

# THE PIPELINE

**SWWA**

Saskatchewan Water  
And Wastewater  
Association  
Editor: Bob Turnbull  
Box 322,  
Birch Hills, SK S0J 0G0  
Phone: 749-3532  
Fax: 749-3336  
E-mail: swat1@sasktel.net  
www.swwa.sk.ca

SWWA Office: 46 Windfield Road, Regina, SK S4V 0E7  
Phone: (306) 761-1278 Fax 761-1279 E-mail: swwa.office@sasktel.net

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1st Edition

## PRESIDENT'S POST CONFERENCE REPORT

Season's Greetings everyone - I hope a wonderful Christmas holiday was had by all.

Conference 2004 has gone on record as having the largest number of registered delegates and supplier booths in SWWA's history. Your attendance and support have made this conference one of the country's best. Thank you!

Highlighting the conference was Bruce Davidson from Walkerton, Ont. who verbally painted heart-rendering and terrifying pictures of the contaminated water tragedy that he and his neighbors experienced in 2001.

I must also mention Al Turner, Chair of the Manitoba Water and Wastewater Association, who imparted some very valuable information on leak detection and unidirectional flushing. Al threw in just the right amount of humour to keep everyone relaxed and interested.

Dr. Steve Hrudey from the University of Alberta offered an in depth presentation on safe drinking water, plus the consequences of not performing due diligence.

A huge thank you must also be extended to Bill Evanishen, Blair Kardash, Don Webb, Richard Egroff, Dr. Cullimore, Kim Lee, Vaughn Williams, Dave Munro, and Gary Coons for their terrific workshops and seminars.

I want to personally thank our Office Manager and the SWWA Board of Directors for the great job they did, organizing and working tirelessly, making this one of the best, if not, the best conference ever!!!!

Mark Krecsy - SWWA president

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## LADIES PROGRAM REPORT

The ladies program at the 2004 Conference was very successful. Each year, we're seeing more ladies attend, which is great.

We had Laura and her staff from Paramount Day Spa back by popular demand. We not only got pampered by getting our hair and makeup done, but Laura also brought a masseuse, who was very well received. We left the program feeling beautiful and extremely relaxed, ready to enjoy the banquet and evening entertainment.

If you would like to see Laura back or you have any other suggestions regarding our program, we would greatly appreciate your input. You can contact Monique or myself with your suggestions or comments at swwa.office@sasktel.net or krecsy.swwa@sasktel.net

I'm looking forward to seeing you at the 2005 Conference in November.

Happy New Year to all!!!!

Margo Krecsy



# SELLING THE VALUE OF WATER

Giving consultants 500 words to say whatever they want seems like giving them the keys to the kingdom. However, rather than using this soapbox for consulting engineering, I would rather use it to talk to consultants' municipal clients directly about educating their customers on drinking water issues.

If you work for a municipality that regularly communicates effectively with your customers on drinking water issues, that talks to service clubs, the youth, the professions, and the media in your community, and that trains all your staff to do so, including the water main repair crew and the accounts clerk, then read no further.

For the rest of you, ask yourselves this question: What is the single major impediment to the provision of safe, sufficient and sustainable drinking water in your community? The answer is the same for every town and city. Simply put, the rates for drinking water are much too low. Rates are too low because the political will is not there to raise rates. Given that most politicians respond best to the will of the voters, leads one to conclude that there is also insufficient public support for higher sustainable rates.

By Herschel Gutman, P.Eng.  
R.V. Anderson Associates Ltd.



As Deep Throat said in the movie All the President's Men: "Follow the money". The trail starts with our customers who are your primary source of funding. The politicians will ultimately obey the will of the people. Therefore you need to get public support first, and the politicians will follow.

The message you need to communicate to the public is about the value of a safe reliable water supply to your community. Indeed, its public health and safety aspects need to be stressed as being akin to access to good medical care.

Your customers need too know that water is not free. It takes money to protect water supply sources from Pollution. It takes money to treat water to make it safe to drink. It takes money both for maintaining and investing in water mains and their renewal. This is money that your customers should demand to pay, for the price of a safe water supply and public health peace of mind. Indeed, I have often told service clubs that they "should demand that rates double for their own public health protection."

Public education and communication efforts need to be carried out every year all year. This should start with promoting a utility culture that educates its own staff of the value of water, and trains them to communicate those values to everyone they interact with in their lives.

It should continue with an organized plan to communicate with every citizen group within your customer base. Industrial and commercial customers need to know what it takes to provide day in day out reliable water supplies and fire protection. Service clubs like Rotary or Lions are not only influential in the community, but are always looking for speakers. Students are eager to learn about environmental issues, and they also represent your future customer base. When you run out of those groups, consider the professions and emergency response service, or even public advocacy groups. Finally, do not forget to educate the local media on water issues, before you have a crisis.

The bottom line is: if you want the funds to do your job well, you need to get out there and sell the value of a safe reliable water supply directly to your customers, face-to-face. Sustainable water rates are bound to follow in time.





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# BACTERIA, NOT BULLETS, ARE THE BIGGEST KILLER



Tom Davey, Editor  
Environmental Science  
& Engineering

The name Florence Nightingale is inextricably linked to advances in medicine, perhaps eclipsing the fame of Harvey, who discovered the circulation of blood, or even Hippocrates, the legendary father of medicine in Ancient Greece. In an age when women were kept out of virtually all of the professions (except the oldest one) she courageously used her upper class connections to become a nurse. Her vision scandalized her family who thought male nakedness was simply not proper for a lady to witness.

But Florence was both determined and well connected. She spoke and wrote Latin, Greek, French, German and Italian, and was deeply interested in history. This was a formidable woman. Sidney Herbert, then British Secretary of State at War, capitulated to her repeated requests and sent her to the Scutari hospital in Turkey during the Crimean War. She found some 2,000 British soldiers who were laid: "Like paving stones in four miles of corridors." As she and her nurses cleaned, fed and comforted wounded and sick soldiers, she grew increasingly angry, complaining to Sidney Herbert: "No mops, plates, forks, spoons, not even scissors for cutting the men's hair which is literally alive" (from lice). Although the Crimean War was brutal, ten times more men died from infection than from military wounds. Certainly she must have saved hundreds of wounded soldiers with her cleansing and care of the troops, who memorialized her as: "The lady with the lamp."

But, according to Reputations, a BBC documentary, reviewed some time ago in The Guardian Newspaper, the real killer was the hospital itself as Scutari was built over a cesspit. Nancy Banks-Smith of The Guardian, in reviewing the documentary, wrote that the medical efforts were really white-washing a sepulcher. "When Lord Palmerston, a neighbour of the Nightingales, sent a sanitary commission, they flushed, aired and ventilated Scutari, and the death toll dropped from 42% to 2%. Strictly speaking we should erect a statue to a plumber in Trafalgar Square", concluded Ms. Banks-Smith.

Florence Nightingale's fame coincided with the inventions of photography, and sound recording. Indeed, Thomas Edison recorded her voice, giving us two rare flashbacks of her era.

Like Darwin, she took to her bed for years but kept up a barrage of complaints and suggestions for public health initiatives. While born into the ranks of wealth and privilege she rejected the offer of a State Funeral and burial at Westminster Abbey. Appropriately, it was common soldiers who carried her coffin to burial.

Actually I think Ms. Banks-Smith should have included engineers and chemists in her witty rejoinder on plumbing, for history repeatedly shows that these two professions have constantly been in the vanguard of public health initiatives. Equally, their anticipation of designs of water and wastewater treatment systems and processes have usually been ignored by historians.

To design a war weapon is to immortalize your name for eons; witness the Bren, Browning, Colt, Kaliznakov, Smith & Wesson, Webley, etc. But who knows the names of Arden, Lockett and Fowler, discoverers of the activated sludge process in Lancashire, still a benchmark process in wastewater treatment, or the French nobleman/scientists, Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier, who, in 1780, made milestone discoveries in chemistry, particularly phosphorous, but was arrested by The Revolution and pleaded for two more weeks to conclude his experiments. The tribunal declared that: "The state has no need of chemists". His request denied, he was guillotined, taking much of his knowledge with him.

In 1847, years before Joseph Lister and Louis Pasteur made their giant strides in medicine, a young Hungarian doctor, Ignaz Semmelweis linked the high mortality rates in maternity wards to a lack of simple hand washing by doctors in between treating patients. His superiors scoffed, as the British medical establishment was to do some five years later when Dr. John Snow postulated that a cholera outbreak in London was waterborne. The findings of both these medical pioneers were the subject of scorn for many years and both died in relative obscurity.

And who knows of John Walker of England, who, in 1827, invented the "lucifer" match, making phosphorous a commercial commodity and perhaps an important contributor to the Industrial Revolution as it provided a cheap, portable means of combustion. Can you image running a household or factory, with no way to ignite cooking or process appliances? Try camping without matches or lighters if you're not convinced.

'Lucifers' were very popular among troops in the awful trenches in world War I as they permitted troops to smoke between barrages. A favourite song among British troops at the front went: "While you've a Lucifer to light your fag (cigarette), smile boys all the while."

We should learn the lessons of the Scutari military hospital. While the Prime Minister and Provincial Premiers are fighting for more health spending, they might be reminded that 'The Invisible Professions' of chemistry and engineering are fundamental health services which are in the front line of our public health systems but at the back door for funding. After Cain slew Abel, water-born diseases went on to kill more humans than all the recorded wars in history.

## ONTARIO TO UNVEIL NEW WATER TRAINING RULES

Ontario's Liberal government marked the fourth anniversary of the Walkerton tainted-water catastrophe by unveiling stringent new training rules for water quality analysts and system managers that Environment Ministry sources are billing as the toughest in North America.

Both new and current operators as well as analysts will be required to take ministry-approved courses each year, including those who already hold a licence but never passed a certification exam.

"The standards are contained in a new regulation under the province's Safe Drinking Water Act and give so-called "grandparented" operators who are considered the "overall responsible" operator one year to pass a certification exam. Other grandparented operators will have two years to pass the test.

Ontario currently has 7,600 water system operators across the province, 1,600 of whom are grandparented, meaning they have licences but have never passed a certification test. Starting in August, drinking water and wastewater operators and analysts alike will also face a new array of higher certification fees to cover part of the cost of delivering the program.

The new regulation is designed to satisfy eight recommendations made by Justice Dennis O'Connor in his judicial inquiry into the Walkerton tragedy.

The new regulation ensures operators are aware of emerging pathogens, protection measures and technologies. Training is clearly defined and directly relates to the work of a water system operator.

The hours of annual training required by an operator reflect the knowledge needed to run a particular system, from 20 hours of training for smaller systems to 50 hours for more sophisticated and complex ones.

The government will also work with the water industry to improve access to training across the province in order to satisfy O'Connor's remaining two recommendations on certification and training.

The bulk of the requirements come into effect on August 1st, while the new training standards come into force a year later. Recertification requirements for grandparented operators must take place within a year from last Friday, when the regulation was filed with the ministry.

Effective immediately, entry-level operators must take a ministry-approved certification course within 16 months of securing their operator-in-training certificate.

### The Dave Clark Operator of the Year Award, 2004

For a community with a population < 1,000



**LYLE KNIGHT**  
Town of St. Walburg

### The Dale Heshka Operator of the Year Award 2004

For a community with a population > 1,000



**KELLY KISH**  
Town of Kipling

### SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2004



#### WOLSELEY WATERWORKS GROUP

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of SWWA for choosing Wolseley Waterworks as the Supplier of the Year for 2004. It was a humbling honour for Wolseley to be chosen over the many other top-notch suppliers in Saskatchewan. The hard work and dedication of Lori, Forest, Jason, Jim, Brent in Saskatoon, and in Regina, Barry, and our shipper Clint greatly contributed to the success of Wolseley Waterworks in Saskatchewan. We have always worked hard at putting our customers first and receiving this award is the icing on the cake. Again, thank you for your support.

Best Regards

Leo Mercier (Mgr) Saskatoon

Greg Handziuk (Mgr) Regina

Peter VanderStelt (Waterworks Sales Saskatchewan)

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## CITY TO FIGHT WATER CONTAMINATION

The City of Saskatoon is beginning a communications strategy to keep drinking water from becoming contaminated. The program aims at educating residents and industrial users about ways they can inadvertently pollute potable water. It targets what are known as cross-connections, or links between the water supply and a contaminated source.

Examples of this are attaching a garden hose to a pesticide spray bottle, or leaving a hose in a paddling pool to fill it up. A water pressure drop could result in the hose siphoning contaminants into the water supply.

The city will include brochures with utility bills this month and set up displays at local malls giving away backflow prevention devices. The devices are already mandatory in new homes. The city will make it mandatory for industrial and commercial businesses to install the devices and annually test them.

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## REVIEW OF OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

When Saskatchewan Environment (SE) introduced the mandatory certification program in July 2000, with a five-year phase-in period, it also scheduled a program review for the last year prior to full implementation. In October 2004, SE invited the original seven stakeholder groups along with six new ones to appoint representatives to form the Certification Advisory Committee (CAC). The first meeting of the CAC was held on November 15, 2004 in Regina, with monthly meetings scheduled to occur until March.

The stakeholders of the CAC and their representatives are as follows:

Saskatchewan Environment, Thon Phommavong, Gus Feitzelmayer, Chris Seeley	
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association	Ed Sigmeth
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities	Don Taylor
Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology	Art Skibinsky
Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association	Andy Busse
Operator Certification board	Glenn Greve
Sask-Water	Darin Orb
Saskatchewan Associations of Northern Communities	Cecile Caisse
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada	George Germin
Saskatchewan Government Insurance	Bob Cann
Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission	Doug Muir
Canadian Union of Public Employees	Merv Simonot
Management from a Class-4 Facility	Ben Boots

Before the first CAC meeting, the representatives were asked to review a discussion paper containing items and issues of interest and concern to operators, owners and regulators. The issues were formulated through telephone conversations, face-to-face discussions at workshops and conferences, and from the Operator Certification Information meetings held in Humboldt, Meadow Lake, Melville, Nipawin, Rosetown, Swift Current and Weyburn in February/March 2004.

The mandate of the CAC is to review all aspects of the certification program and to make recommendations to the department by March 31, 2005. Although regulatory change is not anticipated, SE expects that the CAC will make many recommendations in terms of certification program procedures, policy, guidelines and standards. SE realizes that the CAC has a lot of work to complete and it looks forward to receiving its report.

## CHANGE IN CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

The accompanying article on the Review of the Certification Program states that the Certification Advisory Committee (CAC) has been convened to review all aspects of the certification program. One of the main aspects under review is the administration and logistics of the certification examination service, including the examination fee. The current administration procedures and the \$65 + GST fee were established before mandatory certification came into effect. A recent SE review has shown that an increase of approximately \$15 per exam is required to recover the full examination and administration costs.

Operators may have become aware that the process is complicated. Saskatchewan Environment (SE) agrees with the CAC and others that the examination process needs to be simplified, preferably with only one agency administering the exams. As a result of negotiations, SIAST has agreed to take on the certification examination registration, administration and logistics, beginning Feb. 1, 2005.

This means that the registration fee for certification examinations of approximately \$80.00 + GST per exam will be payable to SIAST. The actual amount, which may vary by exam location, is payable when operators register for an examination, or would be included in the registration fee for a course or class. Please note that this new fee is on a par with the average cost of Canadian certification exams in other jurisdictions.

Operators and others must note that after February 1, 2005, all requests for exam registrations, sittings, locations, etc., must be made to Tracey Johnson at 306-694-3282, at the SIAST Palliser Campus in Moose Jaw.

Other questions or comments should be forwarded to Gus Feitzelmayer at 306-787-6174.

The success of the mandatory operator certification program is largely due to the dedication of SE, the OCB, SWWA, SIAST and other sponsoring agencies' staff in the planning, organization, delivery and control of the many examination sittings. Further, Saskatchewan Environment appreciates the contribution of SWWA, SIAST and the OCB and thanks them for their commitment to the certification program.



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## WATER FOR PEOPLE PROJECTS

The Western Canada Section of Water for People Canada had great success in 2004 collecting funds for projects. Seven Silent Auctions along with several other fun events were hosted by various constituent organizations across the prairies. Profits raised from events such as the very successful silent auction and 50/50 draw at the November SWWA conference enabled the Western Canada WFP committee to choose three very worthwhile projects to support in 2005. The projects chosen are as follows:

**LAS PALMA REAL LATRINE PROJECT, HONDURAS** Palma Real is located in the San Luis Municipality and has benefited from the social growth of the area. The people are hard-working and work year round to cultivate the soil with corn and beans for their own consumption and sale in the market. The community already has a safe water system, installed by the partner organization a couple of years ago. They have operated and maintained the water system well and are now requesting latrines to help close the public health gap in their community. Currently, there are a few poorly constructed pit latrines for use; however, most community members use the open field to dispose of human waste.

The members of each family will be responsible for the use and maintenance of the latrines. Experts from CRA, the Municipality and the local government will provide technical support and training in use and maintenance of the latrines. 73 families will benefit from this project.

**FIVE-COMMUNITY LATRINE PROJECT, BOLIVIA** The five communities are San Jose, Lazo Rancho, Azirumarca, Tamborada A and Tamborada B located near Cochabamba, Bolivia in the Cercado Province.

By providing pour-flush household latrines to each family, the project will help decrease sanitation-related disease. Some families that have additional funds will also build a shower facility near their pour-flush latrine and create a bathroom for their home. In addition, health and hygiene education and proper maintenance of latrines training will be facilitated to create overall health improvement. 330 people will benefit from the project.

**SOLOLA LATRINE PROJECT, PHASE ONE, GUATEMALA** 20 handwashing stations will be built in 19 schools in the district of Solola. The construction will take place during three phases. The project will be carried out in partnership with the Paroquia of San Lucas Toliman and doctors from the Nebraska Health Science Center. Together, these two organizations have put together a team of health promoters and doctors who already promote health and hygiene, and provide medical clinics in local communities.

The aim of the partnership is to provide an integrated program for increasing the level of health and hygiene in school children. As such the schools selected for the construction of handwashing stations will benefit from infrastructure enabling children to wash their hands. This project will ultimately benefit schoolchildren in 19 schools. *Thank you for your continued support.*

## TOWN OF CUDWORTH - ITEMS FOR SALE

Please submit offers on the following items to:


### Administrator - Town of Cudworth

P.O. Box 69 Cudworth, SK S0K 1B0 - 223 Main Street

For more information or to view items please contact the office at 256-3492. Lowest or any offer not necessarily accepted. Removal costs will be the responsibility of the purchaser and methods of removal will be subject to approval of the Town of Cudworth.

1. Sand filters with air wash grid in good condition 60" diameter x 5' height - 2 are original 1963 and 1 was purchased in 1986
2. Canadian air compressor complete in good condition used for air wash of sand filters.
3. 1986 Aeration unit for removal of iron with electric fan in good condition.
4. 2 1986 transfer pumps model F1-820 AM-BF - good condition - Peerless centrifugal pumps with 2hp 230-460 volts three phase
5. Piping and butterfly valves
6. Potassium manganese pump Model 1-A751-955 115 volt in good condition with barrels with covers


7. Coleman industrial electric generator 10,000 volt with 19 hp twin Briggs and Stratton engine with auto throttle - new condition
8. 2 Kerosene heaters new condition
9. 4 pairs of Esso Kerosene
10. 2 Regal gas chlorinators with selector valves in good condition
11. Submersible 6" bowl pump at 100 gal/minutes with Franklin 7.5 hp, 1 phase, 3450 rpm motor and Goulds 70L097 stainless steel wet end in new condition - 100' consisting of 20 lengths of 3" PVC pipe schedule 80
12. 5 state submersible pump with Franklin 1.5 hp with stainless steel tank in good condition - 100' consisting of 20' lengths of 2" PVC pipe schedule 40
13. 3 gang reel Bouwer mower 7.5' with 540 PTO for golf courses in good condition and accessories
14. Natural gas MKE 2 basket deep fryer in good condition
15. Arena time clock



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# WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

## Chemical Solution Feed Pumps - Operation & Maintenance - 0.3 CEUs

Check location and date you would like to attend:

**March 16, 2005 - Kindersley**

**Location:** Don Morgan Fire Hall. 107 - 6th Avenue East

**March 23, 2005 - Moosomin**

**Location:** Moosomin Community Hall, 902 Birtie Street

*Special Thanks to the Town of Kindersley and Town of Moosomin for donating the halls, coffee and donuts*

**Class Size: 25**

**Sign In time:** 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

**Bring:** A pen, pencil and pad of paper

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address / Box Number \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note that the deadline for workshop registration is two (2) weeks prior to date of workshop. ALL workshop attendees must pre-register and pre-pay for workshop. No walk-up registration are allowed and no cheques are to be submitted at the workshop.*

### Workshop Cost for Kindersley (lunch not included);

SWWA Member: \$70.00 plus \$4.90 GST - \$74.90 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member: \$120.00 plus \$8.40 GST - \$128.40 \_\_\_\_\_

### Workshop Cost for Moosomin (lunch included):

SWWA Member: \$80.00 plus \$5.60 GST - \$85.60 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member: \$130.00 plus \$9.10 GST - \$139.10 \_\_\_\_\_

## 2005 SWWA MEMBERSHIP

If you are not sure of your membership status please contact the SWWA Office at 761-1278.

To become a member the following must be completed. The 2005 SWWA Membership fee is \$40.00 plus \$2.80 GST.

Work Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Position / Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** If you are applying for a 2005 membership add the membership fee to the SWWA member cost of the workshop.

### Kindersley Workshop and 2005 Membership

\$110.00 plus \$7.70 GST = Total \$117.70

### Moosomin Workshop and 2005 Membership

\$120.00 plus \$8.40 GST = Total \$128.40

Submit this form and your cheque made payable to:

### Saskatchewan Water and Wastewater Association

46 Windfield Road, Regina, Saskatchewan S4V 0E7

## CHEMICAL SOLUTIONS FEED PUMPS O & M

### Course Description

The courses that are being held in Kindersley March 16th, 2005 and in Moosomin March 23rd, 2005 will be quite detailed. There is a lot of information to be discussed.

- chemicals used in water treatment
- chemical feed
- solution feeders
- calibration of feed pumps
- math
- operation and maintenance
- trouble shooting
- safety

## SWWA EXECUTIVE LIST

<p><b>President Mark Krecsy</b> Work: 695-3808      Fax: 695-2398 Email: Krecsy.swwa@sasktel.net</p> <p><b>Past President Darren Cronan</b> Work: 424-2353      Fax: 424-2065</p> <p><b>Director Kelly Kish</b> Work: 736-2515      Fax: 736-8448 Email: kiplingwaterplant@sasktel.net</p> <p><b>Director Rynette Moore-Guillaume</b> Work: 694-4479 Email: rmoore@city.moose-jaw.sk.ca</p> <p><b>Director Dale Heshka</b> Work: 728-6870      Fax: 728-4292 Email: water@city.melville.sk.ca</p>	<p><b>Sr. Supplier Rep. Jason Wasylshyn</b> Work: 800 - 387-7503      Cell: 537-2252 Email: jwasylshyn@cleartech.ca</p> <p><b>SIAST Rep. Richard Egroff</b> Work: 694-3227      Fax: 694-3265 Email: Egroff@siast.sk.ca</p> <p><b>Vice President Andy Busse</b> Work: 672-7220      Fax: 672-3777 Email: aj.busse@sasktel.net</p> <p><b>Director Fred Schulze</b> Work: 554-3766      Fax: 554-3224 Email: todat_todat@hotmail.com</p> <p><b>Director Lee Reinhart</b> Work: 463-2797 Email: kinwtp@sasktel.net</p>	<p><b>Director Rick Hanson</b> Work: 953-4940      Fax: 953-4941 Email: rhanson@citypa.com</p> <p><b>Government Rep Gus Feitzelmayer</b> Work: 787-6174      Fax: 787-0197 Email: gfeitzelmayer@serm.gov.sk.ca</p> <p><b>Jr. Supplier Rep Shannon Lozinski</b> Work: 721-6925      Fax: 721-6936 Email: lozinski.shannon@spartancontrols.com</p> <p><b>Pipeline Editor Bob Turnbull</b> Work: 749-3532      Fax: 749-3336 Email: swat1@sasktel.net</p>
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## ANNUAL SWWA GOLF TOURNAMENT UPDATES

Even though as I write this there is snow on the ground and it is about -40, it is time once again to start thinking about our Annual Golf tournament. As we learned last year, good weather / bad weather, it does not really matter - a good time is always at hand. This year's tournament will be held at the Assiniboia Regional Park Golf Course in Assiniboia on Saturday, June 4. As in the past couple of years there will be a workshop held the day before so plan to stay over night and attend the golf tournament the next day. We hope to see as many people as possible at the tournament so mark June 4th on your calendar. Further information and the registration form will be in the spring edition of the Pipeline.

On the day before the tournament there will be a workshop, the subject of the workshop will be announced in the next Pipeline.

## DRINKING WATER ENFORCEMENT CHARGES LEAD TO CONVICTION

The first charges laid dealing with drinking water enforcement in Saskatchewan have resulted in a conviction.

A former waterworks operator for the Northern village of Denare Beach appeared in Provincial Court in Creighton November 18, 2004 and was fined after pleading guilty to one charge of providing false information in waterworks operational records and logs contrary to the province's Environmental Management Protection act.

The charge relates to an incident that occurred in Denare Beach in December, 2003. It was laid after complaints were received from the Northern Village, a preliminary investigation by the Village and further investigation by Saskatchewan Environment Enforcement staff.

The department does not believe the quality of drinking water in the Village was affected by the action, however this kind of situation can result in significant risk to public health and cannot be permitted.


This is the first time in Saskatchewan where charges related to a waterworks operation have been formally laid and pursued through the courts.

## APOLOGY

It has come to the attention of ClearTech Industries that an award presented at the November 2004 SWWA conference was inappropriate and may have caused the recipient to feel humiliation. It was never the intent of ClearTech to have anyone feel that his or her reputation was compromised from the presentation of this award.

We wish to extend sincere apologies for any embarrassment that may have been felt by the recipient or the community in which he works and resides.


Randy Bracewell  
*President, ClearTech Industries Inc.*




**GEORGE TISSERAND**  
WATERWORKS

1222 Quebec Avenue  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3R8  
E-mail: gtisserand@emcoltd.com

Bus: (306) 652-5545  
Cell: (306) 221-0339  
Fax: (306) 244-6464  
Toll Free: 1-800-668-4685



**Toll Free:**  
Ph: 1888.880.1510  
Fx: 1888.540.4424  
kevinc@ebaa.com

www.ebaa.com

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**KEVIN CARL**  
Canadian Regional  
Sales Manager

**EBAA IRON SALES, INC.**  
884 Juniper Rd.  
Parksville, B.C. V9P 1S7