President's Message

It appears that at last spring has arrived and even our colleagues in the east have put away their snow shovels with some confidence. However, as glad as we are to be heading into summer it also heralds the arrival of our busiest season. As nature's "bountiful harvest" explodes around us, folks are already inventing new and innovative ways to harvest and process it in time for the official first sign of summer, the local farmer's market. Families, dogs, and geese will start heading for the beach. Mass gatherings, special events, campgrounds, and summer camps are all looming on the horizon.

Somehow, year after year, we manage to fit all the work in and still find time to schedule our own summer vacations. This goes to show what a dedicated and resourceful group Environmental/Public Health professionals are.

In my first few months as President I have seen this dedication in action and never cease to be amazed at what can get accomplished by thoughtful ideas, consultation, and collaboration.

If you haven't checked out the CIPHI webpage recently—please pay it a visit. You will see it has been refreshed and reformatted thanks to our amazing webmaster, Mike LeBlanc. Mike has put in more hours than even he can count over the years on CIPHI's link to the world and still does so with creativity and enthusiasm. Thank you Mike!

Also new this spring was the posting of regular, retired, and life members on the CIPHI webpage. These lists will be updated quarterly and are posted as part of the Institute's ongoing effort to elevate the profile of our profession to employers, operators, and the public. This list will also serve useful for employers wishing to verify annual membership status as a condition of employment, where applicable. Up to now this information was available from the office service, so having it available on the webpage is a cost and time saving measure for CIPHI.

This spring saw changes to the management of the Member Service Centre, an essential component of the CIPHI tool chest. Cameron Weighill stepped down as the coordinator after doing a remarkable job for several years. Thank you Cameron! This was a challenging change but again, by pulling all the players together and with the cooperation of the CIPHI office and Cameron himself, we are moving to a new management structure that hopefully will be less dependent on volunteers and increase sustainability into the future.

The Annual Education Conference website is open for registration and the full schedule will be posted in the near future. As usual this has been a tremendous amount of work and we only hope the organizing committee is actually taking their summer holidays as scheduled! We recognize that employer support for education conferences continues to be a challenge and yet the Ontario Branch is confident of a good turnout. If you have friends or a favourite Auntie residing in the Ottawa area this would be a good time to arrange a visit and earn some continuing education credits.

In closing I would like to put in a plug for the position of President Elect. Check out the posting in this issue of the EHR and find out about this great volunteer opportunity. A chance to meet new friends and influence people! The position is currently vacant and the term of office would commence following the September 2015 Annual General Meeting.

I have kept my report brief to leave you time to peruse the rest of the Environmental Health Review, so thoughtfully put together for your reading pleasure by our great editor, Andy. Enjoy the read and have a safe and relaxing summer.

Ann Thomas, CPHI (C)
National President, CIPHI