

ALBERTA UTILITY OPERATOR

Spring 2024

Issue #53



ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



AWWOA is excited to host the 7th Annual Golf Tournament this June in Innisfail.

REGISTER ONLINE - AWWOA.CA | For more details, visit page 7.

ANNUAL OPERATORS SEMINAR

Thank you to our delegates, speakers, sponsors, suppliers and special guests for joining us at the Annual Operators Seminar!



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DEDICATED TO THE ESSENTIALS

To see the award recipients and new Executive Board, visit pages 3-5.

News from the Field

Mike Hewitt to Provide Training in Nakuru, Kenya



Mike Hewitt

One of Fort McMurray's Urban Water Treatment Plant Supervisors is set to provide Level I Water Treatment training in Nakuru, Kenya this June through Operators Without Borders. Mike Hewitt brings over two decades of expertise in the water industry and holds Level IV Water Treatment Certification. His experience spans major installations, including the Seymour-Capilano Filtration Plant, which supplies Metro Vancouver, and the Lakeview and Lorne Park Water Treatment Plants, serving over one million residents in Mississauga, Ontario. Mike's international contributions include work in Camp Julien with the Canadian Forces, Kandahar Airfield for NATO forces, and a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded mission in Haiti to provide temporary administrative buildings following the January 2010 earthquake.

Operators Without Borders (OWB) is a Canadian registered charity based in Vancouver, BC, specializing in assisting water and wastewater utilities recover from disasters and provides volunteer technical and disaster-related training. Since its inception, OWB has provided almost \$2 million in free services worldwide, thanks to the commitment of over 100 volunteer water operators.



The year 2023 marked a period of growth for OWB. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the charity successfully adapted to virtual platforms for capacity-building activities. Nonetheless, the importance of in-person training has led to the resumption of workshops, which have been recognized for their effectiveness.

“The pilot project in Nakuru, Kenya, undertaken in collaboration with the Global Wastewater Initiative (GWI) and WPI, aims to standardize skills and ensure safe, reliable potable water and adequate sanitation across Kenya and eventually other African nations. This initiative also includes training trainers to build internal capacity.”

The Nakuru Water and Sewerage Company (NAWASCO) was chosen for a pilot project in November 2022 focusing on Exam Prep and Certification, with preliminary virtual sessions conducted to tailor the training to participants' needs. The dedication of volunteers was pivotal in delivering these workshops and exams, with the notable achievement of certifying the first operators in Kenya. OWB intends to replicate this successful model in 2024.

Mike Hewitt's assignment in Nakuru underscores the importance of certified operators who can adapt to varying levels of literacy and computer proficiency among participants when delivering a course. His broad experience and ability to engage with diverse operational challenges make him ideally suited for this endeavor. OWB's commitment to covering all volunteer expenses reflects the organization's dedication to supporting its volunteers and the utilities they assist.

The support from water organizations for training materials and travel expenses, highlights the collaborative effort behind OWB's mission. The initiative not only aims to elevate standards within the water industry but also to foster a sense of global community among water professionals.

As Mike prepares for his journey to Nakuru, his work, alongside that of other OWB volunteers, exemplifies the impactful contributions that skilled professionals can make on a global scale. This assignment not only benefits the immediate recipients but also enhances the reputation of the utilities and communities involved, showcasing their commitment to global water safety and sustainability.



Instructors with participants.

AWWOA Election Results

Meet Your New Executive

In the 2024 election, there were four executive positions up for nomination. These are your newly elected Directors and your 2024-25 Executive Chair.



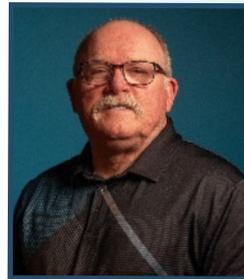
ROBERT ALCORN
Elected
Director
Communities 5,000 & Under
Town of Carstairs



MEGAN SAUVE
Elected
Director
Communities 5,001 to 25,000
Municipal District of Greenview



DARRIN WENZEL
Re-Elected
Director
Communities 25,001 - 150,000
Strathcona County



BERT E. MILLER
Re-Elected by Acclamation
Director
Retired



2024/25 Chair

Chris Huston
City of Lacombe



This could be you!
For more information on the
AWWOA Board of Directors
elections visit:
www.awwoa.ca/about-us/our-executive

Math Corner



David Noack

QUESTION:

Flouride has dental benefits and is sometimes added to water at a goal dosage of 0.8 mg/L.

How much fluoride do we add in 24 hours if the volume of water sent to the community is 790 m³ / day ?

ANSWER:

The green formula sheet reads:

$$\text{Feed Rate, kg/day} = \frac{(\text{Dosage, mg/L})(\text{Flow Rate, m}^3/\text{day})}{1000}$$
 (Purity, % expressed as a decimal) (1000)
 In our case, no purity percentage is given so the number 1 would be inserted. When we insert the numbers we get:

$$\text{Feed Rate, kg/day} = \frac{0.8 \times 790}{1 \times 1000}$$
 The feed rate of fluoride is 0.632 kg or 632 grams.

2024 Seminar Highlights

Membership Awards

AWWOA membership awards are presented annually at the Operators Seminar. Congratulations to the following members for their dedication and support!



10 Year Member Awards

Morgan Atsbaha	Robert Hawriliuk	Andrew Nieuwenhuis
Cliff Ayrey	Colin Hawthorne	Scott Nowochin
Rod Badger	Steven Hewitt	Braedon Oele
Scott Baillie	Shannon Horsfield	Francisco Ortiz
Cole Baker	Richard Hutchinson	Ryan Pals
Brent Barrett	Christopher Isted	Jordan Pancoast
Jennifer Besinger	George James	Jordan Parker
Cordell Brinston	Cody Kelly	Alan Parnell
Darren Burke	Greg Kerr	Leonardo Paternina
Sara Carter	Jason Knorr	Brendan Payne
Kevin Crawford	Robert Kotch	Brett Pendleton
Donna Cross	Dayton Lindbergh	Diana Piche
Rogelio De Rueda	Dion Lizotte	Don Pickle
Kyle Diletzoy	Cory Lyons	Brent Polege
Brandon Dorash	Jeff Lytle	Curtis Remeika
Dean Ducharme	Keisha Maguire	Elliot Rosselle
Jennifer Fenwick	Kyle Maxwell	Taylor Rudrum
Jason Fleckenstein	Zach Mazure	Jesse Salmon
Paige Gammie	Derek McCarthy	Jay Sampson
Kevin Gawreletz	Devan McCharles	Jeremay Santos
Luanda Gibbs	David McCleary	Jeff Seniec
Sheldon Gogerla	David McCleary	Ryan Sharpe
Rosaire Goudreau	Wesley McKenzie	Doug Smith
Ernie Guinitaran	Jeffrey McLeod	Terry Stauffer
Yam Gurung	Jason Miller	Terrance Streeter
Phillip Gyorgy	Chad Moore	Barry Sturrock
Derek Hacke	Rick Morand	Jacob Tricker
	Doreen Morphy	Steve Zaytsoff

20 Year Awards

Mario Acevedo
Darcy Armour
Mike Boyce
Laura Christopherson
Paul Curtis
Brian Davey
Darren Demchuk
Graeme Dennis
Mark Doram
Jason Fenske
Jamie Garland
Paul Gates
Grant Hillhouse
Dean Hocken
Joe Holstein
Peter Keay
Paul Malone
Rob Mastel
Bob McAlpine
Bert J Miller
Trevor Millward
Doug O'Neal
Cory Pepper
Wayne Quinton
Warren Rosland
Richard Schmidt
Vincent Shelstad
Todd Toews
Shawn Tooth
Edward Walmsley
Joni White
John Zacharias

30 Year Awards

Kathy Abramowski
Grant Bergquist
Dale Lefebvre
Larry Liebelt
Gordon Roberts
Rick Shelstad

40 Year Awards

Andy Bebbington
Darrell Nelson



AWWOA Awards

Every year at the Operators Seminar, AWWOA is proud to acknowledge the accomplishments of its members by recognizing them with the following awards. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

Gerald Samuel Operator of the Year Award



Congratulations to Terry Kosinski from the Town of Athabasca for receiving the 2023 Gerald Samuel Operator of the Year Award!

"Terry has made time and has been instrumental in mentoring his fellow employees and has provided an enormous amount of training to assist them in obtaining certifications in both the Water Distribution and Wastewater disciplines. Terry's understanding of the rules and regulations, our system's daily operations, coupled with a strong desire to provide an outstanding level of service to the users, has provided our Mayor, Council and all levels of management a sense of comfort that is truly hard to explain."

- Rachel Ramey, CAO, Town of Athabasca

2023 Gerald Samuel Operator of the Year Award Recipient, Terry Kosinski, Town of Athabasca with Rachel Ramey, CAO, Town of Athabasca

Steve Blonsky Life Member Award ALLAN KENDRICK



Steve Blonsky Life Member Award NANCY MCATEER



Ron Bayne Service Award DARRIN WENZEL



AWWOA's NAIT Achievement Awards

KENTON HUNCHAK FALL INTAKE



TARA STOYLES WINTER INTAKE





The Old Operator

Turning the Dream Into Reality



Doug Thorson

When frustration overcomes your incentive to turn your dreams into reality, don't blame your age; it is more about deserting your ideals. A challenging life may be your best therapist. "Stuck in your thinking, don't fix the blame, fix the problem." We exhaust too much of our time observing the flea on our neighbours back while we can't see the elephant on ours.

It's all about what you do. Opportunity lies within difficulty. That opportunity could be the therapist knocking at the door. Don't disqualify your ideas, if an idea fails, you just learned how not to do something. The man that never fails sees only one solution.

If you are a Leader and feel stalemated, you must find a way: employees look for a safe ship in a storm, and that is Leadership.

Don't get sidetracked on insignificant issues, always know your key goal, always ride your horse in the direction it's going. The things of the world are fuel to transform your dreams into reality.

A true story, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield planned to get into the ice cream business. The two men responded to an ad for a \$5 ice cream course. Fuelled with all the knowledge the \$5 could buy, they opened their ice cream parlour. Today, they now have a thriving ice cream business of 90 stores across the USA.

The world is your oyster for ideas. Paul McCartney visited "John's house" in the country many times. Paul remembers asking the chauffeur on the way to "John's house," "Have you been having a good week"? The chauffeur replied, "I am very busy at the moment, I've been working eight days a week." Paul thought and said to the chauffeur, "Eight Day's A Week, now that's a title."

Ideas are everywhere, expand your thinking, all is possible. Sometimes we just need a little nudge, at least that's how I see it,

*The Old Operator,
Doug Thorson*

Charitable Donations Update

Supporting The Water School

Greetings all! I need to take this opportunity to thank all those who have donated to the AWWOA charitable events over the past year. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 50/50 draws, the Golf Tournament events and the Banff Silent Auction!



Bert E. Miller

This year we were able to raise **\$28,340.00** for the Water School. The great thing about this year's donation is that the Water School has offered to match our donation. That means our **\$28,340.00** becomes a donation of **\$56,680.00**.

With this amount, the Water School will be able to fund the expansion of Petta's distribution system.

Here's what we will do:

- Extend Petta's distribution system 2.7 km to reach the communities of Mbula East, Mbula West and Komolo.
- Reach 512 households - 2,560 people - with clean, safe water.
- Extend the piping to reach the local primary school for the 1,016 students
- Host W.A.S.H. training in all three communities to equip people with the knowledge and skills they need to make positive, lasting changes

They will also be putting a plaque close to the pump house recognizing AWWOA's generosity.

So, what's next? I hope to see a good turnout for the Golf Tournament in Innisfail this coming June. Registration is open.

As always, thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

*Bert Miller Sr.
Charitable Donations Chair*

Alberta Environment & Protected Areas Update



Out and About

It was great seeing many of you in Banff for the AWWOA Seminar. We were able to connect with many fellow operators at the tradeshow and in the hallways. The Environment and Protected Areas presentation focused on Compliance 365 training and Direct Responsible Charge (DRC). We enjoyed all the questions that arose during the presentation and afterwards. Please reach out to our team with any questions regarding certification.

We have also been busy with promoting the water and wastewater industry at career fairs and look forward to doing more of this in the months to come.

Certification Renewals

As spring approaches, we are still approving renewals for 2023. If you have not renewed your certification yet, you will want to get that done ASAP as your certification is now expired and no longer valid.

Certification renewals for 2024 will start on July 1, 2024. Remember to get your training submitted early and ensure your supervisor is correct, before submitting your renewal application, to ensure there are no unnecessary delays to your renewal.

Exams

We hope you are all having success in scheduling your exams with the new PSI platform. The Test Taker Tutorial is now live so take advantage of this tutorial so that you are prepared on exam day.

Also, don't forget to opt-in for SMS test alerts to notify you if a test session is affected by a test centre closure. You will still receive the email notification, but it was noted that many people do not check their emails.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to waterandwastewateroperatorcert@gov.ab.ca.

7th Annual Golf Tournament

Join us for the Annual Golf Tournament at the Innisfail Golf Club in Innisfail! Play a round with fellow operators and industry representatives and end the day with a celebration BBQ and prizes.

Event Details

Monday, June 17, 2024
Shot Gun Start at 2:30 pm

Tournament Fee: \$100.00+GST includes cart, green fees and celebration BBQ with prizes! (Must have an active AWWOA membership to receive member pricing.)

*Registrants can register in teams of up to 4 players at once. Teams can be a mix of members and non-members.

REGISTER ONLINE - AWWOA.CA



Upcoming Training

AWWOA is proud to offer a variety of training in-class, online and by correspondence. We can also bring training to you! Contact us for more details.

Register online at: AWWOA.CA

May 2024

Wastewater Collection Systems - in Edmonton

May 2 & 3, 2024 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

EXCEL for Operators - in Edmonton

May 9 & 10, 2024 - Cost \$490 (\$590 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Water Well Operation and Maintenance - in Edmonton

May 13 & 14, 2024 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Chlorination Workshop - in Red Deer

May 14-16, 2024 - Cost \$550 (\$650 Non-members) - 2.0 CEU's

Emerging Options for W&WW Disinfection - in Edmonton

May 15, 2024 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

Math and Support Systems for Operators - in Calgary

May 15 & 16, 2024 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and Digital Twins - in Edmonton

May 16, 2024 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

Management and Supervision for Operators - in Calgary

May 22-24, 2024 - Cost \$530 (\$630 Non-members) - 2.0 CEU's

Pumps and Blowers - in Edmonton

May 23 & 24, 2024 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Water Quality Sampling & Testing - in Calgary

May 27, 2024 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

Water Reuse - Challenges & Opportunities - in Calgary

May 28, 2024 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

Connect With AWWOA

Toll free: 1-877-454-7745 Local: 780-454-7745

Email: info@awwoa.ca Website: awwoa.ca

Visit us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#)



Save the Date

June 17, 2024

Annual Golf Tournament

Innisfail Golf Club
Innisfail, AB

November 13-15, 2024

Water Week Conference

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Edmonton, AB

March 10-15, 2025

Annual Operators Seminar

Banff Park Lodge
Banff, AB

Online Training Courses

AWWOA offers certification preparation courses online. Work from anywhere with Internet access and manage your training for a time that works for you!

- Entry Level Training
- Small Water Systems
- Small Wastewater Systems
- Level I Certification Preparation
- Level II Water Treat. Cert Prep
- Level II Water Dist. Cert Prep
- Level II Wastewater Treat. Cert Prep
- Level II Wastewater Coll. Cert Prep
- Level III/IV Water Dist. Cert Prep
- Level III/IV Wastewater Collection Certification Preparation
- Level III/IV Wastewater Treatment Certification

PM 41796530

Alberta Water & Wastewater
Operators Association

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