



Environmental Health
Foundation of Canada

Fondation canadienne
de l'hygiène du milieu

PAMELA SCHARFE, CPHI(C)

Pamela (Pam) Scharfe (ON), graduated from Ryerson University in 1975 and spent the first 27 years (1975-2001) of her career with Toronto Public Health. Pam was the first Food Safety Education Coordinator for the department created in 1978 and moved into management in 1987 holding the positions of Senior PHI, Supervisor, Acting Director, and Public Health Manager with lead portfolios on food safety, tobacco control, budget, amalgamation, and strategic planning. Prior to retiring in 2009, Pam was a Public Health Manager for Huron County Health Unit (ON) for 8 years where she was the lead program manager for air quality, emergency management, food safety, health hazards, safe water, tobacco control, rabies, recreational water, West Nile virus, onsite sewage, and plumbing inspections. During this tenor Pam lead the first pilot project for a predictive model for beach water monitoring in Canada and the first public health onsite sewage maintenance inspection program in the province of Ontario.

Early in her career Pam got what she likes to refer to as the “CIPHI Bug” attending her first CIPHI National annual education conference in 1978 and has not missed many national conferences since then. Pamela believes that it is important to give back and support our professional organization and has done so during her career by holding various CIPHI volunteer professions:

- Ontario Branch Councilor in the 1980's.
- Ontario Branch Exam Coordinator for 10 years.
- Member of the CIPHI Retirees Advisory Committee and past Chair.
- Joined the EHFC Board of Trustees in 2006 and has held the positions of Secretary, Vice Chair and was the Board Chair from 2015 – 2022. Pam represented the Board on the Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education and held the position of Treasurer. She now serves on the EHFC Executive committee as Past Chair and is the website and social media coordinator.

Pam has been recognized for her contributions to her environmental public health profession by receiving the following honours:

- 25-year CIPHI Membership pin in 2001.
- CIPHI Ontario Branch Award of Merit for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Public health in 2008.
- CIPHI Alex Cross award in 2014 for displaying the highest standards of professional practice,
- CIPHI Life Member award in 2015 for outstanding service to the Institute, to her profession and/or her community over an extended period.
- Distinguished Service Award from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies in 2019

Pam also believes it is important to give back to one's community and has also served her local community as a volunteer member of Victim Services and as a long-time cottager on the south-east shores of Lake Huron, was a member of the Lake Huron Centre for Coastal Conservation Board for 8 years and its past Chair.