



A Newsletter for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators!

THE WATERDRUM

May 2017

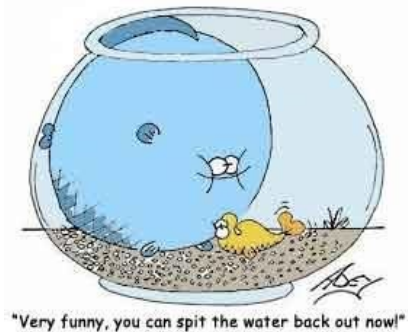
Inside this issue:

Thank you Sault Ste. Marie	1
AWWAO: About Us	2
AWWAO Board of Directors	3
AWWAO Membership	4
22nd Annual Conference Registration	4
41st Annual Elders & Traditional Peoples Gathering	5
WCWC Helpline Services	6
22nd AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow	7
2nd Annual AWWAO Tradeshow	8-15
Annual General Meeting	16
Keynote Speaker Dan Morriseau	17
Presentation of Paul Strohack Operator of the Year Awards	18
5th Annual Water Taste Challenge Winners	19-20
Guest Speakers	21

Thank you Sault Ste. Marie



On behalf of AWWAO, we would like to say thank you for hosting our 22nd AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow at the Delta Hotel in the beautiful City of Sault Ste. Marie.





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.



AWWAO Board of Directors

The Aboriginal Water and Wastewater Association of Ontario is very pleased to have hosted the 22nd Annual General Meeting and Training Conference and Tradeshow at the Delta Hotel in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The conference was held during the week of February 13, 2017 .

The Board of Directors, along with the AWWAO Coordinator worked diligently within a short time frame to deliver the Conference. After more than 22 years, we're still learning and growing through this event , and we look forward to it every year.

The conference welcomed water and wastewater professionals from across Ontario. The purpose of the conference was to promote the development and delivery of continuing education and training programs for Plant Operators and others involved in water and wastewater treatment.

The 2nd Annual Tradeshow showcased a wide variety of options for attendees and businesses to engage and interact with each other. Throughout the conference, attendees had the opportunity to network, socialize shared talent and explore challenges in the protection and treatment of our water supply.

AWWAO would like to thank Health Canada and Indigenous and Northern Affairs for funding this event and their continued support. We would also like to thank Walkerton Clean Water Centre and Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence for providing us with the training courses.

We value each individual/member for taking the time to come and participate to help us all shape the future through AWWAO. It is through the exchange of new ideas and information that we can keep up to date on continual advancements in the water industry!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



AWWAO Membership

AWWAO Memberships expire each year and must be renewed no later than the start of the fiscal year or by the second Monday in April as per the AWWAO By-Law NO. 1, Section 7.3. Association membership is mandatory for those operators wishing to attend the Annual General Assembly and Training Conference. In 2017 AWWAO has seen new faces and welcomed new members, both Regular and Associate to the Association.

Total Regular Membership 2017: 125

Total Associate Membership 2017: 9

22nd Annual Conference Registration



First Nation Operators: 52

Board of Directors: 8

Trainers: 5

Speakers: 5

Others: 29

**2013/14
Conference
Attendance:
87**

**2014/15
Conference
Attendance:
69**

**2015/16
Conference
Attendance:
96**

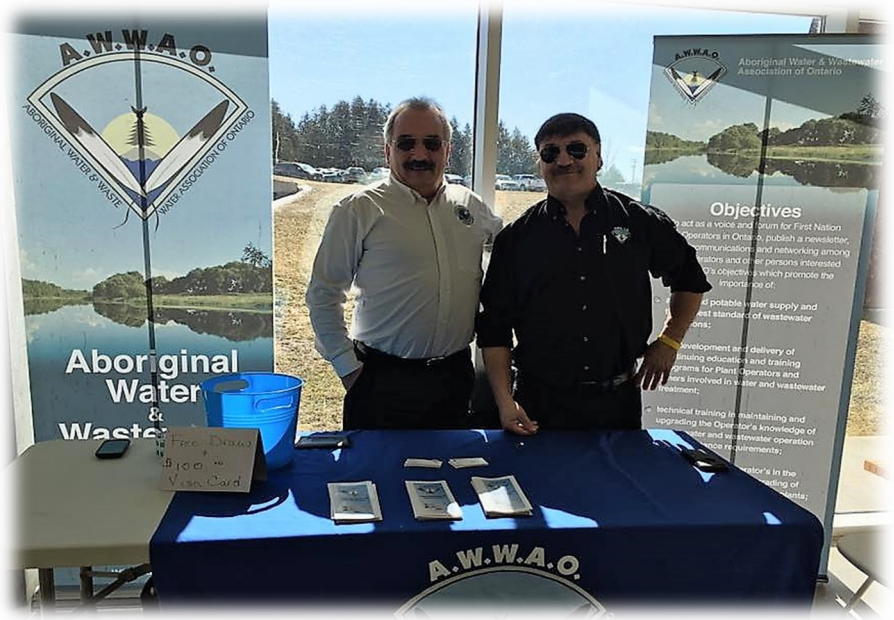
**2016/17
Conference
Attendance:
99**



41st Annual Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering

Water the First Medicine: Protecting Life For Future Generations

During the weekend of March 3rd-5th 2017, The First Peoples House of Learning at Trent University held the 41st Annual Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering. The theme of this years gathering was “Water the First Medicine: Protecting Life For Future Generations.” The purpose of this years Gathering was to educate students and community members on the sacred gift of water. The Gathering included Elders and Knowledge holders who held teachings around water and our responsibilities to protect it for the next generations.



Our two keynote speakers were Claudette Commanda, a Professor and an Executive Director for the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural Education Centres. Claudette is also an advocate for water protection.

Our second keynote speaker was Pura Fé who connects with water through the sharing of her people’s East River canoe songs. She touched the hearts of attendees by connecting and teaching the crowd of over 400 one of her paddling songs.



We had the honour of having the Water Walkers (Josephine Mandamin, Dorothy Taylor and Tasha Beeds), present a panel on this years upcoming Water Walk and encouraged attendees to do their part in helping “nibi” (water).

During the 3 days we had over 500 participants from across Turtle Island. At the Gathering, participants also had the opportunity to put their name in for three \$100 draws, sponsored by AWWAO. Our 2017 Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering would not have been possible without the generous support we received from AWWAO and our other valued community partners. ----



WCWC Helpline Services

The Walkerton Clean Water Centre (WCWC) educates and supports our clients as they address their water system risks in order to safeguard Ontario's drinking water. As part of this support, WCWC offers a service for Ontario's owners, operators, and operating authorities of drinking water systems and members from the public. Through this initiative, WCWC provides information, education and advice to address questions related to drinking water including treatment processes, equipment, operational requirements and environmental factors.



WCWC can help you by:

- Providing technical information on treatment technologies available to address your water quality issues
- Referring you to appropriate contacts such as manufacturers, water professional associations, government agencies/departments and other stakeholders
- Contributing to the enhancement of knowledge relating to your operations or interests
- Supplying information to improve your understanding of operational requirements
- Researching and providing available resources such as guidelines, manuals, procedures, courses, and websites, to support you in addressing your issues

WCWC has a considerable amount of technical knowledge to offer and will strive to provide you with tailored information relating to your query. WCWC recognizes the financial challenges faced by small systems and does not charge for this service.

Please note the helpline services provided by WCWC are not intended to be a 'hotline'. WCWC will respond to your inquiry during business hours, Monday to Friday. In the event of an emergency or a suspected adverse water quality incident, callers are advised to contact the appropriate authority as prescribed by the regulations.

Call the helpline toll free at **1-855-306-1155** or email helpline@wcwc.ca.



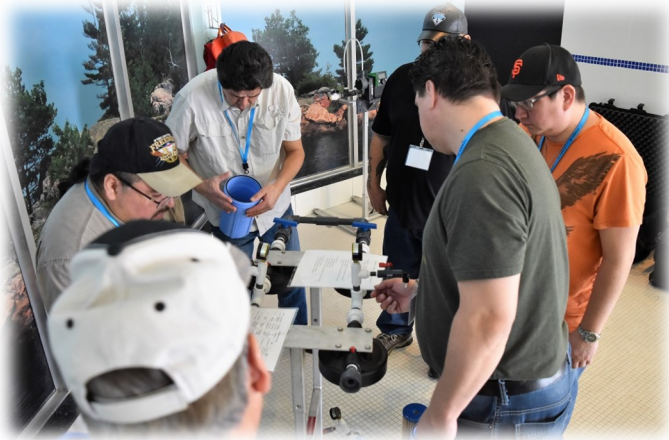
22nd AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow

Walkerton Clean Water Centre provided AWWAO with the Entry-Level Course. The Entry-Level Course (ELC) is a mandatory course for all drinking water operators developed by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. It provides new operators with a basic understanding of water characteristics and pathogens, treatment and distribution processes, and the regulations that govern water quality. The course was instructed by Wayne White and Laird Lee.



22nd AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow

Walkerton Clean Water Centre provided AWWAO with Groundwater and Well Basics and Practical Training for Small Water System Owner & Operators. The Groundwater course provided operators with a general understanding of the occurrence and nature of groundwater; how wells are designed and constructed; groundwater quality and wellhead protection; and pumps and well maintenance. The Practical Training for Small Water System Owner & Operators course provided the operators with a realistic and practical approach to deal with issues related to source, treatment and operation of their plant. The course was instructed by Jason Jackson (Groundwater) and Tony Janssen (Practical Training).



22nd AGM & Training Conference & Tradeshow

Keewaytinook Centre of Excellence provided AWWAO with the Exam Prep and Operator In Training Course. These courses provide operators of water treatment and water distribution systems with the knowledge required to successfully operate and maintain community facilities, and successfully challenge provincial certification exams. The course was instructed by Gary Oja (Class I-III) and James Haskell (OIT).



2nd Annual AWWAO Tradeshow

AWWAO would like to express out thanks to the 21 exhibitors for sharing their knowledge and expertise at the 2nd Annual Tradeshow!!!

2nd Annual Tradeshow Exhibitors



2nd Annual AWWAO Tradeshow



2nd Annual AWWAO Tradeshow



2nd Annual AWWAO Tradeshow



Annual General Meeting

This years Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Delta Hotel, Sault Ste. Marie on February 15, 2017. The agenda was distributed to all members in attendance for their review and reference. There was a total of 44 First Nation Operators in attendance.

The AWWAO directors presented the organizational past fiscal year's financial and legal activities to the membership at the AGM .

AWWAO thanks the membership for attending and encourages members to keep an open dialogue throughout the year.



Keynote Speaker Dan Morriseau



AWWAO thanks Dan Morriseau for being the Keynote speaker at our 2017 AWWAO General Meeting. We enjoyed a fantastic presentation regarding boiled water advisories and safe drinking water.

Dan is currently employed as a Senior Policy Advisor with the Chiefs of the Ontario. Dan is from the small town of Barwick Ontario located in Northwestern Ontario. He currently resides in Toronto. He is the son of current AWWAO vice chairperson, Wes Morriseau and his wife Debbra Westover-Morriseau.



Wes Morriseau, Dan Morriseau and Ian Fortin



Presentation of Paul Strohack Operator of the Year Awards

We all know it takes a very dedicated person to be a water/wastewater treatment plant operator. To diagnose and treat water when it's difficult to determine where the bugs are is truly a gift. Operators play an important role in the lives of our communities, and given their hectic day-to-day responsibilities, we do not always have the chance to express our appreciation for the hard work that they do. AWWAO would like to thank these operators.

On February 15, 2017, Ian Fortin AWWAO director announced that John Owl from Serpent River First Nation was chosen to be the Paul Strohack Operator of the Year 2017 for the South. Justin Wesley from Kashechewan First Nation was chosen to be the Paul Strohack Operator of the Year 2017 for the North.



Phil Tangie, Josh Owl, Justin Wesley & Ian Fortin



5th Annual Water Taste Challenge Winners

The Southern Cup (formally known as the Derrick Kamanga Water Taste Challenge Cup) winner for the 2016/2017 fiscal year at the AWWAO's AGM/Conference was Whitefish River First Nation. The community is located by the scenic shores of Georgian Bay and the North Shore Channel, gatekeepers to Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Andy Recollet received the Cup on behalf of his First Nation.

The Northern Cup (formally known as the Josephine Mandamin Water Taste Challenge Cup) winner for the 2016/2017 fiscal year at the AWWAO's AGM/Conference was Wahgoshig First Nation. The community is located by Matheson in Cochrane District in northeastern Ontario, Edward Black received the Cup on behalf of his First Nation.



Edward Black



Andy Recollet



5th Annual Water Taste Challenge Winners

The AWWAO would like to thank the volunteers (Denis Nault, Brian Gildner, Corrine Louther, Enrico Ferrari and Jim Brown) for judging in the 5th Annual Water Taste Challenge. We sincerely appreciate your time and effort in making our contest a success.



Guest Speakers

AWWAO would like to thank our honored speakers, who have shared their very interesting and exclusive presentations providing the conference attendees with new information for thinking and further development.



Ken Kokanie (Capital Management Officer)



Brian Gildner (MOECC)



Gerry Dignard (Owner, CEO)



Richard Herman

