



Atlantic Canada Water & Wastewater Association

A section of the American Water Works Association

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New ACWWA bylaws approved

THE new Bylaws for Atlantic Canada Water and Wastewater Association were approved AWWA's Board of Directors at their January 25, 2009 meeting in Tucson Arizona. The new Bylaws reflect the name change to "Water and Wastewater" and recognize our association with the Water Environment Federation. With this change the Association should continue to grow its membership and provide quality representation to its Atlantic Canada members.

Our new Bylaws however will present a challenge to the ACWWA Board to develop wording that is acceptable to the Section and AWWA so an Affiliation Agreement can be signed. A draft of the new Affiliation Agreement was approved at the Board of Directors January 25, 2009 meeting. See attached. The Affiliation Agreement is designed to set the terms and conditions between AWWA and the Sections so everyone will be adequately protected against litigation on such issues as intellectual property, conducting their daily operations, protecting the non-profit tax exemption, etc. ACWWA is not the only Section with concerns about the draft Affiliation Agreement. There are other Canadian Sections as well as the Alaska Section and the Cal-Nevada Section.

The Bylaws will eventually need revisions to reflect the approval by the Board that multi-section members are allowed to vote and hold office in any Section in which they are either a primary member or a multi-section member, provided they be allowed to hold office in only one Section at a time.

Don Degen from the BC Section was one of five who ran for President Elect. Don ran a good campaign making it to the final ballot but ended up losing to Joe Mantua from the Chesapeake Section. Joe will assume the position of President Elect at the San Diego Conference in June 2009.

The Canadian Directors are working with representatives from Ontario and AWWA to locate an acceptable location in Toronto to hold ACE in the future. Discussions are ongoing but things are looking positive as a new center is scheduled for completion in September of this year.

The AWWA Board approved the 2009

Director's Report

Sandy Robertson



Section Allotments dues Rebate to Canadian Sections of \$79,400.

The AWWA Board Approved the 2009 Budget with a projected income of \$33,449,900, projected expense of \$32,447,300, resulting in a net income of \$1,002,600 and capital expenditures of \$1,598,000. In recognition of the potential shortfall in excess of \$500,000 in pension plan funding and also other possible reductions in revenue streams, the Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Committee to work with the Executive Director in determining changes to the 2009 budgeted expenses as are necessary to address this shortfall.

There were several minor changes to the Governing Documents of AWWA and minor revisions to a few Policy Statements approved by the Board at their Winter Meeting. There were also several Standards that had modifications approved.

AWWA's new computer software offers members and other customers access to change their personal profiles, including street address, e-mail address, telephone numbers, order history, transcript information, and communication preferences, including type (e.g., Streamlines, Opflow) and form (e-mail and/or post). With the ability to make changes online, AWWA members can ensure that their contact information is current and there is no break in receiving all their member benefits. It will also be easier for people to sign in and shop online. A single user-friendly log-in allows access to all parts of the AWWA Web site, and there will be a single shopping cart for those ordering a book or video or signing up for a conference or webcast. The start-up date for the new software is March of this year.

Other benefits of the move to the new software, known as Personify or TIMSS v 7, include improved efficiency and capability to provide members with services and administer member benefits, as well as meet security standards.

We can't get along without volunteers

VOLUNTEERS are the main strength of any association like ACWWA. Since many of the products and services we provide to our members are delivered by volunteers it is crucial that there is always a roster of members who are ready and willing to get involved in the association. For this to be the reality, the Association must ensure that people who express an interest in volunteering are given a clear and focused assignment and that they find their volunteer experience to be both enjoyable and rewarding.

The ACWWA Board has recognized that this is an area where we can do better. To this end, the Board has recently established its first ever Volunteers Committee. John Eisnor of Halifax Water has been appointed as the first Volunteers Committee Chair. As Chair, John will be maintaining a current roster of prospective volunteers and a list of opportunities for member involvement. There are many opportunities to get participate so get in touch with John to talk about how you can get involved.

Efforts to fully develop as a WEF member association are well underway. The AWWA Board at its Winter Board meeting approved our new by-laws. This was the final approval required in this transition. As an important milestone, ACWWA will be hosting one of five WEFMAX events held across North America this spring in Halifax on May 6-8. WEFMAX is a forum where leaders from WEF and WEF member association come together to exchange information and learn how to improve services to WEF



Chairman's Message

Reid Campbell, P.Eng.



members. Approximately 40 delegates are expected to attend. The ACWWA Board will be meeting during WEFMAX. This will provide an important opportunity to advance our association with WEF and for ACWWA Board members to learn about WEF.

Planning is well underway for our 2009 conference in Halifax. There has been a tremendous response to the call for papers which promises a full technical program with something for everyone. The conference will be offering all the events that you look forward to

including a trade show and the popular Top Ops competition.

This year we are pleased to provide a new conference event with a powerful incentive to encourage Young Professionals to give technical presentations. Fresh Ideas is a technical papers competition for YP's who are first time presenters at our conference. The paper judged to be the best by a YP, first time presenter will be declared the Fresh Ideas winner and will be awarded free registration to ACE 2010 in June in Chicago with travel supported by ACWWA. They will also be given the opportunity to present their paper at the Fresh Ideas poster session at ACE 2010.

I would be pleased to hear from any members who have questions or concerns about their association. Feel free to get in touch at reid.campbell@halifaxwater.ca.

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Canadian Affairs Committee represents us to AWWA

THE Canadian Affairs Committee (CAC) is a committee of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) that reports to the Administrative & Policy Council (APC).

The objective of CAC is to support, plan, develop and coordinate AWWA activities in Canada with particular emphasis on the continuing improvement of inter-section liaison and the promo-

tion of AWWA services to AWWA Canadian sections/members; to represent the issues and ideas of Canadian members and sections to AWWA; and to carry out activities to build awareness and unity of Canadians within AWWA.

The CAC is comprised of the five Canadian Directors of the AWWA, five representatives from the Canadian AWWA Section Boards, a liaison from the Water Utility Council (WUC) of AW-

WA, the Executive Director of the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and the AWWA Section Services Representative.

The CAC membership consist of
 Bruce Buchanan, ACWWA
 Director and CAC Chair;
 Reid Campbell, Atlantic Canada Rep;
 Carl Yates, Water Utility Council Liason;
 Hubert Demard, Quebec Director;
 Serge Cyr, Quebec Rep;
 Tim Lotimer, Ontario Director;
 Joe Salter, Ontario Rep;
 Ray Bilevicius, Western Canada Director;
 Simon Thomas, Western Canada Rep;
 Don Degen, BC Director;
 Bob Jones, BC Rep;
 Duncan Ellison, CWWA Executive Director
 Gary Sullivan, AWWA Section
 Services Representative.

NS endorses wastewater strategy

NOVA Scotia has joined the federal government and other provinces and territories in endorsing a Canada-wide strategy for managing municipal wastewater effluent.

The agreement was reached at a meeting of the Council of Canadian Ministers of Environment, or CCME, in Whitehorse, Yukon that ended on Tuesday, Feb. 17.

"The department looks forward to collaborating with municipalities, and the federal government, to implement the wastewater strategy in Nova Scotia," said David Morse, Minister of Environment.

The strategy sets out a framework to be followed by all participating jurisdictions to manage discharges from more than 3,500 wastewater facilities in Canada. There are 128 in Nova Scotia. Many facilities in Canada need repair and upgrading. The unified approach to improvements will increase protection of human health and the environment.

"I was also pleased to bring Nova

Scotia's Climate Change Action Plan to the CCME table, to help find common areas of interest with the other jurisdictions so we can work together to combat climate change," said Mr. Morse.

The plan's 68 actions include a commitment that Nova Scotia participate in national and international discussions on clean air and climate change, including those taking a North American approach.

The provincial, territorial, and federal environment ministers agreed to discuss a unified approach in the lead-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December, and in future Canada-U.S. discussions on climate change.

Mr. Morse and the other ministers also went over strategies to keep more commercial products, packaging and other wastes out of landfills. Nova Scotia is a recognized leader in recycling and solid-waste management.

The ministers were also briefed on plans for a collaborative approach to manage air quality in Canada.

CAC meets twice per year with the first at AWWA's Annual Conference and Exposition (ACE) in June and then in the fall. At ACE, CAC organizes and hosts the Canadian Water Forum. This is an opportunity for the Canadian Membership at ACE to meet with other Canadian members. It also provides the opportunity to talk to Canadian and American members of AWWA Board.

CAC also organizes and hosts a technical session at ACE. This year's session in San Diego, California will be on "Climate Change and its Effects on Water Sustainability".

CAC has been working on a Strategic Plan and at the most recent meeting held on October 18th in Charlottetown, the Strategic Plan was formalized and Key Initiatives were developed. These will be presented in future articles.

If you have any questions regarding the Canadian Affairs Committee, please contact Bruce Buchanan (bbuchanan@rvanderson.com), Reid Campbell (reid.campbell@halifaxwater.ca) or Carl Yates (carl.yates@halifaxwater.ca).

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Wilderness area designation protects Amherst's drinking water supply

THE Town of Amherst's drinking water supply is now better protected with the designation of watershed lands as a provincial wilderness area.

Nine-hundred and seventy hectares of Amherst-owned lands, north-east of the town, make up the new Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area.

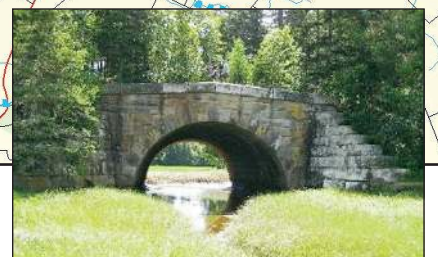
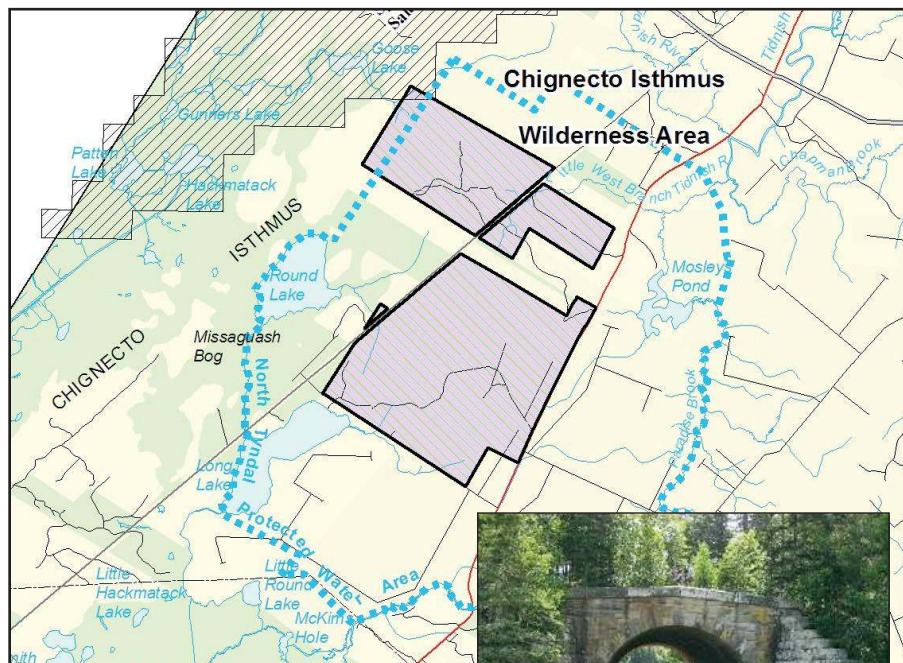
"We are pleased to work with one of our municipal partners to protect their water supply and biodiversity, through this collaborative effort," said Mark Parent, Minister of Environment. "Protecting these lands demonstrates continued progress on the government's commitment to move toward a greener Nova Scotia by protecting 12 per cent of our provincial land base by 2015."

The town requested that the province apply the higher level of protection to the lands which are within the municipal water protection area.

Department of Environment and town staff worked closely together to develop terms and conditions of designation acceptable to both parties.

"The Town of Amherst is very pleased to have its watershed lands protected as the Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area," said Robert Small, mayor of Amherst. "The wilderness area designation will provide enhanced protection for our drinking water supply while ensuring that a beautiful natural area is preserved for the benefits of our residents and visitors alike."

The area protects bogs, marshes, co-



Remains of the Chignecto Railway

niferous and mixed forest and the endangered mainland moose. Its importance also stems from its location in the narrow, low-lying land bridge which connects Nova Scotia to New Brunswick. The area was already closed to unauthorized use of motorized vehicles by provincial water supply protection regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources assisted with the designation.

This is the second wilderness area to be established on municipal water supply lands. In 2005, the Town of Antigonish agreed that lands surrounding that town's municipal water supply would be added to the Eigg Mountain-

James River Wilderness Area.

The Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area is located in northern Cumberland County and is not to be confused with the Chignecto Game Sanctuary which is in the western side of the county and is managed by the Department of Natural Resources.

For more information and for a map of the Chignecto Isthmus Wilderness Area, visit www.gov.ns.ca/nse/protectedareas/wa_ChignectoIsthmus.asp.

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ACWWA 2009

A Water and Wastewater Event!

October 18 - 20, 2009 Halifax Marriott Harbourfront

www.acwwa.ca



Photo: HRM Corporate Communications

Join us as ACWWA 2009 comes to Halifax. The ACWWA conference continues to be the leading water and wastewater event in Atlantic Canada attracting hundreds of water and wastewater professionals and offers a high caliber technical program with unparalleled professional development, educational, and networking opportunities. At ACWWA 2009, to be held October 18 - 20 (Sunday to Tuesday), attendees can choose from technical sessions, workshops and tours.

Specialty tracks will allow attendees to design their own learning experience and gain insights into developments, regulations, and research, as well as emerging technologies and proven approaches to everyday water and wastewater challenges. In addition, this conference will focus on provincial and national policies.

The trade show will offer exhibitors an opportunity to showcase their products and services. With more than 40 exhibitors, there will be plenty of opportunities to get answers to your questions and see demonstrations of what's current in the industry - and what's coming in the future.

Steeped in history and culture, Halifax, Nova Scotia offers bustling city streets, leisurely strolls along Halifax harbour, fine dining, great shopping and lively music – there are so many things to do!



We're pleased to announce this year's keynote speaker will be Harry Swain. He is a former deputy minister of Industry Canada and now a research associate at the University of Victoria's Centre for Global Studies. An acknowledged expert in public policy, Mr. Swain chaired the research advisory panel of the Walkerton Inquiry, an expert panel on a water and wastewater strategy for Ontario, and another on safe water for First Nations.



Photo: HRM Corporate Communications



Newfoundland and Labrador rural drinking water safety initiative

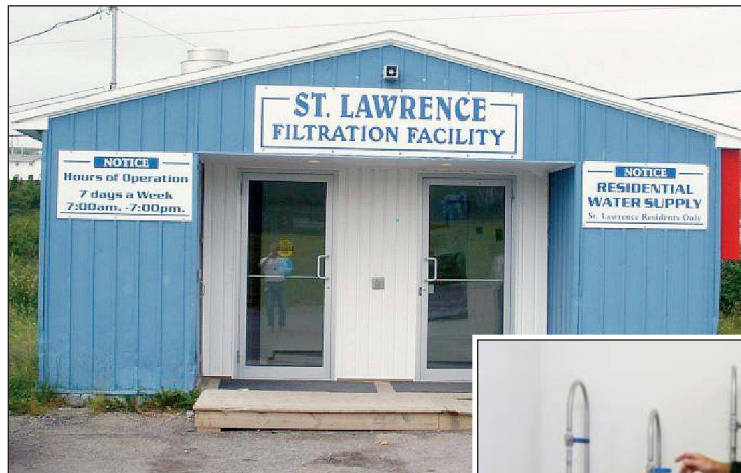
Bby Paula Dawe, P.Eng.

Organization: NL Department of Environment and Conservation

In May of 2008, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador unveiled its Drinking Water Safety Initiative, focusing on the needs of small, rural communities in the province. Building on the principles of the Multi-Barrier Strategic Action Plan, the Rural Drinking Water Safety Initiative outlines several options to improve upon drinking water safety and is based on a comprehensive evaluation of every public water supply in the province.

The first phase of the initiative will focus on rural communities with populations of less than 500 people. Phase two of the initiative will involve detailed engineering studies to identify options for communities with drinking water quality issues and populations greater than 500. Priority will be given to communities with a high level of need for drinking water quality improvement.

A significant component of this initiative includes the installation of Potable Water Dispensing Units (PWDUs). These units are small scale water treatment plants from which the residents of small communities are provided high quality drinking water. Typically located in an easily-accessible public building, a PWDU allows area residents access to clean and safe drinking water for personal consumption that meets the national guidelines for drinking water quality. Communities with a PWDU



Resident of St. Lawrence collects water for local PWDU



must still operate their regular water supply system for other non-consumptive uses (washing, laundry, washroom, etc.) and use the PWDU as a complementary source of high-quality drinking water.

A PWDU is intended for use in small communities where other options to address drinking water quality issues are not feasible or where the construction and operation costs of full-scale water treatment would be prohibitive. PWDUs are already in use in several communities across the province including: St. Lawrence, Buchans, Howley, Burnt Islands, Ramea and Black Tickle.

In September of 2008, as part of the Drinking Water Safety Initiative, communities with a public water supply and population under 500 were invited to apply for funding for projects that will improve drinking water quality. The

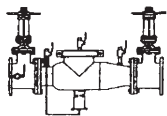
Provincial Government has committed \$6 million per year for the next three years for capital upgrades to improve drinking water safety. An additional \$2.9 million was committed in Budget 2008 to provide more extensive training to water systems operators, and enhance the technical assistance provided to communities as they continue to manage their systems as effectively as possible. Two major studies have also been undertaken as part of the Drinking Water Safety Initiative, one on the operation and maintenance of drinking water infrastructure in Newfoundland and Labrador, and the other a performance evaluation of existing PWDUs.

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MANAGING IN OUR CURRENT ECONOMY

It makes sense to invest

INFRASTRUCTURE investment is back in the national news. Usually when this happens it is the result of some dramatic infrastructure failure like a bridge collapse, but this time it is a bit different. The global economy is under stress and economists and politicians alike are looking for quick fixes. They are looking for precedents and finding them in the policies of Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon...they are eyeing investments in public infrastructure. Experts might also look to the Japanese experience in the twenty years since their economy experienced a dramatic melt-down for some answers. The power of infrastructure investment in reviving failing economies is impressive.

Even the presidential candidates are beginning to talk about it. The reasons are simple...public spending on public infrastructure works. It works because state and local governments will spend everything they get and spend it quickly. They already have significant inventories of public works projects (including water and sanitation initiatives) awaiting funding...which makes it puzzling why infrastructure investment is not receiving more immediate attention at the federal level.

The answers are as simple as they are disturbing. Except for the highly visible highway and airport infrastructures (and even they are in trouble), most infrastructure is not politically "cool". It is expensive, it takes a long time to complete (often longer than the terms of office of those who need to vote the funds) and importantly, it is frequently seen to come at the expense of critical social services for the people most in need in our society. And there is one other problem...federal infrastructure investment at the local level involves income redistribution... taking money from those who have invested in their infrastructure at some sacrifice and making them pay for communities that could not or chose other priorities. These are all deal killers except in the most abundant of times, but that does not make infrastructure a bad public policy decision for America.

Ten years ago abundance seemed imminent and there was a raging national discussion about how to spend what was anticipated to be a huge national budget surplus...and all sorts of infrastructure projects were on the table...including water and sanitation elements. The surplus never materialized and

neither did the infrastructure investment. But the need remains in almost every area of public infrastructure investment. What did materialize in the water and sanitation field was the funding gap...the literal billions of dollars between what was being spent and what would be needed over the next twenty

Editor's Note:

The following two articles are written by Bill Bertera on thinking and managing in our current economy. Mr. Bertera is the Executive Director of WEF.



Sewer being upgraded in downtown Moncton

WEFTEC adopts new manage

THE recession that took so long to be recognized as a recession is now universally acknowledged. The country and the whole of the world are caught up in it and there is no avoiding its consequences. For those of us in the association world, the outlook is not encouraging. We are often at the end of the service chain and for hard pressed companies, utilities, governments and individuals, we often constitute discretionary spending...spending that can be interrupted for a time until things get better.

Of course, that may or may not be the case. The best associations provide training, education and other services that are even more important in difficult times because they help our members' weather rough roads, and when the recovery

comes, as it will, the skills we sharpen will be more important still. But for now, we in the association world need to hone our services to the most essential, trim our expenses, improve our management and service while anticipating decreased revenues as we do so.

The dilemma is classic. Everything is connected. Crisis in the financial markets affects the availability of credit, credit restrictions effect investment and lending, companies cut back production and lay off workers in response to decreasing demand from consumers, and tax revenues from all sectors decrease because income and sales are down in the private sector economy. Even services like water and sanitation are not immune from global economic dislocations and neither are the associations that serve them.

in public infrastructure

years just to stay even as aging infrastructure and population growth took its toll. 2

Despite very aggressive investment initiatives in hundreds of communities in water and sanitation infrastructure, the national gap, estimated by the EPA to be in the \$478 billion range, remained. This, despite an-

nual local government investments in water infrastructure in the \$30 billion range in recent years. The gap remains and is growing and private investment capital is not filling the void.

A recent study by the United States Conference of mayors suggests that the return

on investment for every dollar spent on water infrastructure is \$2.62 in that year and for every job added in water and sanitation, 3.68 jobs are created in the national economy to support that job. We also know that federal funds put into the hands of state and local officials actually get spent...and usually quickly. And there are some preliminary indications in Congress that there is a need to at least pretend to be taking the situation seriously.

Congress does this by drafting and proposing legislation. But drafting and proposing are a far reach from actually enacting and there seems little political will to do that now in an election year with a recession looming. That does not stop legislators from talking about it however, and letting us think that something will happen. The case for infrastructure investment in general is well known and documented. Those who own homes know how it works. Eventually everything wears out, but it wears out more slowly if it is taken care of along the way. Doing so not only prolongs the life of the asset but allows us to extract as much value from it as possible while giving us time to

See page 10



ment guidelines for the economic crisis

This recession is not going to be like anything most of us have ever lived through. It will be longer, more severe and pervasive than anything since the 1930s and we need to understand and accept that. Hunkering down and waiting for it to pass us by will not work. Business as usual will not work because the usual isn't any more. Everything has changed and it is unlikely that what we once thought "normal" will ever be again. We need to start thinking very differently about everything including the traditional linkages between members and their associations.

The Water Environment Association is looking ahead. Although we began our fiscal year with a record breaking WEFTEC in Chicago, have enviable cash flows and extensive financial reserves, we do not expect that this recession will pass us by ei-

ther. We are trimming expenses in anticipation of revenue decreases; honing our services and doing all those things that well run organizations do in times of trial. But that is not enough.

The WEF Board of Trustees has adopted a set of financial and management guidelines we will use in managing WEF in the coming years. The guidelines set a very high standard on service, provide for continued investment in programs and services that address our core mission and the needs of our members. They also dictate solid fiscal management regardless of other considerations. An organization that is not running in the "black" cannot have the resources to pay attention to its business nor can it fulfill its mission.

An important and critical underlying assumption to the guidelines is the under-

standing that what happens to our members also happens to WEF. The health of the community reflects itself in our membership numbers, attendance at conferences, exhibit and advertising sales and so on. The same is most certainly true for state and regional associations, but perhaps not in just the same way. Travel restrictions may work to the advantage of local organizations while overall spending cuts by companies and utilities curtail membership, exhibit and sponsorship fees.

Each of our organizations needs to take a close look at what we do, who we do it for and how we do it. Managing associations in time of crisis is always a dicey thing, but not undoable. We just have to be smarter, work more closely together, be willing to do things differently...and to take reasonable risks.



2009 CANADIAN WATER FORUM

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Infrastructure spending makes sense

From page 9

save for the day when maintenance gives way to necessary replacement. Why is it that we understand that with respect to our homes, but not our ports, rivers, parks and water and sanitation infrastructures to name but a few examples? The answers are uncomplimentary to Americans as a people and reflect a short sightedness and absence of what political scientists used to refer to as "public regardiness"...the willingness to give up personal and immediate satisfactions for a longer term public good that benefits the whole of society rather than just us. The analogy of a rising tide raising all boats is apt here. Our deficiencies in just about every area of public infrastructure investment have been documented by the American Society of Engineers in its annual infrastructure investment report card. In the United States, federal investment in infrastructure is less than 3% of GNP. In the 1950s, that share was in the 10% range. It has been going down ever since. By some estimates, the funding gap for all public infrastructure is in the area of \$1.6 trillion over five years, and water and sanitation are a big piece of the gap nationally. The argument is often made that water and sanitation infrastructure are and should be local responsibilities and they are. But it is also clear that if local governments were able to meet all their needs, there would not be a national funding gap. The private sector would have us believe that all that is necessary is to enable the wholesale privatization of public infrastructure and the gap would go away. The experiences of Europe, South America and Asia suggest otherwise. 3 Local public infrastructure is a matter of national interest and priority...or at least it should be. Our economy, our competitiveness and even our security as a country depend upon the strength of our infrastructure and what it lends to every aspect of what we call our quality of life. The sum total of our national experience is the sum of our parts...the states and local governments where everyone lives, where all tax dollars are generated and most spending occurs, should be a national priority. In this context, all infrastructure is important for economic development, security and quality of life. But water and sanitation infrastructure are critical for life itself... that should count for something.



Risk Assessment and Emergency Preparedness

April 15, 2009 Moncton April 16, 2009 Halifax

Course Description:

This one-day course explains Elements 7, 8 and 18: Risk Assessment, Risk Assessment Outcomes and Emergency Management of the Ministry of the Environment's Drinking Water Quality Management Standard (DWQMS) Guidance Document. These Elements are necessary requirements for the preparation of an Operational Plan, a pre-requisite for an application for a Municipal Licence for a drinking water system.

Terms such as Hazard, Hazardous Event, Control and Critical Control Point, Measure and Limit are defined. The course introduces the 4 components of risk: hazard, likelihood, con-

sequence and detectability. Participants are instructed on how to perform a step-by-step risk assessment for a water system and how to prepare a risk assessment table.

The section on Emergency Management identifies emergencies and potential outcomes, explains how an emergency procedure is developed, states the training requirements for emergency preparedness, and explains the emergency contact requirements and the review and distribution of an Emergency Plan.



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April 15, 2009 Moncton _____ April 16, 2009 Halifax _____

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Payment of \$395.00 (includes taxes and lunch) can be made by cheque and is due prior to seminar date.

Cheques should be made payable to
ACWWA
 PO Box 41002 Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4P7
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Target Audience:

This course is for directors, managers and/or engineers of municipal drinking water systems, senior operators, project managers responsible for the implementation of DWQMS within drinking water systems and compliance officers within an operating authority.

Trainer:

Dr. Mehran Monabbati, Ph.D., Dr. Monabbati is a senior environmental scientist in the area of risk assessment and risk management with 16 years of experience working with industrial and government clients. He has been involved with the operation and design of the process plants and utility systems for a variety of industrial sectors. Dr. Monabbati has conducted numerous risk assessment projects for industrial operations such as utilities, mining, chemical storage facilities, hazardous material transportation and handling, chemical plant, smelters, power plants, and natural gas transmission lines. He has been one of the contributing authors of the draft chemical storage guidelines in Ontario. Dr. Monabbati is a chemical engineer and has more than 5 years of teaching experience in the field of chemical engineering at the university level. He has taught the "Fundamental of Risk Assessment" course at the Professional Development Centre of the University of Toronto.

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Health Canada study of water quality

Editor's Note: the following article was taken from a recent CWWA communique.

RECENTLY, the Canadian Press (CP) noticed an entry on Merx (the electronic tendering services) that Health Canada was announcing a sole-source contract for testing of water samples from drinking water services.

The CP release stated in part:

The federal government is ordering tests of Canada's drinking water over concerns it may contain

contaminants thought to raise the risk of cancer and other health problems. Health Canada is now seeking a contractor to determine if the contaminants - known as disinfection byproducts - flow from the country's taps.

The CP release was picked up by many newspapers, TV and Radio Stations. Many enquiries have flowed from this partially inaccurate news release. The following are the facts:

1. This is part of routine testing and monitoring programs carried out by Health Canada, although on a much wider scale than in the past,
2. The purpose is to determine the levels of about 100 drinking water quality parameters being achieved in a sample of Canadian drinking water systems,
3. Health Canada, with the assistance of the provincial and territorial members of the FPT Drinking Water Committee will be selecting 30 or so water utilities in each of 2009 and 2010,
4. The utilities selected will range from those serving less than 5,000 persons, 5,000 to 50,000 persons and those serving more than 50,000 persons,
5. The utilities are being selected to cover a range of treatment technologies and processes and source waters,
6. Both raw and finished water is being sampled and tested to determine the efficacy of different treatment technologies,
7. Water samples will be taken in the twice per year to verify cold and warm water conditions,
8. Dr. Mark Servos, University of Waterloo is to be contracted to test for pharmaceutical residuals,
9. Maxxam Analytics is to be contracted to test for inorganic substances, and
10. Health Canada's own laboratories will be testing for DBPs, Bisphenols and a range of physical qualities.
11. The results are expected to help guide future work priorities and decisions of the FPT Drinking Water Committee.

Many requests have been received by Health Canada from water utilities to be included in the program, but due to the complexity of the testing program and timing, it is necessary to limit the number of participating utilities to 30 or so per year.

CWWA supports and encourages this type of research as being essential to the establishment of scientifically-based water quality parameters. Safe drinking water is our common objective.

AWWA Members' Code of Practice

As members of the American Water Works Association engaged in providing public water supply services:

We shall act to provide the best possible water service while preserving the public health, ensuring public safety, and being responsible stewards of our precious water resources.

We shall perform our duties in accordance with local, state, provincial and federal law and follow generally accepted and professional procedures, making sure that such procedures are based upon reasonable substantiated information.

We shall encourage methods that are economically sound and in the public interest for water operations-including, but not limited to, construction of water facilities, materials selection, management practices, and operating procedures.

We shall encourage application of new concepts and innovative technologies to practical problems and assist the users of innovative technology in performing balanced technical evaluations and assure cost-effectiveness.

We shall discourage exaggerated, unfair, or untrue statements concerning public water supplies and promote an understanding of professional standards for water utility operations and materials.

We shall not accept compensation in any form from any interested party other than our employer or client. We shall not engage in other employment that could affect our performance or independent judgement in duties for our employers or clients.

We shall fully disclose financial or personal interests that could be construed as a conflict of interest with our employer or client in the purchase of goods or services. In addition to disclosing any interests, we shall not participate in decisions related to such purchasing activities.

We shall not allow our personal ambitions to either unfairly affect our associates or interfere with fair competition for advancement.

We shall strive to advance the public appreciation of the services provided by water professionals and uphold the concept that employment in the public water supply field is a legitimate long-term career for well-trained and responsible citizens.

We shall promote employment and volunteer opportunities with commitment to nondiscrimination and shall make it clear that discrimination of any sort is not acceptable and should not be tolerated.

We shall not engage in nor countenance discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

We shall advance the knowledge of our colleagues and the general public by providing presentations at public forums and participating in other professional associations, civic organizations, and volunteer activities.

We shall not fail to perform the duties entrusted to us to the best of our ability. We shall hold the public interest superior to personal interests and shall ensure, through actions and leadership, that water service is maintained under all conditions.

We understand our essential public health and safety obligations to our community and accepted these responsibilities; we shall always strive to do our best to discharge them.



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Ecumenical water network

FROM October 22-24, 2008 the first annual participants meeting for the Ecumenical Water Network (EWN) was held in Bossey, Switzerland. The event brought together 30 participants from the Christian community from around the World. This event was attended by United Church of Canada representative Blake McDonald from Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The Ecumenical Water Network, is a network formed from the Climate Change working group of the World Council of Churches in 2002. The Ecumenical Water Network was formed by Christian agencies and movements to:

- Raise the awareness of the churches on the urgency of water concerns;
- Engage as an ecumenical community in common action at all levels;
- Promote the preservation, responsible management and the equitable distribution of water for all, based on the understanding that water is a fundamental human right.

In August 2006, the United Church of Canada held its General Council meeting in Thunder Bay, Ontario. During the event it was declared by the United Church that water was a human right. Additionally, it was encouraged that all churches, where possible, remove bottled water from the churches. These two main points were presented to the EWN in Bossey, along with the other 30 countries and Christian organizations whom were represented at the conference.

The EWN participants meeting provided an opportunity for all participants to discuss the key issues facing their countries on issues of water and pub-



Arthur Shoo from the African Council of Churches discussing water issues in his home country of Tanzania.

lic access to it. Participants from India, Philippines, Brazil, and Tanzania, a few example of countries represented, discussed topics ranging from over commercialization of bottled water in countries like India where more than 1000 bottled water companies exist, governance and political will, transnational boundary issues related to water and conflict, sanitation, drought, contamination of water, and the need for sustainable funding for infrastructure construction and renewal.

The purpose of the meeting was to collectively develop priorities for the

EWN participants during discussion at the October 2008 meeting on water.

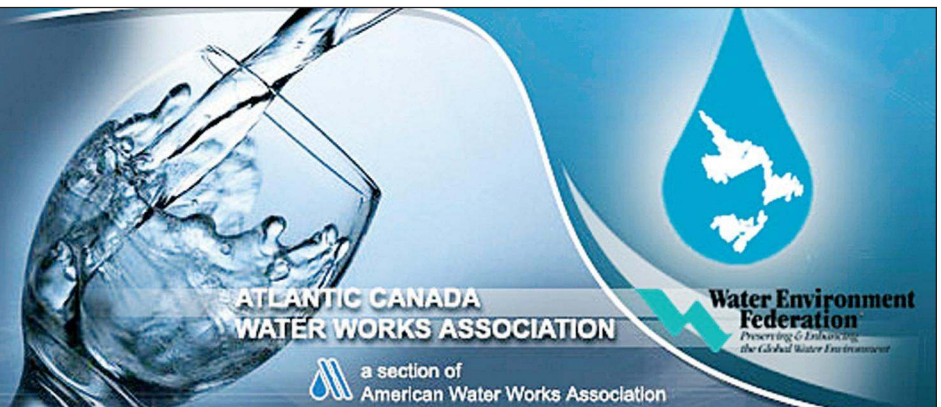
EWN on issues of water and access to water and sanitation. Through a facilitated process the group determined two keys priorities for the EWN in the next 3 years. The two priorities were 1) Education and Awareness; and 2) Political advocacy. These two areas were seen as the most significant areas that EWN, and its partner organization could focus its work for the promotion of water and sanitation as a human right.

The meeting was not all filled with in-depth and engaging discussion on water. There was also opportunity for all participants to learn and share with each other through music, song, and dance as well as develop strong friendships along the way.

All participants left the meeting with a renewed commitment from all organization to promote the universal access to water and sanitation and its importance for the protection of communities, human health, and the environment.

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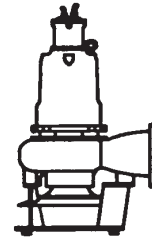
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Blow your horn

Management Corner

Ernie Lundquist



Ernie Lundquist

WHEN you buy most things, the manufacturer, the distributor, or the store usually gives you some paperwork to go along with it. Even if it is just a can-opener, you get information on how to keep it clean, who can service it, and what your rights are with respect to warranty and accidental maiming. They may also thank you for choosing their product and spend a little time reminding you of their or its great virtues.

However, when a person moves

to your municipality, builds a house, and hooks up to your new service, all they get are bills. Even within Atlantic Canada, utility policies and procedures vary greatly. It doesn't help that in Campbellton we get double digit frost penetration while in Halifax you can place concrete all winter; or that water quality varies all over the place.

If I were king, this municipality would do better than that. I realize, however, that it would have to be worded properly. You can't have a letter from the mayor saying how happy we all are to be receiving your sewage, and please think of the council when you flush; or how lovely it was for our workmen to destroy your front lawn, and we are charging more because your 100 year old hedge got in our way. Still, I think something should go out, ideally with the first water bill or with the invoice for the connection.

Here are some options for the letter:

- A statement of welcome from the Superintendent of the utility;
- A statement of the mission of the utility, or a promise of good service;
- An explanation regarding the installation of the service and why the utility did or did not complete the landscaping, or will or will not repair a settlement;
- Information on how the bills are

calculated, and when they are mailed;

- Who is responsible for the various parts of the service: pipe, valve, meter, backflow preventer;
 - A statement of warranty regarding the service that was installed, and what happens when it fails or reaches the end of its useful life;
 - A list or description of free services that come with the connection. Do you help check for leaks, thaw services, rod sewers, locate lines?
 - A statement about the water quality: if you can't brag, at least tell them it will not kill them (unless it will, in which case public relations is not your biggest problem);
 - A list of contacts for the various types of problems a customer might experience, such as water quality, slow drainage, leaking meter, low pressure, high consumption, etc.
- Much of this information may be in pamphlets, or on the application form for new services. However, at the very least, the customer should be welcomed, should know who to call for a problem, and should feel that they are being promised good service. The way I see it, the new customer needs to know some things and we gotta blow our own horn!!

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