contact our Webmaster ~ Brent Yaschuk ~ for details at [brenty@conceptcontrols.com](mailto:brenty@conceptcontrols.com) ~ Check out our website for the current jobs posted – we add them as we hear about them!

In addition, you may advertise an employment opportunity in our newsletter for a small fee. Please contact our Newsletter Editor ~ Rhiannon Filip ~ for details at [Rhiannon\\_filip@golder.com](mailto:Rhiannon_filip@golder.com) ~ Let’s spread the news!



## **World leader in sampling technologies**

Over forty years of proven leadership have made SKC the number one choice for air sampling equipment. Health and safety professionals worldwide know that the SKC name stands for people and products that solve problems.

### **Professionals rely on SKC for:**

- Technical Support
- Proven Reliability
- Service, Service, Service

For SKC products in Alberta contact  
Safety Instruments at

**780-438-3028**

SKC Inc. Eighty Four PA USA

Tel: 724-941-9701 Fax: 724-941-1969 [www.skcinc.com](http://www.skcinc.com)



## PDC Summary

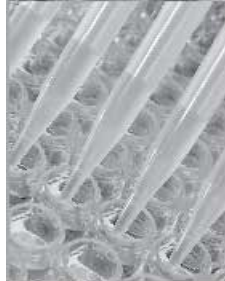
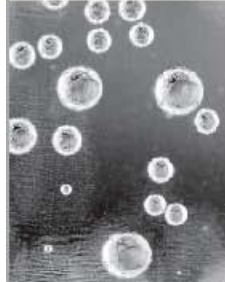
~ Shivi Thusoo ~ Past President ~

Wow! A great PDC on welding fumes by Dr. Mike Harris. He was a welder in the U.S. armed forces and then applied his craft to the area of industrial hygiene. As a CIH he was able to significantly contribute to our profession by co-writing the section on welding in the "White Book", writing a book on welding fumes, and creating a supervisor checklist on welding in confined spaces.

He was very candid on the field of welding, including the strengths of occupational health information and the areas for improvement for various cohorts. I think all 28 people in attendance enjoyed his presentation. Dr. Harris correctly assumed that he was speaking to a group of IH's and therefore the level of conversation was elevated from the beginning and sustained until the end of a long, but energy filled day.

A PDF version of Dr. Harris' notes will be posted on our Alberta section website. Several people mentioned that this was one of our best PDC's ever. We also had the added bonus of meeting Tiffany Clayton's brand new baby girl.

Tiffany was the mastermind who convinced our executive team to spend the money and bring Dr. Harris into Calgary. We were concerned that the pricing might be too high, but based on the quality of his information and presentation, we received great value for our time and money!



**CANTEST**  
••••

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

## Work Space Analyses

- Particulate & Airborne Heavy Metal Determination
- Bacteria & Mold Identification
- Asbestos Analysis
- Gaseous Composition Determination
- Volatile Organic Compounds
- Compressed Breathing Air Analysis

**Complimentary media & shipping for Alberta AIHA Members**

For further information:  
call **1 800 665 8566**  
visit **www.cantest.com**  
email **ih@cantest.com**

## Social – Calgary 2007

~ Shivi Thusoo ~ Past President ~

We had a technical snafu with the reminder e-mail for the Calgary social. It appears that the more sophisticated virus/span scanning software blocks our mass e-mails for a large percentage of the membership. Despite this technical issue, Twelve people come out to Brewster's Pub on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and had a great time. Everyone walked away with gifts courtesy of both Concept Controls Inc. and Devon Canada Corporation.

The good folks at Brewster's set aside a special area for us. There was good food, great sampler trays of beer and fantastic company! In particular, Ian Drummond made the trip out to Calgary for our social. Okay, not explicitly for our social, but it was excellent timing. ☺ He regaled us with tales of retirement and float plants. Thank you Ian. It was also a wonderful opportunity for many of us to see Tiffany Clayton before she went on maternity leave.

## Asbestos in Vermiculite

~ Omid Ghayyur ~ Industrial Hygiene Coordinator, CANTEST LTD. ~

In asbestos analysis, one of the most common client questions is "*what do these results mean and how do they affect me?*". With the majority of samples submitted by consultants working on abatement projects, asbestos is an issue of significant concern.

The Worker's Compensation Board (WCB) of British Columbia defines an asbestos containing material (ACM) as any product that contains at least 1% asbestos by weight. Disposal measures vary depending on a product's classification as ACM or non-ACM. If a product is labelled as ACM, it is defined as special waste and must adhere to specific guidelines for disposal as set out by the Ministry of Environment. Although the WCB's classification system does not describe products containing less than 1% asbestos as ACM, it is very important not to ignore products containing less than 1% asbestos.

Asbestos is very frequently found in vermiculite samples (attic insulation). However, because of its often uneven distribution throughout the material, analysts have great difficulty determining an exact percentage when examining vermiculite samples under a microscope and will often offer an estimated range, i.e. 1% to 10% or 10% to 30%. The analyst *can* provide a reliable answer to the most important issue – whether any asbestos is actually present in a sample. Therefore, if a sample tests positive for asbestos, it is crucial that workers are fully protected to avoid inhaling any fibers while removing the material, regardless of the percentage.

# INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE EQUIPMENT & MEDIA

Concept Controls carries a large selection of top-of-the-line equipment from leading manufacturers in the field of safety instrumentation.

SKC Inc. - Pumps, Media, Tedlar Bags  
ZEFON - Cassettes  
Quest Technologies - IAQ, SLM, Noise Dosimeters  
RAE Systems - ppb VOC Detection  
OHD - Fit Tester 3000  
3M - Passive Sampling Badges

## Not looking to Purchase? Top 5 Reasons to Rent

Suffer no maintenance or calibration costs  
Access to a wide range of equipment  
Limit costs on any project  
Meet unexpected changes in project requirements  
No money tied up in equipment not being used

For more information on Concept Controls and the services we offer please call us  
toll free 1-888-207-2212 or visit us on the web [www.conceptcontrols.com](http://www.conceptcontrols.com)

 **CONCEPT CONTROLS INC.**  
innovative safety and instrumentation