

# ALBERTA UTILITY OPERATOR

## Fall 2025

Issue #57



### WATER WEEK CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 2025

Join us for the 2025 Water Week Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in West Edmonton. Delegates will have access to technical sessions, trade show and social opportunities!



### Conference Features:

- Six Pre-Conference Workshops
- 30+ Technical Sessions
- Trade Show with 99 Exhibitors
- Pub Night Networking Event
- Rec Room Networking Event
- Half-Day Friday Presentation



Thank you to our Principal Conference Partner!



REGISTER ONLINE - [AWWOA.CA](http://AWWOA.CA) | For more details, visit page 2.



### In This Issue

Water Week Conference.....	1
Message from the Chair.....	2
Math Corner.....	2
Conference Information.....	3
The Old Operator.....	4
Charitable Donations.....	4
Golf Tournament.....	5
New Training Opportunities.....	6
Training Bursaries.....	6
Alberta Environment Update.....	7
Upcoming Training.....	8

**DEDICATED  
TO THE  
ESSENTIALS**

# Special Announcements

## Message from the Chair



*Nathan Vis*

First and foremost, thank you to our Past Chair, Chris Huston. You have proven to be a pillar of support for the AWWOA and I'm comfortable knowing if I have any unanswered questions (or a plate of dessert) you are able to assist.

Following the success of the AWWOA 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Operators Seminar, I'm honoured to act as Chair for an Association that can come together to accomplish such extraordinary things.

This past Seminar was a record-breaking year on many fronts, something that we're all very grateful for, but it also demonstrates something that can be achieved when we work together for the same goal! Not only did we have our largest Seminar turnout, but we also had an opportunity to give back to the Water School, a non-profit organization, donating over \$62,000 to help improve lives in Uganda with safe-drinking water projects.

A huge shout out to all the volunteers, delegates, sponsors, AWWOA staff, and the employers who allow their employees to grow professionally at these events. As a long-standing AWWOA member I can attest that AWWOA courses and events are an excellent opportunity for operators to learn and network among your peers.

My final words, be proud of what you do! You're an Alberta operator, backed by an Association that does it's best to provide the latest training and resources literally at your fingertips!

Please stay tuned in by checking the AWWOA website for course information and upcoming events. Hope to see you in October at Water Week.

*Nathan Vis, AWWOA Chair*



***Nathan Vis (left) presenting  
Chris Huston (right) with the  
Past Chair Award***



***Passing of the Gavel from  
Chris Huston (right) to  
Nathan Vis (left)***

## 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.*

A newly constructed transmission pipe is 30 cm in diameter and 47 km long.

How much water is needed for an initial fill?

### ANSWER:

$$\begin{aligned} V &= 0.785 \times D^2 \times L \\ V \text{ (m}^3\text{)} &= 0.785 \times 0.3 \text{ m} \times 0.3 \text{ m} \times 47\,000 \text{ m} \\ &= 3,320.55 \text{ m}^3 \\ \text{This could also be expressed as} \\ &3.32 \text{ ML or } 3,320,550 \text{ L} \end{aligned}$$



# Water Week Conference 2025

## Water Week Conference Information



You are invited to attend the 2025 Water Week Conference on October 28-31, 2025 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in West Edmonton! Take away key insights to apply to your municipality and gain meaningful connections with fellow operators and other industry representatives.

Earn 1.5 CEUs through **Pre-Conference Workshops, Technical Sessions** and the **Friday Workshop**. Engage with fellow operators and other industry professionals at the **Thursday Trade Show** and the **Pub Night** and **Rec Room** networking events.

**2025 Water Week Conference**

**October 28 - 31, 2025**

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel West Edmonton  
Edmonton, AB**

**DELEGATE REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

## Call for Presentations

As a certified operator in Alberta, you can earn one (1.0) CEU, secure a \$300 honorarium and receive complimentary registration for presenting at the upcoming 2025 Water Week Conference! Share your unique insights and experiences with fellow AWWOA members and operators.

***The deadline to apply is August 29, 2025. Visit [AWWOA.CA](https://www.awwoa.ca) to submit.***

### Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Information for the Conference:

Attending Wed., Thurs and Fri: 0.9 CEUs

Attending a Pre-Conference Workshop: 0.3 CEUs/Workshop  
(separate pre-registration required)

#### Registration:

Register online at [awwoa.ca](https://www.awwoa.ca)

NOTE: Conference registrations are accepted online until **October 23, 2025**. Anyone who has not been confirmed as registered by that date will need to register onsite for an additional \$50 fee.

### Cost Information:

**Full Conference Registration -** \$390 + GST  
AWWOA Members (Wednesday- Friday)

**Full Seminar Registration -** \$505 + GST  
Non-Members (Wednesday - Friday)

**Single Day Registration -** \$160 + GST  
(Wednesday, Thursday or Friday)

**Trade Show Only -** \$100 + GST  
(Thursday)

**Pre-Conference Workshop** \$145 + GST  
(Tuesday and/or Wednesday)

**DELEGATE REGISTRATION IS OPEN - [AWWOA.CA](https://www.awwoa.ca)**



## The Old Operator

### Enthusiasm is A Great Hill Climber



*Doug Thorson*

Sooner or later we all experience burnout. Our enthusiasm dries up and leaves us bewildered and frustrated. As hard as we try, we just can't find a way to become motivated. Our get up and go just got up and went. When we are burnt out sometimes we experience a poor opinion of ourselves. This can lead us to further anxiety. Nobody holds a good opinion

of an individual who has a low opinion of themselves. We need to find a way to reverse this situation.

Years ago, when there was not the dire need for food and greed didn't drive the economy, a farmer would leave a portion of his crop fallow. The soil was given a rest, nutrients could build up and the following year the soil was ready to yield a better crop, and so it is with people.

Sometimes when we get burned out, taking some time away from your job or project will leave you invigorated, and you will come back renewed and stronger. Once you are burned out coming back can be difficult. If you want to be enthusiastic, act enthusiastic, your inner enthusiasm will follow.

Edward Gibbon said, "We improve ourselves by victory over our self. There must be contests, and you must win." Deep down people do not wish to be worse, they really wish to become better, but they often do not know how.

A story is told of a young schoolteacher who was feeling worn out, her students constantly challenged her. The work had lost its meaning. She told the principal she didn't know how long she could continue. The principal suggested she take some time off. The principal told the young teacher her students had the best success rate, reluctantly the teacher agreed to take some time off.

On her way home she met a prior student, one of the most troubled students she had. The student told her he had earned his teaching certificate all because of her; "I owe all of this to you; you were the one person who never gave up on me." The young teacher walked back into the school and told the principal she wouldn't need any time off. Those few words were a mighty boost to her sagging morale.

Our real duty is always found running in the direction of our worthiest desires, determine your future now by taking hold of every opportunity, at least that's how I see it,

*Doug Thorson, The Old Operator*

## Charitable Donations Update

### Supporting The Water School

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Banff Seminar was a fantastic event, and guess what, our Association will turn 50 in 2026!

I once again wish to offer my gratitude for the unwavering support we receive from the supplier organizations, contractors, municipalities and of course the operations staff throughout the province!



*Bert E. Miller*

Our 2026 project is to extend the Tororo solar-powered borehole project another 4 km to bring clean, safe water to another 4,326 more people across four additional villages:

- Wakasiki: 600 people
- Pakidamba: 630 people
- Misasa A: 2,136 people
- Misasa B: 960 people

The investment is estimated to cost approximately \$25,000. I am confident we should reach this target through our fundraising efforts over the next year.

So, have a great summer, be smart, be safe and we hope to see you at Water Week at the end of October this year.

*Bert Miller Sr.*  
*Charitable Donations Chair*



# AWWOA 2025 Annual Golf Tournament

## 8th Annual Golf Tournament Recap

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Friday, June 20 at the Cougar Creek Golf resort. With over 170 members and suppliers participating, the day was a great success.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to our sponsors for their contributions!

## Our Winners!

### 2025 Golf Tournament Champions



**Mike Bureaud, Calvin Smallwood, Sean White, and Jay Banister**  
*presented by AWWOA Chair, Nathan Vis*

### 2025 Most Honest Golfers



**Doug Donovan, Christine Donovan, and Nathan Vis**

## SAVE THE DATE

**9th Annual AWWOA Golf Tournament**  
Pigeon Lake Golf Resort - Pigeon Lake, AB  
Monday, June 8, 2026  
*Registration will open Spring 2026.*



### 2025 Hole Game Winners

- **Men's Longest Drive** - Jon Arcand  
Sponsored by Sterling Industries
- **Women's Closest to the Pin** - Kerri-Jo Sanders  
Sponsored by Lambourne Environmental
- **Women's Longest Putt** - Jennifer Cannon  
Sponsored by Aquatech Diving & Marine Services
- **Hockey Putt** - Kevin Johnson  
Sponsored by Neptune Technology Group
- **Men's Longest Putt** - Blake Moore  
Sponsored by Associated Engineering
- **Women's Longest Drive** - Christine Donovan  
Sponsored by Ford Meter Box
- **Men's Closest to the Pin** - Chris Kolody  
Sponsored by Centrix Control Solutions
- **Ball in the Water** - Blair Benn  
Sponsored by PipeTech Rentals

## Thank you to our 2025 Sponsors!





# Training Opportunities

## New Training Opportunities

### One Water Approach: Integrated Solutions for Sustainable Water Management

October 8, 2025 - Calgary, AB - 0.6 CEUs

April 22, 2026 - Edmonton, AB - 0.6 CEUs

This one-day workshop will explore the One Water Approach, a strategy that promotes integrated water management by treating all water sources—freshwater, stormwater, wastewater, source water, and drinking water—as interconnected resources within a cohesive system.

### Operation and Maintenance for Membrane Systems in Water Treatment

May 20, 2026 - Edmonton, AB - 0.6 CEUs

Membrane systems are widely used in water treatment to separate contaminants from water using semipermeable membranes. This one-day course will provide operators with the basic understanding of the membrane process and how that applies in water treatment.

Visit [AWWOA.CA](https://www.awwoa.ca) to Register.

## AWWOA Training Bursaries

### Del Morrison Entrance Training Bursary

Did you know AWWOA offers a bursary to help kick start a career in the water/wastewater industry? Ten bursaries worth \$250.00 are offered each year. Students can use the bursary to assist with the the following courses:

- Entry Level Training
- Level I Certification Preparation
- Small Water Systems Operations
- Small Wastewater Systems Operations

### Outreach Training Bursary

With your AWWOA membership, you receive the benefit of being eligible for the Outreach Training Bursary! Five bursaries up to \$500.00 can be used towards any CEU accredited course. If you or your municipality's funds are limited, this can make your training more accessible.

Visit [AWWOA.CA](https://www.awwoa.ca) to Apply.



# Alberta Environment & Protected Areas Update

## Operator In Training (OIT)

Alberta-specific OIT Certification is now available. If you meet the criteria and wish to obtain an OIT Certificate, please e-mail EPA to request an application form. OIT is not mandatory and is not eligible for reciprocity.

- Completion of Approved Mandatory Training Course for Level I (minimum 1.2 CEUs)
- Grade 12 or equivalent
- Pass Level I Certification exam



*Christine Donovan  
and Tammy Elzinga*

## Waiting Period Between Exam Results

The waiting period between exams for re-writes has been reduced to 30 days. You are eligible to apply 30 days after an unsuccessful attempt. The exam approval will follow the same process as all certification exams.

## Direct Responsible Charge (DRC) Plan

DRC Plans are required for municipalities that require more than one operator obtaining DRC hours at the same time. There are two forms that must be completed. Forms are located on the EPA Operator Portal under Resources.

- The DRC Facility Plan must be filled out by the facility authorized approver (owner/representative)
- The DRC Operator form must be completed by each operator applying for Level III and IV
- Both forms must be uploaded into the operator's exam application

## Certificate Renewal Without Experience

Operators can renew and maintain their certification without experience with no limit on renewals as per the below requirements:

- CEU requirement has been met as per the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Guidelines
- Apply for renewal in the EPA Operator Portal and pay the renewal fee as per the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Guidelines

This change will be retroactive to certificates that have been inactive for three years or less. If the certificate became inactive in 2022, 2023 or 2024, the certificate can be reactivated, once the CEU requirement is met. A reactivation fee of \$130 will apply if you do not have an active certification. If you have an active certification, there will be no extra charges. Please send an e-mail once you have applied so that the fees can be reviewed.

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





# 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](http://AWWOA.CA)

## October 2025

### Effective Operation & Maintenance of WD & WWC Systems - in Edmonton

Oct 2, 2025 - Cost \$450 (\$350 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

### Advances in Water Meters - in Edmonton

Oct 3, 2025 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

### Level II Water Treatment Cert Prep - in Calgary

Oct 2 & 3, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.5 CEU's

### Level I Certification Preparation - in Edmonton

Oct 6 & 7, 2025 (Part A) and Oct 20 & 21, 2025 (Part B)

- Cost \$550 (\$650 Non-members) - 5.0 CEU's

### Level I Certification Preparation - in Calgary

Oct 6 & 7, 2025 (Part A) and Oct 20 & 21, 2025 (Part B)

- Cost \$550 (\$650 Non-members) - 5.0 CEU's

### Technical Drawings Review for Operators - in Edmonton

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

### **\*NEW\*** One Water Approach: Integrated Solutions for Sustainable Water Management - in Calgary

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

### Responding to Water Main Breaks - Edmonton

October 9 & 10, 2025 - Cost \$500 (\$600 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

### Small Water Systems Operations - in Calgary

October 14, 2025 - Cost \$300 (\$400 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

### Small Wastewater Systems Operations - in Calgary

October 15, 2025 - Cost \$300 (\$400 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

### Level II Water Distribution Cert Prep - Edmonton

October 14 & 15, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

### Level II Wastewater Collection Cert Prep - in Edmonton

October 16 & 17, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

### Level II Wastewater Treatment Cert Prep - in Calgary

October 16 & 17, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.5 CEU's

### EXCEL for Operators - in Edmonton

October 22 & 23, 2025 - Cost \$490 (\$590 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs



## Save the Date

**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

**June 8, 2026**

### Annual Golf Tournament

Black Bull Golf Resort  
Pigeon Lake, 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

## Connect With AWWOA

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

Email: [info@awwoa.ca](mailto:info@awwoa.ca) Website: [awwoa.ca](http://awwoa.ca)

Visit us on X, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube

