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New Executive Director:
Ashifa Dhanani



Kristina Betts

Bursarv

Winner:



Victor M.
Terry Awards:
Darrell Bennett
& Daniel Gaudet



BCWWA Annual Conference: Challenge Events and Winners!

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Pages 8 & 9

BRITISH COLUMBIA OPERATORS Digest



Reminder:

The call for nominations for the Operator of the Year award closes on August 4, 2014. (See details page 5)

UPDATE:

EOCP Classification and Certification Project

he EOCP is working with the Ministries of Health and **Environment on this** project. The purpose of the project is to improve the EOCP's capacity to support the career needs of operators, and the training and staffing efforts of employers, as well as address regulatory concerns of government. The project's Steering Committee is made up of representatives from the EOCP and government, and it is receiving advice and assistance from a team of industry Key Advisors.

Over the last eight months, preliminary input was sought from senior water and wastewater staff in 16 communities on a number of key issues. Based on those discussions, the issues were brought forward to the BC Water and Waste Association conference in Whistler on May 5, 2014, where the Project conducted a workshop and hosted a booth at the Trade Show. Conference handout materials were also emailed to operators in the province for review and comment.

The Project is now reviewing all the



Tim Lambert, MoH Executive Director & EOCP Board member, speaking during the Facility Classification and Certification presentation at the BCWWA Conference. Panel (left to right) Donny Wong (Metro Vancouver), Shawn Sanders (MTS Inc & EOCP Board Member), Michelle Gee (MoH), Justin Sabourin (MoE)

feedback received — both from conference participants and from the 34 operators from across the province who took the time to respond by email — and will develop a Directions Report, summarizing the direction that the Steering Committee is planning to take to take to develop solutions to the various issues.

So, watch for the next step in this project – a Directions Report circulated to you in the Fall!!!



Environmental Operators Certification Program

The BC Operators Digest is the official newsletter of the Environmental Operators Certification Program. Submissions for publication in the Digest are welcome. Please email them to the EOCP office at eocp@eocp.ca Changes of address, annual dues, Continuing Education Requirements, exam applications, as well as general inquiries about the program should be addressed to:

ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATORS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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The Environmental Operators Certification Program is a charter member of the Association of Boards of Certification and is a registered society with more than 4,500 active members.

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Pat Miller Vice President
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BC OPERATORS DIGEST

2014 EOCP Certification Board Elections

The EOCP Board elections are coming up. Do you want to make a difference? Do you know someone you think would make a difference? There are three Director positions to be filled in 2014, by one Operator, one Education Representative, and one Employer Representative.

The following nominees have already agreed to run in the 2014 election:

Operator Representative: Darry

Darryl Bjorgaard

Education Representative:

Brian Thorburn

Employer Representatives:

Bob Smith

Any Operator that is in good standing is eligible to run for EOCP Board Director. Make your vote count! Contact the EOCP office if you want to nominate someone for the upcoming 2014 EOCP election.

This year's nominating committee is **Chris Brown**, **Pat Miller** and **Jim McQuarrie**. The Nominating Committee invites further nominations from the membership. Each nomination shall be supported by a minimum of three certified Operators who are in good standing, and shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2014.

The results will be announced at the EOCP Annual General Meeting this September in Kamloops, BC.

Digest Advertising Opportunities

Business card-sized ads are available for \$75 per issue or \$250 for four issues, GST included. For ads of other sizes, please contact the EOCP office.

Electronic EOCP Newsletter

The EOCP is trying to do our part to reduce our carbon footprint, by sending out the digest electronically. If you are reading this digest in hard copy, please contact the EOCP office at **eocp@eocp.ca** to ensure we have your correct email address and contact information. It is our goal to go 100% electronic with the digest. We are currently at 84%, and need 709 email addresses to attain our goal. Please help us make that happen!!

Meet the EOCP Executive Director

The Board and staff of the Environmental Operators Certification Program are pleased to announce the appointment of Ashifa Dhanani as our Executive Director, who started working with us on March 3, 2014.

Ashifa Dhanani has over 15 years in leading customer service teams and

call centres in both government and higher educational settings. Most recently, she worked as the Director of Customer Service at the Industry Training Authority (ITA).

Ashifa brings solid experience in aligning people, processes, systems and technology to support the company's strategic goals and direction. Ashifa is also PROSCI Change Management Certified and has facilitated change in diverse and complex environments. By leading change management strategies focused on the people side of change, she has maximized employee engagement and support of changes resulting in success of both departmental projects and large corporate wide initiatives.

Ashifa has been working alongside the EOCP Board to participate in annual strategic planning, and is responsible for developing the business plan, objectives, strategies, and operating budget to meet annual goals. She has been meeting with stakeholders and working towards meeting the EOCP's strategic objectives.

EDITORIAL

The Professional Operator



The times are changing for us Operators, and it has been long overdue. In the past, we have been called, and have called ourselves endearing terms such as ditch diggers, and turd hurders, just to name a few. Years ago, it almost seemed like a utility worker position was a great fall back job if things didn't work out for you in life, but this isn't the case anymore. The public, industry, and just about everyone is beginning to realize that we are the front line of defense for health and the environment. Unfortunately, it usually takes an incident such as a boil order or other problem with our drinking water for it to be thrust into the spotlight. When a person opens up their tap and water comes out, people are beginning to realize where their water is coming from, and where their water is going once it goes down the drain. This has been done through increased public education over the years and there has been great momentum building thanks to all the key players in our industry working together to promote this, such as AWWA, WEF, EOCP, BCWWA, & ABC, touting the importance of our drinking water and the treatment of wastewater. We now have dates during the year where water is celebrated. We have come a long way in our industry but we still have a ways to go.

We probably have all known Operators and or supervisors that have done their jobs unsafely or even unethically at times, such as changing a few numbers on laboratory results, taking safety shortcuts either by not shoring up a hole that is just over the depth limit, or climbing into a meter chamber without following confined space entry procedures because it will just take a second, or talking on a cell phone while driving. I knew of an Operator that used to get kickbacks from suppliers for buying their products. Most of the indiscretions aren't going to cause major health or

environmental problems so they must be ok. This is probably what the brothers in Walkerton told each other. These are indeed isolated cases, but unfortunately they do still occur. Their occurrence reminds of us of the importance of the job that we do, and how we hear about instances that are few and far between but we don't hear about the 99.999% of the time the Operator makes the right decision and does the right thing.

Many people in the public have no idea that we, the front line for water and wastewater have to be certified to hold our positions at work. This certification involves having to successfully pass a certification exam with a passing grade of 70%. They probably don't know that as Operators, we have to maintain our education levels and keep up on new regulations and technology by yearly mandatory training like many other professions. Yes, what we do is a profession, and it is about to become even more recognized through a voluntary professional designation that is being released this summer by the Association of Boards of Certification. Operators will be able to have a Professional Operator designation which will entitle them to add the initials, PO after their name. This is a game changer for the industry, and should get more young people interested in becoming a certified or professional Operator after graduation. We still need more interest from the younger generation and get them thinking about this profession as a profession of choice. We don't want all high school students to want to become Operators though; we just want the best ones! It's never been a better time to be a Professional Operator.



City of Nelson Wastewater Treatment

he City of Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant was commissioned in 1972 and is located at Grohman Narrows, 5 Km West of the town. Grohman Narrows is the location where Kootenay Lake becomes Kootenay River. Between 1972 and 2006 this plant provided primary treatment, in 2006 secondary treatment was added. Currently it services a population of 10,500 and is permitted a daily discharge of 10,000m³ of effluent into the Kootenay River. Five certified EOCP operators are responsible for the operation of both the plant and the City of Nelson drinking water system.

History

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The Plant was commissioned in 1972 and provided primary treatment until 2006 when secondary treatment was added.

Chlorination of effluent was removed in the 2006 when secondary treatment was added, this was replaced with UV. Dewatering upgrades were made in 2010 when a centrifuge was added, this replaced a belt press. Currently two upgrades are ongoing at the plant these include new methane boilers and a ventilation improvement project. In addition a headworks upgrade project is being defined as well as automatic sludge withdraw. A buffer/surge tank is being investigated, as more intense rain events are becoming

3 (1)

more frequent in the Kootenay region. This would allow the operators to better manage storm flows.



Nelson Treatment Plant methane boilers

Plant Process Summary

The City of Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant receives influent from a lift station located in town. Influent is pumped 4 km in a 400 mm steel forcemain. This lift station (Air Port Lift Station) is equipped with three 75 hp pumps. Headworks screening is provided by a mechanical barscreen/auger which removes material larger than 15mm. Grit removal is performed through an aerated tank equipped with flights that bring grit to a pump and auger grit washing system. After grit removal, two primary tanks allow for settlement and sludge removal via flights and lobe pumps.

Primary effluent travels over weirs and into equalization tanks. Up to this point the head pressure is provided by the Airport Lift Station. Two 15 hp pumps are then required to bring primary effluent to four

Plant



Treatment Plant Centrifuge room

large RBC's (4.5m diameter x 8.5m long). Secondary treatment is achieved with these RBC's and plate settlers located downstream. Sludge removal in the secondary tanks is achieved by a vacuum draw off system. UV disinfection provides the final stage of treatment prior to discharging in the Kootenay River.

Solids handling is achieved through two anaerobic digester tanks. These two tanks are run in series as a two stage process. The first digester acts to mix the sludge and allows for digestion while the second tank allows sludge to settle for final processing. This final processing is performed by a Pieralisi centrifuge. The recently completed methane boiler project allows for the use of nearly all methane produced in the primary digester to heat the sludge as well as the inside working areas of the plant.

Thanks to **Jeff Phillip**s for the Profile.

Third Annual EOCP Certified Operator of the Year Call for Nominations

In 2012, the EOCP created the Operator of the Year award, that recognizes an individual Operator who is a true leader among certified Operators.

For years it has been recognized that there are a few Operators in BC and Yukon who go above and beyond doing a good job; they provide an example for others of the many facets of being an Operator, particularly in supporting the activates of other Operators. They take extra training, they make the extra effort to support their fellow Operators, and teach others what they have learned through many years of working in the field. Often they encourage others to become more involved, including attending training opportunities, and pushed certification before it was mandatory. They go out of their way to help everyone in the water and wastewater field, often at the expense of their own advancement or what would otherwise be their own personal time. They volunteer to help others, they make presentations, they serve on committees, and all while doing the things that are necessary to be considered "good at their job". If you know someone who may qualify, please submit their name to keames@eocp.ca and put "EOCP Certified Operator of the Year" in the subject line.

The call for nominations for the Operator of the Year award closes on August 4, 2014.

Okanagan College Bursary Winner



EOCP President Mike Gosselin with Kristina Betts.

BC Water & Waste Association keep your water clean and safe



BC WATER & WASTE ASSOCIATION (BCWWA) has provided training to water and wastewater operators in BC and Yukon for more than 50 years. As a trusted operator training provider, we aim to set the industry standards for quality and consistency.

Our member-elected Board of Directors has set goals for the Association, many of which our operator training program helps to achieve. In particular, our operator program is intended to ensure there are a sufficient number of water sector workers, and that the operators are competent and maintain relevant skills.

Membership is available to anyone involved with, or interested in, the water and wastewater industry in BC and Yukon. Our 4,700 members are knowledgeable and passionate professionals who ensure we continue to have access to safe, secure and sustainable water. They include water facility operators and utility managers, engineers, cross connection control testers, researchers, and suppliers.

So why should you become a BCWWA member?

- 1 Provide a voice for the water and wastewater industry by developing position statements, assisting with public outreach campaigns like Drinking Water Week, and participating on committees that lead research and advocate for industry improvements.
- Obtain access to networking and career development opportunities such as our awards and peer recognition program, a job board, discounts on operator training courses, cross connection control certification, and other networking activities.
- Exchange skills and knowledge at seminars and events, by reading or contributing to our quarterly

Watermark magazine, and through industry updates via social media, email and online resources.

Visit our website for more information or to obtain a membership!

Operator Training Courses

BCWWA prides itself on the delivery of a comprehensive range of courses leading to certification for operators throughout the province of BC. Our goal is to achieve the highest standard of operator training.

We offer current and relevant industryled training, taught by 40 of the top certified instructors in the water and wastewater industry. Flexible training options and affordable pricing make courses easily accessible to operators in BC and Yukon. Options for course delivery include:

- In-class
- Online
- On-site
- Self-delivery

BCWWA course materials offer the highest standard of student handbooks and aids. Certification courses are geared towards preparing water and wastewater operators to meet certification requirements. In cooperation with the Environmental Operators Certification Program (EOCP), we arrange to make time available to

write EOCP examinations at the conclusion of many of our courses.

BCWWA's course review process also ensures the latest industry processes and technologies are incorporated into our courses.

Upcoming Operator

Training courses offered by BCWWA include:

- Wastewater Collection (Levels 1 − 3)
- Wastewater Treatment (Levels 1 − 3)
- Water Treatment (Levels 1 − 2)
- Water Distribution (Levels 1 − 2)
- Small Water Systems
- Small Wastewater Systems
- Disinfection Courses
- Chlorine Handling
- Leadership Skills courses

For a comprehensive list of courses please see the Operator Training course calendar at **bcwwa.org**.

Operator Schools

Week-long Operator Training Schools are held several times a year in different cities throughout BC. These schools consist of up to 25 courses running concurrently or back-to-back in one location, providing excellent opportunities for trainers and operators to share their knowledge and skills.

Schools will be held this fall in Prince George and Kelowna! For more information and a complete list of courses offered at each school, visit our website or contact

courseadmin@bcwwa.org.

For more information on the Operator Training program, please contact Brian Kut at **bkut@bcwwa.org.**



BC Water & Wastewater Training Specialists

Course information available at www.jamesonwater.com

Scott Jameson, AScT

Phone: **250-882-0796** E-mail: jamesonwater@gmail.com

Victor M. Terry Award

EXCELLENCE IN THE WATER & WASTE COMMUNITY - OPERATOR

In memory of Victor M. Terry, to recognize an operator for advancing excellence in the water and waste community through ingenuity and proficiency in plant operations and/or maintenance.

Darrell Bennett – Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc (TteS) Water Treatment Plant



BACKGROUND The TteS Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is a well run facility and Darrell Bennett takes great pride in providing safe, quality drinking water to the TteS community and to the commercial and residential leaseholders.

As water treatment plant supervisor, Darrell has worked for more than 10 years, operating and maintaining the water treatment plant to high standards and specifications. Darrell has also excelled at gaining higher level training and certification as an EOCP operator and is set to complete his Level 4 certification.

IN RECOGNITION OF his dedication and commitment to his work, and his willingness to share information and expertise with colleagues and students.

"Darrel, a TteS band member, serves his community with dedication, commitment and pride. He has contributed to providing a high-quality potable water supply to the TteS community and to the commercial and residential leaseholders at TteS for more than a decade."

- Fred Seymour, TteS Councillor

Daniel Gaudet - Utilities Operator, District of Kent

BACKGROUND Daniel has been an active and valued member of the water and wastewater community of Canada for nearly 30 years.

For the past 10 years, Daniel has worked for the District of Kent and has proven to be an extremely competent employee whose proficiency and ongoing dedication serves our community very well.

He is dedicated to his field of work and holds EOCP certification for MWWT IV, Water Distribution IV, Water Treatment IV and Collection I. He has also supplemented his knowledge by taking many other courses throughout his career, many of them offered by the BCWWA.

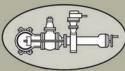
IN RECOGNITION OF his level of technical knowledge, thoroughness, commitment to responsibilities and work ethic. Daniel is an exceptional role model held in high regard by both his peers and community. He has been a mentor not only to his peers but to new employees and students starting their careers in the water and wastewater fields. Daniel has demonstrated integrity and perseverance in achieving his goals as an operator.

"Daniel is an inspiration to those who work with him. His passion, dedication and hard work have made him a leader in the water and wastewater field. His ability and attention to detail can be seen throughout the District in the many projects he has completed."

- Steve Nuttall, Utilities Supervisor, District of Kent







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Capital Regional District City of Coquitlam · City of Kelowna Moderator -**Shawn Sanders** Pump Tear Down - Team Crooked Arrow Brian Thorburn. Al Kennedy, Dan Deacon, **Chrystal White** - Metro Pump Tear Down – City of Coquitlam Vancouver Pump Tear Down – City of Kelowna BC OPERATORS DIGEST

2014 BCWWA Conference Operator

Every year as part of the operator program at the BCWWA annual conference, BC and Yukon operators compete in events that challenge both brawn and wit. Events include pump teardowns, collection pipe, and a skill testing Q&A session, called Top-Ops. This year's competing teams included:

- Crooked Arrow
- Metro Vancouver
- Mount Currie

We are delighted to announce Metro Vancouver as the overall winner of the 2014 BCWWA Operator Challenge Events. Thank you to everyone who took part, and we look forward to bringing you more exciting challenges next year.

Judges - EOCP Directors Chris Brown, Pat Miller,



Henry Kohout, Mike Hume, Marc Casler -City of Kelowna.

Challenge Events



Mack Seymour, Gavin Murgatroyd, Louie Sabbas — Crooked Arrow

Scott Osborne, Steve Whipps, Clayton Cullen –Capital Regional District



Water Sustainability Act

The Water Sustainability Act http://leg.bc.ca/40th2nd/1st_read/gov18-1.htm was introduced into the B.C. Legislature as Bill 18 on March 11, 2014. This legislation delivers on government's commitment to modernize B.C.'s water laws, regulate groundwater use and strengthen provincial water management in light of growing demands on water and our changing climate. Water is our most precious resource and this legislation will help ensure that our supply of fresh, clean water is sustainable, to meet our need today and for generations to come.

Honourable Mary Polak Minister of Environment

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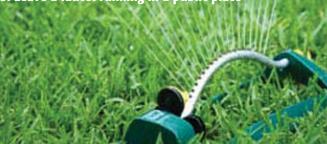
...That in 2013, 1,295 certification exams were written in BC & Yukon? 1,015 were OIT – Level IV exams, and 280 were Small Water, Small Wastewater, and Bulk Water exams.



Top 5 Most Annoying Water Usage-Related Activities for 2014.

When people:

- 1. Water their lawn during a water ban / drought
- 2. Water their lawn when it has just rained / is raining / is about to rain
- 3. Flush things down the toilet that should be disposed of in another manner
- 4. Hose down their driveways
- 5. Leave a faucet running in a public place



For more details, you can go to the RBC Blue Water Project 2014 Canadian Water Attitudes Study. http://www.rbc.com/community-sustainability/environment/rbc-blue-water/water-attitude-study.html

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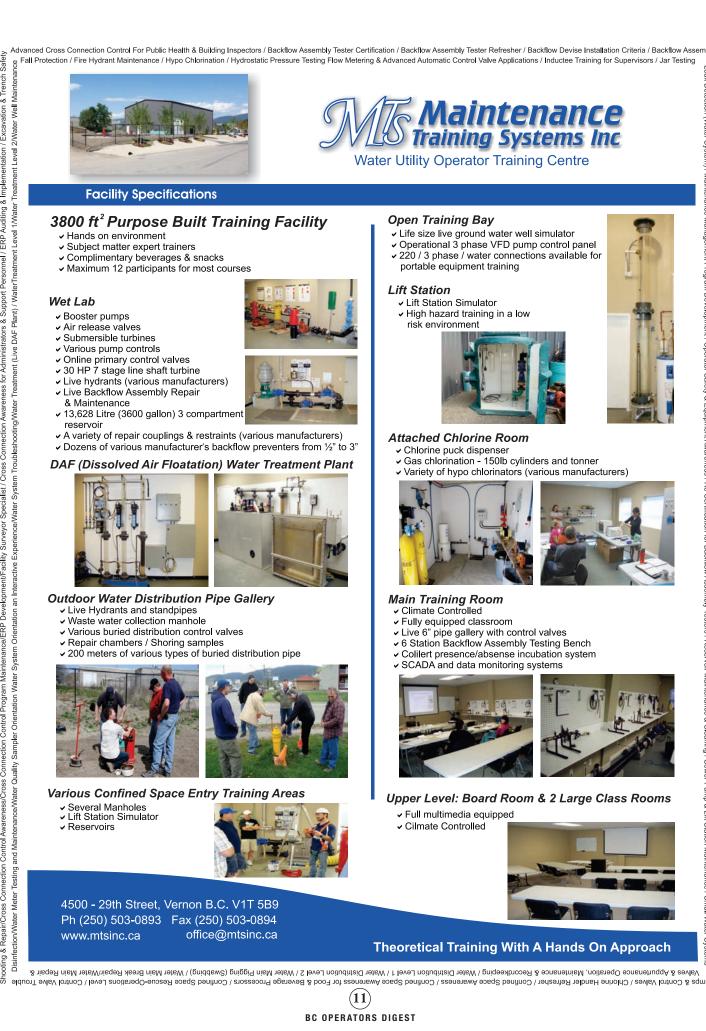
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OPERATOR APPLICATION IS NOW ONLINE

You are now able to submit your Operator application for certification online at

http://www.eocp.ca/ program-info/forms/





























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EOCP Has Added More Flexibility and Options for Recognizing CEUs

ffective January 1, 2014, EOCP has introduced a change to the current ■ 3 hour minimum requirement for recognized training. The new rule is that courses must be a minimum of 30 minutes and full credit will be granted for each 30 minutes of training.

The first reason for this change is to continue to align with current standards set by International Association for Continuing **Education & Training (IACET). EOCP follows** IACET guidelines for best practices for professional and continuing education. IACET recently released new guidelines that recognize the value of on-line and experiential learning.

Second, we have received feedback that you are looking for more flexibility and options about meeting CEU requirements. The Training Registry SME Committee and the EOCP Board initiated this change to meet the changing needs of our Operators. Continuing education is one of the key elements of the certification program and will continue to progress.

In practical terms, as Operators, you will now be able to access a greater variety of courses and training and earn more CEUs for the course you take. For example, you can now take 1 or 2 hour courses or webinars once these new courses have been assessed. Also, if you take a course that is 4.5 hours, you will get the full 0.45 CEUs instead of 0.4 CEUs. This change is effective for courses taken

January 1, 2014 onward. If you have any questions about how you take advantage of this change or how it applies to you, please contact Heather at the EOCP office at 604-874-4784 or toll-free at 1-866-552-3627 or via email at hwallace@eocp.ca.

NEW OPERATORS AND OPERATOR UPGRADES!

Check out the newest and latest upgrades on Operator status. Go to the EOCP website and click on the **Operator Tab**, then click on **New Operators** for an up to date list.

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TO JUNE 11, 2014								
Classification	IV	III	Ш	MUII	- 1	MUI	OIT	Total
WD	56	176	730	5	764	11	60	1,802
WT	32	51	131	1	177	5	42	439
WWC	6	61	404	4	616	12	34	1,137
WWT	89	123	220	5	254	10	53	754
IWWT		3	12		18			33
Totals	183	414	1,497	15	1,829	38	189	4,165
BWD								40
SWS								637
swws								209
Total								5,051

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