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## President's Message

### Are We Green Enough?

A few days ago, I was interviewed by a journalist who wanted to know about the Industrial Hygiene profession and the current universal "green" tendency. In other words, he wanted to know if, within our profession, we care or do anything regarding the environment. Also, he wanted to know if OHAO as an organization has entertained or projected any "green" initiatives.

Well, he definitely made me think. My first reaction (and, by the way, this was also my bottom-line) was to say that our priority is the workplace environment both inside and outside and, as such, we are concerned with any initiative that could improve either one or both. However, in doing so, there is always a relation to the health and safety of the workers and the non-contamination of the environment.

In other words, in general, we are not specifically concerned with the global warming, energy conservation and all other "green" issues.

I was quick to point out that there are situations where the energy conservation can be harmful for people. The best example is that of the sick buildings syndrome, where there is insufficient make-up air. This is nothing new: first we care for people and then we address the rest. On the other hand, I agree that caring for energy con-

servation is caring for people too, but priorities are priorities!

So, in summary, I think that we are "green", while keeping our priorities for health and safety straight...

Having said that, what about OHAO? Should we, as an Association become green? Should we start actively promoting the concept and becoming involved in "green" initiatives?

That is the million dollar question that we would like to be answered by our members and not only by the Board of Directors, and I would love to hear from you. So, please, e-mail us or, even better, send letters to the editor of *OH Forum* and tell us what you think about this green issue!

**Alberto Behar P.Eng. CIH**

*Editor's note: NIOSH in the United States also poses the question "Are green jobs good for workers?". NIOSH and its partners are developing a framework to create awareness, provide guidance, and address occupational safety and health issues associated with green jobs and sustainability efforts, encouraging those of us in health and safety to regularly check in at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/greenjobs/>*

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**Enquiries or suggestions should be directed to:**

Editor - OH Forum c/o OHAO 6519-B Mississauga Road Mississauga, Ontario L5N 1A6	Tel: (905) 567-7196 Fax: (905) 567-7191 <a href="http://www.ohao.org">http://www.ohao.org</a>
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The Occupational Hygiene Association of Ontario is an Ontario-based organization whose members are dedicated to the practice of occupational hygiene. Occupational hygiene is concerned with the protection of people's health from hazards arising in or from the workplace.

To develop and promote the profession of occupational hygiene, and to serve the interests of our members by:

- sponsoring professional development, training and research;
- promoting public and legal recognition;
- developing partnerships with stakeholders;
- providing public education;
- fostering communication and networking through publications and meetings.



## Editor's Message

Christine Sidhom, MSc(A), CIH, CRSP

Dear readers and fellow members of the OHAO:

We have many prominent persons featured in this issue. Our contributors for this issue have reported on current awards, partnerships and nominations. At the same time, there are also wonderful tributes to pioneers to the field of occupational hygiene in Ontario. These profiles may be, for some occupational hygienists, an inspiration to continue in our field, and to get more involved in committees and various other aspects of occupational hygiene..

On another note, this spring and summer, some of us have inevitably had to put into motion our pandemic preparedness plans that have been in the works for a few years and it has kept some of us busy. The news around H1N1 is that a second wave will come in the fall, and we are getting ready for it. We will undoubtedly refer to one another for support, best practices, and maybe some stories to share.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Christine Sidhom, MSc(A), CIH, CRSP

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## OHAO and AIHA Sign MOU

Jason Hoffman and Donald Weekes

On June 1st, 2009 at the International Reception held during the Toronto AIHce, AIHA President Lindsay Booher and OHAO Immediate Past President Jason Hoffman signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations.

The MOU documents the ongoing relationship between AIHA and OHAO on a number of items, including the following statement by AIHA president Lindsay Booher, *“This was an occasion for remembering the long standing relationship between American and Canadian industrial hygienists and their organizations. The MOU reinforces that relationship, and enables members of both organizations to continue to work together on joint projects of interest.”*



*AIHA president Lindsay Booher and OHAO past president Jason Hoffman signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations at the International Reception of the AIHce in Toronto on June 1st. An article in the Spring edition of the OH Forum provides some background on the joint initiative as well as some of the details of the memorandum. The Board of Directors would like to thank Donald Weekes for taking the initiative to prepare the document and interacting with AIHA throughout the draft stages to see the agreement to completion.*

## AIHce'09

Lorraine Shaw, B.Sc., CIH, ROH

It is a source of pride to all Canadian Industrial Hygienists that two of the most prestigious Industrial Hygiene Conferences, the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHce) and the Professional Conference in Industrial Hygiene (PCIH) are being held in Canada in 2009.

AIHce took place May 30 – June 4th at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The conference started off on Friday with a Certified Safety Professional exam preparation workshop, followed by two days of professional development courses. I took an informative course on surface sampling for dusts.

On Monday, the opening ceremonies included a welcome and comments by the Local Conference Committee Chair Paul Bozek (University of Toronto's School of Public Health – OH Program) as well as the keynote welcome by Ontario Minister of Labour, Peter Fonseca. Following the Minister's comments and AIHA/ACGIH awards, the President of AIHA (Lindsay E. Booher, CIH, CSP) and Chair of ACGIH (Jimmy L. Perkins, Ph.D., CIH) announced that the two organizations were in talks to merge. The intent will be to make ACGIH a “non-member organization” and AIHA will hold the membership and fund activities like the TLV

committee. The awards were followed by a thought-provoking keynote address on “Challenges, Progress, Innovation: Predicting the Future by Creating It” by Peter H. Diamandis, Chairman and CEO of the X PRIZE Foundation, after which the Exposition was opened with a small parade led by bagpipers and drums from the City of Toronto Firefighters Band.

The conference featured many outstanding sessions and roundtables on Canadian occupational health and safety issues.

These included:

- CR 304 Adapting to Climate Change—  
Use of WBGT as a Community Heat  
Metric in Canada
- RT 211 The Future of the Profession of  
Occupational Hygiene in Canada
- RT 225 Current Issues in Confined Space  
Work in Canada – Thinking Outside  
the Box
- CR 319 Differences between US and  
Canadian Approaches to Environmen-  
tal Regulation: What Industrial  
Hygienists Should Know
- RT 245 Occupational Health and Safety  
and Construction Worker Education  
in Ontario
- RT 250 Building Bridges: Lessons from  
Native American/Aboriginal Occupa-  
tional Health Issues
- RT 255 Safe at Work Ontario
- RT 261 Globally Harmonized System  
(GHS) – Implementation and Impact  
on Workplaces in Canada

In line with the theme of the opening cer-  
emonies speaker’s (Peter H. Diamandis)  
talk which encouraged competition to  
drive innovation, AIHA added a session  
format entitled “Breakthrough Thinking  
Challenges”. There were two facilitated  
breakout style sessions:

1. Creating a regulatory environment in  
the US which will improve worker  
health and safety and
2. Increasing the impact of occupational  
hygiene on a global scale.

Expert panels selected winning teams  
from each session and eventually AIHA  
selected a final winner from topic #2  
Jason Hoffman will represent the win-  
ning team (Jeanne Fallon-Carnie from GE

energy, John Mulhousen from 3M Cor-  
porate Health and Safety, Rob Ferrie from  
NIOH and Jason Hoffman from Arcelor-  
mittal-Dofasco) and present their social  
marketing strategy to the AIHA Strategic  
planning meeting in October.

The AIHA Meritous Achievement Award  
was presented to Gyan S. Rajhans, who  
worked for the Ontario Ministry of Labour  
from 1968 until his retirement in 2000 and  
now works as a consultant. Gyan’s numer-  
ous contributions to the industrial hygiene  
field include:

- 1997, Chair of the ACGIH.
- 1987, Co-chair of AIHce in Montreal
- 1999, Co-chair of AIHce in Toronto.

Gyan has been a member of the ACGIH  
Industrial Ventilation Committee since  
1974 and now serves as its Chair. He is  
the author of four reference books and  
has co-authored 68 scientific and techni-  
cal papers. (Gyan’s profile is featured on  
pages 7-8 in this issue of *OH Forum*)

The 30th Anniversary of the University of  
Toronto Industrial Hygiene Master’s Pro-  
gram dinner took place on Sunday, May  
31st. The dinner was attended by over 300  
alumni of the course. Dr. Jim Purdham,  
recently retired professor in the program,  
was honoured at the dinner.

The Occupational Hygiene Association  
of Ontario and the American Industrial  
Hygiene Association signed a Memoran-  
dum of Agreement, giving mutual recog-  
nition to the two organizations at the Inter-  
national Reception on Monday evening.

For me, the highlight of the conference  
was the Canadian Reception, organized by

Al Johnson, CRBOH Registrar and hosted  
by AMEC, 3M, WESA, The Pinchin  
Group, T.Harris Environmental, Tran-  
sCanada Pipeline, REA, the Government  
of Ontario, the Occupational Hygiene  
Association of Ontario and the Canadian  
Council of Occupational Hygiene. This  
event, held in the ballroom of the historic  
Royal York Hotel, was the place to meet  
Canadian Industrial Hygienists. Not only  
did this reception have the best food of  
all the receptions at AIHce, it was a great  
opportunity to meet friends and colleagues  
from across Canada.



***Jacques Lesage and colleagues  
from IRSST showing off their musi-  
cal skills at the SKC International  
Lunch.***



***Cathy Dumschat and Jan Chappell,  
both from CCOHS at the University  
of Toronto Alumni Dinner***

## Managing OHS & E



—Column Editor—  
*Ray Ilson, MEng, CIH, CRSP,  
CRPA (R)*  
*Dalhousie University*

## Certainties: Death, Taxes and .... Regulations

### Increasing Compliance Initiatives and Workplace Productivity

In the last *OH Forum*, I raised the issue of competitiveness and compliance. The example was Nova Scotia's initiative to improve the regulatory system and achieve better compliance, in cooperation with employers to minimize any reduction in productivity. I asked if these initiatives were applicable, desirable or appropriate in Ontario in terms of health, safety and environmental regulations or is there an inherent conflict between compliance and competitiveness?

This is an increasingly important consideration. Recently, there have been a number of updates to regulations of hazardous materials. A number of topics and links are listed as references, but those of us employed in workplaces using hazardous materials (most, if not all of us) recognize that increasing regulation is unavoidable. For many years we have experienced significant controls on nuclear/radiological materials, and these regulations grow annually (see references below).

More recently, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has introduced Bill

C-11 The Human Pathogens and Toxins Act (formerly Bill C-54). This Act passed relatively quickly through both the House of Commons and the Senate, and received Royal Assent on June 23, 2009. The Act was developed in response to concerns regarding biological weapons and the biosecurity controls required to protect the workers, the population and the environment (see references below).

The Act is based on the Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines of the Public Health Agency of Canada, which are currently used in managing most Biosafety Programs across the country. The new legislation increases this oversight and provides for enforcement by significant fines and jail terms for non-compliance. In any event, as is required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act, a general "duty of care" must be exercised in identifying potential hazards, establishing risk and providing controls where necessary to protect workers and the environment.

The PHAC established risk based on risk group classifications and containment level determinations based on the pathogenicity, virulence and toxicity of these materials. Risk assessments also consider the ability to spread and modes of transmission, hosts (human, animals, non-human vectors such as bats, rats, mosquitoes, fleas and ticks), infectious dose estimates, viability outside the lab environment, whether the organism has been genetically modified, special precautions required for pregnancy, allergies, are treatments such as vaccination available etc. The follow-up regulations will include better definition of training requirements, authorization for access, biosecurity, transport, waste treatment etc.

Protection will include consideration of traditional hygiene methods - engineering controls (containment, controlled local exhaust ventilation), administrative controls, determining PPE requirements for higher risk work, and emergency response. Evaluation of safety will include not only personal and personnel safety, but also that of the community and the environment.

With this federal biohazard initiative, workplaces using such materials will be required to register with the Federal Office of Laboratory Security, identify all locations where materials are used/stored and identify users. Authorization to access such materials at higher risk levels (Levels 3 and 4) will require background checks, and biosecurity levels will be increased for Levels 2, 3, and 4.

Fortunately, those familiar with these particular hazards are in good communication with each other and have already established the basis for transition to this legislation. However, record-keeping requirements will increase, including licencing, permitting, risk assessments, training, security, inventory controls, inspections, certification of biosafety cabinets and autoclaves, waste management and medical surveillance.

More regulation... in addition to the upgrades coming for WHMIS, we have seen increased requirements for a variety of "controlled goods" and can expect increased regulations for many chemicals, particularly on the basis of security and terrorism concerns. Homeland Security in the US has raised numerous concerns with chemicals requiring increased security for access, use, authorizations, inventory-

ing, monitoring and disposal. In Canada, the RCMP is preparing their own lists of chemicals of concern, as was done in Australia a number of years ago. The impact on users, whether industrial, research or other, will be significant.

To assist users of such materials, a number of employers have investigated or are investigating the provision of comprehensive hazardous materials databases, accessible to users and to assist them in easily documenting and updating their records. Staffing requirements of the safety offices are being reconsidered in light of these increasing requirements. At least two Canadian universities and hospitals are working with the RCMP on consideration of a central database to facilitate control of such materials and users.

We in health and safety have a duty and responsibility to assist employers in their duty to protect workers and the environment from these and other hazards. I believe that all health and safety professionals agree with the concerns regarding

these materials, although our opinions on risk prioritization will be based on personal experience and the current workplace environment.

Bottom line: How can we meet these increasing regulatory requirements with as little disruption of the immediate work priorities as possible?

## References:

### Biohazards:

- Senate of Canada – passage of C11 Human Pathogens and Toxins Act - <http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/LEGISINFO/index.asp?Language=E&query=5703&Session=22&List=stat>
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency - <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/sci/bio/bioe.shtml>
- Public Health Agency of Canada - <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ols-bsl/index-eng.php>
- Registration with the Public Health Agency of Canada - [\[aspc.gc.ca/ols-bs/pathogen/register-eng.php\]\(http://aspc.gc.ca/ols-bs/pathogen/register-eng.php\)](http://www.phac-</a></p>
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### Chemicals:

Ontario Bill 167: The Toxics Reduction

Act - <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/toxics/index.php>

RCMP - <http://www.rcmp-learning.org/docs/ecdd1022.htm>

Controlled Drugs and Substances - <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-38.8/index.html>

Homeland Security - <http://hs.environmental-expert.com/resultEachArticle.aspx?cid=23747&codi=24406&level=6>

Australia list - <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/spru/hsp/documents/CWCB21-Mathews.pdf>

### Nuclear and Radiological:

Federal - <http://www.cnsccs.gc.ca/eng/lawsregs/index.cfm>

Provincial - <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/index.html>



## Meet Your Colleague - Gyan S. Rajhans, P.Eng., CIH, ROH

by Alberto Behar

Gyan is the President of Gyan S. Rajhans & Associates Inc, serving as an expert advisor on several

asbestos related legal claims and giving depositions and testimonies for asbestos, silica and respirator litigations in the U.S. He finds these jobs stimulating and appealing. Gyan is also the recipient of

the 2009 Meritorious Achievement Award from the ACGIH.

Gyan entered the profession of occupational hygiene because he hated going down in mines as a mining engineer, which is the profession in which he was trained at Ranchi University, India and subsequently at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. While working at Denison Mines in Elliot Lake, he was given

an opportunity to do research on dust sampling instruments in a federal laboratory in Elliot Lake. His supervisor, Geoff Knight suggested that he should join AIHA and ACGIH as an associate member. That is how he got involved in IH in 1967 and for the next 42 years. The list of committees and working groups he has been involved in with OHAO as well as AIHA and ACGIH is extensive.

Asked about what kind of advice he would give to someone now entering or planning to enter the field, his answer was to get a strong background in chemistry and biology.

As with many colleagues, the person who significantly influenced his professional life was Hugh Nelson. Hugh taught Gyan how to conduct field investigations as a governmental hygienist and more importantly how to write good technical reports.

Gyan's hobby (or secondary occupation) is the study of Indian philosophy and other spiritual matters. In that respect, he has been broadcasting, producing and publishing articles and columns.

He proudly states that one of his three sons is also an industrial hygienist and an OHAO member. He considers that to be the best gift he could give back to the profession...

To finish this brief biography of the life of this extraordinary member of our profession, Gyan shares and recounts an episode that happened to him: *"Coming from India I naturally have an Indian accent, which is not always comprehensible for Canadians. Once, as a governmental industrial hygienist, I went to investigate the ventilation system in a plant. I wanted to check the air flow in the duct system. I asked the plant manager, who accompanied me in the plant "Where are your ducts?" He looked at the ceiling and said "We have no ducks here; you are at the wrong plant"*.

## Health Physics



—Column Editor—  
Michael Grey, CHP, ROH  
SAIC Canada

### CSA Guidelines on Environmental Monitoring

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) is in the process of revising the "Guidelines on Radiological Monitoring of the Environment" and it is expected that the new document will be published early next year. This standard will be part of a series that will eventually provide guidance on performing environmental risk assessments, developing release limits, designing effluent monitoring programs, and monitoring the environmental effects of releases.

The current standard (CSA N288.4-M91) was published in 1991 and it has long been recognized that a revision was required. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) issued a draft Regulatory Standard (S-224, "Environmental Monitoring Programs at Class I Nuclear Facilities and Uranium Mines and Mills") and an accompanying Regulatory Guide (G-224) for comment in 2004 but since then, the CNSC decided to cooperate with the CSA on revising N288.4 and the draft S-224/G-224 documents were used as input into the CSA process. The revised standard will be entitled "Environmental Monitoring for Class I Nuclear Facilities and Uranium Mines and Mills" and it should be issued as CSA N288.4-10.

The revised standard will give guidance on developing and operating programs intended to monitor the potential effects

of those radiological and non-radiological contaminants and physical stressors (e.g. heat, noise, vehicle traffic, habitat disruption, etc) that may be released into or imposed upon the environment as the result of an activity regulated by the CNSC. The new standard will propose that the development of an environmental monitoring program (EMP) should be based on a risk-informed approach and it will require that a systematic process, modeled on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Data Quality Objective (DQO) process, must be followed when designing an EMP. The standard will assume that the operator has already completed an environmental risk assessment (ERA) of the licensed activity, possibly as part of an environmental assessment performed prior to construction, and that the contaminants and stressors of potential concern have already been identified through the ERA process. The standard will provide guidance on monitoring that is conducted to:

- Satisfy a condition of a regulation, license or permit;
- Assess the impact of the contaminants or stressors of potential concern identified in the ERA;
- Provide the data required to refine the ERA models or verify the predictions of the ERA;
- Provide data required to support operations and maintenance or plan for decommissioning; or
- Provide assurance to the public or other stakeholders.

The standard gives guidance on the selection of a monitoring strategy, sampling locations and frequencies, sample collection and analysis methods, data analysis,

reporting and quality control. Both the measurement of contaminant concentration in environmental media that lie on the environmental pathway that connects the source of the contaminant to the receptor (pathways monitoring) and the direct measurement of effects in indicator species (biological effects monitoring) are considered. Pathways monitoring is likely to be more appropriate for most nuclear facilities, where contaminant concentrations are low, but direct monitoring of certain biological effects is required by the Metal Mining Effluent Regulations that apply to the uranium mining industry.

The standard also includes two annexes that give examples of the application of the guidance to a nuclear power plant and

a uranium mine and mill complex. These annexes were intended to illustrate the potential effort and cost of operating a monitoring program but they also demonstrate the design process and logic that is proposed in the standard.

A CSA Technical Sub-Committee (TSC) that included representatives from regulatory agencies, the uranium mining and processing industry, nuclear power plant operators, nuclear research laboratories and environmental laboratories was responsible for developing the standard. The CANDU Owners Group (an industry association of nuclear power plant operators), CAMECO and Areva Resources provided the funding required to retain a consortium of three consulting firms: Can-

desco, EcoMetrix and SENES, who were responsible for preparing drafts of the text and responding to comments from the TSC members. This was one of the first CSA Standards to be developed by contractors working under the supervision of a CSA TSC rather than by the members of the TSC themselves. This change dramatically shortened the development and the public review ready draft was available 14 months after the work was initiated. The availability of the draft CNSC Regulatory Standard and Guide also helped speed up the project. As a result of this experience, contractors have also been retained to assist in the development of a new effluent monitoring standard (CSA N288.5), which is intended to complement the environmental monitoring standard.

## Canadian President at the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA)

*The following is a press release from the Canadian Registration Board of Occupational Hygienists (CRBOH). More information can be found at <http://www.crboh.ca/>.*

At the Annual General Meeting of the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) held in Toronto on May 31, 2009 during the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition, country members have unanimously elected Mr. Luc Hamelin as President-Elect for 2009-2010. In practice, Luc will officially become IOHA President in 2010-2011. It is the first time since the creation of the association in Montreal in 1987 that a Canadian is appointed at the head of this international organization.

Luc also serves as Director-Quebec on the CRBOH. Between 2005 and 2007, he has accepted two mandates as CRBOH President. He has graduated in management (UQAM'90) and holds a Master of Science Applied (McGill'91) and a Master of Environment (Sherbrooke'02). He has worked for over 20 years in different positions as Professional or Manager in various business segments, such as manufacturing and the public sector. He is Assistant-Director, Preven-



*Photographed in Toronto, from left to right, the newly elected Officers on the Board of Directors (2009-2010) for the International Occupational Hygiene Association (IOHA) : Mr. Hugh L. Dalrymple, Secretary-Treasurer (United Kingdom), Mr. Luc Hamelin, President-Elect (Canada), Dr. Danilo Cottica, President (Italy) and Mr. Tom G. Grumbles, Past President (United States of America).*

tion & Safety Department at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

In 2007, Canada has become the first country within the “Francophonie” to officially receive the IOHA recognition for its occupational hygiene accreditation process. Canada has joined Australia, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, South Africa and the United States of America among the countries whose accreditation process is also recognized.

IOHA has been created to promote and develop occupational hygiene worldwide through member organizations and to improve and maintain safe work environments for all. IOHA organizes scientific

conferences, publishes periodic newsletters, updates a Web site, encourages and supports networking and opportunities to develop occupational hygiene in various regions. In short, IOHA has a goal to improve the occupational hygiene practice and take into account academic, legislative and cultural conditions of each country.

IOHA’s Secretariat is based in the United Kingdom. The organization represents the global community of occupational hygienists. It is an association of occupational hygiene organizations throughout the world. Each member association is devoted to the discipline and the application of principles pertaining to occu-

pational hygiene. Since its creation, the organization has 26 country members representing some 20,000 occupational hygienists worldwide. The International Occupational Hygiene Association brings an international voice for occupational hygiene as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) for the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In addition, IOHA cooperates with other organizations such as the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and the International Ergonomics Association (IEA).



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# In Memory of CATHERINE PATRICIA TRACY (1956 – 2009)

Cathy Tracy, BSc, MHSc, CIH, Past President of OHAO (2003-2004), and an active member who sat on a number of OHAO committees, lost a courageous four-year battle with brain cancer on March 19, 2009. About 125 family members, friends, and colleagues gathered for a celebration of Cathy's life and a tree dedication ceremony at the University of Waterloo, her alma mater, on June 13, 2009. Many shared some very warm and touching memories of Cathy, and all remembered her infectious laugh and wonderful sense of humour.

Cathy's undergraduate degree in Kinesiology provided a solid knowledge base for her future industrial hygiene career. She graduated in 1986 from the MHSc

Hygiene program at the University of Toronto, and obtained her CIH designation in 1993. Her work history included the Peel District School Board, the Ontario Ministry of Transportation, the City of Toronto, McDonnell Douglas Canada, and York University.

An avid athlete with a healthy competitive streak, she was involved in many outdoor sports, including marathons, triathlons, skiing, swimming and mountain biking. Cathy is survived by her ten year old son Colin, her brother Leslie and his wife MaryAnne, and her parents Pat and Jeff.

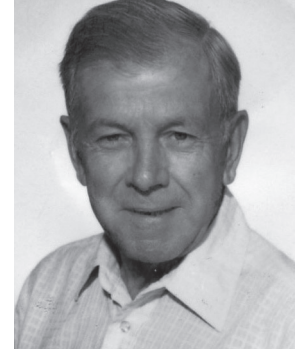


A scholarship has been established in Cathy's name for a First Year Kinesiology student at the University of Waterloo. Donations may be made to this fund by contacting Meredith McGinnis, Director of Advancement, Faculty of Applied Health Sciences ([meredith@healthy.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:meredith@healthy.uwaterloo.ca), or 519-888-4567 ext. 33631).

## Changing Information?

Title, employer, address, telephone, email changing? Don't forget to advise the OHAO office so the appropriate changes can be made to our records.

# Obituary - Tom Cummings, B.Eng., M.Eng., P.Eng.



We were saddened to learn that the occupational hygiene community in Ontario lost one of its early pioneers with the passing of Tom Cummings on August 26, 2008, in London Ontario.

Tom was born in Glasgow, Scotland where he went to school and then joined the Royal Air Force. At the end of his military service, Tom was awarded a university scholarship and attended Glasgow University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Engineering degree.

Tom immigrated to Canada in the early 1950s and after working in Sudbury for a short time, joined the Division of Industrial Hygiene within the Ontario Department of Health in 1952 as an Industrial Hygiene Engineer. Rumour has it that Tom accepted the position at the Ontario Department of Health until he could find a “decent” job! He retired from the Ministry of Labour in 1984 after giving 31 years of dedicated service to the industrial hygiene profession.

During his employment with the Ontario government as a physical agents specialist, Tom became known as the workplace noise expert within the Department of Health and later the Ministry of Labour. He was a very down-to-earth individual who was always willing to share his knowledge and give practical advice to those who had an interest in solving workplace noise problems. Also, Tom is credited as having authored the first noise legislation that was incorporated into the Ontario Regulation under Industrial Safety Act of 1964.

Tom Cummings was one of the original pioneers of industrial hygiene in Ontario, being a member of the Southern Ontario Local Section of the AIHA when it was first formed in 1964. Tom became a Director of the Local Section in 1970 and in 1971, he served as a member of the General Conference Committee of the American Industrial Hygiene Conference when it met in Toronto, chairing the Entertainment Committee. In 1976, Tom was an early graduate, along with Hugh Nelson, from the University of Toronto with a Master’s Degree in Industrial Hygiene. Tom’s contributions to the occupational hygiene profession are remembered fondly by many OHAO members with whom he worked both within the Ontario government and externally.

**Submitted by the Historical Overview Task Force:  
Neil Murray (Chair), Don Brown, David Halton, Andrea Sass-Kortsak**