

ALBERTA UTILITY OPERATOR

Spring 2025

Issue #56



ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



REGISTER ONLINE - AWWOA.CA | For more details, visit page 2.

ANNUAL OPERATORS SEMINAR

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



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



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**DEDICATED
TO THE
ESSENTIALS**

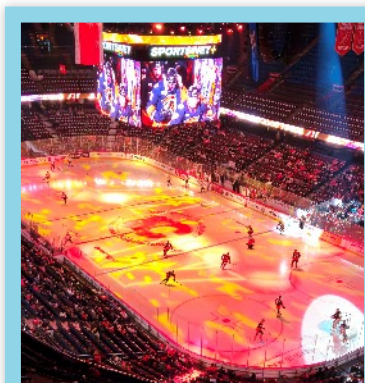
Networking Events

Calgary Wranglers Networking Event

On Friday, March 21, nearly 40 AWWOA members and guests joined to watch the Calgary Wranglers take on the Coachella Valley Firebirds. Groups from the City of Calgary, The Town of Carstairs, The Town of Penhold, The Village of Acme, EPCOR Chestermere, The Town of Drumheller, The Town of Vulcan, Shell Waterton and Velocity Water Services came out for a great night of networking and exceptional hockey.

With a long and decorated history and passion from fans, hockey energy runs high at the Scotiabank Saddledome. This Friday night was no exception as the Wranglers defended the top spot in the pacific division against their 2nd place rivals, the Coachella Valley Firebirds. The Wranglers dominated the competition with a gloves off 3-1 win to continue their quest for the Calder Cup.

We are happy to announce that the event sold out and would like to thank everyone that came out to support our charity of choice, The Water School. It was great to see operators from all over central Alberta and we look forward to bringing more of our membership together at future events like this.



8th Annual Golf Tournament

Join us for the Annual Golf Tournament at the Cougar Creek Golf Resort, just west of Edmonton! Play a round with fellow operators and industry representatives and end the day with a celebration BBQ and prizes.

Event Details

Friday, June 20, 2025

Shot Gun Start at 10:00 am

Tournament Fee: \$120.00+GST includes cart, green fees with grab and go breakfast and celebration BBQ with prizes! (Must have an active AWWOA membership to receive member pricing.)

*Registrants can register in teams of up to 2 players at once. Teams can be a mix of members and non-members.

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AWWOA Election Results

Meet Your New Executive

In the 2025 election, there were four executive positions up for nomination. These are your newly elected Directors and your 2025-26 Executive Chair.



LEANNE TONKS
Elected Director
Communities 5,001 to 25,000
Town of Drumheller



DARIS PODGURSKI
Elected Director
Communities over 150,000
City of Calgary



WADE BELL
Re-Elected Director
Public Facilities
H2O Innovation



BERT J. MILLER
Re-Elected by Acclamation Director
Western Canada Water Rep.
City of Red Deer



2025/26 Chair
Nathan Vis
EPCOR Canmore



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

2025-26 AWWOA Executive Board



Pictured top left to right:
Wade Bell, Nathan Vis, Dennis Tomuschat, Darrin Wenzel, Robert Alcorn, Daris Podgurski, Mark D'Aoust

Pictured bottom left to right:
Bert J. Miller, Jenny Pereira, Bert E. Miller, Megan Sauve, Chris Huston, Shannon Gladue

Not pictured: Leanne Tonks

2025 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

Byron Barth	Steven Hewitt	Ryan Parker
Samuel Beliveau	Cody Hofman	Erik Ponomar
Emma Bowes	Steve Hoglund	Joe Rahn
Nathan Brault	Theodore Hohner	Emma Rees
Shane Brenneis	Alex Huber	Jesse Salmon
Johnley Camposano	Randi Kalyinka	Darren Shafer
Amy Carter	Keith Kennedy	Shaneece Shauer
Cam Carter	Warren Kragnes	Mike Sherman
Kyle Cherniwchan	Nicholas Larose	Mark Skaar
Greg Dingwall	Loni Leslie	Zane Spencer
Nick Doram	Andrew Linford	Grayson Switzer
Barry Feledichuk	Mike Lourenco	Robert Thiessen
Brad Forsyth	Matthew Luxton	Neil Vaudan
Blaine Francis	Sunil Mathew	Marshall Wall
Weston Gibson	Peter McConnell	Allen Wells
Sheldon Gogerla	Andrew McCulloch	Josey White
Shayne Gonczy	Nathan Miller	Spencer Wieben
Steven Grant	Michael Northey	Mark Wight
George Grosariu	Michael Nunes	Trent Williams
Leonell Hamelin	Chett Olsen	Lorne Witter
Ravinder Hans	Allison Olson	Ying Zhang

20 Year Member Awards

Timothy Ainscough	Kevin Lewis
Stewart Birch	Chris Loitz
J Matt Brideau	Allen MacAllister
Brad Burns	Carol McCallum
Scott Butterfield	Evelyn Mellott
Roger Champagne	Ross Mercredi
Michael Chernyk	Steven Meunier
Sharon Colford	Todd Mogridge
Jeremy Dumaesque	Carl Peterson
Jamie Giberson	Nathan Relitz
Carry Grant	Dale Rolheiser
Brett Henkel	Jason Ropcean
Corey Hodgson	Trevor Sharrun
Ken Hurkens	Melanie Simard
Stan Johanson	Marvin Steinhauer
Rick Yelland-Kewin	James VandenHeuvel
Wally Kruchkywich	Eric Weremey
Michael Kurys	Trevor Wold

30 Year Awards

Doran Jensen
Dean Litzenberger
Norm Grexton
Gerald Will

40 Year Awards

Garth Carl
John Thoma



AWWOA Chair
Chris Huston (right)
presenting Garth Carl
(left) with his 40 year
membership award

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 Darren Diprose from EPCOR Edmonton for receiving the 2024 Gerald Samuel Operator of the Year Award!

Darren is the Operations Day Foreman at the Rossdale Water Treatment Plant, supporting plant operations and mentoring junior and lead hand operators. He has been instrumental in the successful implementation of multiple projects, including phosphoric acid, liquid ammonia conversion and waste stream projects.

He has worked with the City of Calgary, the City of Drumheller, the City of Wetaskiwin and the County of Wetaskiwin, and holds certification in all four disciplines.

2024 Gerald Samuel Operator of the Year Award Recipient, Darren Diprose, EPCOR Edmonton with Chris Huston, AWWOA Chair

Achievement Highlights

- Part of the Comox Valley Water Treatment Plant and CFB Wainwright Betty Lake bids
- Worked on the upgrade, commissioning and operation of the Wetaskiwin Water Treatment Plant
- Participated in the construction and commissioning of a pilot Wastewater Treatment Plant with Suncor

Steve Blonsky Life Member Award LYLE CLARKE



Steve Blonsky Life Member Award CARL MCDONNELL



Ron Bayne Service Award DENNIS TOMUSCHAT



AWWOA's NAIT Achievement Awards KARL BAUTISTA FALL INTAKE

AWWOA's NAIT Achievement Awards MITCHELL SCHNEIDER WINTER INTAKE



The Old Operator

There are Giants Walking Among Us

Once in a while we hear of someone who has made a significant contribution to society, and it is only by accident the world finds out. Real heroes are not just hard to find, they are usually very humble. Their inner satisfaction is all the reward they need; it is never about taking credit.

I would like to share with you a story of an Australian man, James Harrison, "the man with the golden arm." It is only in his death at the age of 88 years the world found a giant hero. In his lifetime James rolled up his sleeve 1,100 times to give his plasma, once a week from 1953 to 2025.

His plasma contained a very rare anti-D component that saved at-risk new-born babies by allowing the mother's blood to be compatible with their babies. James's plasma was used to produce 2.4 million doses of anti-D medication to save new-born babies.

The Red Cross has determined James Harrison's plasma has saved over 2.4 million lives, "Will the real hero please stand up?"

We cannot all be a James Harrison, but we can live a life where we put others first, where we serve others, not just ourselves. There is no amount of good we each can do if we care not who takes the credit. Oh, by the way, in Australia blood donors do not get paid.

The AWWOA has just celebrated 50 years of the Seminar, delivering training and creating networking opportunities for operators in Alberta. It's roots are deeply embedded in volunteers. The men and women serving on the Executive Board, becoming Vice Chairs and Chairs, are volunteers, giving back, giving without expectation. We need to recognize the AWWOA staff who have always gone above and beyond, and we can again say, "Will the real hero's please stand up?"

When we give back to others, when we each work for the other and we all work for a goal such as the AWWOA, it transcends borders and cultures, at least that's how I see it,

Doug Thorson, The Old Operator



Doug Thorson

Charitable Donations Update

Supporting The Water School

Our past Banff Seminar celebrated 50 years of the event . . . for those of you who were not around when this event started, all I can say is it's been a great 50 years!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have donated to the AWWOA charitable events over the past year. This, of course, includes our fantastic suppliers who generously sponsored and donated to our functions.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 50/50 draws, both at the Water Week Conference and the Banff Seminar, the Golf Tournament events and the Banff Seminar Silent Auction!

In 2024, our Charitable Donations project covered the expansion of a motorized borehole in Petta, Uganda, covering a distance of 4.5 kms.

This year, our goal was to further extend the distribution system in Kucwiny, Uganda.

The expansion will now include a further 12.6 kms of piping, providing an additional 770 households in 12 villages with access to clean, safe, water.

Again, this year the Water School matched your donations dollar-for-dollar!

Our goal was to raise \$30,000. We managed to surpass our expectations and raise **\$31,236**. This equates to a donation of **\$62,472**.

As always, thanks for your thoughtfulness and generosity!

*Bert Miller Sr.
Charitable Donations Chair*



Bert E. Miller

Alberta Environment & Protected Areas Update

Out and About

Another great AWWOA Annual Operators Seminar wrapped up in Banff in March and we were excited to be a part of it. Between the trade show booth and the certification presentation and updates, we were able to reach out to operators and answer many questions throughout the week.

The certification program also presented at the Water Earth Innovation Conference in Grande Prairie and at NAIT to provide updates and information on the Operator Certification program.



Operator In Training

We are in full swing of rolling out the Operator in Training certification. If you are wanting to participate in the certification or are just wanting to challenge the exam, please reach out to EPA via e-mail and we will be happy to provide you with the exam application form and get you started on your certification journey.

DRC Plan

The Direct Responsible Charge (DRC) Plan is also underway. If your organization has two operators gaining DRC hours at the same time, these forms will need to accompany Level III and IV applications. We are always here to assist organizations and operators in completing the process so please reach out and we are happy to help.

Certification Renewals

Certification renewals for 2025 will start on July 1, 2025. There is no need to wait until December 31, 2025 to apply. Once your required training has been approved and you have ensured your work experience is up-to-date, you can submit your application.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to waterandwastewateroperatorcert@gov.ab.ca or visit <https://www.alberta.ca/water-wastewater-operator-certification>.

Math Corner



David Noack

QUESTION:

Math Corner is an effort to improve an operators technical skills. Your answer(s) should be correct and match those of co-workers.

Water flows from a community pump house into a distribution system at an average rate of 40 m³ per day. Based on user meter readings the town office is able to bill for only 950 m³ during the month of April.

What is the percentage of water lost in this system?

ANSWER:

40 m³ / day x 30 days = 1200 m³ / month
so the water loss is: 1200 m³ - 950 m³ = 250 m³
To calculate the percentage, we use the formula:
$$\frac{\text{Loss}}{\text{Flow}} \times 100 = \% \text{ Lost}$$
$$\frac{250 \times 100}{1200} = 20.83 \text{ or } 21\%$$

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 2025

Management and Supervision - in Calgary

May 5-7, 2025 - Cost \$630 (\$530 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Water Well Operation and Maintenance - in Edmonton

May 5 & 6, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Emerging Options for W&WW Disinfection - in Edmonton

May 7, 2025 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

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

May 8, 2025 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

Math & Support Systems for Operators - in Calgary

May 8 & 9, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

NEW One Water Approach: Integrated Solutions for Sustainable Water Management - in Edmonton

May 15, 2025 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

NEW Advanced Wastewater Treatment for Sustainable Urban Water Cycles - in Edmonton

May 16, 2025 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

Hydrant Flow Testing - Edmonton

May 23, 2025 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

Pumps & Blowers - in Edmonton

May 26 & 27, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Water Quality Sampling & Testing - in Calgary

May 26, 2025 - 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 X, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube



Save the Date

June 20, 2025

Annual Golf Tournament

Cougar Creek Golf Resort
West of Edmonton, AB

October 28 - 31, 2025

Water Week Conference

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Edmonton, AB

March 9 - 13, 2026

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

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Operators Association

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