

# ALBERTA UTILITY OPERATOR

## Fall 2024

Issue #54



### WATER WEEK CONFERENCE - November 2024

Join us for the 2024 Water Week Conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in West Edmonton. Delegates will have access to technical sessions, trade show and social opportunities!



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### Conference Features:

- Six Pre-Conference Workshops
- 30+ Technical Presentations
- 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 check out page 3.

**DEDICATED TO THE  
ESSENTIALS**

# Special Announcements

## Message from the Chair



Chris Huston

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to our past AWWOA Chair, Mr. Mike Bureaud. It's a privilege to follow in your footsteps. A big thank you also goes to my fellow Board members and the outstanding AWWOA administrative staff.

My journey to becoming AWWOA Chair began in the summer of 2019. An AWWOA Board member approached me with an exciting opportunity: to join the board itself. I used the answer of - "we'll see," politely avoiding saying yes and deflecting to another conversation.

But this time was different. With nominations closing soon, something shifted. It's not like I haven't been on community Boards in the past and said, "Okay, let's do this."

Now that I've settled into my new role, I'm eager to collaborate with all of you, our dedicated members, to continue the excellent work of the AWWOA. Here are a few key areas I'm particularly interested in focusing on:

- **Member Engagement:** I want to ensure that all AWWOA members feel informed, valued, and have a voice. We'll continue to inform and connect with members through regional meetups and social media channels.
- **Career Attraction:** One of AWWOA's goals is to attract more young people to the water/wastewater profession and recognize it as a reliable career choice. We will continue to participate in career fairs and other attraction activities.
- **Professional Development:** The AWWOA's core function is providing ongoing training and educational opportunities for its members, and we're committed to keeping it that way.



*Passing of the Gavel from Mike Bureaud (right) to Chris Huston (left)*

Thank you to all who attended the 49th Annual Operators Seminar. With March 2025 around the corner, I'm already looking forward to celebrating the Seminar's golden anniversary at the 50th!

## Stay Tuned!

I'm confident that working together can achieve great things for the AWWOA and the water and wastewater industry. Stay tuned for exciting updates and initiatives in the coming months. We'll share more details about upcoming events and ways to get involved through the AWWOA website and social media channels.

Thank you for your continued support of AWWOA. I look forward to working alongside each of you.

*Chris Huston, AWWOA Chair*

## Math Corner



David Noack

### QUESTION:

Water flows through a rectangular flash mixing chamber at a rate of 500 L / Sec. The mixer chamber is 1.5 m x 1.5 m x 1.0 m.

Calculate the detention time.

### ANSWER:

The green formula sheet tells us that  $DT = \text{Volume} / \text{Flow}$ .  
The volume is  $2.25 \text{ m}^3$  and the flow is  $500 \text{ L} / \text{sec}$  but the green sheet says there are 1000 L in a cubic metre.  
So we'll convert the  $500 \text{ L}$  to  $0.5 \text{ m}^3$  because the units must be the same. So we'll convert the  $500 \text{ L}$  to  $0.5 \text{ m}^3$  because  
Now we can solve the problem:  $DT = 2.25 \text{ m}^3 / 0.5 \text{ m}^3 / \text{second}$  and we get a detention time of 4.5 seconds



# Water Week Conference 2024

## Water Week Conference Information

The **2024 Water Week Conference** returns to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in West Edmonton on November 12-15, 2024! Join fellow operators and industry professionals for 4 days of learning and networking.

**Nov 12** - **\*NEW\*** afternoon pre-conference workshops (*pre-registration is required*)

**Nov 13** - morning pre-conference workshops (*pre-registration is required*), delegate lunch, technical presentations and networking event

**Nov 14** - trade show with lunch, technical presentations and networking event

**Nov 15** - engaging 3-hour industry workshop



### \*New This Year\*

- **More Pre-Conference Workshops** - Earn extra CEUs and gain key insights to take back to your municipality. Pre-Conference Workshops are now taking place on Tuesday (Nov 12) afternoon and Wednesday (Nov 13) morning. ***Pre-registration is required and onsite registration is NOT accepted.***
- **The Rec Room Networking Event** - Enjoy the sights, sounds and games of an arcade! Join us at the Rec Room West Edmonton Mall on Thursday, November 14 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. for a night of fun and friendly competition. Delegates will be provided with a game band, complimentary snacks and drink.

## Call for Presentations

Do you have an experience that would benefit other operators, a new process, technology or emergency where you had to quickly adapt? Share your learning at the upcoming Water Week Conference! The technical presentation deadline is September 6, 2024. For presenting, certified operators receive **complimentary conference registration**, a **\$300 honorarium** and **one (1.0) additional CEU**. Visit [AWWOA.CA](http://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](http://awwoa.ca)

NOTE: Conference registrations are accepted online until **November 7, 2024**. 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 Conference Registration** - \$505 + GST  
non-members (Wednesday-Friday)

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

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

**Pre-Conference Workshop** - \$135 + GST  
(Monday and/or Tuesday)

**DELEGATE REGISTRATION IS OPEN - [AWWOA.CA](http://AWWOA.CA)**



## The Old Operator

### **Scared is What You Feel, Brave is What You Do**

All too many times bravery is tied to fighting, war and taking life, when quiet courage is unadorned action and resides deep inside of us. Real bravery has less to do with beating your opposition, and more to do with knowing when to show forgiveness.

Braveness is to face danger or pain, to overcome fear. You may rescue someone from a burning fire, assist someone being robbed, confront a bully, or say you made a mistake. Some characteristics of a brave individual are, decisiveness, determination, motivation, optimism and resilience. I am convinced the strongest character trait of a brave person is confidence. You wouldn't jump into the lake to save someone if you weren't confident you could save the individual and not drown. Brave people must possess confidence so they can handle what comes their way, the best way they can.

Brave individuals will encounter many defeats; however, they do not allow themselves to be defeated. The courageous are prepared to face a challenge even when they are afraid. They do not allow circumstances to discourage them.

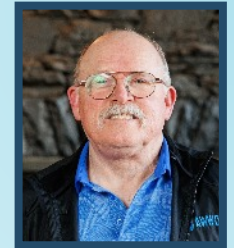
Want to be brave and courageous every day? Here is my list: accept that fear is real, be comfortable not being comfortable, be vulnerable and honest, ask for help, follow your instincts, build on your mistakes. If you don't know, say so. Believe in yourself, let your past stay in the past, stand up for yourself, and be a friend to yourself.

I am convinced the strength of body does not make you brave, but the strength of spirit. I feel "courage of a brave individual has less to do with having strength to go on and more to do with going on when one doesn't have the strength." Nelson Mandela said, "courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers the fear, 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*

Thank you to our members and suppliers for their contributions during the Annual Golf Tournament! I enjoyed spending the day with all of you and it was great to see your generosity.

With your support, **\$1,170.00** was raised through purchasing mulligans and participating in the 50/50 draw. And congratulations to the winners of the mulligan raffle, Mandy Carroll and the 50/50 winner, Blair Roy!

These raised funds will continue to support the work of the Water School.

Our most recent project was funding the expansion of a motorized borehole in Uganda. Below, you will see the plaque at the site, recognizing AWWOA's generosity.



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. A total of 5,625 community members and 2,310 pupils now benefit from the water system.

Thanks again and see you all soon!

*Bert Miller Sr.  
Charitable Donations Chair*



# AWWOA 2024 Annual Golf Tournament

## 7th Annual Golf Tournament Recap

Thank you to everyone who joined us on Monday, June 17, 2024 at the Innisfail Golf Club. Even with a mix of sun, cloud and wind, we had a great day with members and industry suppliers.

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

## Our Winners!

### 2024 Golf Tournament Champions



Rodney Yellowdirt, Michael Arcand, Armand Arcand and Jonathan Arcand

### Most Honest Golfers



Justice Portsmouth, Dustin Deibert, Bert E. Miller and Dhaval Vaghiasiya

### SAVE THE DATE

**8th Annual AWWOA Golf Tournament**  
 Cougar Creek Golf Resort - West of Edmonton  
 Friday, June 20, 2025  
 Registration will open Spring 2025.



### Hole Game Winners

- **Men's Longest Drive** - Rodney Yellowdirt  
Sponsored by Delta Water Products
- **Women's Longest Drive** - Mandy Carroll  
Sponsored by Lambourne Environmental
- **Men's Longest Putt** - Al Kendrick  
Sponsored by Aquatech Diving & Marine Services
- **Women's Longest Putt** - Megan Sauve  
Sponsored by MPE, a division of Englobe
- **Men's Closest to the Pin** - Rodney Yellowdirt  
Sponsored by Ford Meter Box
- **Women's Closest to the Pin** - Mandy Carroll  
Sponsored by Cooper Trench Safety
- **Ball in the Water** - Troy Murray  
Sponsored by Sterling Industries
- **Hockey Putt** - Colin Stebner  
Sponsored by Neptune Technology Group

### Sponsors

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors!

# News From the Field

## Town of Bruderheim Water Reservoir and Pumping Station Upgrade

The Town of Bruderheim currently owns and operates a reinforced concrete reservoir and pumping station facility, serving the town of 1,450 and Lamont County.

With a usable storage capacity of 2,500m<sup>3</sup>, total storage of 4,681 m<sup>3</sup> and design fire flow of 250 L/s, the existing system, originally constructed in 1981, is now undersized to meet the Town's current and future water storage demand. Similarly, the existing 100 HP Diesel Engine Driven Fire Pump has a capacity of 103 L/s and is not sufficient to handle the Town's projected fire flows.

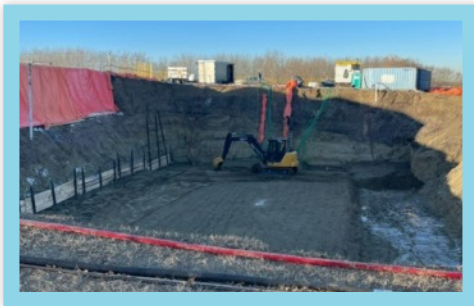
MPE, a division of Englobe and the Town of Bruderheim COO, Dennis Tomuschat, completed an assessment study of the existing Water Reservoir and Pumping Station (WRPS) to guide infrastructure planning and update the 10-year capital plan. A detailed analysis of the facility was conducted, detailing designs and cost models.

As a result of the assessment, grant funding was obtained through the Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership (AMWWP) for 68.81% of the cost with the remaining amount being secured in the municipal capital budget. The total cost for the expansion is \$4.9 million.

The project was tendered in April 2023 with construction work beginning in the Fall of 2023.



*Dennis Tomuschat, Town of Bruderheim COO and Tracey Lazowski, Operator*



*October 2023*



*June 2024*



*June 2024*

### The Water Reservoir and Pumping Station (WRPS) upgrade includes:

- constructing a new concrete reinforced reservoir with a minimum volume of 2,181 m<sup>3</sup>,
- installing interconnection piping, valve system and pipe stubs for future expansion,
- upgrading the existing engine driven fire pump with an electric motor driven pump capable of 250 L/s,
- replacing the fire pump control valve and upgrading discharge piping/distribution header,
- installing a new diesel fuelled onsite generate,
- and upgrading the existing PLC, electrical and completing site work and access road upgrades.

Upon completion of the project in Winter 2024, residents will be ensured a continuous, safe water supply and necessary support of regional emergency fire services.

*Thank you to Dennis Tomuschat and the Town of Bruderheim for their contributions to this article.*



# Alberta Environment & Protected Areas Update

## Out and About

It was great to see everyone who attended the AWWOA Golf Tournament. Thank you for being great sports and playing our marshmallow game. Congratulations to our prize winner Jesse Adams. We look forward to participating again!

## Certification Renewals

**Renewal applications are now being accepted and processed through operator accounts in Compliance 365.** Operators who were due to renew on December 31, 2024, should have received a notification email with instructions. Please follow the instructions outlined in the email.

### ATTENTION ALL SUPERVISORS

*If you are a supervisor, please make sure to log into your Compliance 365 account 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.*

## Unified Candidate Scheduling System (UCS 2.0)

We are very excited to have completely transitioned to the new scheduling system with PSI. We have moved from a legacy system called Aspen to a newly developed Unified Candidate Scheduling System (UCS 2.0). The new scheduling platform is much more operator centric and intuitive. Additionally, operators have access that allows them to schedule their exam, modify an existing appointment, and access score reports from historic exams (taken while in the new program).

Be sure to watch for the updated EPA Water and Wastewater Operator Guidelines coming soon!

*If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to [waterandwastewateroperatorcert@gov.ab.ca](mailto:waterandwastewateroperatorcert@gov.ab.ca).*

## New AWWOA Training Opportunities

### Advanced Wastewater Treatment for Sustainable Urban Water Cycles

October 4, 2024 - Calgary, AB  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - 0.6 CEUs

Treating wastewater is a necessity for protecting public health and safeguarding the environment. This course will review both conventional wastewater treatment methods and explore topics surrounding advanced wastewater treatment including effluent discharge, wastewater reuse and contaminants of emerging concern (CECs).

### Effective Operation & Maintenance of Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection Systems

October 11, 2024 - Edmonton, AB  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - 0.6 CEUs

With ever-increasing growth in many communities, operators are being challenged with maintaining service levels and meeting regulatory requirements. This course will better enable operators to address these realities with meaningful techniques and tools to effectively operate their water distribution and wastewater collection systems.



*Christine Donovan  
and Tammy Elzinga*

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

# 2024 - 25 Training Calendar

Check out the full course listing for 2024 - 25 online and register today!

Register online at: [AWWOA.CA](http://AWWOA.CA)

## October 2024

### Small Water Systems Operations - in Calgary

October 1, 2024 - Cost \$300 (\$400 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

### Small Wastewater Systems Operations - in Calgary

October 2, 2024 - Cost \$300 (\$400 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

### Responding to Water Main Breaks - in Edmonton

October 1 & 2, 2024 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

### Pumps & Hydraulics - in Edmonton

October 3 & 4, 2024 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

### **\*NEW\*** Advanced Wastewater Treatment for Sustainable Urban Water Cycles - in Calgary

October 4, 2024 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

### Level I Certification Prep - in Edmonton

October 7 & 8, 2024 (Part A) and October 21 & 22, 2024 (Part B)

- Cost \$550 (\$650 Non-members) - 5.0 CEUs

### Level I Certification Prep - in Calgary

October 7 & 8, 2024 (Part A) and October 28 & 29, 2024 (Part B)

- Cost \$550 (\$650 Non-members) - 5.0 CEUs

### **\*NEW\*** Effective Operation & Maintenance of Water Distribution & Wastewater Collection Systems - in Edmonton

October 10, 2024 Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

### **\*NEW\*** Advances in Water Meters - in Edmonton

October 11, 2024 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs

### Pumps, Motors and Electrics - in Calgary

October 10 & 11, 2024 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

### Level II Water Distribution Cert Prep - in Edmonton

October 15 & 16, 2024 - Cost \$460 (\$560 Non-members) - 1.2 CEUs

### Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) & Digital Twins - in Calgary

October 16, 2024 - Cost \$350 (\$450 Non-members) - 0.6 CEUs



## Save the Date

**November 12-15, 2024**

### Water Week Conference

DoubleTree West Edmonton  
Edmonton, AB

**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

## 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 Preparation

## Connect with AWWOA

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

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

Visit us on X, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube

