

ALBERTA UTILITY OPERATOR

Winter 2025

Issue #55



The 50th Annual Operators Seminar

March 10-14, 2025, Banff, Alberta



Join us as we celebrate our very special 50th Annual Operators Seminar. Participate in technical presentations, connect at networking events and engage with industry reps at the trade show. The event has the potential to sell out, so register today!

For more details, visit pages 2-4.

2024 Water Week Conference

Thank You!

Thank you to our delegates, speakers, sponsors and suppliers for joining us at the 2024 Water Week Conference. Your support makes the difference!



In This Issue

- Operators Seminar.....1
- Thank You!.....1
- Pre-Seminar Workshops.....2&3
- Registration Information.....3
- Special Presentations.....4
- Annual General Meeting.....4
- Networking Events.....4&5
- Math Corner.....5
- Charitable Donations.....6
- The Old Operator.....6
- Alberta Environment Update ...7
- Upcoming Training.....8
- Save the Date.....8

DEDICATED TO THE ESSENTIALS

Pre-Seminar Workshop Information

Workshop #1 - Water Closet to Water Body - A Guide to Aging Wastewater Facilities

Presented by: Sarah Bruce, Rudy Chan, Daniel du Toit and Kia Barrow, Associated Engineering

Monday March 10, 2025 - 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Many communities have failing wastewater treatment infrastructure and are struggling to use their limited funds as effectively as possible. In this workshop, the wastewater treatment process will be examined for both mechanical wastewater facilities and lagoons. This will include receiving water body studies, upgrades to mechanical WWTPs, upgrades to lagoons and operational considerations.

Workshop #2 - Reservoir Construction - From Concept to Commissioning

Presented by: Brian Brost, City of St. Albert; and Jason Kopan, ISL Engineering and Land Services

Monday March 10, 2025 - 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In this workshop, delegates will be guided through reservoir and pump station construction through the example of the City of St. Albert Sturgeon Reservoir. All phases, including capital planning, engineering design, procurement, and construction to commissioning will be discussed. Many of the opportunities, challenges and solutions in moving forward with integrated project delivery will also be shared.

Workshop #3 - Optimizing Wastewater Biology with Bioaugmentation: The Truth about Bacterial and Enzyme Supplements

Presented by: Ray Menard, ACC Water Solutions

Monday March 10, 2025 - 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

In the evolving field of wastewater treatment, bioaugmentation has emerged as a promising strategy to enhance the biological processes critical to maintaining efficient and effective operations. This presentation aims to provide wastewater operators with a thorough understanding of bioaugmentation, focusing on the application and impact of bacterial and enzyme supplements.

Workshop #4 - Goldfish Invasion: Round 2 Knock-Out Punch

Presented by: Monique Johnson and Logan Gebbink, Town of Sylvan Lake

Monday March 10, 2025 - 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Sylvan Lake's storm pond had a significant goldfish infestation, compelling the dewatering and manual removal of goldfish due to the unavailability of approved chemical solutions like rotenone. This presentation will shed light on the hurdles faced during manual removal efforts and share challenges that municipalities, constrained by chemical availability, are encountering.

Workshop #5 - Embedded Acoustic Leak Detection - Resolving Water Loss & Preventing Main Breaks

Presented by: Keesha Dorosz and Oleks Rudkovsky, Kamstrup Water Metering

Tuesday March 11, 2025 - 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

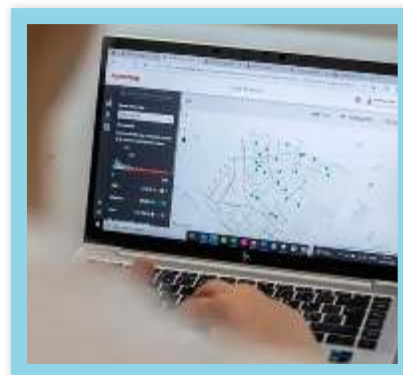
Current methods are failing short in addressing non-water revenue (NRW) reduction in Canada, where water conservation, operational efficiency, and accurate billing are critical priorities. This session will highlight success stories from real-world utilities that have embraced Acoustic Leak Detection (ALD) technology to monitor and alert to distribution side leakage with precision.

Workshop #6 - Asset Management for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Presented by: David Speed and Nelson Marsh, BioMaxx Environmental

Tuesday March 11, 2025 - 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In this workshop, Asset Management for water infrastructure will be discussed, including practical and cost-effective techniques for gathering field data. Topics will include asset location, flow monitoring, corrosion monitoring and condition assessments. Detailed case studies will also be shared, showcasing best practices based on work with more than 150 municipalities across Canada.



****PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** - NO ONSITE REGISTRATION IS ACCEPTED**

Pre-Seminar Workshop Information Continued

The Banff Centre - Kinnear Centre Building



For 2025, Pre-Seminar Workshops are moving! On Monday and Tuesday of the Annual Operators Seminar, workshops will now be hosted at **The Banff Centre - Kinnear Centre Building**.

If registered to attend a workshop, it is strongly recommended to take the free shuttle bus to and from the Banff Park Lodge as parking is extremely limited on-site at the new venue. If you are arriving on your own, please ensure you have extra time to travel and familiarize yourself with the new location. Late arrival will result in ineligibility for workshop CEUs.

Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity - Kinnear Centre
107 Tunnel Mountain Dr., Banff, AB T1L 1H5

Important Details

- **Shuttle Bus** - AWWOA is running a complimentary bus service to and from the workshops from the Banff Park Lodge. Please visit AWWOA.CA to fill out the Pre-Seminar Shuttle Bus Sign Up Form and reserve your spot(s). It is strongly recommended to take the shuttle.
- **Onsite Parking** - Parking at the venue is extremely limited and registrants are highly encouraged to take the shuttle bus. If choosing to drive, registrants are responsible to follow all parking rules on-site. Failing to do so could result in a ticket or tow at your own expense.
- **Monday Workshop Lunch** - Lunch will be provided for anyone attending both the morning and afternoon sessions on Monday only.

Seminar Registration Information

Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Information for Operators Seminar:

Attending Wed. and Thurs:	0.9 CEUs
Attending a Pre-Seminar Workshop: (separate pre-registration required)	0.3 CEUs
Attending Friday Technical Session:	0.3 CEUs

*NOTE: You must attend to receive CEUs

Registration:

Register online at awwoa.ca

NOTE: Seminar registrations will be accepted online until **March 5, 2025 (unless sold out)**. Anyone who has not been confirmed as registered by March 5 will need to register onsite for an additional \$50 fee (if on-site registration is available).

Cost:

Full Seminar Registration - AWWOA Members (Monday - Friday)	\$305 + GST
Full Seminar Registration - Non-Members (Monday - Friday)	\$425 + GST
Single Day Registration - (Wednesday or Thursday)	\$160 + GST
Trade Show Only - (One Day)	\$100 + GST
Banquet Ticket (includ. 2 bev tix) -	\$75 + GST
Pre-Seminar Workshop - (Monday and Tuesday)	\$140 + GST

Seminar Updates

Wednesday Opening, March 12, 2025

Talking to Canadians - Real Stories from Canada's Most Beloved Comic

Rick Mercer



Rick Mercer chronicles, satirizes, and ultimately celebrates all that is great about this country. A national #1 best selling author and the Governor General's Award-winner for Lifetime Artistic Achievement, Mercer is our most popular comic: a political satirist who knows exactly what matters to regular Canadians and what makes them laugh.

For the first time ever, Rick tells the story of his road to stardom, bringing his best selling memoir *Talking to Canadians* to life on stage and sharing unforgettable stories from his youth, his days as an aspiring actor, and his years as a hilarious national treasure.

Friday Workshop, March 14, 2025

Bearsaw South Feedermain Failure and Return to Service

Patrick Van den Eynden, Brad Forsyth, Dana Shirley, Toby Weickert and Sclater Paterson, City of Calgary



On June 5, 2024, the City of Calgary experienced a catastrophic feedermain break on a 1950 mm transmission line. The line is Calgary's largest and most critical portion of the feedermain network. An emergency alert was sent on June 6, water restrictions were put in place and strategies were implemented to sustain a summer of repairs.

This session will highlight the impacts of the failure and return to service including assessment of the damage, and communication and actions taken by Water Services. They will also discuss the impacts on surrounding water and wastewater systems, system stabilization, and repair.

Annual General Meeting

AWWOA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 during the Annual Operators Seminar at the Banff Park Lodge.

The following items will be discussed: AWWOA election results, finance, audit review and yearly updates; door prizes; and find the hydrant draw prizes.

Annual General Meeting
March 12, 2025 - 3:45 p.m.
Banff Park Lodge, Main Ballroom



Seminar Networking Events

Women of Water (WOW)

Date: March 11, 2025 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Elk & Oarsman, 119 Banff Ave, Banff, AB

Pub Night

sponsored by ACC Water Solutions and Klearwater
Equipment & Technologies

Date: March 11, 2025 - 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Location: Elk & Oarsman, 119 Banff Ave, Banff, AB

Casino Night

sponsored by Wolseley Waterworks

Date: March 12, 2025 - 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Location: Banff Park Lodge, 222 Lynx Street, Banff, AB

Banquet + Entertainment

Date: March 13, 2025 - 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Location: Banff Park Lodge, 222 Lynx Street, Banff, AB

Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at AWWOA.CA.

Networking Events

Calgary Wranglers Networking Event

Join us for a new networking event this March! Chat with local operators and watch as the Coachella Valley Firebirds take on the Calgary Wranglers at the Scotiabank Saddledome in Calgary.

Your registration includes a hockey game ticket plus food and drink. AWWOA will be covering the costs of the event and in exchange we are asking for a \$10.00 donation towards the WaterSchool. The event is open to All AWWOA members plus one additional non-member.

Event Details

Coachella Valley Firebirds vs Calgary Wranglers

Friday, March 21, 2025

6:00 p.m. Networking 7:00 p.m. Game Start

Scotiabank Saddledome, Calgary, AB

REGISTER ONLINE - AWWOA.CA



8th Annual Golf Tournament

Save the date for AWWOA's upcoming Annual Golf Tournament! The tournament will be held on Friday, June 20, 2025 at the Cougar Creek Golf Resort, west of Edmonton. Registration will open spring 2025.

Event Details

8th Annual Golf Tournament

Friday, June 20, 2025

Morning Shot Gun Start

Cougar Creek Golf Resort - West of Edmonton, AB



The Math Corner



David Noack

WINTER 2025

Math Corner is an effort to improve an operator's technical skills. Your answer should be correct and match co-workers.

QUESTION:

Water flows through a rectangular channel that is 70 cm wide at a rate of 36.3 MLD. Calculate the height of the water in the channel if the velocity has been 2 m/sec.

ANSWER:

The green formula sheet tells us $Flow = Velocity \times Area$

The flow needs to be converted from MLD to m^3/sec so we multiply by 1000 to convert to m^3 and divide by 86,400 ($60 \times 60 \times 24$) to convert to seconds.

$$36.3 \text{ MLD} \times 1000 = 36,300 \text{ m}^3 = 0.42 \text{ m}^3$$

$$86,400 \text{ sec}$$

Then manipulate the formula to:

$$Area = Flow = 0.42 \text{ m}^3/sec = 2 \text{ m/sec} \times Area$$

$$Area = H \times W$$

$$so H = Area = \frac{W}{0.21 \text{ m}^2} = 0.3 \text{ m or } 30 \text{ cm}$$



The Old Operator

The Monkey, The Lion, and You



Doug Thorson

Sooner or later in your life you will be confronted with a situation that appears overwhelming. Sometimes these situations seem to be so hopeless you wish you were someone else, or that you could just disappear.

How many times have you put on a facade or left the real you behind, pretending you were

someone else just so that wretched problem would not rear its ugly head again?

A story is told of a man who was down and out on his luck, unable to secure a job. This man got so down-hearted he was willing to do any job. One day this man saw an advertisement for a job at the local zoo, feeding the animals. After some thought, he decided to apply for the job.

After a brief interview the man got the job. As it was explained to him by the zoo-keeper, the ape had died, and he was to wear an ape suit and pretend to move around the cage with the rest of the monkeys. As time went on the man started interacting with the audience taking food, doing tricks and making all sorts of sounds. One day he made a long jump on a rope swinging overtop of the lions cage. The rope broke and the man fell into the cage.

He started screaming and yelling as the lions approached him. As the big male lion pushed his way up to the screaming monkey he said, "Shut up you idiot, or we will all lose our jobs."

In life, too many of us pretend to be who we are not in hopes the issues of life can be avoided and will not have to be dealt with. This attitude is as useful as shuffling deck chairs on the Titanic.

Dealing with the issues of life will strengthen our character, making the next time easier.

When you pretend too much you can get so comfortable you forget who the real you is, at least that's how I see it,

*The Old Operator,
Doug Thorson*

Charitable Donations Update

Supporting The Water School

I would like to once again thank you folks for your continued generosity over the past year. I also hope that you had fun at events and are taking full advantage of the training that AWWOA offers.



Bert E. Miller

If you hadn't realized it yet, we have a couple of special occasions approaching. March 2025 in Banff will be the 50th anniversary of the Seminar, and if that weren't enough . . . 2026 will be the 50th anniversary of the AWWOA!

I hope to see you wandering around the silent auction rooms and bidding on items, as well as buying 50/50 tickets. The Water School will once again be matching your donations dollar for dollar!

Our most recent project (2024) was funding the expansion of a motorized borehole in Uganda. The extension has covered a distance of 4.5 kms with 6 public standpipes in 6 villages and a yard connection at Mbula Primary School.

Our new collaboration with the Water School is to further extend the distribution system. This new expansion is at Ndima, in the Nebbi District, an area of the West Nile region, bordering Congo. This area is water scarce and people live in poverty.

The extension at Ndima will require 7 kms of piping and will provide an estimated 2,560 people in 7 villages with virtually unlimited access to clean water, close to their homes. This extension will also provide water to the local primary school.

With AWWOA contributing 50% of the budget, this can be done in 2025!

Thanks again for all the support. We can make a difference!

*Bert Miller Sr.
Charitable Donations Chair*

Alberta Environment & Protected Areas Update

Happy New Year from the Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Team! As we prepare for another busy year, there are a few changes to make you aware of. In early 2025, an updated version of the Certification Guidelines will be posted on the Environment and Protected Areas website.

Coming in 2025

- Alberta Operator in Training.
- Challenging certification exam applications through Alberta Environment and Protected Areas certification.
- A \$150 reciprocity fee will apply to all new applications (certified operators from another province).
- No need to wait 1 year in between writing exams. This is being reduced to 4 months in between levels. Certification requirements as per the Guidelines still apply.
- A DRC plan will be required for municipalities with more than one operator receiving DRC hours at the same time. Operator and facility plans will be available in 2025 on the certification website.



*Christine Donovan
and Tammy Elzinga*

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

NAIT Industry Practicum 2025



Are you planning to hire staff for the upcoming May-August 2025 season or looking to fill future vacancies within your organization? Hire a W&WW Student!

NAIT's W&WW Technician students are required to obtain a minimum of 600 hours of work experience in one or more of the disciplines in order to complete their Certificate. Approximately 70 students will be seeking employment to complete the industry practicum portion of the program. With your support, we hope to provide our students with a variety of employment opportunities on January 31, 2025.

If you are interested in participating, please contact:

Darren Demchuk, Program Chair

P: 780-471-7081 E: wwwpracticum@nait.ca

SAIT Industry Practicum 2025



SAIT's Water and Wastewater Treatment Operations students are required to complete a 600 hour work practicum in order to complete their certificate program. SAIT's WWTO students are also trained and prepared to write the 4th Class Power Engineering exams. With your support, we hope to offer our students a variety of practicum opportunities for spring/summer 2025.

If your organization is interested in hiring a student, please contact:

Camille Scheibner, Practicum Coordinator

P: 403-232-2880 E: camille.scheibner@sait.ca

Upcoming Training

Check out these upcoming training opportunities:

Register online at: AWWOA.CA

February - March 2025

Biological Nutrient Removal - in Calgary

February 10 & 11, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Process Control: Intermediate - in Edmonton

February 13 & 14, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Dissolved Air Flotation - in Calgary

February 13 & 14, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Level III/IV Water Distribution Certification Preparation - in Edmonton

February 18 & 19, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Level III/IV Wastewater Collection Certification Preparation - in Edmonton

February 20 & 21, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Source Control - in Edmonton

February 24 & 25, 2025 - \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Responding to Water Main Breaks - in Calgary

February 25 & 26, 2025 - Cost \$500 (\$600 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Risk Management - in Edmonton

February 27 & 28, 2025 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

Flowmeter Fundamentals - in Edmonton

March 26, 2025 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

NEW Operation and Maintenance for Membrane Systems in Water Treatment - in Edmonton

March 28, 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

March 10-14, 2025

Annual Operators Seminar

Banff Park Lodge

Banff, AB

June 20, 2025

Annual Golf Tournament

Cougar Creek Golf Resort

West of Edmonton, AB

October 28-31, 2025

Water Week Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel

Edmonton, 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!

The following courses are available for online study:

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

PM 41796530

Alberta Water & Wastewater
Operators Association

11318 119 St NW
Edmonton, AB T5G 2X4