

CURRENT



Alberta Branch Newsletter

August 2007

National Conference 2007 – Saskatoon, SK – June 25-28, 2007

🍁 The theme and backdrop for the “Water Science & Technology: Implications for Water Management” conference was that: “...advances in science and technology have contributed considerably to our ability to manage water resources, with improvements in areas such as analytical and monitoring techniques, numerical modeling and satellite remote sensing. At the same time, science and technology have also made water management more complex through the introduction of chemically complex pollutants, genetically modified organisms, and increasing water demands”. Sessions were facilitated to explore the theme in more detail and focused on:

- Monitoring, measuring and data dissemination
- Water conservation technologies and strategies
- Public policy, scientific study and available technology
- Restoration, reclamation, and rehabilitation of wetlands and watersheds
- Technology transfer
- Water resource management

The conference was a real success with attendance of approximately 350 delegates. There was very good representation from Alberta members including excellent attendance from the Calgary and Edmonton SYPs.

The National Director’s Meeting was held on June 25, 2007. Andrew Szojka and Kent Bullock attended from the Alberta Branch. John Thompson replaced Maureen Bell as a director on the CWRA National Board. The Alberta Branch reported that they had a successful Branch Conference in Red Deer this spring and that the Branch will be making a \$2500.00 contribution to the CWRA National Scholarship Fund in lieu of speaker gifts. Many of the others at the meeting thought this was a good idea and thought they might do this in the future. There was a lot of discussion at the meeting with regard to developing a CWRA position on a National Water Strategy.

At the AGM, Sonja Meek was elected as the new national president of CWRA. Also, Brenda Toth is the new secretary, replacing Esther Kienholz. There were 2 nominations for president elect, Andrew Szojka (from AB) and Aly Shady – and in a run-off Andrew was elected. Congratulations, Andrew! With Andrew’s nomination to president elect, we are now short one director to represent CWRA-AB at national meetings. If you are interested in becoming a national director, and have the means to attend annual meetings across Canada (Gimli, MB and Quebec City this year) – please contact the CWRA Newsletter Editor at CWRA.Newsletter@gov.ab.ca

Preparation is already underway for the 2008 National Conference – Gimli, Manitoba - The theme of “Managing the Health of Canada’s Lakes and Rivers” through an improved understanding of watershed influences, has been chosen for the 61st Annual Conference of the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA). The Manitoba Branch of CWRA invites you to Gimli, Manitoba from June 16th to 19th, 2008 to discuss how we can best manage Canada’s watersheds for the health of our lakes and rivers for the benefit of current and future generations.


<http://conference2008.cwra.org/>

Preparations underway for 2008 CWRA-AB Branch Conference!

🍁 The 2008 CWRA-AB Branch Conference will be held in Calgary, AB, April 6th to 8th, 2008. Save the date!

The conference will be held at the Calgary Radisson Hotel from Sunday April 6th to Tuesday April 8th, 2008. In addition to the conference, several organizations and agencies (.Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Water Survey of Canada, CWRA, and others) plan to partner and host a Water Measurement Workshop on April 9-10, 2008. If you are interested in organizing the conference or to partner in the workshop, contact the Newsletter Editor at: CWRA.Newsletter@gov.ab.ca

CWRA Loses Close Friend and Dedicated Volunteer - John Lilley

 The many CWRA members who came in contact with John Lilley will know the privilege of working with John and benefiting from his quiet thoughtfulness. He was an able facilitator of our meetings, and his writing skills were invaluable. John was also involved with the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists and was their national president for two terms.

John fought cancer off and on during the last 10 years. This was a battle in which John finally succumbed July 10, 2007 at home in Sherwood Park, Alberta.

The following article is quoted from the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists newsletter.

"Like many biologists, chemistry and beer played important roles in shaping John Lilley's career! At the University of Toronto in the mid-1960s, he planned to major in chemistry. But with the organic variety of the subject looming large (remember Morrison and Boyd?), in third year he switched to zoology. Shortly thereafter, John found himself in a bar with some biologists who were planning a national meeting. This was one of the early joint conferences between the CSEB and CCFFR, with CSEB organizing the wildlife program and CCFFR taking care of the fisheries. It sounded interesting and John's involvement with the CSEB was launched. John and his wife Judianne started their careers in Winnipeg, and with fishery studies of the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories. They then moved to Calgary and on to Edmonton where John continued to work as a fisheries biologist with the Environment Council of Alberta and the Alberta Water Resources Commission.


In addition to the many day-to-day responsibilities of being on the executive of any organization, staying on top of current and emerging issues was a large job. John commented recently that one of the big challenges during those years was keeping the CSEB engaged while remaining professional and not getting politically embroiled in the issues. "We had a great deal to offer as environmental biologists and it was – and still is – important to provide our comments in a credible way that maintained and enhanced CSEB's reputation. We had good ideas and advice for protecting the environment, no matter which government was making the decisions."

In 1995, John formed his own company, Lilley Environmental Consulting.

During this time, John provided many volunteer hours to the Canadian Water Resources Association, Alberta Branch, in finalizing workshop articles and publications on behalf of CWRA. He was also the CWRA Executive Director from 2000-2006.


The Alberta Branch of the CWRA will be making a \$1000 donation to the CWRA Scholarship Fund in his memory. John Lilley will be missed by many in the water resources community.

Update from your Student and Young Professionals (SYPs)

 Congratulations are extended to Kerri Robinson for taking home the award for Best Student Poster Presentation at the National Conference in Saskatoon. She presented a poster and oral presentation both titled "Aquatic Vegetation and Dissolved Oxygen in the Bow River, Alberta, Canada". Great work, Kerri!

The Calgary SYP is in the process of organizing an interactive evening on the University of Calgary campus for new students and recruits which would also include presentations from SYPs and other special guests. More details will be made available in the next CWRA newsletter – so check back in!

Recruiting Speakers for CWRA-AB Luncheon Seminars

 CWRA-AB is making preparations to host a number of Luncheon Seminars over the next year. In order to make the luncheon seminars a success, we require your help to identify topics and potential speakers. If you would like to showcase a project that you are involved with, or prepare a talk on a relevant water issue contact the Newsletter Editor at CWRA.Newsletter@gov.ab.ca. Remember - we have the ability to host luncheon seminars in numerous locations across the province – these events need not be constrained to Edmonton or Calgary!

Upcoming Conferences, Symposiums and Events

-  **StormCon 6th Annual North American Surface Water Quality Conference and Exposition**
August 20-23, 2007 / Phoenix, Arizona, USA <http://www.stormcon.com/sc.html>
-  **Canadian Dam Association 2007 Annual Conference**, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador,
September 22-27, 2007 <http://www.cdaconference.com/CDA2007conference/>
-  **2007 Water Quality Solutions Conference: Fresh. New. Perspective.**
September 24-28, 2007 / Edmonton, Alberta <http://www.safewater.org/>
-  **34th Annual Aquatic Toxicity Workshop: Navigating New Waters**
September 30 - October 3, 2007 / Halifax, Nova, Scotia <http://www.atw.ca/>
-  **Western Canada Water and Wastewater Association (WCWWA) Annual Conference & Trade Show:**
Environmental Excellence October 23-26, 2007 / Edmonton, Alberta
<http://www.wcwwa.ca/2007/2007wcwwa.htm>
-  **WaterTech 2008: Water Technologies Symposium**, April 16-18, 2008 / Lake Louise, Alberta
<http://www.esaa-events.com/watertech/>

Please forward this to anyone you may think is interested.

If you would like to be added or removed from our list please email the Newsletter Editor at the address below.

SUBMISSIONS AND COMMENTS:

Current Events is always looking for articles on interesting water projects, water issues, and notices. If you have a submission, or if you would like to share your thoughts or questions on issues raised in any *Current Events* article, please contact Newsletter Editor via e-mail at: CWRA.Newsletter@gov.ab.ca