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President's Message ... from the desk of Roy Clough

As we watch the financial markets gyrate and our dollar and other financial instruments waver, it is nice to retreat to our inner sanctum of industrial/occupational hygiene. There we can pursue our interests in a relatively calm environment.

I hope everyone had as great a summer and fall as I did.

Recently I have been involved in a committee planning the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA)'s fourth science symposium, the "International Symposium on Indoor Air Quality" to be held in Calgary, Alberta from April 26-28, 2009. This symposium focuses on indoor air quality issues and health effects. A key objective of the symposium is to provide the CASA Indoor Air Quality Project Team with expert information as input to a provincial strategic plan. A number of international experts in this area have confirmed their participation in this conference, which should make it one of the best conferences on IAQ that Western Canada has ever seen!

Since I last talked to you, we sponsored our Calgary and Edmonton Socials in late September. Everyone I have talked to enjoyed the events and the venues selected this year.

We admit that our website has been down for sometime while our webmaster, Brent Yaschuk, made necessary updates. By the time you read my message, however, I fully expect that the site will once again be operational in time for you to renew your yearly membership and register for our spring PDC and Symposium.

We are enthusiastic about next year being our local section's 25th anniversary. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering or organizing any special events.

Take care, and have an exciting winter in the Great White North.



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Calendar of Events 2009

- March 19
– Professional Development Conference, Calgary
- March 20
– Alberta AIHA Annual General Meeting, Calgary
- April 26 - 28
– CASA Science Symposium on Indoor Air Quality, Calgary
- May 30 - June 4
– AIHce 2009, Toronto, ON
- October 1 - 6
– PCIH and Exposure Assessment Symposium, Vancouver, BC

Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene Review

April 20-24, 2009

Vancouver, British Columbia

Presented by the School of Environmental Health, University of British Columbia
in cooperation with the
Northwest Center for Occupational Health & Safety, University of Washington

This 4-1/2 day intensive review course is designed to provide a refresher on key areas relevant to the practice of industrial hygiene. Occupational hygienists who are preparing to take the ABIH and/or CRBOH examinations and those who require a comprehensive refresher will find this course practical and relevant. A unique feature of this review course is that participants will have full use of an exam preparation software throughout the course to enhance learning. Participants will need to bring their own laptops. Please see course brochure for computer system requirements pertaining to software installation.

For more information and to access the course brochure, please visit: http://www.soeh.ubc.ca/Continuing_Education/default.stm



From the Editor's Quill:

I had the pleasure of attending PCIH this year in Tampa, Florida. The science and sustainability theme was executed well. There were many thought-provoking presentations on topics such as global EHS, social responsibility, manganese exposure, and nanotechnology. To facilitate knowledge transfer, presentations were followed by luncheon discussions, solutions workshops and thinkshops.

I encourage anyone that hasn't been to a PCIH to consider attending the next one in Vancouver.

Unlike the 2010 Olympics, you can have any seat you fancy.

~ Angela Bianco



Here is the first one – guess who??

Celebrating 25 Years of Industrial Hygiene Excellence in Alberta (1984-2009)

We are 25 years old!!!!!! And still ticking.....

In celebration of this significant occasion, we are having a contest and we need your help. For our Photo Fun Contest, we are asking you to please look through old pictures (i.e., more than likely, non-electronic) and submit ones with AIHA members (past or present).

Submitted pictures will be posted at our March AGM & Symposium and included in our newsletter. Winning is easy - individuals in the submitted pictures will be placed in a draw for the following prizes: \$25 gift certificate for Chapters, \$20 gift certificate for Starbucks and \$10 gift certificate for Starbucks.

So.... make sure you search the garage, attic, photo albums, shoe boxes, files, etc. Dust off the cobwebs and send your photographs in. I am hoping to get at least a dozen pictures.

The deadline for submissions is February 27, 2009. The draw will be made at our AGM & Symposium on Friday, March 20, 2009.

Please send your pictures to Luisa at sul@macewan.ca and don't hesitate to call if you have any questions (780-497-4230).



**VISIT
the new
AIHA-ALBERTA WEBSITE!**

<http://www.aiha-ab.com>

**The AIHA Alberta Local Section website
is now available for
membership renewals and
pdc registration.**



2008 Calgary Social

Membership Director's Update

By Jodi Howick

The membership of the AIHA Alberta Section is currently 215 with 3 retired for a total of 218 members. Earlier this year we were asked to provide the Canadian Council of Occupational Hygiene a breakdown of the number of members that hold the following professional designations: CIH, CROH, CRSP or associated members and I thought you might be interested in the findings as well. The numbers of our members with these designations are as follows:

56 CIH 1 CAIH 35 ROH 14 ROHT 7 OHST 46 CRSP 8 CSP 4 OHN

Please remember that the deadline for 2009 membership dues is coming!! The website is back up and running so you can pay your dues online at <http://www.aiha-ab.com/membership.php>. The cost for 2009 AIHA Alberta Local Section Membership Renewal is \$40.00 plus a 7% processing fee for a total of \$42.80.

If you move or change jobs, please ensure that you forward your up-to-date contact information to me as soon as possible. The information is for AIHA use only for our newsletters, e-mail distributions as well as the annual Membership Directory.

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:

Arina Yuzhakova
Dave Howey
Tracey MacDonald
Angela Strynadka
Frank Comerford
Nina Novak



Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season,

Jodi

Industrial Hygiene Technologist Wanted

Industrial Hygiene consulting firm providing services to the oil/gas industry, research and government in Alberta, B.C. and Saskatchewan has an opening for an Industrial Hygiene Technologist in Calgary. We measure worker exposures to chemicals, gases, dusts, fibres, noise, radiation and heat stress. We also perform mould and indoor air quality assessments. The company is small and informal. We have a stable work force due to regular contracts with many of the major companies in the oil/gas industry. Increased contract levels cause us to hire. Training will be provided to assist the individual to become proficient in this desirable field. Opening available immediately.

Requirements:

- technology diploma or certificate in industrial hygiene, environmental technology, public health, chemical technology, or instrumentation technology;
- experience in oil / gas industry an asset.

Email: Ian Wheeler: ipwheeler@shaw.ca

Certified Industrial Hygiene Consulting Ltd.

Did You Know?

Nanotechnology involves structures 100 nanometers or smaller, and includes developing materials or devices within that size.

It is estimated that the market for carbon nanotubes will continue to grow and could easily reach 1-2 billion dollars annually within the next seven years.

In i t i a l applications for this technology are: sunscreen, cosmetics, food products, food packaging, clothing, disinfectants, household appliances, surface coatings, electronics and fuel catalysts.

Until health and environmental effects are determined, it is thought that the knowledge we have gained from asbestos exposure will provide interim preventive measures.

Clear air is not always clean air. Know what you're breathing.

Air quality has a significant effect on health, yet much of what we inhale is invisible to the human eye.

CANTEST identifies health risks through its analysis of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in air. Using Agilent's GC/MS instrument, PerkinElmer's Thermal Desorption Unit, and Supelco Sorbent Tubes, CANTEST employs a superior, state-of-the-art system that offers reliable results for soil vapour testing.

For more information on CANTEST's testing services for VOCs in air, please contact us at

1 800 665 8566

OR

industrialhygiene@cantest.com



What's Your Poison?

'Blackjack disease' is a skin condition sometimes found in card players who are in prolonged contact with the green felt on card tables. Which toxic substance in the material causes this?

- Chromium
- Magnesium
- Mercury
- Cobalt

What type of poisoning are you suffering from if you experience the 'dry ice phenomenon' (where hot seems cold, and vice versa)?

- Tetraodon
- Ciguatera
- Scombroid
- Minamata

Which country is home to the nine most poisonous arachnids and ten most poisonous snakes in the world?

- India
- China
- America
- Australia

Season's Greetings



from
Golder Associates Ltd.
EHS Group

We look forward to working
with you in 2009
and invite you to
visit our new building:

102, 2535 - 3rd Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2A 7W5
(403) 299 5600

AIHA Top Issues for 2009-2010

from Aaron K. Trippler, Director

In case you missed it, AIHA government affairs recently completed a member survey to determine the top public policy issues for 2009-2010. Not surprisingly, many of the same issues appeared at or near the top as in previous surveys. Among these were updating the PELs, the GHS, nanotechnology, professional recognition and laboratory accreditation. The survey also provided AIHA with member views on specific OSHA issues, general OSHA issues, legislative goals and national/international standards.

While many of the issues remain from previous surveys, there were a couple of surprises. One is the fact that nanotechnology continues to move up as a top public policy issue. The second is the fact that emergency preparedness and response did not show up as one of the top issues. Not sure whether this is because the further we move away from 9/11 the less importance; or the fact the membership believes the issue has been addressed. I tend to think it isn't that the membership believes the issue has been addressed.

What is also interesting is to read some of the goals of other organizations. In reviewing these goals we find that AIHA members are very much in line with what others out there think. Let's hope we can all get together to push for accomplishing some of these goals.

By the way, if you haven't seen the AIHA survey results you can find them on the AIHA government affairs web page or simply send me an email (atrippler@AIHA.org) and I'll forward the results to you.

National/International Standards

Top national/international standards of importance to the profession:

- Nanotechnology
- Establishing Guideline Values / Setting PELs
- Laboratory Analysis/Certification
- Environmental/OH&S Management Systems

Additional standards ranking very high in the survey:

- Respiratory Protection
- Industrial Ventilation Systems
- Risk Management
- Noise / Bioacoustics



Cold and Flu Season is Here!

Proper hand washing is the most effective way to prevent the spread of infections and avoid getting sick.

Remember to...

Use plenty of warm water and soap to form a lather.

Rub hands, wrists and forearms to create friction. Get under nails and between the fingers.

Continue for at least 10 seconds.

Rinse hands under running water.

Dry hands with a single use towel or air dryer.

Turn off tap with a paper towel or tissue - then throw it in the garbage.

Be careful not to touch dirty surfaces (taps, door handles etc) with bare hands as you leave the bathroom.

Attendees Received More Than an EAR - full

Following the 3-day Alberta Health and Safety Conference in Edmonton, a Hearing Protection and Conservation course was offered on October 30, 2008, courtesy of E-A-R, Peltor and the AIHA local section. The course was taught by Elliot Berger and Laurie Wells. Elliot Berger is past Chair of the AIHA Noise Committee, past Board member of the Council for Accreditation in Occupational Hearing Conservation, past president of the National Hearing Conservation Association and the editor of the AIHA Noise Manual. Laurie Wells is a board-certified audiologist and manager of Audiology for Associates in Acoustics, Inc. with over a decade of experience providing expert consultation to industry in the US and internationally.

The course ran for the full day and was well-attended. Course topics included the selection, fitting, use and care of hearing protection; communication in noise; elements of a hearing loss prevention program; hearing testing; and tips for achieving hearing conservation effectiveness. To demonstrate the existing hearing protection products, numerous free samples of a vast selection of ear plugs were available to attendees to try out. To reward and encourage audience questions, some attendees were given copies of the Noise Manual and other assorted prizes. The final prize of the day was a beautiful crystal bowl.

Many of us saw a different side of our fellow classmates as Laurie literally looked inside some of their ears and showed the difference between someone without hearing loss and someone with some hearing loss. Many attendees were given the opportunity to be fit-tested for ear plugs.

Although the course was intense, with a vast amount of material presented, the demonstrations and exercises, along with that catchy song, helped emphasize the importance of hearing protection and conservation. With the extensive binder of information provided to all attendees, there will be plenty of reference materials to read over if we need a refresher.

~Betty Yung, Golder Associates Ltd.



CASA Science Symposium on Indoor Air Quality

The Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) is convening a Science Symposium on Indoor Air Quality on April 26-28, 2009 at the Westin Hotel in Calgary. The symposium will feature international to local experts speaking on a wide range of indoor air quality issues and will attract professionals in monitoring, building and health issues. The organizing committee is currently offering sponsorship opportunities and exhibitor space. Please contact Jennifer Allan, Project Manager, for more information at jallan@casahome.org or 780.427.9793.

Conference registration will open in early 2009.

CASA is an Alberta-based, multi-stakeholder organization that brings together representatives from industry, government and non-governmental organizations. It acts as an advisory committee to the Government of Alberta and serves to develop recommendations for managing air quality issues.

Confirmed Speakers for CASA Science Symposium

Session 1 and 2: Causes and trends / Challenges of Indoor Air Quality - Dr. James Scott: Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He has specialized knowledge in dampness but has also worked on outreach materials for CMHC and has a broad perspective on IEQ in homes and is involved in the CHILD study.

Dr. Richard Corsi: Professor, University of Texas and Director - NSF IGERT Program for Indoor Environmental Science and Engineering. His areas of expertise are in understanding sources and trends of indoor air pollution and their fate indoors (interactions with materials, chemical reactions in air and on surfaces). He is also working on passive measures (zero energy) for controlling indoor air pollution.

Session 3: "Gold Panel" - Jed Waldman, PhD: Chief, Indoor Air Quality Section California Department of Public Health. California has some progressive work on VOCs indoors as well as numerous guidelines and research on furniture, test methods and others.

Session 5: Buildings, etc (current state) - Dr. Terri Meyer Boake: Professor, University of Waterloo, Dept of Architecture. Currently working on the link between indoor and outdoor air, in the context of the push for natural ventilation (LEED credits). In some cases, natural air may not improve indoor air.

Session 6: Health & IAQ (current state) - Alex Mackenzie: Executive Director, Alberta Health and Wellness. AB H&W has completed some pilot studies for the Human Exposure Monitoring Program which monitoring people's exposures to indoor and outdoor air. The studies have been completed in a handful of Alberta towns and more are expected.

Session 7: Monitoring (Future) - Dr. Hans Schleibinger: Group Leader 'Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality', Indoor Environment Research Program, National Research Council of Canada. NRCan is currently developing an IAQ emissions simulation tool.

Session 8: Buildings (Future) - Dr. Tang Lee: University of Calgary.

Session 10: Linking the streams: Buildings, monitoring and health - Dr. Warren Kindzierski: Associate Professor, Environmental Health Sciences University of Alberta.

Session 14: Monitoring and education - Dennis French: DF Technical Inc. State of education and training for IAQ practitioners involved in monitoring and remediation; the gaps and overlaps of provincial, national and international training.

Session 15: Buildings, etc and education - Sheila Brown: Jacques Whitford. Will speak to education for selection of low-emitting materials.

Session 16: Health and Education - Regina de la Campa: Project manager, Child Health and the Environment. Impact of IAQ on children's health and how to build the capacity of health professionals to respond to these challenges.

Session 18: Buildings, etc and empowering voluntary action - AB Chapter of Canadian Green Building Council: Likely their president, but to be confirmed. Speak to efforts in Alberta to raise awareness and uptake of green building materials and practices.

Session 19: Health & empowering voluntary action - Barbara Mackinnon: Director, Environmental Health Research, New Brunswick Lung Association. NB Lung Association has a successful pilot project to engage home owners in testing for radon in their homes. Also has developed a toolkit for IAQ in schools, if we would like a session.



Isaac Asimov
(1920 - 1992)

...on Nanotech?
If knowledge can
create problems,
it is not through
ignorance that we
can solve them.

...on Sustainability?
It is change, con-
tinuing change,
inevitable change,
that is the dominant
factor in society
today. No sensible
decision can be
made any longer
without taking into
account not only the
world as it is, but the
world as it will be.

...on Office Politics?
People who think
they know every-
thing are a great
annoyance to those
of us who do.