

CCOH Newsletter

Canadian Council of Occupational Hygiene
Spring 2008

<p>CCOH Executive & Members 2008</p> <p><i>Each geographic area / local provincial organization is represented by a director at the CCOH.</i></p> <p>Directors/Assistant Directors:</p> <p>Leslie McCormick (British Columbia)</p> <p>Terry Demianenko / Kurt Dieckmann (Yukon)</p> <p>TBD (Northwest Territories / Nunavut)</p> <p>Sheldon Weatherby / Shivi Thusoo (Alberta)</p> <p>Herb Wooley (Saskatchewan)</p> <p>Jane Maslowski / Edward Gatey (Manitoba)</p> <p>Lorraine Shaw - President / Richard Quenneville (Ontario)</p> <p>Alain Houle / Marie-Eve LePage (Quebec)</p> <p>Clive MacGregor – Treasurer/ Jason McInnis (Atlantic)</p> <p><u>Website Committee:</u> Chuck Pilger Sheldon Weatherby</p> <p><u>Newsletter Committee</u> Yang Ting Shek (editor) Michal Zitnik</p>	<p>Letter from the Editor.... Yang Ting Shek, ROH, CIH Editor – CCOH Newsletter</p> <p>Welcome Readers to the Spring edition of the CCOH newsletter. I am especially proud of this issue because of the contributions from various parts of Canada. Part of CCOH mission is “to promote an exchange of information amongst Canadian associations” and “to strengthen association membership through networking and the exchange of ideas, actions and initiatives.” To further that goal, we are providing updates from the AIHA-Alberta Section and OHAO in Ontario. We hope to bring you updates from other provinces in later editions.</p> <p>As well, from a technical perspective, we have an article on portable computing. I would agree with the author, Mr. Chuck Pilger, that current hygiene work require some sort of computer access, be it a laptop or a "borrowed" workstation and Mr. Pilger provides us with a practical alternative. If you are interesting in pursuing this technology, Mr. Pilger has offered his contact information in the article.</p> <p>Happy Readings!</p> <p>In this issue...</p> <table><tr><td>Letter from the Editor</td><td>Page 1</td></tr><tr><td>AIHA – Alberta Update: Summary of Spring 2008 Symposium for AIHA-Alberta Section</td><td>Page 2</td></tr><tr><td>AIHA – Alberta Update: Summary of Spring 2008 Professional Development</td><td>Page 2</td></tr><tr><td>OHAO Spring Symposium and Annual Meeting 2008</td><td>Page 3-4</td></tr><tr><td>Portable Computing for the Occupational Hygienist – The OH-Key</td><td>Page 4-7</td></tr><tr><td>Summary of OHS Legislative Change</td><td>Page 7-9</td></tr><tr><td>Upcoming Events across Canada</td><td>Page 9</td></tr></table>	Letter from the Editor	Page 1	AIHA – Alberta Update: Summary of Spring 2008 Symposium for AIHA-Alberta Section	Page 2	AIHA – Alberta Update: Summary of Spring 2008 Professional Development	Page 2	OHAO Spring Symposium and Annual Meeting 2008	Page 3-4	Portable Computing for the Occupational Hygienist – The OH-Key	Page 4-7	Summary of OHS Legislative Change	Page 7-9	Upcoming Events across Canada	Page 9
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AIHA- Alberta Section Update

Summary of Spring 2008 Symposium for AIHA-Alberta Section

Roy Clough, ROH, CIH (President – AIHA-Alberta Section)

On Friday March 28, the Alberta Section AIHA held their Spring Symposium and Annual General Meeting in Leduc, Alberta. The theme of the symposium was “Recent Developments in OHS&E in Alberta”.

The symposium was very well attended with 71 registered delegates from various parts of Alberta and British Columbia. Some attendees were from other associations like the AOHNA (Alberta Occupational Health Nurse Association) and ASSE (American Society of Safety Engineers) as some of the topics (e.g. Pandemic Influenza and the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA)) also fall within their realm of influence. The 8 presenters at the symposium represented Provincial, Federal, NGOs, Industry and Health Authorities across Alberta. Topics ranged from highly technical presentations on new methodology for formaldehyde monitoring, GHS and Chemical Control Tool Kits to general presentations on CMHC (Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation) Healthy Housing), CASA (Canadian Agriculture Safety Association) and the new Alberta Workplace Innovation and Continuous Improvement (WICI) Branch of Alberta Employment and Immigration.

Next years symposium will be held in late March, 2009 in the Calgary area.

Summary of Spring 2008 Professional Development

Tiffany Clayton, ROH (Education Director – AIHA Alberta Section)

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 IHS 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 CIHs, 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 would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Leanne Varkonyi as the new AIHA-Alberta Section Education Director and I look forward to attending her future courses!

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OHAO Spring Symposium and Annual Meeting, 2008

Chuck Pilger, ROH, CIH, CChem

Technical Program

The OHAO spring symposium and AGM was held on March 26, 2008 at Black Creek Pioneer Village in Toronto. This year the OHAO Program Committee presented another outstanding technical program. The 6 presentations covered a wide range of topics of interest to occupational hygienists.

The first session was a presentation by Evelyn V. Stefov, PEng, MEng, ROH, Provincial Specialist, Construction Health and Safety Program, Ministry of Labour on the topic of Asbestos Abatement Certification Programs for Workers and Supervisors. She described the current certification training and examination requirements for workers and supervisors under the new Ontario program.

Chris Anderson, Manager of Loss Prevention for ArcelorMittal Dofasco gave an interesting and thought-provoking exposition on the development and operation of Hamilton's Municipality and Industry Cooperative Emergency Response Plan. This plan integrates and coordinates the municipal fire, police and emergency medical services with the health, safety and emergency response services of major industrial partners in Hamilton to respond to emergencies arising from natural disasters, industrial accidents, or the activities of terrorist groups.

Colleen Stevenson, MHS, CIH, of Petro-Canada spoke on the integration of Environment, Health and Safety Design into a Large Scale Industrial Project, namely Petro-Canada's Montreal Refinery. Although we often speak about the importance of integrating environmental health and safety considerations at the design stage of major projects, this does not happen as frequently as it should. Colleen's presentation demonstrated

the benefits of such a proactive approach to environmental health and safety.

Rob Strang, occupational hygiene consultant and President of Champeda Inc. presented an amusing and at times alarming case study of the challenges and hazards associated with tracking down PCB contamination sites during the decommissioning of a resin plant.

Anne Contala, Senior Consultant, Occupational Health and Safety with AstraZeneca Canada Inc. gave a presentation titled "SHE4U2" which described AstraZeneca's efforts to integrate Health, Safety and Environment into all aspects of their business by establishing training curricula for their employees, customized to specific job function and the associated hazards

The final presentation of the technical program was by Dr. Moshe Szyf, Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, McGill University. Dr. Szyf, an internationally recognized expert in the field, gave a fascinating presentation on the current state of epigenetics research. He explained how modification of gene expression by methylation of DNA could have a role, not only in explaining the role of epigenetic mechanisms in carcinogenesis but also might be responsible for a variety of other physiological and behavioural phenomena.

This presentation was one of the most exciting I have heard in several years. It provides an entirely new way of attempting to understand the potential effects of environmental exposures on our DNA and the consequent health effects based on recent advances in genetics. This work has led researchers to a greater understanding of how exposures can alter the way genes are expressed based on non-mutagenic modifications to DNA. This cutting-edge research has important implications for our future understanding of health risks from occupational and environmental exposures to chemicals and other stressors. This is an exciting field with implications that could completely change our understanding of the mechanisms of occupational and environmental disease.

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Hugh Nelson Award

The 2008 Hugh Nelson Award of Excellence in Occupational Hygiene Presentation was held after lunch. The award was presented to Lydia Renton, ROH, CIH, of WESA.

The OHAO Annual General Meeting took place following the award presentations. Outgoing President, Margaret Fung, passed the gavel to Jason Hoffman, incoming President.

Following the AGM, the Hugh Nelson Award Recipient Reception was held to honour Lydia and provide an opportunity for the OHAO membership to network, snack and share a drink or two.

Portable Computing for the Occupational Hygienist – The OH-Key

Chuck Pilger, ROH, CIH, CChem

Regardless of their area of specialization or responsibility it is a safe bet that for most occupational hygienists, the tool they depend on most to get their work done is their computer. I use mine for a variety of tasks including writing reports, performing calculations, downloading data from data-logging field instruments and noise dosimeters, plotting or processing this data for inclusion in reports, and preparing and presenting “PowerPoint” style presentations.

I use a web browser for accessing health and safety websites, online databases and university and public libraries. I use email to exchange information with colleagues and clients and to communicate with laboratories and equipment suppliers. I depend on sources of sampling and analytical information such as the *NIOSH Manual of Air Sampling Methods* and databases of toxicological information such as the *ATSDR ToxProfiles* and the *NTP 11th Report on Carcinogens*. For convenience, I store these and similar resource materials on

my laptop for situations where I have no Internet connection to access them online.

Because of the importance of these resources in my work, I would prefer to have my ThinkPad with me at all times; however, it’s not particularly convenient to carry it all the time. Laptops are attractive targets for thieves in airports and other public places and can be easily lost, mislaid or damaged in the workplace.

Many hygienists don’t have a laptop. They have a desktop machine in their office and another at home. If they want to work on a project at home, they can only do so if the home machine has the appropriate software installed, which it may not. We are unlikely to have all the software we use at work on a home machine since in most cases, software licenses do not permit installation on more than one machine.

Even if you only need a word processor, the one at home may not be compatible with what you use at work. Most home machines are bought for family entertainment, email and web surfing; they are less likely to have expensive office suite software installed.

On the other hand, with the ubiquity of personal computers, it really shouldn’t be necessary to lug around more hardware. As a consultant, I often have to carry cases full of sampling pumps and other instruments. I usually prefer to leave my ThinkPad at home and use a borrowed computer at my destination when necessary.

It is usually possible to borrow a few hours of computing time on a machine at a client’s premises; however, it is never as comfortable as working at my own machine, where I have access to all of my files and programs, my email address book and my internet bookmarks. I have the same problem with other borrowed computers. If I am visiting a friend or relative out of town for example, they are usually willing to kick the kids off the machine for an hour so that I can use it. When at a hotel, there is usually a computer available in their business centre or, failing that, at the Internet café down the street or the public library branch around the corner.

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Although accessible, using any of these machines is less than ideal because they don't have my software programs and resource materials installed. Everyone's computer is set up just a little differently and it's always a bit awkward to work at a different machine. I wanted a simple device that would give me access to my personal computing environment, software programs, files and databases - wherever I happened to be.

Although I have found several solutions to this problem, the easiest to implement turned out to be using a high capacity, high speed flash drive loaded with portable programs and resource materials. I call the result the "OH-Key" because it is housed on a USB flash drive, carried on a key ring and is a key adjunct to my work as a hygienist. The "OH-Key" is based on free or open source software which being free of licensing encumbrances, can be legally shared with others or installed on a portable device for use on many different computers.

With the high capacity of current flash drives, it is possible to store not only individual files but also entire libraries of files on them. We can even install software application programs on them. This effectively allows us to build a fully functioning computer on a flash drive. However, for technical and legal reasons, we can't base this portable computing device on proprietary programs like Microsoft Office.

It is technically possible to install, say Microsoft Office on a flash drive, but because of the way programs are installed and because of the way the location of their files are recorded in the computer's registry, the installed software would only work with the original computer used to install it. This would defeat our desire for a completely portable system. In fact, any attempt to make MS Office or most other proprietary software work on more than one machine is a clear violation of the software end users licensing agreement (EULA).

This problem can be circumvented by using free or open source software programs instead. These programs have been written by groups of programmers all over the world and released under the General Public License (GPL) which permits their use with few licensing constraints. They can be legally installed on as many computers as you wish. More important, there is a lot of high quality free/open source software available for download from the Internet designed to install easily and run normally on a USB flash drive.

The web browser Firefox is a good example of a high quality free/open source software application. Since most people in science related fields use Firefox in preference to Internet Explorer, you are probably already using it. There are dozens of other free/open source programs designed to work under Windows. Installing a handful of these programs on a USB flash drive allows you to construct what amounts to a very portable computer.

Although many software applications will run from a USB drive, a few programs have been designed specifically for this purpose. These are called Portable Applications or *Portable Apps*.

What is a Portable Application?

A *Portable App* is a computer program that you can carry around with you on a flash drive or other portable memory device and use on any Windows computer by plugging in the flash drive.

You don't have to install them on a flash drive. I have installed a selection of *Portable Apps* on the digital memory card from my camera. They work well when the card is plugged directly into a computer. They are a bit too slow if I run them from the camera, by plugging it into my computer, but how many people do you know who have a web browser, email program, word processor, spreadsheet program and presentation software on their camera?

The core of the OH-Key is a *Portable Apps* suite of programs that can be downloaded from the website: <http://www.portableapps.com/>. This includes the free/open source office suite OpenOffice. This suite of programs includes a word processor that reads

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and writes Microsoft Word files, a spreadsheet that reads and writes Excel files and presentation software that reads and writes PowerPoint files. The *Portable Apps* suite also includes the Firefox web browser, the Thunderbird email program, an instant messaging client and a calendar/scheduling program. This suite of programs can be downloaded for free from the *Portable Apps* website. Other *Portable Apps* are also available at this site, covering a wide range of computing applications.

Why not use the application software already on the host computer? There is no reason not to, if they are suitable, but because they are not your programs, they may not be versions you are familiar with. Also, you can't always depend on a specific computer having the application you need. With the programs on the OH-Key, you will have at your fingertips, all your hygiene-related bookmarks within the web browser, your appointment calendar, your email with your contacts list and personal account settings, your office suite with your documents and presentations, an up-to-date anti-virus program and any other utilities you have installed.

Adding Other Software Programs

I use a number of hygiene-specific programs that are not free/open source but have licensing terms allowing use on more than one computer. For example, I use the TSI instruments including the *Q-Trak*, the *DustTrak* and the *P-Trak* for hygiene investigations. The *TrakPro* software for these instruments can be downloaded from the TSI website. Its use on a flash drive does not appear to violate the licensing agreement and it works flawlessly from the OH-Key. This allows me to carry the download cable, and my OH-Key with the instrument when doing a hygiene survey or IAQ investigation. At the end of the day, before leaving the client's premises, I can download the instrument's data to the OH Key using the client's computer, show them the data and often decide on the spot if more monitoring is

necessary. I can use the same strategy for dealing with the output of noise dosimeters and (some) gas monitors.

Freeware

There are many small freeware programs and utilities available on the Internet that can be installed on the OH-Key. While freeware has more restrictive licensing than GPL'd software, it can often be used from a flash drive. Some are from agencies such as EPA, NIOSH and OSHA. Others, aimed at a wider audience than health and safety professionals, are still useful to us. As an example, I use a small utility called *convert.exe*, written by Joshua Madison, on my OH-Key for converting between different systems of units. It is particularly useful for converting between SI and imperial units when doing ventilation calculations. Its license states that it is free to use and distribute.

Hygiene Manuals and Databases

As a consultant I use many online resources such as the *NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods*, the *NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards*, the *OSHA Sampling and Analytical Methods Manual*, *RTECS*, the *NTP 11th Report on Carcinogens*, the *ATSDR ToxProfiles*, to name a few. Web-based resources have almost completely supplanted my hardcopy reference library. My copy of *Patty* is rarely opened since the advent of high-speed Internet access to high quality OHS reference material. I maintain a menu of links to these sites as a "home page" for my OH-Key Firefox program. These online resources are fine as long as an Internet connection is available, but an alternative is needed for frequently used materials for access when an Internet connection is not available.

Many OHS reference materials are available on free CD-ROMs that can be picked up at the AIHCE or requested from the appropriate agency by email, or as files downloaded directly from the Internet. Once copied to a Resources folder on the OH-Key, these files can be accessed without an Internet connection from my "home page" menu within Firefox. An example menu can be viewed by following this <http://alara.ca/ExampleMenu.html>. (Don't expect the OH-Key links to work in this

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example, since you do not have my OH-Key plugged into your computer; however the sidebar links will work.)

An example of one of these resources I have on my OH-Key is the *Indoor Air Quality Building Education and Assessment Model (I-BEAM)* developed by the US EPA. *I-BEAM* is used in assessing IAQ problems and can be downloaded from the EPA website.

As I find additional reference information PDF files on the Internet, I download and add them to a PDF subfolder in my Resources folder and link them to the menu page.

Almost all of the resources on my OH-Key are available online; however, when I find myself without easy Internet access, it's handy to have the important parts of the Internet in my pocket.

I encourage anyone, who needs access to their computing resources when they are away from their office, to consider the advantages of carrying an OH-Key. If you are curious and interested in pursuing the idea yourself, contact me by email (<mailto:c.pilger@alara.ca>).

If there is sufficient interest, I will post a more detailed article on the CCOH website describing how to build your own OH-Key.

Summary of OHS Legislative Changes – February to May 2008

By Michal Zitnik, ROH, CIH

British Columbia

Regulatory Amendments Effective May 1, 2008

The following parts of the *Workers Compensation Act* and the Occupational

Health and Safety Regulation were amended effective May 1, 2008:

Part 1 – Definitions;

Part 4 - General Conditions, Section [4.65](#)
Illumination levels; and

Part 26 - Forestry Operations and Similar Activities (outlined in the February issue of newsletter).

The regulatory amendments can be viewed in detail on WorkSafe BC's website: http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/OHSRegulation/changestoohsregulation.asp?ReportID=34870#May_Part4

Northwest Territories and Nunavut

New Legislation Effective April 1, 2008

On April 1, 2008, new *Workers Compensation Acts* came into force. Along with the new legislation, the WCB now has a new name: the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC). The new *Acts* differ from the old ones in a number of ways:

- The *Acts* are better organized and written in clearer language;
- The structure of the Appeals Tribunal, along with the deadlines for appeals and review decisions, were changed to allow for increased customer service; and
- The *Acts* increase the benefits for surviving spouses of workers fatally injured at work, changed the definition of common law spouse to be more inclusive, and provides the WSCC with the discretion to award partial lump sum payments for pensioners with a disability rating greater than 10%.

WSCC is offering public meetings during April and May, where more information will be provided on the detailed changes to the legislation.

A copy of the new legislation can be viewed at <http://www.wcb.nt.ca/>.

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Quebec

Changements réglementaires visant l'industrie de la construction

La Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail (CSST) informe le milieu de la construction que des changements ont été apportés au *Code de sécurité pour les travaux de construction* (Code) et au *Règlement sur la santé et la sécurité du travail* (RSST). Ces changements réglementaires, qui visent à soutenir l'industrie de la construction dans une démarche de prise en charge de la santé et de la sécurité des travailleurs, entreront en vigueur le 13 mars 2008.

La majorité des changements apportés au Code sont notamment liés à la fabrication, à l'installation et à l'utilisation des échafaudages à tour(s) et à plate-forme(s) (ETPF). Quant aux changements apportés à l'article 2 du RSST, ils concernent la protection contre les substances cancérigènes, les isocyanates et les rayonnements ionisants, qui peuvent causer des maladies professionnelles chez les travailleurs de la construction.

Source:

<http://www.csst.qc.ca/asp/prevention/Construction/index.htm>

Nova Scotia

Two New Departments Effective April 1, 2008

Two new departments were created on April 1, to address current and future challenges with labour and the environment. Mark Parent was sworn in on March 31, as the Minister of Labour and Workforce Development, and Minister of Environment. The Department of Environment and Labour no longer exists effective April 1.

The Department of Labour and Workforce Development will have a Skills and Learning Branch. It will emphasize recruitment, retention, repatriation and retraining of workers to meet the changing needs of the province's economy at a time when Nova Scotia is competing with the world for skilled workers. The department will also be responsible for occupational health and safety, labour services such as dispute resolution, labour standards, alcohol and gaming, pension regulation, public safety, and the workers' advisers program.

The Department of Environment will focus on climate change, protecting the environment and advancing the province's environmental goals as outlined through the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act. It will ensure Nova Scotia remains a leader in achieving environmentally sustainable economic prosperity.

More information can be obtained on the new departmental websites: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd> and <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nse>.

Three Regulations Taking Effect April 1, 2008

Three regulations took effect on Tuesday, April 1, 2008. According to the Minister of Environment and Labour, Mark Parent, these new regulations aim to move workplaces closer to a culture where safety is a core value, with the emphasis on prevention. The regulations include: Violence in the Workplace Regulations and the Blasting Safety Regulations and the Blasting Trade Regulations.

The Violence in the Workplace Regulations require some workplaces to have risk assessments completed and be implementing violence prevention plans by April 1. The regulations apply to workplaces including healthcare and educational settings, places where correctional or security services are in use, businesses where money is exchanged or liquor is sold or consumed, and other places where employees interact with the public.

The Blasting Safety Regulations replace the General Blasting Regulations and eliminate duplication with the federal government for magazine licensing. They also update standards for public safety and work practices. Under the Blasting Trade Regulations, the occupation of

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blaster will become a designated trade, with blasters required to re-certify every five years instead of every three.

More information on the regulations is available on the departments' websites at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/enla> and <http://www.ednet.ns.ca/>, or by calling 1-800-LABOUR (1-800-952-2687).

Upcoming Events across Canada*

*Where provided to CCOH, information requiring costs and maintenance points are shown. Where such information is not provided, readers are advised to contact course providers for verification.

Ontario

ALARA Industrial Hygiene Services Inc. – **Industrial Noise Exposure Evaluation a 2-day practical workshop**

This course introduces the theoretical principles and practical skills acquired by the occupational health professional to evaluate potential noise exposures and formulate the basis of a noise exposure program. 2 CM points awarded by the ABIH and CRBOH, 1 point awarded by BCRSP. \$775+GST
June 19-20, 2008

Toronto, ON

Phone : 416-759-9579

Email Marguerite Pilger

<mailto:m.pilger@alara.ca>

Québec

L'Association québécoise pour l'hygiène, la santé et la sécurité du travail (L'AQHSST) – **Annual Conference**

Course, industrial visits, exposition and conferences. CRBOH and CRSP pts available.
\$350-400

May 7-9, 2008

Sheraton Conference Centre, Laval, QC

<http://www.aqhsst.qc.ca/>

L'Association québécoise pour l'hygiène, la santé et la sécurité du travail (L'AQHSST) –

Gérer ses espaces clos - Où en êtes-vous? Les défis d'application NIVEAU 2

Le 5 juin 2008

Auberge Royal Versailles, 7200 rue Sherbrooke Est, Montréal, QC

<http://www.aqhsst.qc.ca/formEspClos2.php?id=sme nu4>

USA

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) and the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienist (ACGIH) - **AIHce 2008**

May 31 - June 5, 2008

Minneapolis Convention Centre, Minneapolis, MN

<http://www.aiha.org/aihce08/default.htm>