

CHICA-HANDIC

Executive 2008

President: Barbara Shea MLT ART Microbiology, CIC
President Elect: Risa Cashmore RN BSc CIC CCHN (C)
Secretary: Andrea Iacurti RN
Treasurer: Connie Gittens-Webber BSc MLT ART

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Number of Members: 144

Geographical Areas Served:

Hamilton and District (Hamilton, Niagara, St. Catherines, Mississauga, Oakville, Fergus, Cambridge and Brantford)

Membership:

The CHICA-HANDIC membership includes novice and experienced professionals from varying disciplines: nurses, public health inspectors, medical laboratory technologists and industry representatives of varying backgrounds. The majority of members hold positions in infection prevention and control in acute care, long term care, community health, public health and Regional Infection Control Networks (RICN's).

Meetings:

Full day meetings are held in February, April, July, September and December which consist of the morning devoted to chapter business while the afternoon consists of an educational component which is provided by an invited guest or chapter member. Standing agenda items for chapter business includes celebration of CIC and SARE successes, alerts and outbreak reports from members as well as reports from the President, Treasurer, special interest groups, CHICA- Canada, Infection Control Ontario and the RICN's.

In addition, questions from the membership are circulated and discussed to provide valuable networking and sharing of experiences and advice related to infection prevention and control issues. Implementation of PIDAC Best Practice Documents and other applicable guidelines are discussed as they become available.

Highlights:

- The CHICA HANDIC annual education day held in June was very successful. This year's theme was "Battle of the bugs. A Call to Action". There were 350 participants and feedback was very positive. The Mississauga Halton, Waterloo-Wellington and Central South RICN's provided sponsorship for two well known guest speakers: Dr. Michael Gardam and Jim Clemmer (author of Mouse on the Table). Our industry partners again supported this successful annual event financially and by providing booths allowing participants an opportunity to see infection prevention and control related products.
- The first CHICA HANDIC chapter-specific award known as the "The Hygiea Award" was presented to Anne Bialachowski who demonstrated outstanding achievements in five areas. The award is based on five quintessential elements as they relate to infection prevention and control (fire- sparking enthusiasm; earth-promotion and awareness; water - creativity and innovation; air- communication; and star matter – performance excellence).
- The chapter provided educational assistance to several members including the president to attend the CHICA conference in Montreal, Quebec.
- Our July meeting is always reserved as an informal type gathering at a member's home providing good food, opportunities to network and a debriefing of the annual education day.
- Topics and speakers for educational sessions included :
 1. Meningitis: Kim Baker
 2. Just Clean Your Hands Program : Liz McCreight
 3. Outbreak Binder: Stephanie Ralph

4. Surveillance Tool Kit for long term care : Risa Cashmore
5. Review of CHICA's General Orientation DVD
6. Epidemiology software overview – Sue Allard
7. Influenza DVD Conference Presentation – Dr. Alison McGeer

Barb Shea MLT ART CIC, Chapter President

Risa Cashmore RN BSc CCHN(C) President- Elect CHICA-HANDIC