

# The AIHA Connection

The Alberta Local Section Newsletter

Summer 2013 Volume: 17 Issue: 2

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Ina Hildebrand 403.472.2031  $\mathcal{P}_{ ext{residents}}$  Message – from the desk of Yvonne Gazzard

Summer is here, and many things have happened since our AGM in the spring. Disasters, both natural and manmade seem to be rife these last couple of months across the country. Closest to home in Alberta, our thoughts were (and still are) with all those affected by the June flooding. Thanks to those members who volunteered in any way to the clean-up and recovery cause. For those on the ground and perhaps still involved in some way, please share your knowledge of safety and IH - there were reports of volunteers going into areas without any awareness of potential hazards and therefore not taking appropriate precautions. Flip flops and bare hands do not adequately protect when ripping out drywall and cleaning basements! That's an obvious one, but there are other hazards that may not be so obvious especially to an untrained eye. Our colleagues at Alberta Human Services published a short brochure to increase awareness for volunteers and homeowners and encourage them to take appropriate precautions: http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/factsheet-OHS-FAQs.pdf

In AIHA local section news, since this is our first newsletter after transition to the new executive, introductions are in order. There are two new members on the executive board:

Ina Hildebrand has taken over the newsletter editor role. Although Ina is certainly not new to the Local Section or the board, this is a new role for her and she is looking forward to receiving fabulous news articles from all our members for publishing in the quarterly newsletter!

David Jarrell is our new president elect. Dave is a long time member of our section and between his global business trips he'll be utilizing his past board experience (CRBOH) to assist the executive in reaching their goals.

A warm welcome to Ina and Dave, and a big thank-you to our outgoing executive members and remaining executive members for their past and continued contributions to this organization.

What's in store for 2013? At our crossover meeting in April, several goals were identified, some of which you may recognize from comments and questions posed during the AGM.

- Review and update bylaws
- Conduct an external financial audit
- Investigate investing reserve funds
- Implement the marketing plan

We've started work on these, as well as our usual annual task of providing quality educational sessions for our members. The AIHce was a great source of ideas for the latter. Make sure you check out Michelle's summary of sessions she attended in Montreal (pg. 2), and let her know if you have particular interests you'd like to learn more about in a spring PDC.

Wishing you a warm, wonderful, and safe summer season (what's left of it!) and looking forward to serving our members for the 2013-14 term.

~Yvonne

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From the Editor

of a newsletter.

please send to:

newletter@aiha-ab.com

~Ina

My great appreciation for your

I can produce some semblance

If you wish to submit an article, announcement or photos

patience...my technology issues are resolved enough that



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**Calendar of Events** 

September 28 – October 2 AIHA Fall Conference, Miami, FI

October 21-22 Alberta H&S Conference and Trade Fair, Calgary

> October 21 AIHA Social – Buzzards Bar, Calgary

December 4Fall PDC – Engineering Controls for Dust, LeDuc, AB

# AIHce 2013 Montreal Snippets from





**Art and Science** 

# Immersed in Carbon Nano Tubes and Fibres on the Queen's Birthday Weekend

No camping for me on the Victoria Day long weekend, I spent that Saturday and Sunday honing up on everything nano. I attended two professional development courses which mainly focused on The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) new Carbon Nano Tube (CNT) and Carbon Nano Fibre Tube (CNF) Bulletin 65 which was just released this past April 2013. I was amongst the fortunate few to learn firsthand from the leading research agency in North America about their new recommended respirable exposure limit (REL) of 1 microgram per cubic metres for all types of CNT/CNF and all the research to support it.

To read more, go to ... www.aiha-ab.com

This year's theme was "the art + science of professional judgement"-many of the sessions were visually summarized by an artist

## Mentoring Program

#### Hello IHs!

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to the AIHA Mentoring Program! This program is targeted at matching students and young professionals with a mentor in their region to assist them in career advice, job seeking, resume critiquing and in building their professional network. We think, as active members in the IH community, that this program would be perfect for you!

Now, we know that as students and/or professionals that you are incredibly busy, but rest assured, that even the busiest person can spare a little time to meet with a mentor. The meetings you have with your Mentor can be invaluable to both your personal and professional life. Our current pairs typically meet for ONE hour per month!!

If you are interested in the AIHA Mentoring Program, please contact me at <u>angela.bianco@cenovus.com</u>. You will get an email from me with the name of your mentor or mentee and instructions on how to get the ball rolling! We give you guidance documents and help with the relationship. It is a one year program where you have a phone conversation or meet in person for approximately 1 hour every month or so.

Cheers, Angela Bianco

) N

### Membership Director's Update

#### By Molly Chen

The membership of the AIHA Alberta Section is currently 234 members. We have had 19 new members in 2013; welcome!

2013 membership fee are now overdue. You can pay your dues by cheque, mailed to me, or online at <u>http://www.aiha-ab.com/membership.php</u>. If you pay online the cost for the 2013 AIHA Alberta Local Section Membership Renewal is \$40.00 plus a 7% processing fee for a total of \$42.80.

As always, I'm looking for ideas on how to bolster our numbers so if you have any creative thoughts on this please forward them to me at the e-mail address below.

If you move or change jobs, please ensure that you forward your up-to-date contact information to me as soon as possible at <u>membership@aiha-ab.com</u>. The information is for AIHA use only for our newsletters, e-mail distributions.

Also please ensure that your contact information is correct when you submit changes.

I have a number of "Lost Sheep"; if you are on this list or know the whereabouts of someone who is please let me know so I can get them back into the flock.

Lost Sheep: Jessica Trepanier, Sharon Taylor, Bryan Smith, Renee Saade, Mark Rothenburger, Miranda Mclay, Julie Kuprys, Glyn Jones, Zbigniew Filip, Cathy Dumschat, Mark Croasdate, Gary Brenner, Lorelei Betke, Pamela Marie

Hoping that this finds you well

~Molly

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#### Risky Business: Bias in Decision Making and the Implications for Occupational Health and Safety – Part 1

~Ryan Campbell, B.Sc., CRSP

The industrial revolution radically changed our society through a hardware upgrade to our work environment: steel, steam and the mechanization of work processes, whereas our cognitive biological machinery remained

unchanged. These old brains of ours are predisposed to making decisions in certain ways, and we make riskier decisions in this newly industrialized environment because of biases inherited from our evolutionary past. While the origins of these biases fall under the scope of evolutionary biology, they have implications for the success of any health and safety system. As a discipline, occupational health and safety must apply the research findings of decision making to move from a behavior-based to a decision-based model to fully mitigate our predisposition to unintentionally risky choices.

A body of work exists that demonstrates humans have an inherent aversion to loss<sup>1</sup>. This antipathy towards a perceived diminution of our state of being leads to us making riskier decisions to avoid loss. As a case in point, a study showed that when participants were given the choice between a sure loss of \$3,000 and an 80% chance of losing \$4,000, 92% of people chose the latter option, indicating their aversion to the sure loss of \$3,000. Reversing the problem to reflect gains instead of losses, when participants were asked to choose between a sure thing of \$3,000 or an 80% chance of winning \$4,000, the majority (80%) chose the sure thing rather than the gamble. Research around decision making tends towards these types of economic examples that are easy to study and analyze, but the implications for health and safety are clear.

#### To conclude in the next issue

<sup>1</sup> Kahneman, D and A. Tversky: "Prospect Theory: An Analysis of Decision Under Risk", *Econometrica*; 47 (1979), 263.

## Neet the Board of Directors

Tracey MacDonald

AIHA Role & Past-President

	lerm	
	Company &	Shell Canada:
	background	Senior Industrial Hygienist supporting various Onshore Gas, Heavy Oil and Downstream businesses. Support facilities by developing and maintaining health risk assessments and conducting exposure assessments. Provide health support to projects at design stages. Perform office ergonomic assessments.
	Personal touch	Participate in a ladies golf league. I am not keeping score so that I will still be motivated to play. If I kept score – all the "snowmen" would depress me, and I'm not talking the white stuff.
	AIHA	Review and update Roles and Responsibilities
	Objective for	for Executive positions
y	this year	



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