



# BRITISH COLUMBIA OPERATORS DIGEST

A NEWSLETTER FOR WATER  
AND WASTEWATER OPERATORS

MARCH 2007 • NUMBER 115

## FAQs on CEUs

**A**s the deadline for the first requirement of the mandatory education requirement for EOCP certified operators approaches in January 2008, many operators are checking to see if courses and training they have or will be taking will fulfill the continuing education requirements for their certification renewal. Information is posted on the EOCP website, at [www.eocp.org](http://www.eocp.org) for operators on the continuing education requirements and the CEU's (Continuing Education Units) that are allocated for each training seminar or course. Here are some specific questions that operators have asked.

**Retired Operators:** Retired operators do not require CEU's for renewing their certificate(s), which will be designated non-active. However, if they are still working in their certification field they will require CEU's.

**Lifetime Operators:** Lifetime members are the same as retired operators and do not require CEU's if they are retired and not working.

**New Operators (Sept. 2004–Dec. 2007):** Any operator certified for the first time (first certificate) between September 1, 2004 and December 31, 2007, does not require CEU's to renew their certificate. They will need to comply during the following two year period (Jan. 2008 – Dec. 2009).

Similarly, if an operator certified before September 2004 earns a new certificate in a different category between September 1, 2004 and December 31, 2007, the operator does not require CEU's for the new certificate but must comply for the certificate(s) earned before September 2004.

**Safety Courses:** General safety courses such as First Aid are accepted for all certificates for related CEU's, as are specific courses including Confined Space, Excavation & Shoring Training, and Chlorine Handling.

**Small Systems Operators:** If SWS or SWWS operators were first certified after September 1, 2004, they do not require CEU's to renew their certificate. If they were certified before September 2004, they require 1.2 CEU's (equal to 12 hours training) for renewal.

**Industrial Wastewater Treatment Operators:** IWWT operators require 2.4 CEU's just as the four main categories of certification; water treatment, water distribution, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment. The IWWT operator can comply with the CEU requirements the same as the municipal wastewater treatment (MWWT) operator and

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## Environmental Operators Certification Program

The BC Operators Digest is the official newsletter of the Program. Submissions for publication in the Digest are welcome and may be sent to the Editor:

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**e-mail:** dgare@dccnet.com

Changes of address, annual dues, exam applications, as well as general inquiries about the program should be addressed to:

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 Burnaby, BC V5C 6N5

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Business card sized advertisement space is available at \$50.00 per issue or \$175.00 for four issues. GST and PST included. For other sized advertisements, please contact the Editor.

The Environmental Operators Certification Program is a charter member of the Association of Boards of Certification, and is a Registered Society with over 3,500 active members.

### 2006/2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Bob R. Smith** – Chairman  
**Darryl Bjorgaard** – Director  
**Don Gare** – Secretary, Newsletter  
**Mike Gosselin** – CEU's, Facility Classification  
**Eric Jackson** – Treasurer  
**Ron Johnston** – Director  
**Sean Lefebvre** – Director  
**Bob L. Smith** – Director  
**Pat Miller** – Director

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## 2007 CERTIFICATION BOARD ELECTIONS

This year's Nominating Committee members are Pat Miller, Darryl Bjorgaard and Parrish Miller.

There are four positions on the Board to be filled by two operators, one government representative and one consultant representative. Each position is for a two-year term. The following candidates have been nominated:

Operators: **Don Gare**  
**Mike Gosselin**

Government Representative: **Bob R. Smith**

Consultant Representative: **Graeme Faris**

The Nominating Committee invites further nominations from the membership. Each nomination shall be supported by a minimum of three (3) certified operators and shall be submitted no later than March 23, 2007 by mail to:

**EOPC Nominating Committee**  
 201 – 3833 Henning Drive  
 Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6N5  
 Or by fax to (604) 874-4794

Ballots with instructions will be mailed to operators on April 5, 2007. Returned ballots must be mailed to:

EOPC  
 219 – 3823 Henning Drive  
 Burnaby, B.C. V5C 6P3

The deadline for the receipt of ballots is April 27, 2007.



**Bert Caine** recently dropped by at a BCWWA training session in Victoria. He sat in a couple of the classes and presented a few of his magic tricks for the students and instructors. Bert was the long serving certification program Secretary and still performs his magic show!

## RETIRING DIRECTOR – JOE MCGOWAN



**J**oe recently retired from the EOCB Board after 16 years service, 14 of those years as Chairman. While working with water and wastewater utilities at the City of Whitehorse in the late 70's and early 80's, Joe got involved with organizing operator training together with other northern utility personnel as there was a lack of available training at the time.

In 1988 Joe moved to the Cariboo Regional District in Williams Lake responsible for 11 rural water and wastewater utilities. Here he found many of the same challenges arranging training in remote rural locations. Joe moved to the District of Powell River as Operations Manager from 1994 to 1998 and then to the City of Cranbrook where he is currently the Director of Public Works.

In 1990, he was convinced to take a lead role in developing the credentials of BC's water and wastewater operators. He was offered an interim appointment to the EOCB Board. The next year through an election process, Joe found himself Chairman of the EOCB. There was no legislative recognition at the time but the exceptional commitment by the Directors of the EOCB to the concept of operator certification and training and the vast amount of volunteer work made the Program successful and a rewarding experience for all. The highlights of this 16 year experience for Joe has been the opportunity to work with EOCB staff and Directors as well as industry and government representatives while pursuing a variety of common goals.

Joe will spend his newfound time with wife, Peggy, son Drew and daughter Paige. He will work on his golf handicap, will continue to act as assistant coach of the local senior high school girl's basketball team and will have the time to travel around to watch his daughter play college basketball.

Joe has been involved with Jaycees, Big Brothers & Big Sisters and Kinsmen over the years. He has been a recipient of the BCWWA 5S Award in 1996 and the BCWWA Personal Recognition Award in 1999. He also volunteered for the AWWA Qualserve Committee from 1999–2002.

### FAQs on CEUs – continued from page 1

any course accredited for the MWWT certificate applies to the IWWT certificate.

#### **OIT, Chlorine Handling, Bulk Water Delivery and Independent Systems Operators:**

Operators holding these certificates only do not require CEU's to renew their certificate. If the operator holds another certificate in WD, WT, MWWT, IWWT, WWC or Small Systems; the operator will require CEU's.

**How many CEU's for Specific Courses:** Check on the EOCB web page and click on the CEU Allocation button in the left column. This will bring up a list of courses and the allocated number of CEU's for that course and which certification category that the CEU's can be applied to. This list is frequently updated as new courses are assessed for CEU's. If you cannot access the web site, please call the EOCB Office and staff will fax or mail the list to you.

**In-house Training Courses:** In-house training courses which may be presented by the employer can be used for the CEU requirements; however the course needs to be reviewed and assessed for CEU credits by the EOCB. A Course CEU

Assessment form is available for downloading on the EOCB web site or from the EOCB Office.

**Supplier Training Courses:** Suppliers or manufacturers who provide training need to have their course assessed by the EOCB similarly to in-house training courses.

**Non-Compliance with the CEU Requirements:** If an operator does not complete the required CEU's by January 1, 2008; the operator will receive notice by January 31, 2008 that their certificate(s) will be classed as Not in Good Standing (NIGS) status effective March 31, 2008 unless the CEU requirements are met. Once a certificate is classed as NIGS, the operator will be required to complete the CEU's and pay an administrative fee to have that certificate reinstated. It is not the EOCB's responsibility to notify employees or regulators when an operator's certification lapses or the status becomes NIGS. It will be up to the operator to notify his/her employer.

For further information, including details on the allocated number of CEU's for courses and which certification category that the CEU's can be applied to; please check the EOCB web site, or contact the EOCB Office.

# The “Other Side” of Wastewater Treatment



McMurdo Research Station, Antarctica



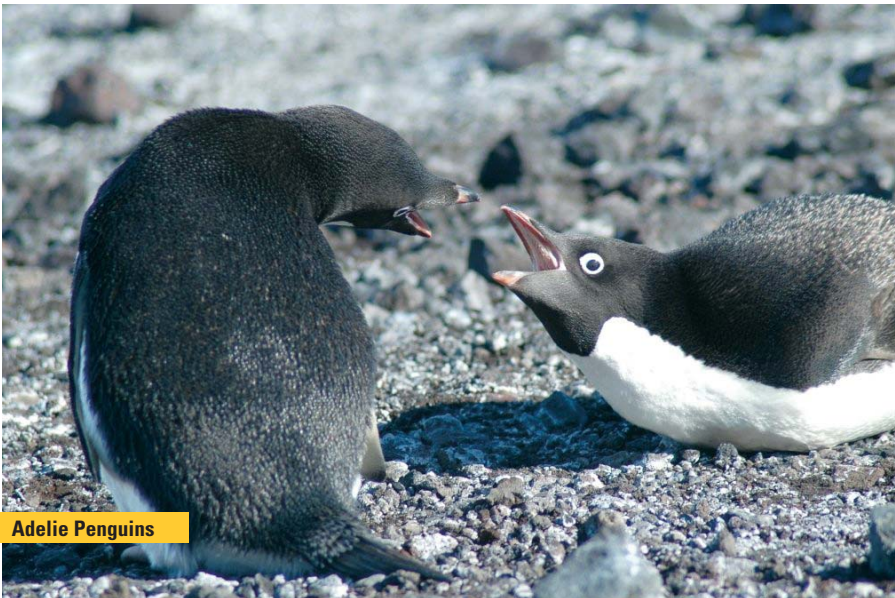
South Pole Marker – all directions point north

## Peter Christou of Chimo Water & Wastewater Services Ltd. writes about his experience in the Antarctica.

I had no idea what to expect when I was asked to go to the McMurdo Research Station to help operate the wastewater and water treatment plants. All I knew about Antarctica was mainly the horror stories about frost bite from random cataclysmic winter storms that plagued this land mass. Antarctica is not the same as what you see in movies. The reality of Antarctica is one of a thriving community with an attitude and way of life that is unique to this continent.

I was able to come to McMurdo late in the summer season and began to work right away. I have a background in remote water and wastewater treatment plant servicing, performing a lot of work in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Alaska. The McMurdo wastewater treatment plant was a standard extended aeration plant and the water plant was a reverse osmosis desalination plant. The water treatment plant had a lot of operational points to monitor but was very easy to operate. The wastewater treatment plant needed a bit more tweaking before the effluent improved, however the general operation of both the treatment plants was very simple but certain things needed to be optimized to ensure treatment consistency.

Things went so well at McMurdo I was asked to help out at the New Zealand arctic



Adelie Penguins

research station called Scott base. They are operating a fixed film aerated bed that was not working very well. It took a considerable amount of time to get the plant operating properly and I had to play “junkyard wars” to establish a better effluent. The reality of remote camp servicing is to do the best one can with what you have there and to just keep things simple. It was truly a great experience and I was able to make some life long friends with the Kiwi utilities operator.

I was surprised and honored to find out that I was the first Canadian to operate the treatment plants in Antarctica. The guys at the plant honored the historical event by laminating some bio-solids from the belt filter press and presenting them to me at a special presentation. I loved every minute I was in Antarctica. It was an experience that most people won’t get a chance to do and I am truly thankful for my time there.

—Peter Christou,  
 Chief Director/Operation Specialist,  
 Chimo Water & Wastewater Services Ltd.



McMurdo wastewater treatment plant



Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station



Piping

# BOARD BUSINESS BRIEFS

## Board Meeting – October 23, 2006

Directors present: Bob Smith (Chair), Eric Jackson, Joe McGowan, Don Gare, Pat Miller, Darryl Bjorgaard, Ron Johnson, Sean Lefebvre, Mike Gosselin, Executive Director Bill Hyslop.

- Steve Benoit of Thompson Rivers University attended the meeting re: development of a new 2 year WT education program with 4 levels, 90 hours per course with 3 modules per course. TRU also has a new water safe 6 hour distance learning course.
- A list of CEU accredited courses will be posted on the EOCB website.
- The updated Program Guide and facility applications with templates will be posted on website.
- Operators must be notified at the AGM regarding revisions to the EOCB Constitution.
- Some key policies will be announced at the AGM in May 2007.
- All policies to be adopted and finalized at the February 2007 Board meeting.
- The contract computer programmer gave a presentation of the search engine which will provide external access to the operator and facility databases. (It is actually a second database).



Inside the Capital Regional District Water Treatment UV Facility during a recent tour for BCWWA course students.



Capital Regional District Japan Gulch Water Treatment Facility Chloramination Building.

- The search engine can be accessed on the website.
- A continuing education reminder letter will be sent out with the Digest to operators, facility managers and all city/district administrators.
- Pat Miller will present a proposal regarding Work Experience in Multiple Fields for next meeting.
- The Executive Director will provide recommendations regarding review of all fees – application, advertising, chlorine handler certificates, etc.
- CEU forms for the Penticton BCWWA conference will require one signature for morning and one for afternoon attendance for each day.
- A Motion was passed that the lab and practical elements of the OUC WQT Program will be considered the equivalent of 6 months experience credit to 1 of the 4 disciplines (WT, WWT, WD and WWC) certified by the EOCB at Level I and must be claimed within 3 years of completing the program
- The lists of Newly Classified or Updated Facilities and Operators can be found on the EOCB website.
- Small water and small wastewater exams will be reviewed.

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**OPERATORS PROGRAM. BCWWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, PENTICTON APRIL 21-25, 2007**

The BCWWA believes it is important to develop and implement ways to enhance the skill and increase the effectiveness and professionalism of operations and maintenance personnel throughout the water and wastewater industry. In addition to the technical program, practical competitions will again take place on Sunday and Monday evenings.

Teams for the competitions can be from the same utility or individuals can enter and teams will be formed.

**Top Ops**

The 'contest' of our industry, Top Ops tests the everyday know-how of water and wastewater operators. The EOCP is pleased to participate again this year with the BCWWA in Top Ops, organizing, providing the questions and judges. This year there will be two divisions in the Top Ops – operators working in Level I-IV facilities; and operators that work in small water and small wastewater systems.

**Large Pump Teardown and Small Pump Teardown Challenges**

There are two divisions in this contest which pits teams of three operators competing against the clock tearing apart and solving a problem with a pump. The large pump challenge will utilize a Gorman Rupp water pump, while the small pump challenge will be utilizing a hypochlorite injection pumping system.



For further information and registration for the BCWWA Annual Conference, please contact the BCWWA Office at [www.bcwwa.org](http://www.bcwwa.org).

For information and registration for the Top Ops and/or Pump Teardown Challenge competitions, please contact Pat Miller at [pmiller@sunpeaksresort.com](mailto:pmiller@sunpeaksresort.com) or at 250 578-5416.

**SANTA TRUCK**

Wayne Henderson is a certified operator in Whitehorse where he has been driving the Santa Truck for 15 years now. There are 1,000 lights on the garbage packer, twinkling and other. The packer is also decorated on the front with caribou horns. Wayne spends three days every Christmas visiting all the schools, daycares, senior lodges, continuing care centres and anywhere else he is asked in the City of Whitehorse. "Santa Wayne" gives out 2,500 candy canes.

People in Whitehorse expect to see "Santa Wayne" and his packer truck every Christmas. He is now a Whitehorse Christmas tradition and people love him!



Wayne Henderson and Santa Truck

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# Plant Profile

## Regional District Of Kitimat – Stikine Plant Profile



Reservoir



Well Pumphouse

The main responsibility of the Works and Services department of the Regional District of Stikine is community infrastructures. Works and Services operates and maintains the Thornhill Community Water Distribution System and Queensway/Churchill Drive Sewer System. They are also responsible for the implementation of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, which operates refuse sites.

### THORNHILL WATER SYSTEM

The Thornhill Water Distribution System currently services approximately 936 customers or 1,140 equivalent units. The system is made up of two wells that provide water to the system. These wells do not require disinfecting.

These wells were constructed in 1979 and 1981 and are 58 metres in depth. In 1995, well number 1 was reconditioned

and a 75 hp three phase submersible pump was installed. The flow of these pumps is measured by meters and is capable of delivering a combined flow of 6,263 cubic metres per day. Currently the daily demand is 4,434 cubic metres or 3.89 cubic metres per unit. Based on this, the current wells and pumps are able to provide more than adequate supply for the current use plus an increase of users of about 41%.

Water is stored in two reservoirs – an above ground steel reservoir and an underground concrete reservoir with a combined capacity of 3,502 cubic metres. The total storage requirement for the Thornhill system is 2,835 cubic metres and is based on a recommended fire flow of 20,000 litres per minute for one hour and 25% of the estimated maximum daily demand.

The water system is classified as a Water Distribution Level II system.



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RDKS well

### QUEENSWAY/CHURCHILL DRIVE SEWER COLLECTION AND WASTEWATER LAGOONS

This system provides service to the Queensway and Churchill Drive areas. These customers are connected to the step system (septic tank effluent pumping system). Properties continue to rely on septic tanks but the effluent is pumped into a community collection system. The effluent is treated through aeration lagoons and rapid infiltration basins. While being constructed, the collection system and treatment facility were built oversized to accommodate extension of sewer into the commercial core area of Thornhill. In addition, a 300 mm pipe was installed to receive sewage from the remaining areas of Thornhill. The lagoon site was chosen for the ability to provide sufficient land for long term expansion.

Air is pumped from two Roots blowers to the lagoon via a 4 inch steel pipe approximately 1.5 miles to lagoon number 1 one which is heavily aerated and then to lagoon number 2 which is lightly aerated prior to discharge into the rapid infiltration basins.

The wastewater system is classified as a Wastewater Treatment I facility.

– Thanks to Darryl Bjorgaard, RDK-S

Lists of New/Upgraded Operators and New Facilities are posted on the EOC web site.

## OPERATOR PROFILE



### CHRIS KERR

Chris Kerr has been seasonal with the Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine for three years. He has lived in Terrace since 1970, moving north from Williams Lake.

Chris holds Water Distribution Level I certification and will be applying to write Wastewater Treatment Level I as soon as he is eligible. He enjoys working in the water/sewer field. The varied work and the work hours leave him lots of time to be outdoors with family and friends.

Chris and wife, Alyssa, have two children – a 4 year old boy and an 18 month old girl. Chris is an avid skier and hockey player. He can usually be found on Shames Mountain during the winter months giving an occasional lesson to cover his ski pass.



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# UPCOMING EVENTS



## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

| EVENT / COURSE                           | DATE             | LOCATION  |
|--|------------------|-----------|
| Supervisory and Leadership Skills        | March 12 - 13    | Burnaby   |
| Small Water Systems                      | March 19 - 20    | Kamloops  |
| Chlorine Handling                        | March 19 - 23    | Kamloops  |
| Cross Connection                         | March 19 - 23    | Kamloops  |
| Water Sampling: Source to Tap            | March 19 - 20    | Kamloops  |
| Small Wastewater Systems                 | March 21 - 22    | Kamloops  |
| Shoring and Utilities Awareness          | March 21         | Kamloops  |
| Confined Spaces                          | March 22         | Kamloops  |
| Water Quality for Distribution Operators | March 26 - 27    | Sechelt   |
| Cross Connection Control                 | March 16 - 20    | Castlegar |
| Water Distribution I                     | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Water Distribution II                    | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Water Distribution III                   | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Water Treatment I                        | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Water Treatment II                       | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Wastewater Collection I                  | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Wastewater Collection II                 | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Wastewater Collection III                | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Wastewater Treatment I                   | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Wastewater Treatment II                  | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Wastewater Treatment III/IV              | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Chlorine Handling                        | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Cross Connection                         | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Small Water Systems                      | April 30 – May 4 | Vancouver |
| Small Wastewater Systems                 | May 2-3          | Vancouver |
| Leak Detection                           | May 3            | Vancouver |
| Unidirectional Flushing                  | May 4            | Vancouver |

Please phone the BCWWA at 604 433 4389 for information on the above courses or check their website at [www.bcwwa.org](http://www.bcwwa.org).

|  |                            |                  |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>EOCP Annual General Meeting</b>             | <b>April 30, 2007</b>      | <b>Vancouver</b> |
| <b>BCWWA Annual Conference</b>                 | <b>April 21 – 25, 2007</b> | <b>Penticton</b> |
| <b>AWWA Annual Conference &amp; Exposition</b> | <b>June 24 – 28</b>        | <b>Toronto</b>   |

## EOCP CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

Operators wishing to write certification exams must apply to the EOCP by written application complete with job description no later than two weeks prior to the exam session. Exam fees are payable to the EOCP office before the time of writing and may be paid by Visa or Mastercard. Exam application forms can be downloaded from the EOCP web site at [www.eocp.org](http://www.eocp.org).

EOCP Office: Phone: 604 874 4784 Fax: 604 8744794 Toll Free: 1 866 552 3627

