

Saskatchewan Water & Wastewater Association

the pipeline

Spring 2024

31st Edition

Let's Connect

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From the Editor's Desk...



Kelly Kish
Pipeline Editor

Well, it has been another year around the sun.

The 2023 Conference was again another great success. Our guest speaker, Taylor Smith, was absolutely incredible. His message was inspirational and heartwarming. Thank you to all the suppliers, speakers, and YOU, our SWWA members, rookies and veterans. It was great to see some new faces!

Congratulations to our award recipients, especially our new Lifetime Members, Darren Cronan and Glen Grieve. This acknowledgement is well deserved and you will be missed in the industry.

We will be very busy again in 2024 with courses and workshops, our annual golf tournament and conference. Our golf tournament will be held at the Hillcrest Golf Club in Moose Jaw, on Friday, August 16 and our conference will be held at TCU Place, from November 6-8.

As we move into 2024, I would like to say to all my fellow SWWA family (yes, you are my family), "Keep your head high as you are VERY important to this industry and your communities. Without your knowledge and expertise, things wouldn't be pretty."

We are once again offering some training workshops in-house and virtual. Please check out our training page on the website. There are plenty of educational opportunities available, so sign up today!

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a great upcoming year and to make it the best year ever. I hope to see you all at the golf tournament and conference!

Have a safe year ahead. Until we meet again!

Cheers,
Kelly



Rynette Moore-Guillaume
SWWA President

Hello members!

The Saskatchewan Water & Wastewater Association (SWWA) continues to actively explore ways to unite operators and utilize platforms to better serve our evolving industry. Providing ongoing educational and networking opportunities continues to be crucial for advancing professionals in the water sector. As our industry transforms, it is imperative that we remain adaptable and forward-thinking.

Our association has been proactive in evolving and creating new learning and networking opportunities. We were fortunate to have 3-time Canadian Olympic Champion, Catriona Le May Doan and Humboldt Bronco bus crash survivor and Amazing Race Canada winner Tyler Smith deliver incredible keynote addresses. We extend our gratitude to all members, speakers, and suppliers whose contributions made the event a triumph.

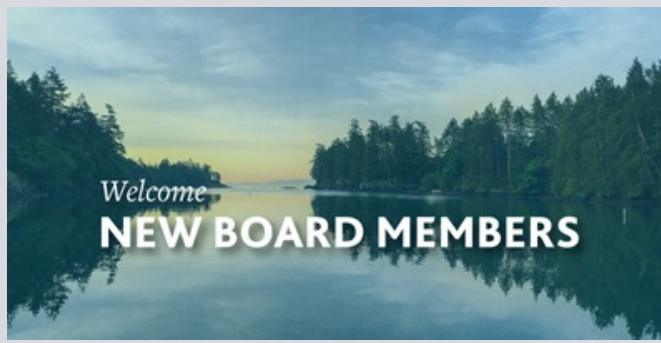
Our upcoming Annual Conference and trade show is scheduled for November 6-8, 2024, at TCU Place in Saskatoon and we are already planning for it. Building on the success of past events, we will once again host an icebreaker on the evening of November 5th at Hudson's to facilitate networking opportunities. You will soon be able to register for the conference and trade show, so stay tuned.

In recognizing the influx of new operators, we are pleased to be working with the Water Security Agency to offer the same informative one-day workshops as last year, covering essential topics such as program overviews, sampling procedures, and certification requirements. These workshops will be held on March 20th in Saskatoon and April 24th in Regina.

Looking ahead, the board is committed to several initiatives aimed at strengthening our industry. By fostering networking opportunities and exploring avenues for professional development, we aim to drive positive change within our industry. Collaborations with the Water Security Agency and the Operator Certification Board, as well as the Saskatchewan First Nation Water and Wastewater Association, are underway to bolster our collective efforts. We have also collaborated with BCWWA to extend our training opportunities virtually with different workshops for our members. We are also excited to be a part of the Water Professionals International and in the loop of all changes that are happening with the certification exams. As well, our annual golf tournament will be held in Moose Jaw on August 16th, 2024, and will be a great time as we expect it to be another sold-out event.

Our dedicated Board of Directors remains steadfast in its commitment to advancing our association. We are actively seeking a new Executive Director to further our mission of supporting both the board and membership in achieving continued success. For further details on this opportunity and all other information please visit our website at www.swwa.ca.

Make it a great 2024!



Chris Boyd

Chris was born and raised in Newfoundland and moved to Saskatchewan in 1997. He currently works for the Town of Cutknife as the Public Works Foreman. He has worked within the municipal industry for over 23 years. Prior to working in the municipal world, he had various jobs in different industries, such as: Heavy Equipment Operator (college certified); residential and commercial building construction, and Class 1A truck driver. He has worked for various municipalities since coming to Saskatchewan, and those jobs have helped him expand his experience and have increased his knowledge of municipal operations. His skill sets have expanded to road building, project management, personal crew management, budgeting, cost accounting, water and wastewater management and dealing with engineers and subcontractors.

With each project and responsibility came greater knowledge and along the way, has met plenty of talented, professional people. He's proud to say that he has developed and maintained some great friendships and connections.

The municipal world is a unique, yet growing industry. Changes seem to happen every day, and in order to keep up, and to keep on top of these changes, you need to continue learning and upgrading your knowledge and skillset. Chris knows he will continue to learn and improve as each challenge presents itself.

A comment that he will always remember was made by a foreman he once worked with. He said: "The day you think you know it all and have learned it all, is probably the day you should retire". Chris does not intend on retiring. As part of his ongoing learning, he put his name forward and was elected to the SWWA Board of Directors. He looks forward to meeting new people and continuing his learning journey with this association. He also looks forward to all the opportunities and challenges that his board position will offer. His intention on the board is to support the other board members and the association as a whole.

Kirt Holowachuck

Kirt has been involved in Municipal work for over 24 years now, starting his career in Parks and Open Spaces, then Recreation and Facilities, in both Alberta and Saskatchewan. For the last 11 years, he has added Streets, Water and Wastewater to the portfolio as the Foreman for the Town of LeRoy. Kirt holds a Diploma in Horticulture, Level 2 Boiler/Pressure Vessel (Arena Refrigeration) ticket, Level 2 Water (Treatment and Distribution) and Level 1 Wastewater (Collection and Treatment). He has been a backup operator for many other municipalities in his area and is active on multiple boards. He is an Advisor on the SPRA Parks and Open Spaces Committee, the Vice Chair of the LeRoy Leisureland Regional Park Board and is currently the chair of the SWWA Scholarship Committee. Kirt is now in his second year as a Director on the SWWA board and has really enjoyed getting to know all the members and suppliers (especially while driving the beverage cart for the SWWA Golf Event in Manitou last summer). In his leisure time, Kirt enjoys hunting, travelling and checking out new campgrounds with his wife and three kids.

You can find their mug shots on the last page.





Mark Keller
Manager - ATAP

Ensuring Safe Water: The Significance of Water and Wastewater Operator Certification and Training in Saskatchewan

As a certified operator, you understand that water is a fundamental resource vital for life, and your responsibility to ensure its safety and accessibility is critical. In the province of Saskatchewan, your role as a certified water and wastewater operator is pivotal in upholding public health and environmental safety. Your certification and training are key factors in maintaining the integrity of water systems and meeting regulatory standards.

Saskatchewan, with its expansive landscapes and abundant natural resources, heavily relies on well-maintained water and wastewater systems to support its growing population and diverse industries. Certified operators like yourself serve as the frontline defenders of the province's water quality, ensuring that communities have access to clean and safe drinking water while responsibly treating wastewater before release into the environment.

The stringent regulatory framework governing these systems in Saskatchewan, set and enforced by the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA), underscores the importance of your certification. Equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills, you adhere to these regulations, ensuring that water treatment processes meet or exceed established benchmarks.

Your certification process involves rigorous training, examinations, and continuous education to keep you abreast of evolving technologies and best practices. Topics such as water chemistry, microbiology, hydraulics, and equipment maintenance are covered, ensuring your effectiveness in managing water treatment plants, distribution systems, and wastewater treatment facilities.

Beyond regulatory compliance, your certification provides a level of accountability and professionalism in the industry. Your commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and performance instills public confidence in the safety of the water supply and contributes to the overall reputation of the water industry in Saskatchewan.

Considering Saskatchewan's unique geographical and climatic conditions, you, as a certified operator, face specific challenges. From extreme weather fluctuations to variations in water quality, your certification programs are tailored to empower you with region-specific knowledge and skills to navigate these challenges effectively. The impact of your role as a certified operator goes beyond regulatory compliance; it directly influences the sustainability of Saskatchewan's ecosystems. Properly treated wastewater, under your supervision, ensures that contaminants are removed before discharge, safeguarding rivers, lakes, and groundwater from pollution. This commitment to environmental stewardship aligns with Saskatchewan's dedication to preserving its natural resources for future generations.

Interesting statistics reveal that approximately 10.5% of all water operators are women, while 89.5% are men. The average age of water operators is currently 47 years old. Considering these demographics, one may ponder the future of our communities in 15 years.

In conclusion, as a certified water and wastewater operator, your role in Saskatchewan is indispensable for maintaining water quality, protecting public health, and preserving the environment. Your community's investment in your education and certification ensures a resilient and sustainable water infrastructure, capable of withstanding the challenges of a dynamic and growing society. As Saskatchewan continues to evolve, your role as a certified operator remains paramount in securing a healthy and thriving future for all.

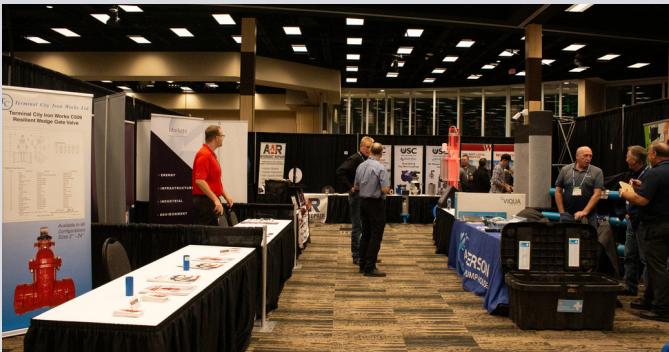
2023 Conference Wrap-up

**467
Registered
Delegates!**



**235
Suppliers!**

**100
Exhibitors!**



2023 Speakers

Catriona Ann Le May Doan is a retired Canadian speed skater and a double Olympic Champion in the 500 m. She won the Olympic 500 m title at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan and repeated the feat at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah, giving rise to the title "the fastest woman on ice".

Thank you to SaskWater for sponsoring our Opening Keynote Speaker.



Tyler Smith is a survivor of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash, where he lost 16 of his teammates, friends and coaches. He is also the founder of Not Alone, a clothing line and embroidering shop in Leduc, AB. With his girlfriend, Kat Kastner, he won the Amazing Race Canada Season 9, racing for everyone lost and those impacted by the Humboldt Broncos tragedy.

Thank you ATAP for sponsoring our closing speaker.

Thank you to ALL SPONSORS of the 2023 Conference, Trade Show and Awards Banquet! We could not have done it without your support.

SWWA Awards

Lifetime Membership Award

This is our Association's most prestigious award.

Nominees are individuals who were members for a minimum of 15 years and who are currently retired from active employment in the industry. The nominee must have demonstrated extraordinary service and have been dedicated to the aims and goals of the association and its membership.

Only two Lifetime Membership Awards will be presented.

Darren Cronan retired in April 2022, after a 28 year career in Montmartre. He became President of SWWA while attending his first conference. He was responsible for receiving membership registrations, maintaining the database, assisting with the golf tournament, conference and more. Prior to mandatory operator certification, Darren was also a member of the Voluntary Operator Certification Board. Montmartre was not only where he worked, but 'his' town. He took it personally when it didn't look good. Everything was in tip-top shape, but even more so for their annual events. Darren was called back into service after his replacement moved into alternate employment, re-retired AGAIN when another replacement was hired, recalled into service AGAIN when that one didn't 'stick' and ultimately re-re-retired in September 2022. **Congratulations Darren!**



Glenn Grieve retired from the Water Security Agency in 2017 after many years of service with both the municipal and provincial government. He worked in several communities over the years including Langenburg, Eastend and Shaunavon before joining the provincial government as an Environmental Project Officer working for both the Ministry of Environment and Water Security Agency. Glenn was involved with many organizations and associations including the SWWA and SaskOCB since their early years and dedicated his career to improving drinking water in Saskatchewan. Glenn was also known for providing training workshops occasionally for operators. Glenn worked mostly in the southwest corner of the province and is well-known for all the support he provided to his communities to improve their water and wastewater systems. After retiring from WSA, Glenn spent some time occasionally in the consulting business. **Congratulations Glenn!**

Operator of the Year Awards - Dale Heshka Award and Dave Clark Award

The Dale Heshka Award is presented to a member who is employed in a municipality with a population of over 1,000. The Dave Clark Award is presented to a member who is employed in a municipality with a population of less than 1,000. The purpose of these awards is to recognize excellence as an operator in the industry. The nominee must be a member in good standing with the Association and must be certified by the Operator Certification Board.

***Kelly Kish** is the Town Foreman and WTP Operator for the Town of Kipling. He has been involved in the water and wastewater industry for over 33 years and has been a board member of SWWA for over 10 years. Kelly's quality of work is organized, accurate and on time. His records are detailed, filed neatly and in a manner that makes information easy to find. Within the last couple of years, Kelly was an integral part of the construction of the new water plant in Kipling. He spent many hours reviewing plans and meeting with engineers and construction managers. If you want the job done right, call Kelly!*

Congratulations Kelly on receiving the Dave Clark Award !



Travis Lenkart** is the Supervisor of Regional Systems for SaskWater in Melville. He has been involved in the water and wastewater industry for over 16 years. Travis is the Supervisor of SaskWater's Class II water treatment facility in Melville. He supervises and coordinates the day-to-day operations and maintenance of this WTP. Prior to this role, he worked as an operator in the City of Melville's old EDR WTP and then in the new SaskWater Reverse Osmosis WTP. Travis is very passionate about the quality of water generated from his facility. Travis is deserving of this award because of his exceptional work ethic and his passion for the industry. He continues to develop standard operating procedures for the WTP and is a diligent participant in the asset management plan for his facility. **Congratulations Travis on receiving the Dale Heshka Award!



Supplier of the Year Award

This annual award is presented to a supplier in the industry who has gone above and beyond in their service and value of products offered. They also attend the trade show as a vendor on an annual basis. Members submit nominations by means of ballot during the conference and the successful recipient is announced at the Awards Banquet.

In 2023, this award was presented to Mueller Canada. Congratulations!

SWWA Scholarships

Four Training Scholarships, up to \$1,125.00 each, are available each year.

- You must be a member in good standing and have had your membership for a minimum of one year.
- Applications will be accepted between January 1 and August 1.
- Receipts must be submitted with the application.
- Successful recipients are limited to one scholarship per year.
- All applications can be completed online and submitted to office@swwa.ca.

Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship Recipients!



Terri Kowbel-Nesbitt
Resort Village of Elk Ridge



Tammy Landry
Village of Pierceland



Kendal Redhead
Village of Borden

One Family Member Scholarship of \$500 (awarded annually)

- Nominee must be an immediate family member of a SWWA member, who has been a member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years.
- Nominee must be enrolled in a trade or resource program.
- Applications will be accepted between January 1 and August 1.
- All applications can be completed online and submitted to office@swwa.ca.

In 2023, the Family Member Scholarship was awarded to Hayden McMahon. Congratulations!



Virtual and In-Person Training

Date	Location	CEU's	Training
March 14, 2024	Online	0.6	Process Control & SCADA Fundamentals
March 15, 2024	Online	0.6	Reservoir Maintenance & Cleaning
March 20, 2024	In-Person; Saskatoon	0.6	Water Security Agency Program & Regulations
March 26, 2024	Online	0.6	Pumps and Pumping Hydraulics
April 10, 2024	Online	0.6	Operational Best Practices in Water Distribution Systems
April 23, 2024	In-Person; Rosthern	0.6	Hydrant Operations and Maintenance
April 24, 2024	In-Person; Regina	0.6	Water Security Agency Program & Regulations
April 25, 2024	In-Person; Regina	0.6	Hydrant Operations and Maintenance
May 24, 2024	Online	0.6	Preventing Waterborne Illness

For more information or to register, click [HERE!](#)

Upcoming Events!

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT!

August 16, 2024 at 10am
Hillcrest Golf Club
Moose Jaw, Sask.
For information and to register, click [HERE!](#)



CONFERENCE: November 6 - 8 at TCU Place in Saskatoon, SK.



For information regarding the conference, click [HERE.](#)



We still have booths available! Click [HERE](#) to reserve yours!

What does the Standards Unit do?

Standards is a new unit at WSA. It is a key player in WSA’s Strategic Plan to be a responsible steward of water resources, from source to tap, and to facilitate economic development. The Standards Unit uses science-based information to develop guidelines, standards and policies by working collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to inform legislative changes, develop programming and provide guidance for the public and WSA. The unit aims to protect human health and the environment, while balancing social economic needs, through the protection and enhancement of source water, drinking water, wastewater and aquatic habitat.

Standards Unit Team:

- Dr. O.S. (Arasu) Thirunavukkarasu, Manager
- Dr. Biplob Das, Senior Standards Advisor
- Jenna Furseth, Senior Water and Wastewater Program Analyst
- Dr. Magfur Rahman, Senior Water Resources Advisor
- Alex Blais-Montpetit, Water Program Analyst
- Lorelei Ford, Water Program Analyst



Jenna Furseth & Lorelei Ford represented WSA at the Western Canada Water Conference.



Jeff Paterson (Executive Director), Biplob Das, and Magfur Rahman



Dr. O.S. (Arasu) Thirunavukkarasu presented at the SWWA Conference on the Fate of Manganese in SK Drinking Water Distribution Systems, PFAS in SK Water, and Drinking Water Management in Saskatchewan.



Alex Blais-Montpetit

What cool things does the Standards Unit do?

- Annual State of Drinking Water Quality in Saskatchewan Report.
- Saskatchewan representative on the FPT* Committee on Drinking Water and the CCME** on the development of science-based drinking water and surface water guidelines, respectively.
- Delivery of the Operator Certification Program with the Operator Certification Board, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and Water Professionals International.
- Represent Saskatchewan on several provincial and national committees related to drinking water, surface water, wastewater, source water protection, climate change and inter-jurisdictional water management.
- Develop guidelines and update standards for waterworks and sewage works.

* Federal-Provincial-Territorial

**Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment



The Standards Unit collaborated on educational workshops for clients including operators, administrators, and water professionals.

Cleaning Up

Women make up 70% of the world's health and care workers. A lack of clean water in hospitals puts them at serious risk. This is Maria's story.

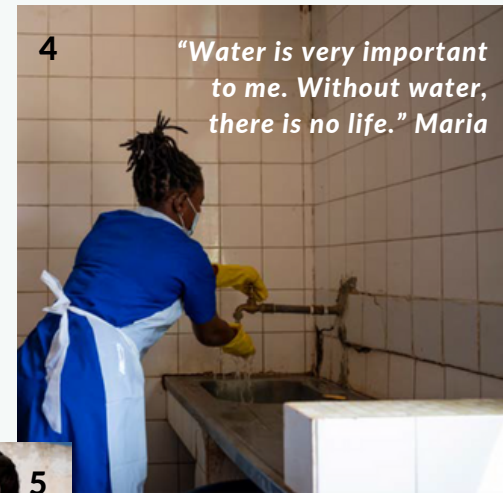
In the past, she had to fetch water from a well 100m away, seven times a day to clean the wards and observation rooms (3), and flush the overflowing toilets. It was exhausting work.



With clean water, nurses and doctors can clean their equipment too (7), further halting the spread of infection among staff and patients.



Maria Armando (1) knows the value of clean water on tap to keep people healthy. For seven years, she has been a cleaner (2) at the Mecanhelas Health Centre in Niassa Province, Mozambique.



Now, with your help, we have installed clean, running water throughout the Health Centre (4), including handwashing stations for patients (5).



Maria now has water on tap (6) to disinfect rooms before and after surgeries, and to protect herself from infection too "All wards are clean all the time." She says. "We don't even think about being too tired to fetch water."



Maria's story shows how clean water in healthcare facilities is fundamental to a woman's right to health and safety. As Maria herself puts it: "Taps have running water all the time. [Now] whenever we spot dirt, we clean it straight away. It is a joy!"

Let's Connect!

To join, to create, to link, to establish a relationship, to have or establish a rapport, to place in relationship, to establish communications...all of these are meanings for the word "connect."

My name is Teresa Walker, Inspirational Facilitator.

I connect with individuals and groups via keynote speaking, facilitating workshops, and utilizing the Kolbe assessment tool in a variety of ways. As a contributor to The Pipeline for many years, it has been a great opportunity to plant seeds of thought, share information and take away exercises applicable within a variety of settings; for oneself, homelife, workplaces and as community members and leaders.

Connection is key to thriving in life rather than just merely surviving.

As a keynote speaker I share aspects of my own journey after the loss of my husband in a workplace accident. I plant seeds for thought and reflect on lessons learned along the way.

The importance of being proactive vs reactive within all the core areas of life is a major topic focused on.

As a Certified Kolbe Consultant, I connect with individuals and teams to tap within to individual strengths and to bridge the gaps in other areas. Together we create strong foundations based on realities and strive towards strong leadership and true teamwork.

Self awareness = Self care.

As a workshop facilitator we dive deeper into areas of our health and wellbeing, we spend time in the areas of communication and conflict resolution. We all encounter moments of frustration, overwhelm, stress, and we develop tools to focus on the strengths while faced with challenges as well the importance and impact of celebrating our wins on a continual basis.

As a facilitator I strive to create a safe space for all; workshops are interactive and fun as I truly believe experiential learning is one of the best ways to learn and retain information while making it applicable within all the roles we play within our daily lives.

#MakeTheMostWithYourMoments is my tag line and I strive to make connections for and with others by creating safe spaces to share authentically and provide a variety of tools in creating success how ever that may be defined while facing the realities there will always be challenges and obstacles along the way; so, we develop strategies to bridge the gaps.

To learn more and book visit www.teresawalker.com

As well connect via social media platforms LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram



Teresa Walker
Inspirational Facilitator



Dawn Dierker
General Manager of AMS

Connection between professionals is integral to a successful career in Water and Wastewater.

Whether we think of connection as having good communication between members of a work group or our ability to network at an industry event so we increase our circle of people we can call for assistance it is part of our job. The way that we interact with our peers will set the stage for the atmosphere in which we work. Many people assume that communication is an inherent trait that we cannot change, but in fact it is a skill just like the many technical skills we need to learn to perform our job.

So, how do we improve our communication skills and in turn our connection to people and advance the quality of our work interactions? There are many courses and books on the market that you can use as tools to improve your skills, but the best place to start is by doing an evaluation of your preferred styles. None of us communicates the same all of time and it can depend on the individual(s) that we are interacting with. We may use very different styles at home and in our workplace.

The other awareness that is necessary to assess our communication style is to take a look at how we deal with conflict. When things are running smoothly at work most of us won't see a need to change the way we communicate or in fact listen (which is an important part of communication). But when we are in a stressful situation or in conflict our communication style can change dramatically. It can be helpful to understand the different personality types in the workplace. Personality tests like the Myers Briggs or Kolbe can provide clues to assist with successful communication to team members and provide self awareness.

To do a baseline evaluation of your style of conflict management the Thomas Kilman Conflict Mode Instrument can help you understand what your natural preference is when in conflict. And, for the brave of heart the Kouzes and Posner Leadership Practices Inventory provides 360-degree feedback from your peers.

If you are looking to improve your skills and therefore deepen your connection to your peers one recommended course is Crucial Conversations. This course and book cover the basics of communication, active listening and how to deal with difficult conversations. I would say it is an essential for anyone wanting to improve their style of communication. Free resources are available on Linked In that can provide easy access and short courses that are easy to fit in at breaks and do not require travel. There are also lots of programs offering micro-credentials and that breaks learning into short and manageable timeframes.

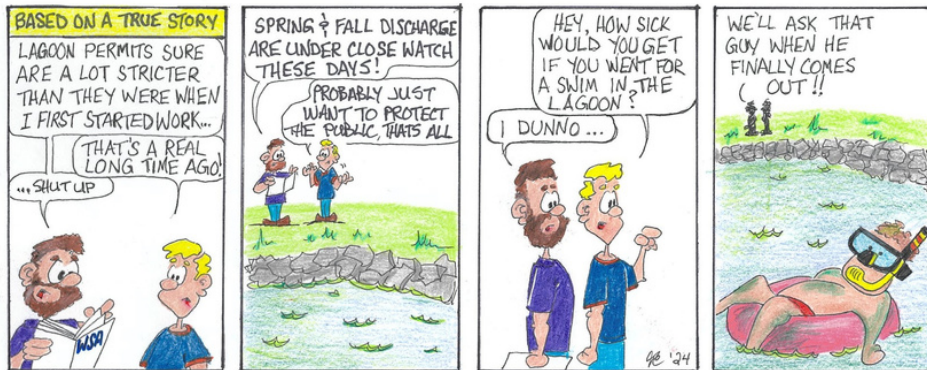
Looking forward to connecting with all of you at the upcoming industry events!

Let's Connect!

2023-2024 Board of Directors



L to R: Blair Winterhalt, Owen Green, Chris Boyd, Tim Cox, Kelly Kish, Susan Dobrowney, Kirt Holowachuk, Rynette Moore-Guillaume, and Luke Lockhart



Saskatchewan Water & Wastewater Association

P.O. Box 7831 Station Main

Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 4R5

Web: www.swwa.ca

Email: office@swwa.ca

Phone: 306-668-1278

How can you support your Association...for free?

- Share a post
- Like a post
- Repost
- Tag someone in the industry
- Comment
- Shout them out for an event or workshop
- Recommend to new operators

