

ARCHIVIST

What a year 2009 turned out to be with the occurrence and recurrence of the H1N1 Pandemic influenza virus. Infection prevention and control (IP&C) became paramount as the pandemic unfolded. The public started to believe the importance of hand hygiene at last! Never in the history of infection prevention and control have we seen hand hygiene appearing in so many public places! Other IP&C strategies such as respiratory hygiene became the norm. Let's hope as the H1N1 decreases in incidence that the messages of hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette continue to become the new norm.

The 2009 national education conference was held in St John's, NL May 9 – 14 with the theme *Solid Foundations...Shifting Horizons*. Although the attendance was good some ICPs were unable to attend because of the appearance of H1N1. The host Chapter of CHICA Newfoundland Labrador (NL) did not disappoint attendees with their warm hospitality. The social highlight was "Rally in the Alley" where we became *screached in* to become official Newfoundlanders by kissing the cod (or not)!

Following extensive interviews of internal and external stakeholders, Strategic Planning Facilitator Dr. David Sheridan join the CHICA-Canada Board of Directors, Chapter Presidents, and staff in a two-day Strategic Planning session in St. John's. As this replaced the usual two-day Board meeting and one-day Chapter Presidents meeting, the Chapter Presidents had met via teleconference prior to the conference to network and share their ideas with each other. In St. John's, Interest Groups and committees met to network, share experiences, and build relationships. Again this year the conference planning allowed for the majority of interest group meetings to be held before the main education sessions began. This format provided more time for collaboration within special IP&C practice areas.

A new strategic plan for CHICA covering the years 2010 – 2015 was unveiled by the Board and ratified by the Members at the AGM. Bylaw No.5 had undergone a rigorous review and was also approved. CHICA has come into the electronic age in many ways in its operation. Membership fees and conference registration can be paid on line. To ensure members are receiving timely communication from the Board and infection prevention updates CHICA E-News was launched in 2009. The CHICA Membership Directory & Source Guide is available on line. In addition, a free teleclass is held twice yearly, sponsored by Webber Training. This gives members another opportunity to be hearing of Board and other current IPC activities.

Numerous members were acknowledged for their achievements over the past year. The Best First Time Abstract Winner was Stefanie Ralph, Simcoe, ON for her abstract "*Outbreak Pep Rally – A Good Communication Tool*". The Best Oral Presentation, sponsored by Les enterprises Solumed – a 3M Company, went to Tim Cronsberry, St Mary's, ON, "*Lights, Camera Action!*" *Creating An Education Video About the Proper Use of Personal Protective equipment in Long Term Care*. The Best Poster Presentation went to Terri Murduff, Joanne Habib and Debbie Rivett, Whitby, ON "*Come Take a Walk With Me*". The Ecolab sponsored Infection Control Week Poster Contest was won by Catherine (Kim) Baker, Brampton, ON with the theme "*The Power of One*". The 2008 Editorial Award went to Elizabeth Bryce, Annalee Yasi, Deidre Maultsaid, Bruce Gamage, Margaret Landstrom, Justin LoChang and Chun-Yip Hon for their e-learning article '*infection control: its contagious*' (CJIC Vol.23, No.4, Winter 2008). The CHICA HANDIC Chapter won the 3M Chapter Achievement Award. CHICA British Columbia won the CHICA CIC Chapter Achievement Award. Numerous CHICA members were recognized as being the recipient of Virox Technology Partnership Scholarships.

Dr. Elizabeth Henderson became CHICA-Canada's newest Honourary Member. This prestigious award is acknowledgement of Dr. Henderson's dedication to the development of a distance education learning program in Basic Infection Prevention and Control. Through Dr. Henderson's efforts, the program now has a Distance Education Coordinator whose mandate is to facilitate delivery of the program through various educational institutions in Canada. Betty Ann was honoured during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2009 conference.

Another important accomplishment for CHICA during this past year was the launch of CHICA's own audit tool kit on line. Some audits from the previous tool kit were reworked and new ones added. Special thanks to the hard work of several CHICA members under the leadership of the Program & Project Chair, Karen Clinker. Ten were ready for the 2009 IC Week launch. Many more will be posted after rigorous refinement by CHICA Standards & Guidelines Committee and outside reviewers.

Mary E LeBlanc RN BN CIC
Archivist