

# Water Wise Newsletter

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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

### By Whalen Bishop

What an interesting year 2021 has been for our industry so far! Unfortunately, we are still dealing with the ebbs and flows of the Global Pandemic; adapting our business and lives to best serve/ protect our employees and customers regarding the direct effects of Covid- 19. As we inch closer to normalcy on the health front, our industry is now having to battle the effects the pandemic has had on the world's supply chains (both products and labour). In a year full of unique challenges, we're battling through record-breaking heat, record demand for our products and services, input price increases, and product shortages like never seen before (in particular PVC pipe and other products made with resin). Furthermore, as many of you who I have chatted with shared, the labour shortage is a constant challenge made recently even more challenging. Many of these issues are not unique to the irrigation industry – the entire construction industry is in the throws of these challenges; some may be short-lived, and others may in fact get worse.

## President's Perspective By Whalen Bishop

I am always a believer that our industry is better when we come together, and it is my hope that this Fall/Winter we will be able to host a Convention once again. Seeing each other again in a setting where we all attend to improve not only ourselves and/or our companies, but improve the industry. As part of that convention, I hope to include a Round Table Discussion on the challenges that face our industry and how we can help ourselves, and help each other.

We anticipate hosting the Convention in late November of 2021 at the Radisson Hotel Vancouver Airport.



I would also like to make two announcements. First, we would like to say a heartfelt goodbye to Anita Fortune who, despite her short stay, did a fantastic job for our Association. We wish her the best of luck in what was a great opportunity for her. This leads me into welcoming Vanessa Blake, our New Executive Administrator! You can learn more about Vanessa on page 9. Vanessa is doing a fantastic job of settling into her new role and everything that it entails. She is working hard to familiarize herself with the business of the Association and with each of you, our Members.

Second, I am pleased to announce that the IIABC has commenced the process of developing a new website along with a back-end database for all our Members' needs. We anticipate this will be launched in the Fall and will allow us to provide you with better services and information.



Finally, I want to thank all of you for your patience and understanding with the Association over the last year. It was a lot of volunteer work by many people to get our courses online so that we could continue providing you with our educational services. It was also our pleasure to extend our educational program to Alberta and its Members and we hope that we can continue this relationship into the future.

Stay Safe and hope to see you this fall.

## IIABC Reminders

### DAVE PEACH AWARD

In Dave Peach's honour, this award is for honesty, integrity and genuine non-partisan advancement of IIABC objectives. Our objectives are:

- to foster and promote the interest and welfare of its members and the irrigation industry;
- to establish and develop a means for the exchange of information and ideas and installation of irrigation systems;
- to establish and promote guidelines, standards, and specifications for the design and installation of irrigation systems;
- to promote and encourage harmony and co-operation between members and others who are directly or indirectly engaged in the industry or other related industries.
- to promote and encourage a public appreciation and interest in irrigation and water management.

There is still time to submit nominations for 2021 to [iiabc@irrigationbc.com](mailto:iiabc@irrigationbc.com)

### MEMBERSHIP DUES and ANNUAL CERTIFICATION FEES (ACF)

Both the annual IIABC Membership Dues and Annual Certification Fees (ACFs) must be paid in order to keep your certifications active. ACFs are owed separately for each certified employee or individual.

Pay online, by logging into your IIABC account or have the Company Coordinator log into their IIABC account to pay for employees. Cheques are payable to the Irrigation Industry Association of BC.



## What You Need to Know

By Terry Ormrod

Today we are going to discuss what constitutes a good solid long lasting wire connection in an irrigation valve box.

I think we can all agree that questionable irrigation connections are the #1 cause of time spent troubleshooting and or repairs in the field. And if you question that statement then read along and you'll see a few more issues identified as the result of poor connections.



Here is my definition of a quality wire connection in the field. "A solid mechanical bonding of two or more wires that is void of Oxygen and Moisture". In order for wire to corrode it requires three things - current, oxygen, and moisture. We are trying to operate some sort of device so most certainly current will be involved. So what we are able to do to stop the process of connection degradation is to eliminate the other two pieces of the puzzle. And the reason we need to eliminate both is they typically come hand in hand.



## What You Need to Know

By Terry Ormrod



Of course, using a non-watertight connector such as those used in house construction will show this sign of rust as well. If you have a large commercial wire connector that has a see-through body and you can see discoloration inside the connector in the goop, that could definitely be a sign of the wires not secured together properly. The weak connection heats up during operation and boils the grease, thus allowing oxygen into the wire connection inside the body of the connector. If your connection shows any rust at all it is a sign of it being compromised and needs to be replaced.

If moisture can make it in so can oxygen and vice versa. Today we are not going to discuss how to do this but rather why you need to do this and how you can tell if this has not been done correctly just by looking at it. Now that being said; a multimeter and some testing at the controller and in the field always is the best place to end up. But for now we are just going to look at the connections.

if you can see some rust and or discoloration anywhere on the wire connector that will be a sign of the connection not being properly buried in the water tight grease inside the connector. If any part of the copper or aluminum wire is exposed to the elements it will corrode and leave a sign.



And not only will the connection degrade and rust, as this process goes on it becomes a smaller gauge wire and the amperage increases and will continue to do so as the wire degrades further. As the amperage goes up so does the heat and the process speeds up exponentially. Once you have an unprotected connection in a valve box moisture can also travel down the braided solenoid wires into the valve solenoid destroying that component. Then the best one I have seen in a long time. Any exposed wire is a super highway for lightning or any other ground effect power surge.

## What You Need to Know

By Terry Ormrod

So remember; eliminate the oxygen and moisture from your connections, make a positive solid bond on the wire to wire connections (twist them together firmly but lovingly), bury the bare wire of your connection in the goop of the water tight connector, and you are good to go.

The picture to the right shows a cutaway of a proper wire connection in a small connector showing all bare wire buried in the water tight compound. Otherwise known as goop.

If your connections are open to the environment a local lightning strike can come onto the wire path and blow all your solenoids and the controller. The picture above is real. Lightning strike took them all out and all because the non water tight connectors and black tape. If you can see any bare wire at a wire connection, that connection needs to be redone. Period.



Thank you and – be comfortable in knowing that the systems you'll have to troubleshoot are not the ones installed by you. You are just that good.

By Terry Ormrod

## Irrigation Systems & an Effective CCC Program

By Bob Shuck, Capital Regional District, Parks & Environmental Services

Dear Irrigation Community,

On behalf of the Capital Regional District's Cross Connection Control (CCC) program, I am writing to the irrigation companies throughout the region to explore the opportunity our organizations might have to work together in regards to the topic of irrigation systems and an effective Cross Connection Control program.

At the request of Island Health, the CRD designed, implemented and maintains its CCC program under Bylaw 3516. The purpose is to identify, eliminate and prevent cross connections within the Greater Victoria Drinking Water System that could lead to contamination. Program officers inspect commercial, industrial, institutional, agricultural and multi-unit residential facilities to identify cross connections with inadequate backflow protection and verify compliance with the BC Building Code and CSA B64.

The Capital Regional District is continually working on educational outreach material to bring awareness to the importance of drinking water quality and what is required to protect it. In 2021 we will be distributing our digital brochures and refer stakeholders and the public to our updated CRD Cross Connection Control website.

All testable backflow assemblies are to be tested annually with the exception of single family home irrigation systems which have been changed to testing every 3 years

### What are we needing from the irrigation community?

- We have been finding a large number of registered and unregistered backflow assemblies on both commercial and residential irrigation systems that require testing.
- Anytime you service an irrigation system please check the backflow assembly for a tag and see when it was last tested. If no test date, testing overdue or if the tag is missing, notify your client and the CRD. Arrangements will be required to have the assembly tested and possibly re-tagged.
- Educational outreach. Please keep your clients informed as to backflow requirements outlined in the CRD bylaw 3516. Your clients see expenses but we see water quality. If testing is a service your company offers let them know of this. Be a full service company.
- Our website has now been updated with FAQ brochures.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding our program, please feel free to contact me at [bshuck@crd.bc.ca](mailto:bshuck@crd.bc.ca) or 250-474-9667. More information is available at [www.crd.bc.ca/crossconnection](http://www.crd.bc.ca/crossconnection) [crd.bc.ca].

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely  
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## For IIABC Contractor Members

IIABC Contractor members receive a \$100.00 discount on the Irrigation Association (U.S) contractor dues. This exclusive discount is available to IIABC contractor members only. Contact [membership@irrigation.org](mailto:membership@irrigation.org) for more information.

## IIABC Course Waitlists

IIABC has a rolling waitlist of people interested in registering for courses. Send an email to [iiabc@irrigationbc.com](mailto:iiabc@irrigationbc.com) including your full name, company name, location, and telephone number, along with the courses you want to take. You will be one of the first people contacted when we are taking registrations for upcoming courses. While the public can attend the IIABC courses, only members of IIABC can become certified and promote themselves as such. If you are interested in being certified, click [here](#) for a membership application. Company memberships require a sponsor from an existing IIABC member. Individual memberships do not require a sponsor. Access our membership search engine for potential sponsors.

## 2021 Convention & Trade Show

Will the IIABC 2021 Convention happen? We just don't know. However, we are hopeful it will and have it tentatively set for Richmond, B.C., the week of November 22nd through to the 25th.

To respect our changing times, we are working to be flexible. This convention may look different, however there will be lots of information, education, and networking. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics you might like to have, please let us know. You can email [khounsone@siteone.com](mailto:khounsone@siteone.com) (reference IIABC) or [iiabc@irrigationbc.com](mailto:iiabc@irrigationbc.com).

We hope to see you in November.  
IIABC Board of Directors

## IIABC Roster

IIABC has decided to discontinue the printing of the annual member roster.





## Ray Eason

Walter Raymond Eason, known as “Ray”, of Kelowna, British Columbia passed away March 25, 2021, at the age of 75, after a courageous two-and-a-half-year battle with pancreatic cancer. Ray is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Judy, his son, daughter, grandchildren and many more.

In 1976, Ray left General Electric and become an entrepreneur by launching the irrigation company, Outdoor Services. Ray remained in the irrigation business for 30 years under the name United Irrigation. Ray was actively involved in the Irrigation Industry Association of BC and was a strong advocate for creating quality standards that are still in place to this day. {In 2006 Ray received the IIABC’s “Dave Peach Award” in part for his work in the development of the Class A Contractor program, now called the CIC Contractor Program.}

Upon retirement, he and Judy wintered in Tri Palms California for almost 20 years, where Ray could enjoy golfing and warm weather year-round. Ray had a real talent for creating beautiful outdoor spaces where he could spend his time enjoying scotch, cigars, reading, and entertaining his friends with many stories and jokes.

## Neil MacKinnon

Some of you may already know this, for those that have not heard, it is with regret that we have to tell you that Neil Alexander MacKinnon departed this world suddenly on January 6, 2021. He is survived by his best friend and wife Colleen, his two loving daughters and his son, grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces.

Neil adored his family and loved his work, having built a well-known reputable irrigation service business which he managed and worked in for 40 years. He was recently retired. Neil cherished meeting people, learning their stories, and most of all visiting with anyone... he always had a smile, a laugh, (a sarcastic joke), and advice to share.





## New IIABC Executive Administrator



Meet our new Executive Administrator, Vanessa Blake! Vanessa recently moved back from Alberta after a year and a half of working at the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise as the Colleague Services Coordinator. With previous experience as an Executive Assistant, Vanessa is extensively skilled in Customer Service, Event Planning, Office Administration, Personnel Management and Property Coordination. In previous roles, Vanessa has worked closely with accounting, marketing, executive-level personnel and the general public.

Vanessa has travelled to 15 different countries and enjoys spending her time off, outside with friends & family doing things like camping, hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding and much more. We hope you have the chance to meet her very soon.



## GOLD AND SILVER MEMBERS 2021

Thank you to the IIABC Gold and Silver Members for their continued support.

### GOLD COMPANY MEMBERS

Iconix Waterworks

### SILVER COMPANY MEMBERS

SiteOne Landscape Supply  
Van-Kel Irrigation / Div. of  
Emco

## IIABC Bronze Members

Acknowledged & Appreciated

### BRONZE COMPANY MEMBERS

Able Irrigation Ltd.

Andrew Sheret Ltd.

Iritex Pumps & Irrigation Inc.

The Golden Lotus Sprinklers Co. Ltd.



Irrigation Industry Association of BC

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Stay Safe & Stay in touch with IIABC