

ALBERTA UTILITY OPERATOR

Fall 2023

Issue #51



WATER WEEK CONFERENCE - November 2023

Join us for the 2023 Water Week Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in West Edmonton. Delegates will have access to education and networking opportunities!



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Conference Features:

- Three Pre-Conference Workshops
- 30+ Technical Presentations
- Trade Show with 90+ exhibitors
- Pub Night Networking Event
- Fun Money Casino Night
- Half-Day Friday Presentation



Thank you to our Principal Conference Partner!



REGISTER ONLINE - AWWOA.CA | For more details check out page 3.

**DEDICATED
TO THE
ESSENTIALS**

Special Announcements

Message from the Chair



Mike Bureaud

My time on the AWWOA Executive Board began back in 2016 and after serving as Training Chair and Vice Chair, the Board Chair position has finally caught up with me. Thanks to our Past Chair Sandra Kotch and AWWOA Executive Director, Dan Rites for their support and encouragement in taking on the role. The diverse group of Board members from across the province has also made this an interesting and enlightening experience.

I wanted to say thank you to everyone who came out to the Annual Operators Seminar this past March. It was a full week of opportunities to see familiar faces and make new connections.

More than 500 attendees joined us, making it our highest attendance since 2019. Our support from sponsors and presenters has also continued to be incredible. We are immensely grateful for your continued support and trust in this great event.

From one event to the next, the Annual Golf Tournament was all set to go for Monday, June 19. Unfortunately, the weather had other plans, leading us to postpone the event. Thank you to everyone for their patience as we worked on a new date and to those who will be coming out on September 1, 2023. If you missed out and are interested in golfing, a few spots are now available. You can register online at AWWOA.CA.

For the first time since 2017, we also recently undertook a member survey. Your answers give us greater insight into our membership and what types of programs and services you are looking for. Thank you to everyone who participated! The full results can be viewed on our website.

Highlights from the survey include:

- ✓ 35% of members are employed in municipalities serving a population under 5,000
- ✓ 70% of members prefer structured classroom/workshop training
- ✓ Nearly 50% of members prefer a length of 2 days for classroom style training

As you continue to serve your communities, I hope you find some time to rest and relax with friends and family. Get out there and enjoy the environment you work so hard to protect!

Mike Bureaud, AWWOA Chair



Passing of the Gavel from Sandra Kotch (right) to Mike Bureaud (left)

Math Corner



David Noack

QUESTION:

An operator doing fall inspections on his wastewater collection system measures the distance between access points to be 88 m.

If it takes 2 minutes and 10 seconds for a small amount of dye to travel this distance, calculate the velocity in m/sec.

ANSWER:

$0.68 \text{ m} \cdot \text{sec}$
Which can be rounded up to:
 $88 \text{ m} / 130 \text{ seconds} = 0.676 \text{ m/sec}$
Distance/Time – Velocity

Water Week Conference 2023

Water Week Conference Information



You are invited to join like-minded operators and industry reps at the **2023 Water Week Conference** on November 15-17, 2023 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in West Edmonton!

Collect 0.9 CEUs by attending **Special Presentations, Technical Sessions** and the **Friday Morning Workshop**. Earn an additional 0.3 CEUs by attending a **Pre-Conference Workshop** (separate pre-registration is required). Learn from the hands-on experiences of other operators and connect with utility professionals, industry contacts and more at the **Thursday Trade Show**.

The popular **Pub Night** and **Casino Night** networking events are also making their return so you can keep the conversations going.

DELEGATE REGISTRATION IS OPEN - AWWOA.CA

Continuing Education Unit (CEU) Information for the Conference:

Attending Wed., Thurs. and Fri.: 0.9 CEUs

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

Registration:

Register online at awwoa.ca

NOTE: Conference registrations are accepted online until **November 13, 2023**. 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 - \$380 + GST
AWWOA Members (Wednesday - Friday)

Full Conference Registration - \$495 + GST
non-members (Wednesday - Friday)

Single Day Registration - \$150 + GST
(Wednesday or Thursday or Friday)

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

Pre-Conference Workshop - \$125 + GST
(Wednesday)

Call for Presentations

From day-to-day operations to new technologies, we are looking for presentations in all areas of water/wastewater for the upcoming Water Week Conference! The submission deadline is September 8, 2023.

For presenting, certified operators receive:

- complimentary conference registration
- \$300 honorarium to offset travel/accommodation expenses
- one (1.0) additional CEU



VISIT AWWOA.CA TO SUBMIT



The Old Operator

Life Morals

In everything I read, hear, and am shown, I try and find a life lesson I can hang onto. When life throws tribulation back at me, if I push back I learn better how to cope.

I was watching a movie the other day, called *Land*. A woman had lost her husband and child through a murder. She was so utterly devastated she withdrew from everyone. She wanted to escape to the dense forest.

This lady sold everything, bought some land in the bush with a cabin. She had the U-Haul trailer and her car taken away, putting her 15 miles from civilization. She was going to live off the land. She couldn't start a fire for cooking or heat. A bear ravaged her cabin and contents, she had no food. Near death, two people - a man, and a nurse, found her half frozen. I suppose you wonder how any life morals can be found here.

The man and the nurse, over many months, nursed this woman back to health. The nurse regularly came and changed IV bags and bandages. The man came daily to fix meals, cut wood, keep the stove going, fetching food and other various medical supplies, with only compassion and concern in his heart for the sick woman.

Once the sick lady had her health restored, she asked the quiet man, "Why did you help me, I wasn't even nice to you?" His reply, "You were put in my path." Like the good Samaritan, his moral code required him to help a fellow traveler. As time went on this man taught this lady to fish, trap, hunt and shoot until one day he announced she could look after herself. At this point the lady wanted to pay him for all the food, clothing, and medicine he had bought her. I love this man's reply, "You can't pay me for doing the right thing."

The quiet man said his goodbyes and she was again alone. One day, concerned over not seeing the quiet man she set off to visit. Upon arrival she found him dying of cancer. He announced that he too had turned his back on life; however, her need triggered him to serve in a most saintly way. His last words, "Thank you, you have allowed me to die in a state of grace."

Life's moral code is all around us, live, learn and do the right thing, at least that's how I see it,

The Old Operator, Doug Thorson



Doug Thorson



Bert E. Miller

Charitable Donations Update

Supporting The Water School

The project that our AWWOA donations championed in 2023 is a 'Motorized Borehole Expansion' in Petta, Uganda. It serves 2,450 people across four communities.

With AWWOA's help, the plan was to extend the reach of the borehole to help an additional 2,560 people in three more villages, which will include 1,016 students at Mbula Machari Primary School. This expansion would provide 25 liters of clean water per person per day in these communities through one new public tap stand in each community and a tap stand at the school. Included in this, all 512 households in these communities will participate in Water School's flagship hygiene and sanitation training.

The Water School has begun exploring new options for schools and have introduced Sawyer Filters at our partner schools and health centres. Sawyer Filter Systems use a hollow fibre membrane to filter water. The membrane contains tiny pores that allow water to pass through, while trapping bacteria, protozoa, and other contaminants. The filter also contains activated carbon, which can remove chemicals, odours, and other impurities from the water.

Each system in a classroom produces an average of 400 litres of safe water per day. The cost of the Sawyer Filter Systems is almost the same as the SODIS treatment equipment yet is a more suitable solution for the school environment.

The AWWOA looks forward to supporting the Water School in its endeavours to bring safe drinking water and sanitary conditions to its areas of concern.

AWWOA was also recently featured in the Water School's 2022 Annual Report. Since 2013, you have generously contributed over \$188,000, providing access to clean, safe water to thousands of people in Uganda.

Thanks again for your generous donations!

Bert E. Miller, Charitable Donations Chair

Networking Events

Sylvan Lake Gulls Networking Event

On Thursday, July 20, nearly 50 AWWOA members and guests combined to watch the Sylvan Lake Gulls take on the Regina Red Sox. Groups from the City of Red Deer, The Town of Penhold and the Town of Sylvan Lake came out to join us.

It was a beautiful evening, 28°C and almost not a cloud in the sky as the Sylvan Lake Gulls handled business and extended their winning streak to 4 games to beat the Regina Red Sox 5 to 1.

Thank you to everyone that came out and enjoyed the evening with food, drinks and good conversation. This was the first event of its kind and we look forward to organizing more networking events in the future!



AWWOA Executive Board Members
Bert E. Miller, Bert J. Miller and Chris Huston



City of Red Deer and City of Lacombe



Town of Penhold



Town of Sylvan Lake

6th Annual Golf Tournament

After postponing due to poor weather, we are happy to have a new date for the **Annual Golf Tournament** at the Whitecourt Golf & Country Club. If you were hoping to attend and missed out, a few spots are now available!

Event Details

Whitecourt Golf & Country Club
Monday, September 1, 2023
Shot Gun Start: 1:00 pm
Tournament Fee: \$120.00 + GST

REGISTER ONLINE - AWWOA.CA



Sponsors



Alberta Environment & Protected Areas Update

Drinking Water and Wastewater Section

The Drinking Water and Wastewater Section of Alberta Environment and Protected Areas is responsible for :

- developing a management system that contributes to the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water
- developing and implementing drinking water and wastewater standards and procedures
- ensuring a water and wastewater certification program is in place

The team includes Municipal Water and Wastewater Specialists, the Drinking Water Operations Specialist team and the Certification team.

Get to Know the Team



Steve Craik, PhD, PEng

Director, Drinking Water & Wastewater Programs, Regulatory Programs Branch

Steve Craik joined EPA as a Drinking Water Operations Specialist in April 2022 and moved into the role of Director with the Drinking Water and Wastewater Section in April 2023.

Prior to this, Steve worked with EPCOR Water Canada in Edmonton for 15 years, leading a team of scientists, technologists, engineers and environmental specialists. He was also an Associate Professor in the Environmental Engineering program at the University of Alberta.

Steve lives in Edmonton with his family and enjoys cycling, skiing, hiking, canoeing and kayaking.



Christine Donovan

Team Lead, Water and Wastewater Operator Certification

Christine Donovan previously served 2 years with EPA as the Coordinator for Water and Wastewater Operator Certification, leading to her current role as Team Lead.

Spending time on the Water Act and EPA Approvals team and as a Contract Administrator, she has been with the Government of Alberta for 9 years. Her previous experience includes 8 years as a Program Coordinator and 5 years as a Municipal Leader.

She looks forward to continuing to work closely with operators and advancing the water and wastewater industry.



Tammy Elzinga

Coordinator, Water and Wastewater Operator Certification

Tammy Elzinga started with the team in July 2023. She is no stranger to the water and wastewater industry, working as an operator/supervisor for the past 17 years.

Along her career path, she has spent time on the AWWOA Executive Board, presented at AWWOA conferences and taught water and wastewater courses. Being a Level III certified operator, Tammy has experience with the certification process and looks forward to helping operators.

Tammy lives in Leduc County where she enjoys horseback riding and motorcycle riding.

Alberta Environment & Protected Areas Update Cont'd

Important Renewal Information

Renewal applications are now being accepted in Compliance365. Operators who wish to renew on December 31, 2023 should have received a notification email with instructions.



1. Make sure your supervisor is correct.
2. If you are still employed at the same facility, do not put an end date to your employment.
3. A \$130 renewal fee is paid through your account before renewal is complete.

Exams

Exam sessions occur every two months and are 60 days in length in which an operator has the flexibility to schedule their exam any day within that window. **depending on testing center dates available

Current testing center locations: Calgary, Edmonton, Lac La Biche, Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Grande Prairie, and Fort McMurray.

If you miss the 60-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.

Attention Supervisors

If you are supervisor, please make sure to log into your account in Compliance 365 and verify your operators' experience (s). Try to get in the habit of doing this right away after seeing the notification email from Compliance 365. Applications for exams or renewals are not processed unless this step is completed.

Questions regarding certification can be sent to waterandwastewateroperatorcert@gov.ab.ca.

Operator Profile

Steven Thompson - The City of Calgary

Spotlight on Excellence:

Steven Thompson, water treatment plant operator

As a Water Treatment Plant Operator, Steve put his education to use right away after graduating from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton in 2008. Working for Water Services, Steve notes,

"I am proud every day, knowing that my coworkers and our department provide our city with its most valuable resource."



Steven Thompson

Steve's day-to-day work consists of monitoring and operating the two water treatment plants, Glenmore and Bearspaw, from a control room. This includes monitoring the transmission pipe systems, which transports large volumes of water to storage reservoirs and pump stations before it's supplied to The City's distribution system. There are 36 pump stations and 14 storage reservoirs needed to deliver water to all Calgary homes. The water treatment plant runs 24 hours a day; 365 days a year.

Steve appreciates the work-life balance offered by The City. The work is constantly changing with its share of challenges but offers enough time off to fully embrace all that Calgary has to offer. When he's not on shift, Steve enjoys snowboarding at Lake Louise and river surfing on the Bow River.

From the Water Bulletin newsletter, The City of Calgary Water Services

2023 - 24 Training Calendar

Check out the full course listing for 2023 - 24 online and register today!

Register online at: AWWOA.CA

September - October 2023

Source Control - in Edmonton

September 18 & 19, 2023 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

Risk Management in W & WW Treatment Systems - in Edmonton

September 21 & 22, 2023 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

Small Water Systems Operations - in Calgary

September 21, 2023 - Cost \$300 (\$400 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

Small Wastewater Systems Operations - in Calgary

September 22, 2023 - Cost \$300 (\$400 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

Level I Certification Preparation - in Edmonton

October 3 & 4, 2023 (Part A) and October 16 & 17, 2023 (Part B)
- Cost \$550 (\$650 Non-members) - 5.0 CEUs

Level I Certification Preparation - in Calgary

October 3 & 4, 2023 (Part A) and October 16 & 17, 2023 (Part B)
- Cost \$550 (\$650 Non-members) - 5.0 CEUs

Responding to Water Main Breaks - in Edmonton

October 5 & 6, 2023 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

Level II Water Treatment Cert Prep - in Calgary

October 10 & 11, 2023 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.5 CEUs

Level II Water Distribution Cert Prep - in Edmonton

October 10 & 11, 2023 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

Level II Wastewater Treatment Cert Prep - in Calgary

October 12 & 13, 2023 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.5 CEUs

Level II Wastewater Collection Cert Prep - in Edmonton

October 12 & 13, 2023 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

EXCEL for Operators - in Edmonton

October 19 & 20, 2023 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

Source Water Resiliency - in Calgary

October 23, 2023 - Cost \$300 (\$400 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) - in Calgary

October 24, 2023 - Cost \$300 (\$400 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

Connect with AWWOA

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

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

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



Save the Date

September 1, 2023

Golf Tournament

Whitecourt Golf & Country Club
Whitecourt, AB

November 15-17, 2023

Water Week Conference

DoubleTree West Edmonton
Edmonton, AB

March 11-15, 2024

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 Treatment Certification Preparation
- Level III/IV Water Dist. Cert Prep
- Level III/IV Wastewater Collection Certification Preparation
- Level III/IV Wastewater Treatment Certification