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NOVEMBER 2011 • NUMBER 122

BRITISH COLUMBIA
OPERATORS

Digest



Operators!

The Training Registry is in full swing and there are still lots of questions regarding it. We will explain it fully in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions about it before then, please visit the EOCP website.

EOCP Annual General Meeting 2011

The Annual General Meeting of the EOCP was held this year in Kamloops at the British Columbia Public Works Association Annual Conference. The PWABC Conference featured a full technical program that provided the opportunity for Operators to earn CEU's along with a great trade-show to learn about what is new in the industry.

More than 30 Operators partici-

pated in our AGM. It's your chance to find out what is happening in the EOCP and provide your input. We want to hear your questions and opinions. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us anytime, even if you can't make it to the AGM. We are hoping to have alternate sites for each year's AGM and are planning to have it on Vancouver Island in 2012. Please stay tuned.



EOCP President Mike Gosselin presenting the year in review



AGM audience

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 the editor Brian Thorburn at bthorburn@epcor.ca. Changes of address, annual dues, certification education unit requirements, 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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The Environmental Operators Certification Program is a charter member of the Association of Boards of Certification and is a registered society with more than 3,700 active members.

2011 Board of Directors

Mike Gosselin – President	
Pat Miller – Vice President	
Brian Thorburn – Treasurer	
Chris Brown – Secretary	
Steve Benoit	Shawn Sanders
Tim Lambert	Darryl Bjorgaard
Bob L. Smith	

EOCP Election Results

The EOCP Board elections occurred in the spring with all positions being filled by acclamation. No other nominations were received.

The following directors were re-elected:

OPERATORS:	Mike Gosselin Brian Thorburn
GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE:	Tim Lambert
CONSULTANT REPRESENTATIVE:	Shawn Sanders

Meet the Staff

Stephanie Hall is an office assistant, and a valuable member of the EOCP staff. She came to the EOCP in August 2008 on a temporary basis as a maternity leave replacement. She accepted a full time position in August 2009. One of Stephanie's main tasks is to issue letters and certificates for Operator exam results. For those of you with office bets, Stephanie is English, not Australian.



EOCP Newsletter Goes Green

In an effort to become even more environmentally responsible and also to reduce expenses, the EOCP is publishing an electronic copy of the newsletter for Operators that have indicated their desire to receive it this way. For all Operators In Good Standing for whom we have an email address, we are emailing this newsletter immediately. If you wish to also receive a hard copy of the newsletter in the future, please email the office at eocp@eocp.org to request one.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 41498030
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Burnaby, BC V5C 6N5

Digest Advertising Opportunities

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

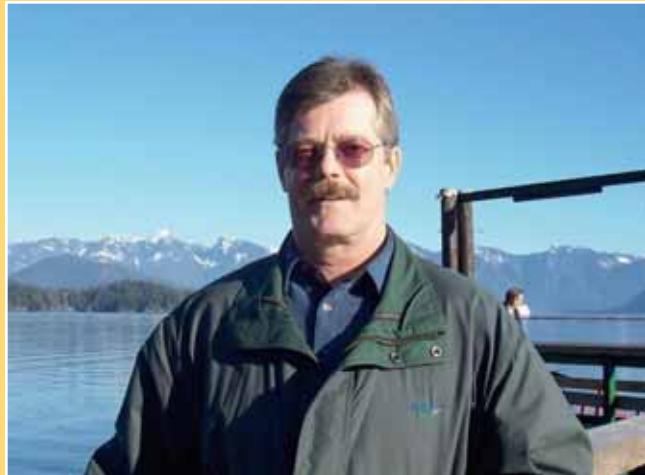
Operator of the Year

(The Vic Terry Award)

Don Gare

Don Gare is an EOCP Certified Operator who has worked in the industry for over 30 years. In addition to having worked his way up to a position in utilities management he has been involved in Operator training and has spent over 15 years on the EOCP Board of Directors Including six years as Secretary of the Board and even longer as the editor of the Operators Digest, looked after the website for many years and was also involved in many other aspects of board activity. Thanks for all the hard work over the years Don.

Vic Terry was a pioneer and advocate for Operator training in BC. This award is a recognition for an



Operator of the year Don Gare

Operator who has been actively involved in all aspects of the water and wastewater Operator industry in British Columbia.

Editorial

What does it take to be a volunteer or to be involved?

In this day and age, it seems less and less that people are likely to volunteer or be actively involved in organizations. Due to financial and family demands and everyone busier than ever before, and working longer hours, volunteering and being involved seems to be on the decline. Take for example; the EOCP Board and previous year's elections. The turn out for previous year's elections has been dismal. Less than 10% of eligible Operators vote in the EOCP annual elections. This is poor voter turnout. We need more Operators voting! How can we get you more involved? Do you want to have online voting or should we send you a prepaid envelope for voting? We want to hear from you on how to get you more connected and involved. Contact the EOCP or the editor or any Board member and let them know!

The EOCP elections were held this year and no new names were put forward. Either the membership is happy with the job that the current EOCP Board are doing or they don't want to get involved. I would like to think the membership is happy with the job the EOCP Board are doing. They spend countless hours volunteering their time to ensure

that the EOCP continues to be run in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner. However, we would like to see more involvement from the membership either running for the EOCP Board or putting their names forward to be involved on a committee. We are in the process of forming committees to assist the EOCP in many of the facets of the organizations. If you want to be involved in a great organization and help to make the EOCP an even better organization, please contact the EOCP or one of the Board members.

One last item of my rant is the EOCP newsletter. There was a time a few years ago that the newsletter was not sent out on a regular basis. We have been striving to send out the newsletter a minimum of twice annually but this takes articles and new ideas. We need new stories, plant profiles, new Operator tools that you have made yourselves and just some general comments that would be beneficial to other Operators. We need to hear from the membership and get you more involved in sending information in to be published. It's been hard to get plant or system profiles sent in to be published. Do you want to show off your plant or system? Contact the editor and I can help you put something together to share with the membership. It just takes a few good pictures, a little bit of information, and a short description of your system.

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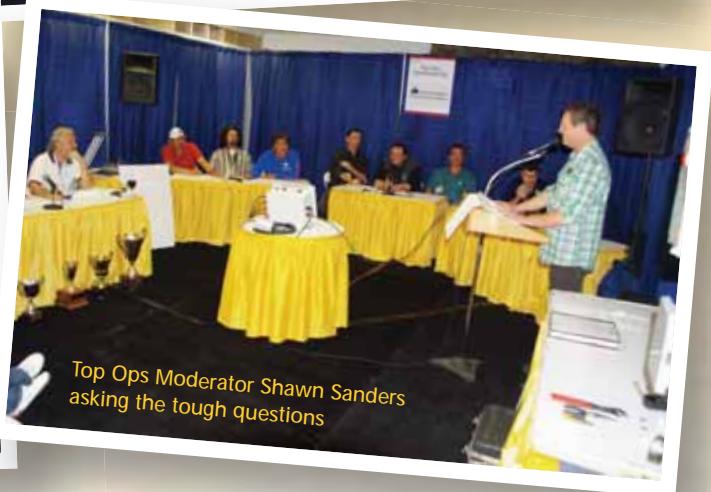
Top Ops Kelowna 2011

Our best turnout yet occurred at the EOCP Top Ops Competition at the BCWWA Conference in Kelowna, with new question being put into the mix. Teams of three Operators answered the various skill testing questions in water and wastewater in a Reach For the Top format. The winning teams were all from Kelowna.

1ST PLACE:	2ND PLACE:	3RD PLACE:
Kelowna Jack Hammers Nicole, Kevin and Henry	Kelowna Ugly Ducklings Al, Shawn and Jeff	Kelowna Poo Sheep Robert, Marc and Chris



Conference attendees watching the competition



Top Ops Moderator Shawn Sanders asking the tough questions

Operators – want to earn CEU's?

The Training Registry is in full swing. Operators, do you have 3 years or more of experience. You have knowledge to share with others, We want as many as possible to get involved! You could provide training to other Operators and achieve continuing education units for yourself. Did you know that if you develop a course and instruct it, the first time you teach it you get double the CEU's? Just click on the Training Registry tab and follow the easy steps online at www.eocp.org to become a Recognized Instructor and then enter a course into the system.

PLANT PROFILE

Missing in action.

No new profiles submitted this issue.

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Okanagan College Bursary Winners

EOCP President Mike Gosselin with Michael Glover and Aaron Messer.



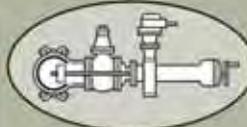
UPDATE! 2011 Association of Boards of Certification (ABC)

The Canadian Validation and Examination Committee met in Toronto this October to update the Operator Certification Exams in Wastewater Treatment and Collection and Water Treatment and Distribution. The committee meets every two years to update and improve the ABC Canadian Standardized Certification Exams. The committee goes through questions in the exam database and selects the exam questions for the new standardized exams. Questions that are misleading, poorly written, or have poor references to study material are removed and sent back to another committee to be re-written and updated. Operators, managers, and regulators from across the country take part in these discussions and workshops to ensure that all facets of operation and certification are covered. Taking part in this year's meeting representing Operators from British Columbia were John Reynolds and Brian Thorburn.

ABC Biosolids Land Appliers, and Plant Maintenance Technologist Certification

Operators, did you know that the Association of Board of Certification have a certification program for biosolids land applicators and for plant maintenance staff. They offer Level 1 and 2 nationally validated exams in both of these fields. If anyone would like to apply to write these examinations and become an ABC certified Operator, contact ABC at:

Association of Boards of Certification
2805 SW Snyder Blvd, Suite 535
Ankeny, IA 50023
Phone: 515-232-3623
Fax: 515 965-6827
Email: abc@abccert.org



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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 Highlights** tab and then click on **New Operators** for an up to date list.

Keeping Your Certification Valid

Many Operators have not been keeping their certification valid by either not paying their annual dues or by fulfilling the CEU requirement. If your facility requires a certain level of certified Operator and you have let your certification lapse, you or your utility could be in violation of your Permit to Operate. Please contact us so we may help you get back into "Good Standing" again.

Facility Classification to September 20, 2011						
Classification	IV	III	II	I	Other	Total
WD	31	50	157	167		405
WT	16	31	64	12		123
WWC	17	12	62	90		181
MWWT	21	35	104	138		298
IWWT	1	1	2			4
SWS					815	815
SWWS					179	179
TOTAL	86	129	389	407	994	2005

Operator Classification to September 20 2011									
Classification	IV	III	II	MU II	I	MU I	OIT	Total	
WD	34	177	903	7	1691	8	163	2983	
WT	20	52	191	1	341	5	46	656	
WWC	2	34	381	2	945	4	66	1434	
MWWT	79	192	397	3	642	8	123	1444	
IWWT		4	14		27			45	
TOTALS	135	459	1886	13	3646	25	398	6562	
BWD								23	
SWS								716	
SWWS						98 - L	109 - M	207	
CH								534	
IS								4	
TOTAL								8046	
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPERATORS								2915	
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVE OPERATORS WITH MULTIPLE ACTIVE LEVELS								1425	



Cell Phone Use and Driving



New legislation has brought about a ban on cell phone use while driving except with a hands free unit. Some utilities have even banned the use of hands free units to ensure that their Operators do not endanger themselves and the public. Regardless of your utility's rules and regulations, think about the dangers involved with driving and using a cell phone whether at work or at home in your personal vehicle. Pull over and park in a safe location before answering a call, even if it's coming in on the emergency call line. It's not worth it to lose your life, endanger others and to possibly lose your job for breaking the law.

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Operator Tools

Operators! We like to feature some of your tool inventions to put into the Digest. In the picture at right are various fittings that have been made to go on the end of a valve key. They are interchangeable and just require a bolt to be removed to change from a square nut, to an auger, to a typical valve nut size.

Valve key with various interchangeable fittings



Certification Exam Security and Candidate Identification

The EOCP will be further increasing exam security and implementing full candidate identification in 2012. Like many other Operator Certification agencies, the EOCP has decided that photo identification will be required in order to write any EOCP exam. Approved picture identification will include: drivers' licenses, passports, or provincial or federal picture ID. Please be prepared to show your ID as you will not receive an exam without it. As well, a number of Operators have wanted to use their cell phones as calculators during examinations; this will be absolutely forbidden. BC and elsewhere have experienced Operators trying to use their cell phones to photograph exams. In order to keep the certification exams secure, all phones must be turned off during the exams and put away. No cell phones will be allowed on the examination table.



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2012 Budget

The EOCP presented the year to date budget along with the 2012 budget at the AGM in Kamloops BC.

Comparison – 2012 to 2011 Year to Date					
	2012 Budget	2011 YTD Actual	2011 YTD Budget	2011 Budget Total	2010 Total Actual
INCOME					
Certification Dues	\$ 275,500	\$ 183,182	\$ 130,750	\$ 261,500	\$ 253,254
Application Fees	27,500	15,010	13,750	27,500	21,585
Exam Fees	130,500	63,607	60,250	120,500	132,523
Facility Classification	51,300	32,000	19,400	38,800	54,065
Other Income	119,550	22,754	106,338	212,675	135,873
Total Income	\$604,350	\$316,553	\$330,488	\$660,975	\$597,300
EXPENSES					
ABC	\$ 25,800	\$ 17,780	\$ 11,600	\$ 23,200	\$ 26,014
Board Expenses	19,125	5,324	14,763	29,525	11,804
Business Plan	46,500	37,235	36,501	73,001	28,980
Computer Expenses	18,000	3,212	8,250	16,500	12,772
Digest Expenses	12,800	6,399	6,400	12,800	11,274
Professional Fees	15,701	4,674	10,396	20,791	7,150
Salaries	261,518	122,668	128,213	256,425	246,969
Training Registry	65,065	52,958	42,325	84,650	83,981
Other Expenses	137,944	53,302	69,457	138,914	100,928
Total Expenses	\$602,453	\$303,550	\$327,903	\$655,806	\$528,618
Surplus / Deficit	\$ 1,897	\$ 13,003	\$ 2,585	\$ 5,169	\$ 68,682

Operator Pictures or Videos!

Do you have a picture you'd like to share? Send it in to the editor at bthorburn@epcor.ca along with a little explanation and we will publish it in the next newsletter. Hopefully in the next issue we will have a number of new pictures.

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