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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ATLANTIC CANADA WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION



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INSIDE:

- 2021 ACWWA Annual Conference in December
- Award Nominations Now Open!

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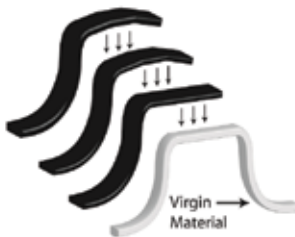
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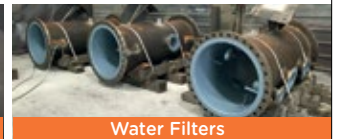
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TABLE of CONTENTS

FEATURES

2021 ACWWA Annual Conference – On the Horizon	17
ACWWA Invites Submissions for Award Nominations for 2021!	21
Building Water Systems: A New Certification	23
AWWA Is Seeking Canadian Volunteers	29



DEPARTMENTS

Message From the Chair	6
WEF Delegate's Report	8
AWWA Director's Report	10
CWWA Director's Report	12
Membership Corner	14
ABEA News	19
News & Notes	27
Back to Fundamentals	33
Advertiser Product & Service Centre	34



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On the cover: Petty Harbour in Newfoundland. | dreamstime.com





Staying the course

Welcome to the Summer 2021 issue of *Go With the Flow*. We are now into our second summer under the blanket called COVID. Like it or not, this is our reality, but overall I think things have been manageable and we are fortunate to live in Atlantic Canada. Our Chief Medical Officers are making good, solid decisions with our safety their number one priority. Vaccines are rolling out and, hopefully, by our next edition we will have turned a positive corner – stay strong and stay the course!

A lot of what we have encountered over the past year we have dealt with by educating not only ourselves but our staff/teams. Protocols may have been in place for such a pandemic but reality is far different than “what-if” scenarios.

Education is proving to be an ongoing, integral part of our daily lives. Formally or informally, we each learn something new every day. The past year has proven to be a steep learning curve for some of us. Who knew that Zoom meetings and Microsoft Teams would be part of our world to the extent they are? The surprise being that we have all managed, and are all quite adept at using the platforms. Taking away the choice to transition made us embrace the change. PPE is no longer just hard hats, work boots, and safety goggles – the mask is now the newest member of the list, and the most important.

One of the Strategic Goals/Objectives of the ACWWA is to promote/deliver high-quality educational

programs and services, along with professional development opportunities. The past year has shown us that we are continuing to be successful, and by using both in-person and online, self-monitored training, we are meeting and exceeding goals. We have a strong offering available for review on the ACWWA website, and if you can't find what you need we are only an email away (contact@acwwa.ca). Thank you to Clara Shea, Kyle MacIntyre, Jodi Stringer-Webb, and the Education team for their continued efforts.

ACWWA scholarships have been awarded, along with ABEA scholarships. We had a strong contingent of applications and look forward to seeing some of the recipients join us in the future, serving their communities in a meaningful way – today's youth are the keepers of the future.

Education, and the changing landscape, has led us to the conversation around IDE – Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity. One of the Core Principles of the ACWWA is to *Foster Inclusion, Diversity and Equity*. The ACWWA has an IDE Committee, committed to bringing our goals to reality; however, it is something we are all responsible for educating ourselves on.

“Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better!” – Maya Angelou

Dr. Jennie Rand (past ACWWA Chair) was part of a team from Acadia University who developed and delivered the research and evaluation on the state of diversity within the ACWWA along with recommendations. We had the opportunity to have Dr. Rand present the findings at the May 7 Board meeting, and on May 27 during the virtual WEFMAX, as keynote speaker. We look forward to the published material in the coming months. Thank you to the team.

“Change is hard at first. Messy in the middle. And gorgeous at the end.” – Robin Sharma

As we look toward the next quarter of 2021 I would like to remind – and invite – you to join us for our Annual ACWWA Conference December 7 to 9. In keeping with public safety guidelines currently in place, we will deliver it virtually, hosted by Jason Philips (City of St. John's) and his team.

Stay safe, wear a mask, wash your hands – and enjoy your summer! 🏖️



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Looking forward with hope

Are we there yet? How many times have we said this as children? How many times have we heard our children say this from the back seat of the car? This question has a completely different meaning to me in today's world. With all the travel restrictions in place, we cannot go very far from home lately... we cannot even visit our family and friends if they are not in our bubble or community. "Are we there yet?"... in my mind, this means are we getting closer to putting the pandemic behind us so we can get back to a more normal existence.

We have been experiencing varying stages of restrictions, shutdowns, lockdowns, masks, handwashing, vaccines, bubbles, indoor/takeout dining, COVID haircuts or no haircuts, "too many Zoom meetings," and the list goes on. One thing that has been apparent to me is that I need to be more patient and accepting of others. I need to wait a bit longer for the person in front of me in the grocery aisle or check-out line. We do not all come from the same backgrounds; we all have different needs and expectations.

With many people needing to work from home as well as homeschooling their younger children at the same time, we have become more aware that people are very diverse and very creative. We would not normally see people (Zoom calls) in their home settings during our professional dealings with them. We would not normally know much about people's personal situations. We might not know that they have any pets, etc. At the end of the day, we all should be working to live and not living to work. The work-life balance has changed significantly over the past year and a bit. We are so close to getting everyone vaccinated and getting control of this virus. To quote NS Dr. Strang, "The last part of any marathon is the hardest." Let us not give up before crossing the finish line.

Although at the time I am writing this article (mid-May) we are still seeing high case numbers in Nova Scotia and we are still in a bit of a lockdown, I am hopeful that when you read this article sometime in the summer that we will be able to go visit family and friends and be able to enjoy the summer season. Get outside and enjoy whenever possible.

On a positive note: WEF has been very busy working on many different programs. I am currently involved with the WEF House of Delegates (DE&I) Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Working Group. We have been very busy with

surveying all the WEF Member Associations across North America, creating a toolkit for MAs to develop or enhance their DE&I Committees at local levels as well as helping to create a permanent DE&I Committee at WEF.

Let us go back in time for a moment... in 2019 I was volunteering with a WEF House of Delegates Diversity & Inclusion Workgroup, and we recommend to the WEF Board of Trustees to form a Permanent Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

In July 2019, I went to Toronto representing the ACWWA as the Chair of the WEF Canadian Affairs Council to address the WEF Board of Trustees in person to discuss important Canadian concerns from each are of the country. I focused much of my presentation on Diversity and Inclusion from a Canadian perspective. I found out at the end of the meeting that WEF was creating a DE&I Task Force. I am proud to say that I had some involvement with bringing Diversity and Inclusion to the table – see below for more details.

From the WEF DE&I website (www.wef.org/about/diversity-equity-and-inclusion)

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) maintains diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I) as core principles of our organization's mission. Our members, Board of Trustees (BOT), volunteer leaders, and staff together and individually share responsibility to uphold these principles.

How We Started

In August 2019, the BOT established the WEF Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Task Force with a charge to provide recommendations on where WEF should best focus efforts related to the development of a more diverse water workforce. The charter for this group initially was broad but following hours of brave and uncomfortable conversations and research, the Task Force provided the board with over 50 recommendations on how WEF can make a positive impact on the water industry. More importantly, the Task Force recommended that to help the water industry, WEF needed to take a critical look internally first.

In 2020, WEF established a DE&I BOT Subcommittee and House of Delegates DE&I Work Group to consider our organizational strategy in addition to a Staff Working Group on Racial Equity for internal efforts. We are in the initial phases of planning and understand that realizing a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable culture is an ongoing journey that will require strong communication and dialogue to create change. We invite

you to visit this page often to learn and engage with our DE&I work.

Also in 2020, WEF reviewed and reaffirmed its official Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policy.

WEF has several other very useful websites – see the following information and links.



www.wef.org/resources/wef-inflow-program

Introducing Future Leaders to Opportunities in Water

WEF InFLOW (Introducing Future Leaders to Opportunities in Water) is a program to enhance diversity and inclusion in the water workforce.

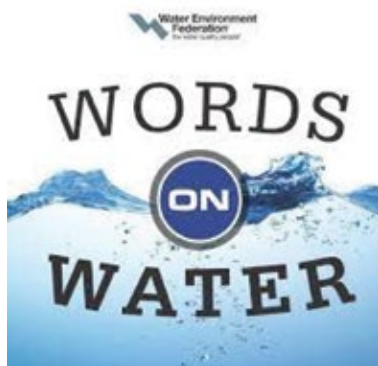
This scholarship opportunity engages participants in WEF programs and events to:

- Solidify their interest in working in the water sector; and
- increase probabilities for employment and long-term success working in water.

WEF InFLOW consists of two tracks:

STEMpath identifies scholars enrolled in undergraduate/graduate degree programs from historically underrepresented ethnic and racial groups.

CareerTech partners with community-based organizations to expose scholars in job readiness programs to the variety of rewarding career possibilities in water quality.



<https://wordsonwaterwef.com/>

A podcast featuring conversations with influential and interesting people from the water sector and news from the Water Environment Federation.

Check out some great podcasts created by WEF. One of the most recent Podcasts (May 12, 2021 Words On Water #186) is discussing Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Donnell Duncan is the Chair of the DE&I Workgroup I am currently volunteering on.



Megan Yoo-Schneider and Donnell Duncan on Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Finally, WEFTEC will be a hybrid version this year in Chicago. There is an in-person portion including the famous Trade Show aspect as well as a virtual online aspect. Unfortunately, with the COVID-19 travel restrictions, etc., hanging over our heads, not very many Canadians (including myself) have a budget or a willingness to travel in/to the US to a large conference in 2021.

If you are unable or not willing to travel to Chicago this year, I encourage you to investigate the online aspect to get your CEUs and professional development hours.

www.weftec.org

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WEFTEC 2021

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Exhibition: October 18–20, 2021

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Watch www.weftec.org for the latest information and please make plans to join us in Chicago. You don't want to miss out on this special reunion for our water community! 🌊



Moving forward

Welcome to the Summer 2021 issue of ACWWA's *Go With the Flow* magazine. I hope everyone is staying healthy and, with any luck, enjoying some nice summer weather.

By the time that this is published, AWWA will have held its June Board of Directors meeting as a lead-in to ACE21 All Virtual. This was a virtual meeting, as AWWA had to make the decision to move ACE21 to an entirely virtual event. The AWWA Board of Directors held a conference call in March to determine if there was a path to allowing ACE21 to move forward as a hybrid event consisting of in-person activities in San Diego, California, and virtual elements for those who would be unable to travel. It was decided that ACE21 would have to be an entirely virtual event, as the host convention centre in San Diego was unable to open at that time, and they were unable to guarantee that in-person travel would be allowed from outside of the state of California by the June start date of ACE. The Canadian Directors also made clear that it would likely be impossible for any Canadians to travel to San Diego, given the Canada-U.S. border closure, along with the lack of financial resources to allow for travel with the pandemic ongoing. ACE21 All Virtual was scheduled for June 14–17, and among the events scheduled was a virtual version of the Canadian Water Forum. I hope many of you were able to register and attend some of the sessions. ACE21 also saw the annual transition of incoming and outgoing Board members, and the beginning of the one-year term of Dr. Chi-Ho Sham of the New England Section




as AWWA President. Melissa Elliott's one-year term as AWWA President came to an end at this meeting. She deserves a lot of credit for leading the Association through a very trying year.

The pandemic has forced all of us to change the way we do business in many respects, and AWWA has been no exception. Association revenues have been impacted significantly in the near term, but as CEO David LaFrance has stated, while the Association's finances are not infinite, they are stable at this time despite some expected significant revenue losses.

As we move forward into the summer months in Atlantic Canada, I know we all hope that some sense of normalcy may be restored as more and more Canadians will be in line to receive their second vaccine doses. AWWA is still conducting Association

business virtually as this is written, but resumption of some in-person events are being scheduled for later this year. I encourage you to check the AWWA website at awwa.org for the latest in educational and conference offerings. While both AWWA and ACWWA continue to provide value to our members with online education opportunities, I know many members will be looking forward to the day when we can meet again in person. In the meantime, I wish you a pleasant and productive summer, and hope everyone has some opportunity for rest and recharge during what is always a busy period for our industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our Section. Please feel free to contact me with any AWWA-related questions or concerns at scott.grasman@fredericton.ca. 

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The national perspective


There are a number of initiatives and events happening that may not (hopefully) be covered in other parts of this magazine.

CWWA prepared a position paper on the establishment of the new Canada Water Agency. If you haven't seen it already, you may want to have a look here: https://cwwa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Canada_Water_Agency_CWWA_feb2021.pdf.

The guidance document *Towards a Sustainable Utility* is now available on the CWWA website, at https://cwwa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ULGDocument_Final.pdf. This was also the theme of the recent National Water & Wastewater Conference webinar in January/February. A number of videos of presentations are available for viewing on the CWWA website. Sustainability is a big topic and has been discussed a lot over the years. As practitioners in water and wastewater, we should have an

interest in making sure that our work is sustainable. In this guidance document, a sustainable water service is defined as one that “recognizes and incorporates social (service level and affordability), environmental and economic factors, while ensuring full cost recovery and intergenerational equity.”

Reminders of upcoming events:

- Window on Ottawa and the Canadian Water Summit, a combined event, was held June 8 to 10. For more information, go to <https://watersummit.ca/>.
- AWWA ACE21 was held from June 14 to 17. For more information, go to www.awwa.org/ace.
- Canadian Affairs Committee of AWWA is meeting on June 22, 2021.
- Western Canada Annual Conference will be taking place September 21 to 24. For more information, go to www.wcwwa.ca/page/AnnualConf. 

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Committee news

Hopefully by the time our magazine reaches you, the spring rain will be behind us and the beautiful summer sun is shining. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Melissa Fraser for all of her hard work on the Membership Committee as the new member/volunteer chair these past few years. Melissa will be moving from the Membership Committee on to the Communication Committee.

Melissa will be replaced by Michael Brophy from CBCL Halifax as our new member/volunteer chair. Michael is a Process Specialist at CBCL in Halifax, NS. He has been

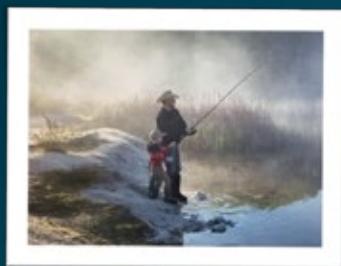
with CBCL for nearly two years, working on numerous water and wastewater projects focusing on operational support, research development, and water quality. He holds a Master of Applied Science in Civil Engineering from Dalhousie University, and is a certified level 1 water treatment operator. In his spare time, he is a competitive curler and loves to travel and spend time outside with his family and friends. We are very excited to have him join us. Welcome Michael!

Don't forget our "refer a member" contest for a chance to win a \$50 gift card of your choice. 🎁

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank Melissa Fraser for all of her hard work on the Membership Committee as the new member/volunteer chair these past few years."

2021 ACWWA Photo Contest

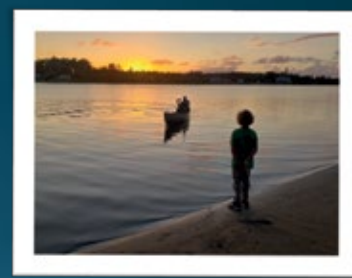
Our family* and water
(*includes pets)



2020 – 1st Runner Up
Brad Carrigan
West Hants Regional
Municipality



2020 – Top Prize
Devin MacAskill
CBRM Water Utility



2020 – 2nd Runner Up
Eliane Doucet
Crandall Engineering, a division of Englobe
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Rules and Criteria:

1. Photo must be submitted by an ACWWA Member.
2. Photo must include water AND a family member(s) and/or pet(s).
3. Please provide first name of those in photo.
4. Unlimited submissions. Only one winning picture per member.
5. Judged by ACWWA Board.
6. Deadline for submission is September 10, 2021.
7. Submit pictures or questions to julie.stokes@moncton.ca.



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Third place prize – \$100 gift card of your choice

Welcome new members

Name	Organization	Membership
Rick Brooker	Sansom Equipment Ltd.	AWWA
Pierre Plourde	Crandall Engineering Ltd.	AWWA
Katherine MacCaul	Dillon Consulting	AWWA
Martha Myers	Martha Myers Consulting Services	AWWA
Megan Fuller	Dalhousie University	AWWA
Peter Van Caulart		WEF
Holly Sampson	CBCL	WEF
Antoinette Johnson	Department of Environmental Health	WEF

As of May 13, 2021

Total AWWA active members: 414

Total AWWA late members: 10

Total active WEF members: 105

Total WEF late members: 35 



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2021 ACWWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE –

ON THE HORIZON

SAVE THE DATES – DECEMBER 7 TO 9, 2021

It has been six years since the ACWWA Annual Conference was last held in St. John's, and the host committee has been working hard to make it another great experience. Unfortunately, it has been decided that we will not be hosting an in-person event; instead we will host another virtual conference building upon the success of our inaugural online event from last year. While this may be disappointing to those who were looking forward to once again getting together with our colleagues, we are confident that we will be able to host another event that will exceed everyone's expectations.

Join the ACWWA online in 2021 to learn and share your knowledge with friends and colleagues in the water and wastewater industry. The conference theme is "On the Horizon" which we believe reflects everyone's thoughts as we await COVID-19 vaccinations and the return to "normal" life, albeit changed slightly. We look ahead to the new challenges and opportunities that wait for us "On the Horizon." The conference will feature technical sessions, the ABEA Tradeshow, and industry networking opportunities.

The call for abstracts has been issued and we are anticipating some great topics. Hopefully, we will hear about some positive experiences or changes that occurred during the pandemic and we will learn some valuable lessons that we can apply to our own situations. We have issued the sponsorship package for the conference, and anyone who is interested in being a sponsor for this event is encouraged to visit our website at www.acwwa.ca to obtain more details. ☺



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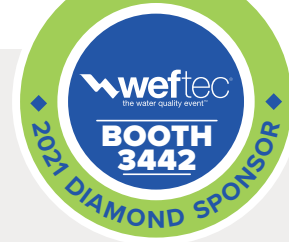
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What can the ABEA and its members do for you? The ABEA continues to support the ACWWA and its members, COVID or not.

We continue to listen to the needs of our customers and assist in problem solving. Our many members have adjusted their communication strategies to meet the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic and Public Health guidelines. We consider ourselves a caring team, made up of 61+ unique members and are here to assist in any way possible.

The ABEA offers four x **\$1,000 academic scholarships** annually to deserving individuals who meet the application criteria (visit www.ABEA.biz). To date we have awarded two scholarships to **Aaron Stokes** (Julie Stokes, City of

Moncton) and **Hunter Rowe** (Darren Rowe, City of Miramichi). We wish them all the best as they prepare to spread their wings and open a new chapter in their lives.

As the planning continues for this year's ACWWA Annual Conference (December 7-9), being held virtually, we are continuing to find ways to support the initiative in a meaningful way. Stay tuned!

Education is a hot topic this year, and our membership continues to find ways to assist their customers with creative delivery methods to keep them informed of changes in the industry. If you have a need, please feel free to reach out. We are certain that we have something to meet your needs on an individual basis, or we can create a program in conjunction with the ACWWA Education Team. 

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ACWWA INVITES SUBMISSIONS FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS FOR 2021!

If you know someone who has made a contribution to the water and/or wastewater industry, don't let their efforts go unnoticed. The following awards are eligible for presentation at the **2021 ACWWA Virtual Annual Conference**. Please note that the **deadline for 2021 Award Nomination submissions is July 31, 2021**.

Fuller Award (Nominee must be a member of AWWA)

The George Warren Fuller Award is awarded by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and may be presented annually to a member of ACWWA for distinguished service in the water supply field in commemoration of the sound engineering skill, the brilliant diplomatic talent, and the constructive leadership that characterized the life of George Warren Fuller. The award was established in 1937 in memory of Mr. Fuller who, besides being identified with several important sanitary engineering advances, is given much of the credit for AWWA's development from a social group to its present high standing as a technical organization.

MacNab Award

(Nominee must be a member of AWWA or WEF)

The Ira P. MacNab Award is awarded by ACWWA and may be presented annually to a member of the ACWWA for outstanding service to the water industry in Atlantic Canada. The award was established in 1957 when the ACWWA was called the Maritime Branch of the Canadian Section AWWA. It is in honour of the late Dr. Ira MacNab, P.Eng., the first president of the Maritime Branch, for his untiring efforts and wise council during our formative years and to recognize his outstanding service and interest in the local water utility field.

Project of the Year –

Engineering Award/Environmental Award

(Nominee must be a member of AWWA or WEF)

The Project of the Year – Engineering Award/Environmental Award is awarded by ACWWA to a Municipality or Utility and their Consultant, one of which is a member of ACWWA, to recognize **outstanding projects in Atlantic Canada that demonstrate innovation and state-of-the-art technology** in water or wastewater projects.

Awards may be presented in each of the following three categories:

- Small Utility – less than 5,000 customers
- Medium Utility – between 5,000 and 25,000 customers
- Large Utility – more than 25,000 customers

Silent Hero Award

(Nominee must be a member of AWWA or WEF)

The Silent Hero Award is awarded by ACWWA and may be presented annually to **recognize outstanding contributions** of water and wastewater operators.

Contribution Award

(Nominee must be a member of AWWA or WEF)

The Contribution Award is awarded by ACWWA and may be presented annually to recognize **outstanding contributions** by an individual or a group of individual volunteers to ACWWA programs and/or the water industry throughout Atlantic Canada.

Young Professional Award

(Nominee must be a member of AWWA or WEF)

The Young Professional Award recognizes a Young Professional within the Atlantic Canada Water & Wastewater Association for **outstanding contributions to the water & wastewater industry**, and to the ACWWA Young Professionals' committee.


Nominations Procedure

Where applicable, an awards committee has been established for the specific awards. The awards committee shall select the recommended candidate for the award from the nominations received, and shall present the award to the recipients during the ACWWA Annual Conference.

The recipient of the Fuller Award receives a pin at the ACWWA Annual Conference, and the actual Fuller Award is presented at the following AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition.

Individuals wishing to nominate an individual or group for an award can use our online nomination form at www.acwwa.ca/award-nomination-form?tmpl=component, or contact the ACWWA office and request the applicable nomination form.

Nomination forms can be faxed or emailed to ACWWA at **902-435-7796** or contact@acwwa.ca.

Questions, nominee biographies, and/or project descriptions can be emailed to Clara Shea, Executive Director: contact@acwwa.ca | 902-434-6002. 



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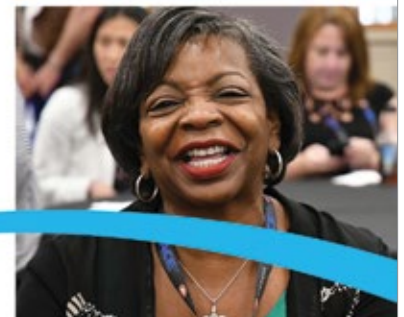
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BUILDING WATER SYSTEMS

A new certification

By Jenni Green, P.Eng, and Kalpna Solanki, BSc CPHI(C), MBA

This article originally ran in the Spring 2021 issue of BCWWA's *watermark* magazine. Reprinted here with permission.

Legionella was discovered after an outbreak in 1976 among people who went to a Philadelphia convention of the American Legion. Those who were affected suffered from a type of pneumonia (lung infection) that eventually became known as Legionnaires' Disease.

Interestingly, Legionella was also implicated in another illness previously. The first identified cases of Pontiac fever occurred in 1968 in Pontiac, Michigan, among people who worked at and visited the city's health department. It wasn't until Legionella was discovered after the 1976 outbreak in Philadelphia that public health officials were able to show that the same bacterium causes both diseases. While there is no vaccine, the disease is preventable as it is almost always connected to improperly maintained mechanical systems.

Monitoring the disease trends in Canada shows there is a reason to be concerned about the incidence of Legionnaires' Disease in Canada. In 2000, the rate of Legionella in Canada was around 0.2/100,000; by 2018, this had jumped to 1.7 per 100,000. Considering that these are only the reported cases, there is a very strong likelihood that individuals with milder forms of the illness may have attributed it to a cold or flu and may not have even sought treatment. There is also the strong possibility that many who did have Legionella were never tested even if they did seek medical attention.

Some recent cases of Legionella in Canada:

- Surrey, BC: a 2018 Legionella outbreak resulted in 14 cases (all hospitalised), including seven in the intensive care unit with two deaths.

- Moncton, NB: 2019, 16 cases, 15 of whom were hospitalised.
- Quebec City, QC: 2012, 181 cases with 14 deaths.
- Toronto, ON: 2005, 135 cases with 23 deaths.

Most recently, during the summer of 2020, in New Westminster, BC, several individuals got Legionella, and one woman in her 70s needed to be hospitalized for 28 days after contracting the illness. It took a great deal of investigative work to track down the source of the bacteria, eventually determined to be a cooling tower.

"That is not a small piece of work. Any manmade water system, whether it is a cooling tower on top of a building or whether it's a fountain or water feature are possible places where the bacteria can grow and thrive, and so all of these are being looked at," said Dr. Elizabeth Bodkin,

Rate per 100,000 of reported cases over time in Canada, grouped by disease
2000-2018

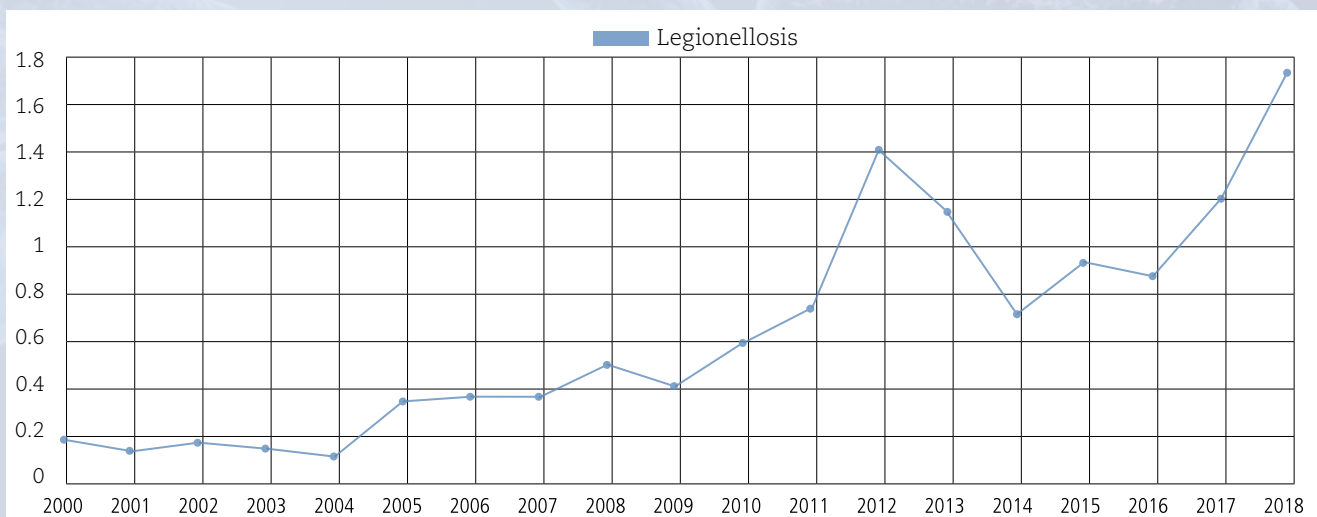


Figure 1. Rate per 100,000 of reported cases of Legionella over time in Canada.

Legionella are associated with the built environment. The bacteria can proliferate in poorly-maintained plumbing and building mechanical systems and are transmitted through inhalation of contaminated water that has been aerosolised, but not by ingestion of water. Sources include, but are not limited to, cooling towers, swimming pools, domestic water systems, ice-making machines, whirlpool spas, hot springs, and fountains.

Vice President, Population Health and Chief Medical Health Officer.

A review of the data from the US shows similar alarming trends where, year after year since 2000, the number of cases has been increasing steadily.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further heightened attention to Legionella as some health experts express concern that a prior COVID-19 infection could make a person more susceptible to Legionella. There is another concern as well related to shutdown of buildings



Figure 2. Potable water treatment system within a building (passed inspection).

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Figure 3. Decorative water feature (did not pass inspection).



during the pandemic, where water in cooling towers, fountains, and distribution systems has been left stagnant, providing a perfect environment for Legionella to multiply.

Legionella is a genus of bacteria that includes the species *L. pneumophila* that causes a pneumonia-type illness called Legionnaires' disease and a mild flu-like illness called Pontiac fever. Legionella bacteria are ubiquitous in water and soil, and multiply quickly in warm water (20–50°C).

Legionella are associated with the built environment. The bacteria can proliferate in poorly maintained plumbing and building mechanical systems and are transmitted through inhalation of contaminated water that has been aerosolised, but not by ingestion of water. Sources include, but are not limited to, cooling towers, swimming pools, domestic water systems, ice-making machines, whirlpool spas, hot springs, and fountains.



Figure 4. Cooling tower (did not pass inspection).

Cooling towers, decorative water features, and non-potable water treatment systems (such as for rainwater re-use) have all been implicated in Legionella outbreaks. Examples of some of these systems are shown below.

In early 2020, the City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health Region, and the EOCP embarked on the project to implement a new certification,

that of Building Water Systems* Operator certification. The certification was then announced at the EOCP's conference in September 2020. It is anticipated that this Operator training and certification process will have a significant impact in reducing the number of Legionella outbreaks in BC.

*This certification also encompasses potable water systems where anti-corrosives are used, as well as rainwater harvesting systems.



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Interestingly, Legionella was also implicated in another illness previously.



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Pre-requisites for the Building Water System (BWS) Operator certification, and ongoing requirements to maintain the certification, are:

1. 50 hours of experience working as:

- In a relevant red seal trade, e.g., plumber, boilermaker
- Facility Maintenance Technician
- Professional engineer working in a related field
- Professional biologist working in a related field
- Certified EOCP Operator
- Water treatment service provider
- Environmental Health Officer
- Drinking Water Officer
- Swimming Pool Operator

2. Completion of an accredited BWS course

- Course will be two to three days long
- Cost for course will be approximately \$750
- Course may be in class or online


*Courses have been developed by training providers; accreditation is by the EOCP.

3. Examination

- Web-based or paper
- \$100
- 50 questions
- Two hours long

4. Maintaining certification

- Payment of EOCP annual dues (\$99)
- Completion of 1.2 CEUs (core and related) in every two-year reporting period (first reporting period would be January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023)

While the Building Water Systems certification is first being rolled out in Vancouver, there has been a great deal of interest in this new certification throughout North America, and it is expected that other jurisdictions will follow suit. 

AWWA's Barb Martin named to Women in Standards Board

Source: AWWA.org


Women in Standards recently named Barb Martin to its Board of Directors. Martin is the director of engineering and technical services at the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

Women in Standards is a community of standardization contributors, users, participants, professionals, and service providers. Established by women

working in standardization, the organization promotes inclusion in standardization, participation by all stakeholders, and provides support and education to assist our community in learning about standardization, finding the right standards committee for them, and growing their network.

“From volunteer contributors to product end users, all stakeholders

benefit from an inclusive standardization process,” said Martin. “As a Board member, I am looking forward to contributing to advance the important mission of Women in Standards to promote diversity in standards development.”

AWWA's more than 180 ANSI-accredited standards cover all facets of water supply, treatment and delivery. 

AWWA awards inaugural 5 Under 35 – Outstanding Young Professional Award

Source: AWWA.org

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) announced in April the five recipients of its inaugural 5 Under 35 – Outstanding Young Professional Award. The new award recognizes and honors young professional AWWA members who have demonstrated outstanding service to their Sections or the Association through leadership and active participation in young professional programs.


The 2021 award winners are:

- Jeff Blakely, American Pipe, Rocky Mountain Section (Colorado)
- Amanda Jones, Marana Water, Arizona Section
- Jihyon Im, CDM Smith, New England Water Works Association (New Hampshire)
- John Logan, Trinity River Authority of Texas, Texas Section
- Robert Parks, City of Independence Water Utility, Missouri Section



The 2021 award winners were chosen from 23 nominees from North America and evaluated on eight criteria.

The award recognizes young AWWA members who actively pursue their advancement in the water sector through engagement

in student and young professional events and activities and by representing students and young professionals' interests throughout AWWA. The individual must be an AWWA member and under 35 years of age when nominated. 

GHD launches diagnostic tool to help North American cities transform delivery of water services

The Water Sensitive Cities Index allows cities to assess how their water system services are planned, designed and delivered.

GHD, one of the world's leading engineering consulting firms, has announced the North American launch of the Water Sensitive Cities Index (WSC-I), a benchmarking and diagnostic tool developed to assess the tangible aspects of integrated water management (IWM) services including storm water, flood management, ground water, wastewater, water supply, as well as less tangible concepts like governance and community values.

The WSC-I is designed to benchmark an area's current performance against seven water sensitivity goals. These goals are ranked against 34 corresponding indicators, which are scored on a 1-5 rating scale through a collaborative workshop process involving engineers, planners and stakeholders, facilitated by an accredited provider. The tool is supported by a web-based platform that can filter the results according to the needs and interests of the end-users and decision makers.

"The WSC-I is an important tool to aid stakeholders, who may not traditionally collaborate, across the water cycle. It helps align strategic planning and break

down silos, by bringing together water partners to better understand what their progress is toward being water sensitive," said Anne Lynch, North America Service Line Lead, Integrated Water Management Services. "In the end, this leads to more integrated solutions and project development."

The WSC-I was developed and industry-tested by the Cooperative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) in Australia. It allows governments and utilities to evaluate their urban water management systems in relation to other regions, identify priorities for management actions, and learn from other areas experiencing similar challenges.

"There's growing emphasis around the world on how important urban water services are in enhancing livability, sustainability, resilience and productivity," said Gemma Dunn, Western Canada Water Market Leader and accredited workshop provider for the Water Sensitive Cities Index. "This goes beyond promoting water-conscious communities – it's also about overcoming the unprecedented challenges we face, from climate change, pollution and ageing infrastructure, to meeting basic human needs and rapid urbanization."


Results from WSC-I assessments conducted in more than 50 participating cities have demonstrated the tool can

help decision makers identify crucial priorities to accelerate their water sensitive IWM or One Water transition. GHD is the only accredited provider of the WSC-I in North America.

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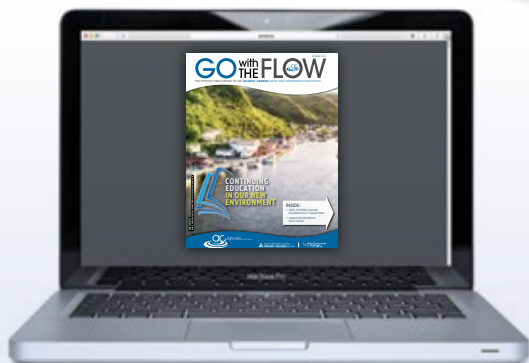
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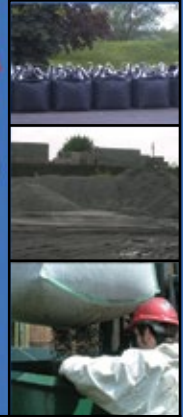
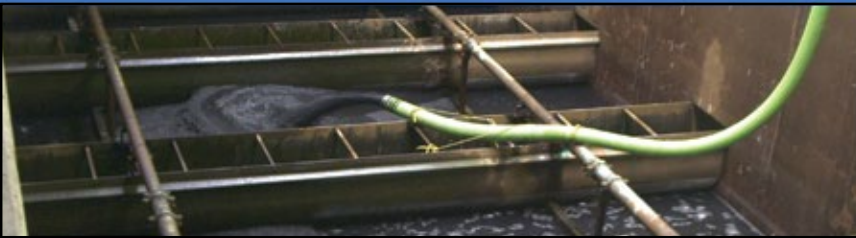
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Continuing education in our new environment

By Jodi Stringer-Webb, P.Eng., NBCC and Kyle MacIntyre, P.Eng., Dillon Consulting

The week of March 16, 2020 marked the beginning of states of emergency being declared in all four Atlantic Canada provinces with varying degrees of lockdowns. The beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in Atlantic Canada came in like a lion and the impacts were immediate and disruptive. Non-essential businesses closed, employees were sent home to work from the kitchen table, post-secondary institutions finished their year online, and public school kids restlessly waited to hear how they would finish out their academic year. The transition to online and virtual learning happened quickly and without much pre-planning or support. Most public and private learning institutions pivoted to a blend of in-person and online learning or entirely online for the return of students in September of 2020.

Technology and adapting became the name of the game and the water and wastewater industry was no different. Utilities still needed continuing education credits to maintain certification and operator skills, and organizations continued to support professional development plans.

In its mission to support its members, ACWWA adopted alternative delivery options. Traditional in-person training transitioned to both online and facilitator-led courses. Even the 2020 ACWWA Annual Conference was delivered virtually with a total of 158 attendees. Continuing education offerings have expanded to include online courses delivered by Maintenance Training Systems Inc. (MTS) and BC Water & Waste Association (BCWWA), courses previously not available as in-person options here in Atlantic Canada. All courses are issued a CEU certificate by ACWWA and are recognized by the Department of Environment.

The Education Committee recognizes that there are many aspects of instructor-led, in-person training that our members (and we) miss. Hands-on

skills, discussing issues or questions with other operators during coffee breaks, anecdotal stories, etc., are all very valuable to continuing education and cannot be easily replicated online. With that said, the pandemic has made each and every one of us pivot and adapt, and we are proud of our volunteers for their efforts, and thank our members for trying out new ways of delivering education.

Participation in ACWWA continuing education offerings in the first six months of 2021 have outperformed the same time period dating back to 2013! Survey respondents for 15 course offerings in 2021 have identified a rating of 'Very Good' when asked if the online format was easy to

follow. While most of us look forward to the ability to attend in-person training courses and see colleagues from other organizations, virtual learning will remain a part of the ACWWA's education program for the years to come. ☁

Have ideas for the next edition? Email your *Back to Fundamentals* questions to kmacintyre@dillon.ca.

The *Back to Fundamentals* department is published in each edition of *Go With the Flow* magazine. It is intended to cover a broad range of fundamental water and wastewater topics that will be driven by you, the readers of this magazine. If you find a topic particularly interesting or confusing, most likely others will as well.



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