

Michigan Public Health Week 2008
Climate Change—Our Health in the Balance
Hometown Health Hero Nomination Form

Name of person completing form Mary Brown	Daytime Phone 269-344-0536
Organization (if applicable)	Email address

Nominee Information

Please check or highlight one: Individual Group/Organization

Name* Mel Visser

Occupation Chemical Engineer (retired) and author

Home Phone (include area code) 269-327-6592

Work (Daytime) Phone (include area code)

Home or Work Address 2001 Schuring Road

City Portage

Zip Code 49024

E-mail Address (if applicable) vissermel@hotmail.com

Name of Local Newspaper Kalamazoo Gazette

* Those selected will have their names mentioned in a press release.

Check the box next to the most appropriate Climate Change theme of this person or organization's work:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preparedness & Extreme Weather Conditions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food & Water Supply |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Pollution & Respiratory Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water- & Vector-Borne Diseases | |

Tell Us about Your Hometown Health Hero

Please describe (**in 300 words or less**) why this person or organization is a Hometown Health Hero. If you are nominating a person who is employed full time in public or environmental health, tell us how this person has gone beyond normal job duties to address climate change needs.

Please note, due to a high volume of nominations, keep your submission to 300 words or less. Early submission is encouraged.

After retirement, Mel pursued his Upper Peninsula love of Lake Superior and fishing. He found out that toxaphene (a highly persistent organic pesticide) levels were still increasing even though those levels disappeared from the fishing guide information in Michigan and other states and provinces. Mel couldn't figure out why and why we didn't warn people that eating these fish was even riskier than before.

Mel joined with others exploring the island ice floes of the Arctic where they confirmed high levels of POPs in the water and the people. These POPs were not used in the area, but appeared in concentrations greater than where they were used.

Submit completed forms via email to kovalj@michigan.gov or fax to 517-335-9434 by **March 7, 2008**.

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Now what? Mel put his information together and wrote a book, COLD, CLEAR, AND DEADLY, in which he advocates for a worldwide ban on POPs. He now is speaking and spreading the word, urging citizen action to protect their local communities by working for a worldwide ban. The United States, Europe and much of the developed world has banned these substances, but they “blow in the wind” farther north and east from where they are used (in the northern hemisphere). Mel currently makes presentations about the findings presented in his book to educate people about how these chemicals move.

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