

The AIHA Connection

Alberta Local Section Newsletter

May 2008 | Volume 12, Issue I

AIHA Local Section Executive
2008 - 2009

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

As I put pen to paper, it is hard to believe that another year has passed and this will be my last 'blurb' as president. Congratulations and thanks to the executive for all the hard work, especially to Roy for a well attended and action-packed Symposium and to Tiffany for the Heat Stress/Strain PDC. As our feedback indicates, both events were outstanding and continue to be the 'best value' (for maintenance points) in town. Thanks as well to all our sponsors, for sharing your expertise, information on the latest products and great give-aways and prizes! Last, but not least, thanks to our speakers who took time to prepare and deliver presentations and everyone who took the time out of their busy schedules to come out and support our March Local Section events. Your involvement is what makes our association what it is – SUCCESSFUL!

Despite many work pressures competing for our already scarce resources, the executive is committed to maintaining a number of initiatives started by Sheldon Weatherby, Ina Hildebrand and Shivi Thusoo in the previous years:

1. Development of formal partnerships with other professional OH&S associations (such as AOHNA and CSSE) and cross marketing of our activities.
2. Maintenance of an executive administration manual to ease transition between executive and minimize duplication (Info soon to be stored on the website).
3. Local Section support and participation in the National Canadian Council of Occupational Hygiene (CCOH).

If you have any ideas to share or other issues that you want to promote, please don't be shy and get involved. Contact any member of the executive today. We need YOU!!!! Whether your involvement is as an organizer, executive member or participant, your expertise and assistance is always welcome.

This year, we had a record number of executive positions to fill (6) and I am happy to announce that we did not have a shortage of volunteers. We even had a vote for the position of newsletter editor. Our 2008-2009 Executive is as follows:

President:	Roy Clough
President-Elect:	Ryan Stewart
Treasurer:	Rick Adams
Secretary:	Nasrin Dhanani
Certification Maintenance Points Director:	Joanna Macdonald
Education Director:	Leanne Varkonyi
Membership Director:	Jodi Aldridge
Newsletter Director:	Angela Bianco
Public Relations Director:	Lisa Malinowski
Webmaster:	Brent Yaschuk
Past-President:	Luisa Su

As I mentioned at the AGM, although this year was a lot of WORK, it has also been a lot of great FUN, a great EXPERIENCE, with a great TEAM of individuals. As the bar has been raised by previous 'past presidents' before me, I hope I am able to provide Roy and the executive with the same level of guidance and help. Thanks, Shivi for keeping us on the right track!



Membership Director's Corner

By Rhonda Lee Curran

A special thanks to all our new members and those who have renewed their membership with us this year! As of March 28, 2008, we have about 125 paid members plus 3 retired members. Last minute renewals are still coming in.

A grand welcome goes out to the following newest members to join our local chapter:

Lester Kiat
Kari Mulroy

Marie-Louise Ruetz
Stacy Richardson

Doug Linman
Zbigniew Filip

Kevin Simpson

Matthew MacFarlane

For those in arrears, your **final chance** to have your name included in the 2008 Membership Directory is to pay your renewal dues by **April 25, 2008**. The membership renewal invoices for 2008 were enclosed with the previous newsletter (note: new members who joined last 2007 are exempt) and the on-line payment option is still available.

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.

Finally, a warm thanks to the tremendous executive I've had the pleasure of working with over the past two years.

Best Regards,
Rhonda Lee Curran, (Departing) Membership Director

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Thank-You to our Alberta AIHA Local Section Sponsors

~ Mike Mills ~ Public Relations Director ~

Your local section thanks the companies that sponsored our annual general meeting and trade fair. It is through their kind sponsorship that your local section is able to provide quality programming maintained participant costs at reasonable rates. The companies that sponsored the event this year are as follows: Concept Controls Inc., Golder Associates, HydroQual Laboratories Ltd., Cantest Ltd., MSDS Binders, Levitt Safety, Dalimar Instruments Inc., Clean Harbours Canada Inc., and 3M Canada. Please consider involving these companies in your next project.

ADVANCE NOTICE: Alberta Local Section AIHA Membership Dues Increase in *2009*

~ Alberta Local Section AIHA Executive ~

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

The existing membership fee had been in place for over 10 years. Thanks to all the membership for your understanding with this update. Please email any questions or concerns to

aiha-abmembership@hotmail.com

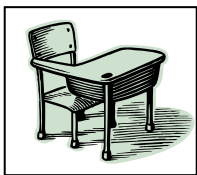
Calendar of Events 2008

May 30 to June 5 – AIHce'08

June 5 & 6 – OH&S Getting Down to Business Course

September – Edmonton & Calgary Social Events

November – Fall PDC & H&S Conference



A Message from the Education Director

~ by Tiffany Clayton ~

This spring's professional development course on March 27, 2008, "Heat Stress/Strain" was the highest attended PDC in the last two years with 54 participants.

Mr. John Oudyk presented a practical approach to handling heat stress issues, especially when offering support to remote work locations. His presentation materials will be posted on our website, so feel free to download his information for use in your workplaces.

This last PDC marked the end of my two year term as Education Director. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with such a great team of fellow IH's and to network with health and safety professionals outside of my company. Being part of the executive allowed me the chance to learn more about the initiatives taking place in our discipline (i.e. cross-association marketing, lobbying ABIH on qualifications for CIH's, and the promotion of a national Canadian IH organization).

Serving on the executive was a wonderful way to give back to our profession and I hope to be involved again soon. It was so rewarding to be able to translate the educational desires of our members into professional development courses. I couldn't have done this without your feedback and suggestions (and of course lots of support from the executive team).

I look forward to slowing down a bit and focusing on my family during the rest of my maternity leave. I will miss working with the executive but am excited for the opportunities that await our new team. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Leanne Varkonyi who will be our new Education Director and I look forward to attending her future courses!

Please mark your calendars for October 27th to attend our next technical session in Edmonton (Shaw Convention Centre). This course will be offered in conjunction with the 7th Annual Alberta Health & Safety Conference and Trade Fair.



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Members! We Need Your Help!

~ Tracy Carr ~ Maintenance Point Director ~

Missing two brochures!

Nanotechnology, November 6, 2005

Making a Business Case for H&S,
November 8, 2004

If anyone has a copy of either of these brochures, please mail a copy to the Maintenance Point Director. Or email a copy at tracydawncarr@hotmail.com

Tracy Carr
101- 305th Ave
Kimberley, BC
V1A 3G7

MANY THANKS!

EMPLOYMENT

~ Rhonda Lee Curran ~

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 under the "Jobs" tab! Please contact our Webmaster – Brent Yaschuk for details at:

brenty@conceptcontrols.com

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

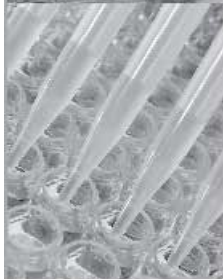


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Presentation of Awards

At our last AGM (March 28, 2008), the AIHA Alberta Section had the honour of presenting awards to the following members in celebration of their achievements:

Award of Excellence

This year the Award of Excellence was awarded to Glyn Jones. The award will be presented by Don Fillion to Glyn, as Glyn was practicing his work-life balance attitude outside of the country and had to miss the AGM.

Congratulations Glyn – Recipient of the 2008 Alberta Local Section AIHA Award of Excellence!

Some words used to describe Glyn:

- Leader
- Enthusiastic and dedicated to mentoring many IH's and safety professionals
- Continued efforts to advance the profession through instruction and participation in various associations

Door Prize Draw

The winner of the Starbucks Certificate was...

Michael Irwin

HydroQual Laboratory Prize Draw

The winner of the "Moldy" Gift Package

(a selection of treats that all have some connection to mold: botrytis wine, Guinness, French bread, cheese and truffles) was...

Candy Wagner

Past-President Recognition

(Award presented by D)

In recognition and appreciation of his hard work, enthusiasm, energy and time; we would like to thank Shivi Thusoo for his term as our Alberta Local Section President.

Thank you Shivi and we look forward to your continued involvement in the Local Section.

All the Best!

Symposium Feedback Form Draw

The winner of the Starbucks Certificate was...

Delores Brisbois

The winner of the Chapters gift card was...

Aditya Kaura

Enjoy!

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES **WANTED**

~ Rhonda Lee Curran ~

- ✓ Do you have expertise in an area of IH that you'd like to share with other members in a short article?
- ✓ Do know a member who has been recognized in their profession or community?
- ✓ Are you aware of an upcoming course or presentation that may be of interest to other members?

If any of these apply, or you have another relevant story to tell, we'd love to hear from you! Please send any suggestions and draft articles to the Newsletter Editor at rhiannon_filip@golder.com.

Let's spread the news!



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CAPP Industrial Hygiene Sub-Committee

~ Shivi Thusoo ~ Past President ~

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) industrial hygiene sub-committee that reports to the CAPP Safety Committee has remained relatively dormant for past couple of years. If the organization you are with is a member of CAPP, there is an opportunity for you to get involved in the restoration of this sub-committee.

If you are interested in being involved please contact me at shivi.thusoo@dvn.com or at (403) 515-5780. The first couple of meetings will be about scope and mandate, to ensure that our priorities are in alignment with the CAPP Safety Committee and our expectations as IH professionals.

14 Tips for Dealing with the Media

~ Roy Clough ~ President Elect ~

From the AIHA Leadership Workshop in Falls Church, Virginia. February 29- March 2 ,2008

- (1) Do your Homework
- (2) Know the Audience
- (3) Understand the Context
- (4) Interviews are Not PR Opportunities
- (5) Develop Core Messages
- (6) Don't Talk Too Much
- (7) Skip the Jargon and Acronyms
- (8) Don't Lose Your Cool
- (9) Be Proactive if Necessary
- (10) You are Never "Off the Record"
- (11) The Reporter is Not Your Friend
- (12) Respect Deadlines and Follow Up
- (13) Don't Ask to See the Story
- (14) Evaluate the Results

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Past President Blog!

~ Shivi Thusoo ~ Past President ~

Can you believe that I survived three years! More importantly can you believe that you survived three years with me!!!

Well, we did not accomplish everything set out for my mandate, and in particular I am disappointed that the mentorship program never picked up in the way I had envisioned. Overall, though I am impressed by the commitment made by the members of the executive (past and present) and the excitement that each of one of them brings to the table when we meet. Personally, I found that to be the most invigorating part of the position and for my career as well.

We had some very positive things happen during my tenure, including the excellent work by Rhonda Lee Curran and Mike Mills with cross marketing with other organizations, opportunities for shared materials and resources through Victor Leung and the BC/Yukon Local Section, and increased development of CCOH through Lorraine Shaw (President) and Sheldon Weatherby (Alberta Section representative). We also saw a marked increase in cash spent for quality IH speakers from our Education Coordinator, Tiffany Clayton, whom I know is very keen on keeping our winning streak alive for years to come with our new director.

I highly recommend that you strongly consider volunteering for the executive next year, and/or for one of the sub-committees this year! The AIHA OEL Working Group that reported to the Alberta Government OEL Working Group was particularly enjoyable for me. I look forward to supporting the new executive in their efforts and wish Ryan Stewart well as he starts his 3-year term. It was a truly amazing experience.

Thanks for the positive feedback, your participation and support is appreciated.

CCOH

~ Shivi Thusoo ~ Past President ~

CCOH is the Canadian Council of Occupational Hygiene (www.ccoh.ca). Our Alberta Local Section has been working with CCOH for the last five years to create a national organization of occupational hygiene. Other AIHA and non-AIHA local sections actively participate on the executive of the CCOH.

As a local section member you are automatically a member of the national organization. CCOH currently provides us with useful IH related web links, job postings, quarterly newsletters on IH related topics, and arrangements for web-based training seminars. CCOH is trying to become a national voice for occupational hygiene that can serve to market our interests with regulators and to educate other stakeholders in the value of having an IH professional involved in workplace activities. With both the AIHCE and PCIH 2009 conferences for AIHA National being held in Toronto and Vancouver respectively, CCOH would like to deliver a small splash.

Sheldon Weatherby and I are currently the representatives for our Alberta Local Section, but our terms are coming to an end and our local section is seeking a new representative to sit on this board and communicate back to our local section. There is an opportunity for significant growth for the CCOH, but it will take a committed volunteer to make this happen.

If you are interested in learning more about this role or would like to put your name forward for this position, please contact me at shivi.thusoo@dvn.com or at (403) 515-5780.

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On-Line "Store" FAQs

~ Rhonda Lee Curran ~ Membership Director ~

What is the AIHA AB Section on-line store?

It is a web page hosted by the AIHA AB Section to enable membership dues and conference fees to be paid conveniently on-line with a major credit card. Only cheques or money orders can be accepted by the AIHA AB executive in-person or by "snail mail". The added bonus of the on-line feature is that receipts are automatically emailed to the cardholder, if an email address was provided.

How do I find this web page?

It is located under the "Store" tab from the AIHA AB main page (direct link to the Store is currently http://www.aiha.ab.ca/aiha_ab/store.htm).

I am having some trouble with the website accepting the information I type in. What might be the problem?

Please ensure that the name of the cardholder provided is spelled exactly as on the credit card, and that the address shown is the same as the billing address for the card (i.e. work vs. home address). This is part of the security feature for the site.

I received confirmation of one on-line transaction today, but the next one I tried didn't work. Any suggestions?

This website will only allow you to make one transaction per card per day, which is another security feature. If you would like to pay for your membership as well as that of a colleague, you must wait 24 hours before the second transaction.

If I am using my cardholder name, but am paying for a colleague's membership fee, how will you know who the membership fee is for?

Simply send the Membership Director (aiha-abmembership@hotmail.com) an email with the clarification, and we'll ensure the fee is applied to the right person. Right now, there is no separate input box on the website for this.

Please let us know if you have any other questions or concerns on the website and we'll try to address them. Thank you.

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Day Two builds upon the information discussed on Day One. The focus of Day Two is on using the data to build business cases for OH&S initiatives and interventions. Participants will learn the critical components of business case development as they relate to OH&S cases as well as have an understanding of the pitfalls in business case development that must be avoided. Day Two will take a workshop approach to enable participants to have a "hands-on" experience in preparing business cases.

Dates: Thursday, June 5, 2008 (Day One), and
Friday, June 6, 2008 (Day Two)

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To Register: For more details and to register, visit

www.gmsassociates.ca

