



A Newsletter for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators!

# THE WATERDRUM

July 2016

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## Jake Beedie



### AWWAO Welcomes New Board of Director

AWWAO is pleased to announce the appointment of **Jake Beedie** who was elected as AWWAO's new board member. The new board member appointment was approved on January 27, 2016 at the 21st Annual General Meeting.





*The meaning of the AWWAO logo as described by the artist:*

- Tree—represents Mother Earth*
- Sun—brings Life to our Environment*
- Eagle—watches over the Environment*
- Sky—ensures the Cycle of Water*

## ABOUT US

The Aboriginal Water & Wastewater Association of Ontario is an information source for water environment and Operator training and certification issues and technology. AWWAO's members include professionals from Ontario First Nations, Environmental Health Officers, Tribal Councils, Municipal Suppliers and some Government Agencies.

AWWAO is dedicated to the transfer of information and concepts regarding all areas of the water environment. As members of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA), the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the Water Environment Association of Ontario (WEAO), we provide an invaluable network for those involved in water and wastewater industry. AWWAO, through a partnering agreement with Keewaytinook Okimakanak and Health Canada co-operates and liaises with the above noted associations, and all provincial and federal government agencies. AWWAO has a volunteer seat on many of the various association's committees.

AWWAO offers its members the opportunity to:

- ◆ Be updated and informed about issues that affect the water environment.
- ◆ Interact with persons in various fields of water expertise.
- ◆ Promote concerns of the membership through a collective voice.
- ◆ Exchange information and ideas to other members, the public and Chiefs and Council.

To date, the AWWAO consistently rank the training and certification of Plant Operators as its top priority. The attainment of Certification is widely recognized as essential to performing a good job, at a high level, in the water and wastewater treatment plant operations, and an indicator of a responsible and contributing community member.

## MEMBERSHIP

\$100.00 Membership Fee for First Nations Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators per operator. This Membership entitles the Operator(s) to the AWWAO Newsletter, monthly bulletin, Annual Report and the Annual General Assembly and Training Conference cost reimbursement, if applicable.

\$200.00 Membership Fee for Non-Operator, Public Works Management, Administration and Management of a First Nation or Non-First Nation. This Membership entitles the Member to the AWWAO Newsletter, monthly bulletins, Annual Report and invitation to the Annual General Assembly and Training Conference.

Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Nation/Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## VISION

Our Vision is to be the Association that best understands and satisfies the training, education, certification and licensing needs of Operators of Ontario First Nations. Our dedication to supporting Operators touches not only health, but safety, spirit and empowerment ... most of all knowledge.

## OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To act as a voice and forum for First Nation Plant Operators in Ontario, publish a newsletter, promote communications and networking among Plant Operators and other persons interested in AWWAO's objectives;
- ◆ Promote the importance of a safe and potable water supply and the highest standard of wastewater operations;
- ◆ Promote the development and delivery of continuing education and training programs for Plant Operators and others involved in water and wastewater treatment;
- ◆ Promote the importance of technical training in maintaining and upgrading the Operator's knowledge of proper water and wastewater operation and maintenance requirements;
- ◆ Promote the importance of involving qualified Operator's in the design, construction or upgrading of water and wastewater treatment plants;
- ◆ Promote the importance of proper training, certification and licensing of Operators;
- ◆ Promote the importance of enhanced lab testing of potable water and monitoring of wastewater effluents; and
- ◆ Promote the importance of establishing an effective Operations & Maintenance Management Plan to ensure proper care is performed for the assets.

## MISSION STATEMENT

We are a member oriented, non-profit Association, providing province-wide and year-round high-quality services and an annual forum for the First Nations Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators, allowing for networking opportunities at the same time. We are committed to providing high quality information on the water and wastewater industry through the quarterly newsletter. We are dedicated to promoting, preserving and protecting the water, natural resources and environment through the education, training and networking of the Ontario First Nations Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators.

The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario's newsletter is published quarterly by the AWWAO at 41C Duke Street, Box 340, Dryden, Ontario P8N 2Z1  
Tel: (807) 735-1381 ext. 1660  
E-mail: info@awwao.org

Advertising opportunities and/or submission or request of information, please contact the Association Coordinator.



*Jake Beedie*



Hello my name is Jake Beedie. I work for Cedar Point and Christian Island treating water for Beausoleil First Nation. I have worked for the water plant since the spring of 2011. I hold a Class 2 Water Treatment and Supply.

Before water treatment, I studied art at Georgian College in Barrie. I then started a family and needing work I got a job for the First Nation with the waste department for 2 years. Afterwards, I made a switch to parking on the mainland moving to cedar point from Christian island. I then switched to construction, mainly doing concrete. I poured water and sewage plants among other things for nearly 10 years. Afterwards, in 2011, a job opened up at the water plant and I moved back to my First Nation now treating water for nearly 5 years

I have a small system at Cedar point servicing 12 homes, a parking office and a fire storage tank field. The Cedar point system is a Class 1 bored well plant using chlorine for removal. On Christian Island, I operate a Class 2 Water Treatment and Supply using a Zenon membrane system with chlorine for treatment. This system supplies about 500 homes, 10 public buildings and 85 hydrants.

I have three children, one daughter (13), and two sons (5 & 6). On my spare time I work on my wife's family horse farm during daylight hours, unless I am camping on my stepfathers fish tug. I also enjoy spending time drawing and wood and scope stone carving. I also clear decks and walkways for seniors. I follow many forms of green energy online, hoping to one day implement them.



*Cedar Point*



*Christian Island*



## AWWAO CERTIFICATION WEEK



AWWAO held a one week certification and CEU session (April 18-22, 2016) in Dryden for First Nation Operators culminating in the OWWCO exam. There were 32 operators in total. The Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence provided the venue and instructors for the certification training.

The courses and instructors for the certification week were: OIT- James Haskell, WT/WD I-II-III –Gary Oja & CEUs-Barry Strachan.



*AWWAO CERTIFICATION WEEK*



Patrick Kent  
Washagamis Bay FN

Lawrence Taylor  
Washagamis Bay FN

Scott Winter  
Wapekaka FN

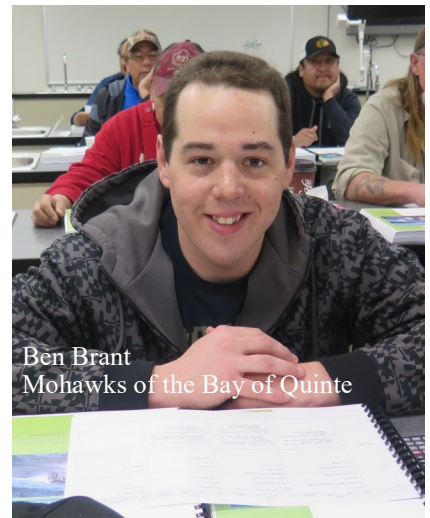
Dominick Allan  
Nigigoonsiminikaaning FN



Elizabeth Brant  
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte



Timothy Romy  
Naicatchewenin FN



Ben Brant  
Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte



Leonard Bearman  
Lac Seul FN



Allan Dupuis  
Chapleu Cree FN



Paul Kelly  
Lac La Croix FN



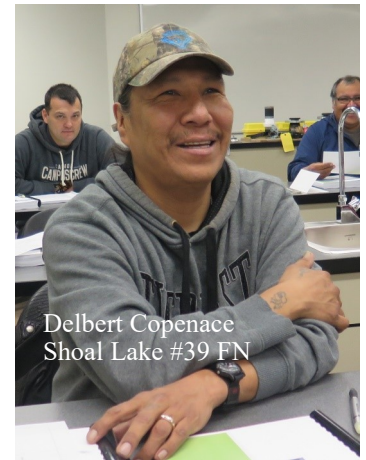
AWWAO CERTIFICATION WEEK



Roger Allen  
Nigigoonsiminikaaning FN



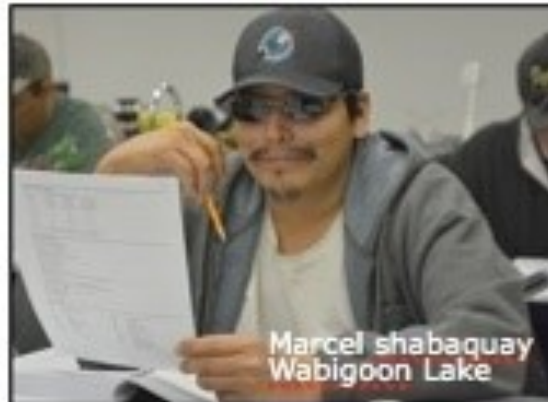
Lionel Horton  
Rainy River FN



Delbert Copenace  
Shoal Lake #39 FN



Gary Wheatley  
Magnetawan FN



Marcel Shabaquay  
Wabigoon Lake



Charles Friday  
Seine River FN



Norm Tabobondung  
Parry Sound FN



Darrell Saunders  
Brunswick House FN



Melvin Major  
Big Grassy FN



David Allen  
Nigigoonsiminikaaning FN

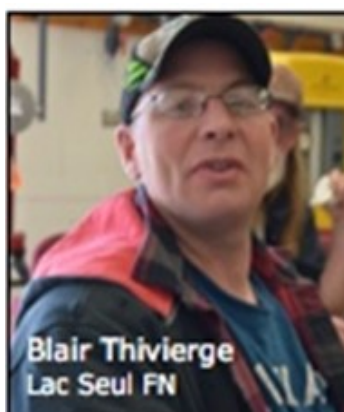
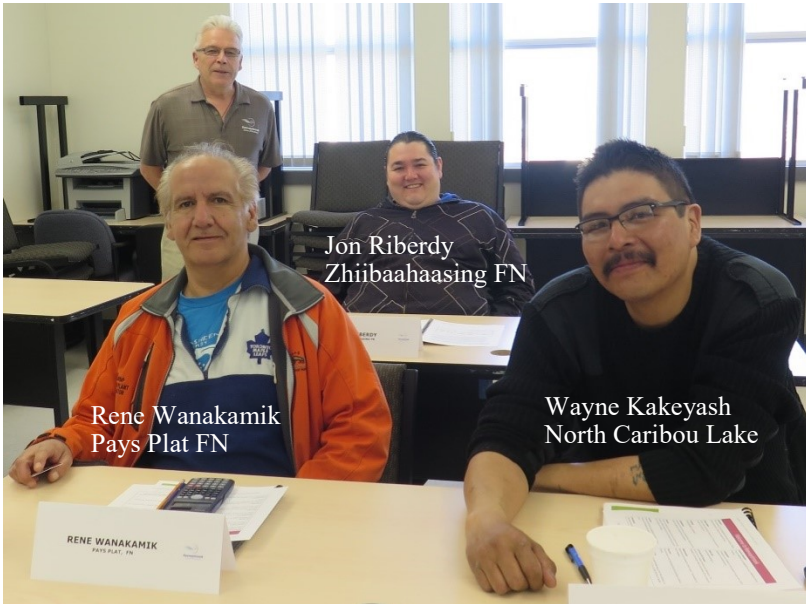
Lance Wheatley-Myke  
Magnetawan FN



Brian Indian  
Nestor Falls



# AWWAO CERTIFICATION WEEK



AWWAO would like to thank everybody who came to the exam prep course and made it a huge success. A special thanks to INAC and Health Canada for sponsoring this event.

# THANK YOU



## AWWAO CERTIFICATION WEEK



Delbert Copenace won the iPad Air 2.



Training vouchers winners from left to right: Brian Indian, Ben Brant, Lionel Horton, (Delbert Copenace-iPad winner) & Blair Thivierge.

## Meeting in Kamloops, B.C.

On February 4-5, 2016, in Kamloops, B.C. Wes Morriseau (vice chairperson) and Gary Wheatley (secretary) attended the First Nation Water Operators Network (FNOWN) BC & Yukon. The AWWAO board members were invited to join in their discussions to provide support as they stand up their own BCOWN association. Wes and Gary provided the members with experience on setting up AWWAO.





## Paul Strohack Operator of the Year, South-Clayton Barnes



From right to left, Naeem Irshaad, Clayton Barnes & Conway Thompson  
Background: Tom Oakes

Clayton Barnes was awarded, 2016 Southern Ontario Paul Strohack Water/Wastewater operator of the year at the 21st Annual General Meeting and Training Conference. Akwesasne's Environmental Health Officer, Naeem Irshaad presented the operator of the year trophy to Clayton Barnes.

## Drinking Water Advisories in First Nations Communities

Short and long term drinking water advisories that are in place in First Nation communities on reserve located south of the 60 degree parallel in Canada.

As of May 31, 2016 there were 126 Drinking Water Advisories in effect in 84 First Nation Communities across Canada, excluding British Columbia.

Drinking water advisories are preventive measures put in place to protect public health from drinking water that could be contaminated. In a First Nation community, a drinking water advisory can affect as little as one building and does not always represent a community-wide drinking water problem.

There are three types of drinking water advisories:

- Boil Water Advisories/Orders (BWAs/BWOs)
- Do Not Consume Advisories/Orders (DNCAs/DNCOs), also called Do Not Drink Advisories/Orders (DNDAs/DNDOs)
- Do Not Use Advisories/Orders (DNUAs/DNUOs)



Drinking water advisories are put in place for various reasons. For instance, a community may issue an advisory if there are problems in the overall water system, such as line breaks, equipment failure, or poor filtration/disinfection during water treatment.



## *Iskatewizaagegan First Nation 2015/16 AWWAO Water Taste Challenge Northern Cup Winners*

The coveted Josephine Mandamin Northern Water Cup award was presented to the operators of Iskatewizaagegan also known as Shoal Lake 39 recently at the location of their communal drinking water treatment plant in Shoal Lake, North Western Ontario.

The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association director Phil Tangie presented the cup on behalf of the association. The cup was presented to the 3 water treatment plant operators, Eleanor Wapioke, Delbert Copenace and Walter Kejick.



***Walter, Eleanor & Delbert***

Eleanor holds her class 3 drinking water treatment certificate and a class 2 wastewater treatment licence.

Delbert holds a class 2 drinking water treatment certificate and a class 1 wastewater treatment licence.

Walter holds a class 1 drinking water treatment and a class 1 water supply certificate and operator in training wastewater treatment and collection OIT certificates.

Congratulations Eleanor, Delbert and Walter on maintaining a higher standard of drinking water quality.

Keep up the Good Work!!



## Northern Ontario First Nation receives \$11.6M for safe water supply

Since 2004, Slate Falls First Nation has seen 9 boil water advisories

[CBC News](#) Posted: Jul 11, 2016 12:34 PM ET Last Updated: Jul 11, 2016 12:34 PM ET



*After nine boil water advisories since 2004, Slate Falls will finally be getting the resources needed to provide clean drinking water to the community.*

People in Slate Falls First Nation in northwestern Ontario are expected to have safe drinking water by next year after a 11.6 million dollar investment by the federal government.

Bob Nault, the Liberal MP for the Kenora riding, which includes Slate Falls, made the announcement on Monday.

"I'm very pleased with the \$11.6 M investment in the Slate Falls Water Supply and Distribution Upgrade project," Nault said in a news release. "Chief Lorraine Crane and the Windigo First Nations Council should be very proud of their accomplishment."

### [Bad water foils attempt to build healthy community](#)

Nine [boil water advisories](#) that have been in place in the community since July 2004.

Slate Falls Nation chief Lorraine Crane said that the announcement was a milestone for the community.

"This has been a long and difficult process, however we are excited to announce that we will provide clean and safe drinking water to all the residences of Slate Falls Nation upon completion of this project," Crane said.

Nault said the project will be completed by December 2017.



Canada violates human right to safe water, says report by international watchdog

Urgent action required by federal, provincial governments, Human Rights Watch says

[CBC News](#) Posted: Jun 07, 2016 11:00 AM ET Last Updated: Jun 11, 2016 6:06 PM ET



Maggie Sakanee pours water carried in a jug from the small, reverse-osmosis purification system in northwestern Ontario's Neskantaga First Nation, home to Canada's longest-standing boil water advisory, in place for more than 20 years.

Discrimination against First Nations people is a "legal fact" in Canada when it comes to safe drinking water, says a new report by Human Rights Watch.

The international, independent human rights organization released its report in Toronto on Tuesday calling for "urgent steps" by the federal and provincial government to resolve more than 100 boil-water advisories in First Nations across Canada.

Human Rights Watch and First Nations chiefs of Ontario have released a report on problems that occur due to the lack of potable water in indigenous communities. Most of the 89 communities affected are in Ontario.

- **Bad water: 'Third World' conditions on First Nations in Canada**
- **10 First Nations with more than 10 years of bad water**
- **Ottawa spent \$1M on bottled water in First Nation with broken water plant, chief says**



Human Rights Watch investigated the water problems in five First Nations in Ontario — the province with the most boil-water advisories in the country: Shoal Lake 40, Neskantaga, Grassy Narrows, Batchewana and Six Nations of the Grand River.

"Tainted water and broken systems on Ontario's First Nations reserves are jeopardizing health, burdening parents and caregivers and exacerbating problems on reserves," said Amanda Klasing, senior researcher at Human Rights Watch and author of the report.

Klasing said she was surprised to see the way daily practices such as bathing or preparing food for infants is altered when people don't trust the water from their taps to be safe.



*Continued*

"It's really difficult to draw a direct causation between dirty water and skin conditions, but what was really clear is there's a change in hygiene behaviour," she said, adding that she saw "extreme measures" taken by parents and caregivers to limit exposure to contaminants.

The specific problem with the water system or source is different in each community, but the underlying legislative and funding framework that allows the problems to persist, for decades, is the same, Klasing said.



*A woman blesses water at a conference to release the report, which calls for a First Nations-led commission to oversee capital investments in water infrastructure on reserves.*



*Indigenous Affairs Minister Carolyn Bennett studies water samples earlier this year in Neskantaga First Nation where the Liberals have committed to building a new water plant.*

**'Legal protections' lacking**

"First Nations do not have the same legal protections for safe drinking water as Canadians living off reserve, so in legal fact, there is a discrimination in the types of protections," she said.

Safeguarding the human right to clean drinking water will require funding, according to the report.

Klasing said recent commitments from the federal government show there is a political will to make changes, but she said the amount budgeted falls short of the government's own calculations of how much is needed in a 2011 report by Indigenous Affairs.

- **Justin Trudeau vows to end First Nations reserve boil-water advisories within 5 years**
- **Liberal budget includes billions in new spending for Aboriginal people**
- **Liberals to fund water plant for Neskantaga First Nation in 2016**

"Although there has been some progress and lots of promises, there are far too many Indigenous people still living — and dying — in poverty in this country today," said the Assembly of First Nation's Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day.

Human Rights Watch is calling for a First Nations-led commission to oversee capital investments in water infrastructure on reserves.

"Our hope is that we're leading towards a system that allows these [funding] commitments to be tracked and we're able to see that Canada over time is progressively realizing its human rights obligations," Klasing said.



## First Nations teen solves remote community's drinking water problems

He just graduated from high school, now this teen is running the water plant in North Spirit Lake

By Jody Porter, [CBC News](#)



*Quentin Rae, 19, tests a water sample at the North Spirit Lake First Nation in his new role as water plant operator.*

A 19-year-old from North Spirit Lake First Nation is the key to solving a boil water advisory in place in his community for nearly as long as he has been alive.

The remote First Nation, about 800 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay, Ont., has been under a boil water advisory for 14 years.

Now, a unique program spearheaded by the Northern Chiefs Council (Keewaytinook Okimakanak), is allowing people like Quentin Rae to take the initiative and the responsibility for providing clean water in their own communities.

“I have to take care of the plant, make sure chlorine gets in the water to clean the bacteria,” said Rae with a smile during his first week on the job at the end of April.

“I just graduated last year and they gave me the job.”

The high school diploma is the prerequisite for the training provided by Northern Chiefs Council that will provide Rae with his operator certificate. Once the water plant in North Spirit Lake has a certified operator, the boil water advisory can be lifted.

But the program goes beyond the training.

*‘Think about a 19-year-old like Quentin having the safety of every member of this community on him,’ says public works manager Barry Strachan. We can’t let him do that alone, we need to support him.’*



## *First Nations teen solves remote community's drinking water problems*

The supports have to be there.” said Barry Strachan, the council’s public works manager.

“You think about a 19-year-old like Quentin having the safety of every member of this community on him—we can’t let him do that alone, we need to support him.”

The support comes in the form of a high-tech monitoring system installed in five remote First Nations in 2015. It provides Strachan up-to-the-second updates on water quality, sent to his office in Dryden, Ont. He can then help the local technicians work through the problem over the phone.

We want the community to own and fix the problems,” Strachan said.

“The best way to build the confidence in their own ability to run these systems is to let them do it and support them while they are.”

Strachan admits First Nations need sound infrastructure in place first, before the monitoring and training system will work. The program has already resulted in removing boil water advisories in three other Northern Ontario First Nations.

Meanwhile, community leaders in North Spirit Lake are pleased to be able to offer new opportunities to the young people.

“That young fella, he just graduated from Grade 12 and we gave him an opportunity and he jumped at it, said deputy chief Donald Campbell.



*Quentin Rae, 19, files the water monitoring reports at the North Spirit Lake First Nation water plant.*

“I think he’s very excited and he’ll be a good asset for our community as he grows and learns.”

Rae expects to complete his training for his certificate in June.

“It feels all right,” he said. “I’m happy.”

But Rae laughs when asked whether he sees the opportunity as a “job for life.”



## Michigan and Ontario Anishinabek to gather for Flint Water

By Jannan Couto



Josephine Mandamin

To the first inhabitants of the Great Lakes Region, one of the most water privileged areas of the world, the water crisis in Flint, MI, a state bordered by all five Great Lakes, is unfathomable. As Anishinaabek, we recognize all of creation as sacred, especially our life-giving and sustaining water. Therefore, we are encouraged to engage in practices that help us live in respectful relationships of reciprocity with all things.

With this in mind, an intertribal group has organized to hold a water ceremony for Flint, MI. The event is an international and intertribal effort with support from the federally recognized tribes in Michigan, urban Native communities of Grand Rapids, Lansing, Detroit, and Chicago, relatives in Ontario, and the University of Michigan-Flint.

The water ceremony was held on April 16th at the University of Michigan-Flint campus in Flint, Michigan. The intent is to show respect, honor, and acknowledge the water as a living being. The ceremony will be led by Grandmother Josephine Mandamin, an Anishinaabekwe who traversed over 10,900 miles around each of the Great Lakes in 2003 with her copper pail of water to raise awareness about how important our water is.

## Training Vouchers Draw Prizes

**AWWAO IS GIVING AWAY 9 TRAINING VOUCHERS AT A VALUE OF \$1000.00 EACH!!!!**

*In order to be eligible for the draw, please complete one or both of the following:*



1. Fill out the inserted skill answering test.
2. Write up an article on your community ( include pictures). If chosen, the article will be posted in the Waterdrum.

Please email test/ article to: [info@awwao.org](mailto:info@awwao.org)

