

# ALBERTA UTILITY OPERATOR

## Spring 2022

Issue #47



### Annual Golf Tournament



AWWOA is excited to host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament this September in Okotoks. We hope to see you there!

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

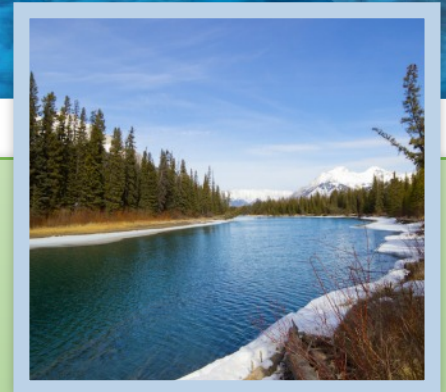
### 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Operators Seminar

#### Thank You!

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**

# AWWOA Golf Tournament



## 5th Annual Golf Tournament



Join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament at the D'Arcy Ranch Golf Club!  
Come out for a full day of golfing, prizes and food in Okotoks.

### Event Details

**Monday, September 12, 2022**  
**Shot Gun Start: 1:00 pm**

**Tournament Fee:** \$150.00+GST includes cart, green fees, lunch and celebration BBQ with prizes! Membership is not required to register.

\*Golfers can register in teams of up to 4 players at once. All teams will be arranged based upon registration group bookings and skill levels.

**REGISTER ONLINE - [AWWOA.CA](http://AWWOA.CA)**



## 4th Annual Golf Tournament Highlights

Gibbons, AB - 2021



## Math Corner



David Noack

### QUESTION:

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

The influent of a clarifier has 220 mg/L solids loading and the effluent measures 31 mg/L.

Using the green formula sheet, calculate the solids removal efficiency (express as a percent) of the clarifier.

### ANSWER:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Removal, \%} &= \frac{(In - Out)}{In} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{(220 - 31)}{220} \times 100 \\ &= 85.9\% \end{aligned}$$

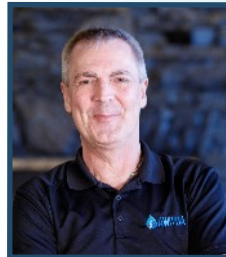
# AWWOA Election Results

## Meet Your New Executive

In the 2022 election, four Directors were elected. These are your new Directors.



**EVELYN MELLOTT**  
Elected by Acclamation  
Director  
Communities 5,000 & Under  
Aspen Regional Water Services  
Commission



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



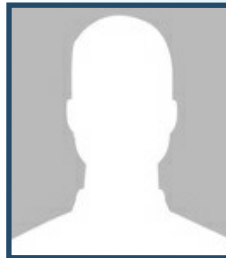
**BERT E. MILLER**  
Elected by Acclamation  
Director  
Retired



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



**2022/23 Chair**  
**SANDRA KOTCH**  
City of Calgary



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

## 2022-23 AWWOA Executive Board and Staff



**Pictured top left to right:**  
Dan Rites, Daris Podgurski,  
Theo Hohner, Darrin Wenzel,  
Paresh Dhariya, Dennis  
Tomuschat, Joe Rahn

**Pictured bottom left to right:**  
Mike Bureau, Erin Ciezki,  
Bert J. Miller, Jenna Horning,  
Chris Huston, Bert E. Miller,  
Evelyn Mellott, Sandra Kotch,  
Kirstin Mihaychuk

**Not pictured:** Don Erechuk

# 2022 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

Aaron Clarke	David McMahan	Matthew Belcastro
Abu Sayeed Chowdhury	Diego Espinosa	Megan Pudlowski
Alan Yoshida	Dion Hynes	Michael Greenwood
Alvin Axworthy	Dustin Lerner	Mike Hughes
Andy Degraw	Dylan Scaper	Nathan Vis
Asmir Bekric	Graeme Mackenzie	Nick Engwer
Barry Carney	Greg Skotheim	Oleksandr Gutartsev
Ben Alain	Guiyu (Grace) Hao	Paul Dyck
Bill Graff	Hassan Said	Rodney Bushey
Bill MacDonald	Holly Hanson	Roger Perley
Bob Salmon	Jared Smith	Ronald Gullickson
Brad Vall	Jarrett McAuley	Shane Willier
Brad Hodge	Jason Madge	Shane Foster
Breanna Haskill	Jason Loosemore	Simon Moss
Brent Olesen	Jay Lowe	Takshay Patel
Carl Charlong	Kathy Jonzon	Terry Allan
Colin Campbell	Kevin Hansen	Tim Kohut
Colin Stebner	Kevin Dube	Tim Tamaki
Dagny Sanche	Kevin Fillmore	Tom Kwan
Darrell Claydon	Kevin Lyle	Trevor Gaalaas
Darren Thundercloud	Loren Croken	Vining Benoit
David Crichton	Mark Kropf	Wade Housenga
		Will Waldick

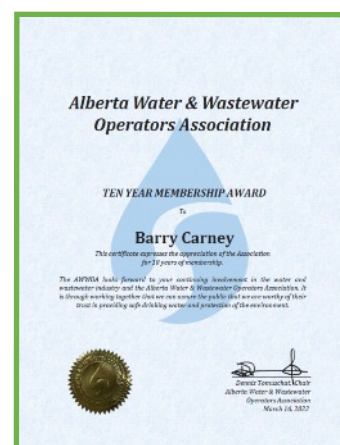
### 20 Year Awards 30 Year Awards

*James Weldon*  
*Bert Pruneau*  
*Randall Wolf Tail*  
*Duncan Smith*  
*Ken Sperling*  
*Jason Lindbeck*  
*Brett MacDonald*  
*Stewart Payne*  
*Fred Wiebe*  
*Michael Woods*  
*Dale Green*  
*Dave Harrison*  
*Daniel Rites*  
*Dave Snider*  
*Kevin Wilson*  
*Kelly Mahar*  
*Jolee Gillies*  
*Rob Humeny*  
*William Adams*  
*Darrin Wenzel*  
*Tammy Lockhart*  
*Philip Hoyle*  
*Rick Wall*

**Brad Tourangeau**  
**Darren Diprose**  
**Gordon Hausler**  
**Ron Grenier**

### 40 Year Awards

**Alan Kendrick**  
**Alan Saunders**  
**John MacDonald**  
**Doug Thorson**



# 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 Chris Flaherty from the Town of Taber for receiving the 2021 Gerald Samuel Operator of the Year Award!

*"Above his work, Chris exemplifies the hallmarks of a true leader. The team within the Town's treatment services is close-knit thanks to Chris' professionalism and mentorship. We have numerous young operators who he has mentored to such a degree that we have no doubt the next generation of Town operators will use Chris' example to further the reputation of the Operator profession in our community and beyond"* - Town of Taber

2021 Gerald Samuel Operator of the Year Award Recipient, Chris Flaherty, Town of Taber (pictured left)

### Steve Blonsky Life Member Award

DARRELL NELSON



### Ron Bayne Service Award

MIKE BUREAUD



### AWWOA'S NAIT Achievement Award

KALLEN BILLAR - WINTER INTAKE



### Steve Blonsky Life Member Award

JIM HEPLER

### AWWOA'S NAIT Achievement Award

TRACEY SHARKIE - FALL INTAKE



## The Old Operator

### WHAT ABOUT THE MAIN EVENT?



Doug Thorson

There seems to be a myriad of things that cause us lose focus, such as boredom, fatigue, hunger, pain, tiredness, and a short attention span. Believe it or not, we can over think a problem, making it far more difficult than it really is. Losing focus seems to have us corralled between the two extremes of boredom and over thinking.

A story is told of a hard-working young farm boy, who rarely got into town. After all, the family was poor and there were only two reasons to leave the homestead, either for essentials or church. As you can imagine, outside of his chores the only things the boy knew were either from newspapers, schoolbooks or word of mouth. He had little life experience. One day he came running home from school. His pals were going to the circus in town in two weeks. He asked his father if he could go. The father agreed to let the boy go, but the family was poor, and the dad told his son he would have to earn the fifty cents admission himself.

The young lad earned the fifty cents and on the big day went running to town. There was a great parade of clowns, circus wagons, animals and people all dressed up. When the tumbling clowns passed by, the young lad put his fifty cents into the clown's hand. The young boy ran home so excited to tell his father all the wonderful things he had seen. The father picked his son up into his arms explaining to him he saw only the parade before the circus, and it was free. In his excitement he missed the circus.

So excited to go to the circus, the parade took away the young boy's focus. He missed the main event. I know we have all missed the main event at one time or another. What can we do to improve our focus? I know comic relief can help, maybe a particular hobby or music. If we can eliminate distractions, it will help us to focus on the moment. The most productive people in the world get one thing done at a time. We have a bad habit of messing up our lives with imagined, menial and unimportant things, only to waste time and diminish the fullness of our life.

We see the parade but miss the main event. At least that's how I see it, *The Old Operator*.

## Charitable Donations Update

### Supporting The Water School

For those of you that don't know me, my name is Bert E. Miller. I served on the Board back in the 90's and have now returned to the Executive in the position of Charitable Donations Chair.



Bert E. Miller

We would like to thank our members, suppliers, and guests for your attendance at the Annual Operators Seminar. After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, it was delightful to see so many familiar faces. Thank you to everyone who participated in the charitable donation activities, from the 50/50, mulligan and raffle draws at the 2021 Golf Tournament in September to the Seminar 50/50 draws, the guess jar and silent auction. Your participation makes our charitable donations successful. The total amount of donations received in 2022 amounted to **\$23,509**. Thank you everyone!

In 2022, the AWWOA has selected two Water School projects in Uganda. The first is the Busabira Primary School in the Kayunga District with 703 children and teachers. These children and teachers suffer from typhoid, diarrhea, worms and stomach aches. One can only imagine how difficult it must be to function with such issues. In Uganda, 33 children die daily from diarrhea alone. The Water School will not only provide clean safe drinking water, but tippy taps for hand washing, rainwater collection, teaching in health and sanitation and how to build safe latrines. When you consider every child can have all the bottled water they can carry, the number of people who benefit is tripled.

The second project chosen is to partner with other charitable donation groups to construct a solar powered bore hole. The clean safe drinking water will supply a minimum of three user communities as well as three new tap stands. I honour all of you who have donated to our Water School projects. As Calvin Coolidge said, "No person was ever honoured for what they received, honour has been the reward for those who give."

Enjoy your summer, we will see you soon.

Best Regards,  
Bert E. Miller, Charitable Donations Chair  
Doug Thorson, Charitable Donations Committee Member

# Alberta Environment & Parks Update

## Important Renewal Information

- Renewal window opens July 1, 2022. A reminder email will be sent on June 30, 2022 for Operators certificates expiring on December 31, 2022.
- Please make sure to check what courses you are selecting to use for your renewal. Click the *Generate Report* button (in the Training tab) to help you visualize your renewal period (20/21/22).
- Fee of \$130.00 to be paid through your account in Compliance 365 (regardless of number of disciplines) - information on how to submit your fee will be outlined in Compliance 365 (anticipate using a credit card for payment).
- If you do not renew by December 31, 2022, you will be reactivating and the fee will be \$130.00/discipline that is non-refundable so please make sure to renew on time.
- For renewals starting December 31, 2022, discipline specific training will be required – examples will be posted under the Resource tab on Compliance 365 for review and consideration.



## Exams

Exam sessions occur every two months, and are 30 days in length in which Operators have the flexibility to schedule their exam any day within that window  
\*\*depending on testing enter dates available.

If you miss the 30-day window once approved, you will be marked Absent and will need to apply for a Re-Examination using your Account in Compliance when ready to do so.

## Reminders

- Please make sure your supervisor is correct on your profile before you apply for a certification exam.
- Submit all training and wait for it to be approved prior to submitting your renewal request.
- To avoid delays, once you submit your renewal or exam please inform your supervisor as he/she will have to log into their account and approve.

## 2022 Water Week Conference



**DATE: NOVEMBER 7-9, 2022**

**LOCATION: DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL - EDMONTON, AB**

We are looking forward to returning to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Edmonton for the 2022 Water Week Conference! Delegates will have access to technical sessions, trade show and fun networking events. The conference offers 0.9 CEUs. Attendees can also register for one of three pre-conference workshops for an additional 0.3 CEUs.

- Nov 7 - pre-conference workshops, delegate lunch, and technical presentations
- Nov 8 - trade show with lunch and technical presentations
- Nov 9 - half-day technical presentations

*Stay tuned to [AWWOA.CA](http://AWWOA.CA) for full information and registration details.*

# 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)

## May - June 2022

### Wastewater Collection Systems - in Edmonton

May 5 & 6, 2022 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

### Emerging Options for W & WW Disinfection - in Calgary

May 11, 2022 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

### Climate Change Adaptation Options - in Calgary

May 12 & 13, 2022 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

### Water Well Operation and Maintenance - in Edmonton

May 16 & 17, 2012 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

### Chlorination Workshop- in Red Deer

May 18-20, 2022 - Cost \$550 (\$650 Non-members) - 2.0 CEU's

### Management & Supervision for Operators - in Calgary

May 25-27, 2022 - Cost \$530 (\$630 Non-members) - 2.0 CEU's

### Water Quality Sampling & Testing - in Calgary

May 30, 2022 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

### Water Reuse - Challenges & Opportunities - in Calgary

May 31, 2022 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEU's

### Pumps, Motors and Electrics - in Edmonton

June 6 & 7, 2022 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

### Hydrant Maintenance & Operation - in Calgary

June 15 & 16, 2022 - Cost \$500 (\$600 Non-members) - 1.2 CEU's

### Hydrant Flow Testing - in Calgary

June 17, 2022 - 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](mailto:info@awwoa.ca) Website: [awwoa.ca](http://awwoa.ca)

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



## Save the Date

### September 12, 2022

#### Annual Golf Tournament

D'Arcy Ranch Golf Club  
Okotoks, AB

### September 13-16, 2022

#### WCW22

Hyatt Regency  
Calgary, AB

### November 7-9, 2022

#### Water Week Conference

Double Tree 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!

- 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

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