

# Water Wise Newsletter

## President's Perspective

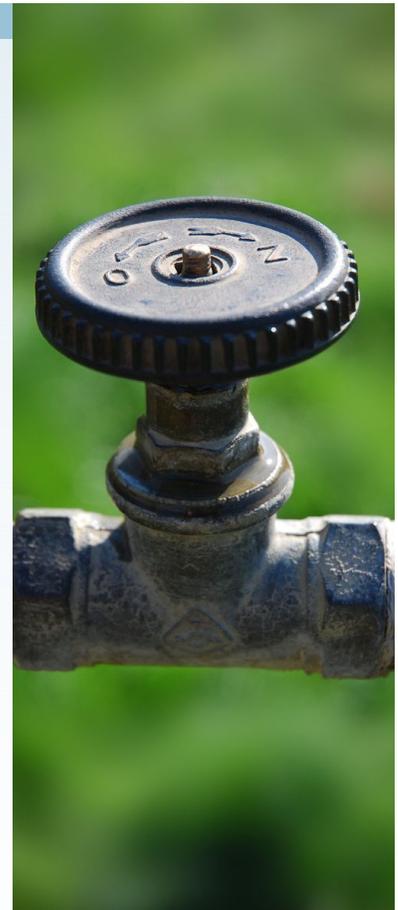
**Whalen Bishop**  
President of the IIABC



As you are now aware, (because you are reading this newsletter) the IIABC is going to reinstitute a more frequent newsletter to keep members informed. There are certainly many challenges that we need to overcome with the Covid-19 situation with respect to operating our association and providing members easier access to information and the many courses that we offer. This newsletter is a start. Please read thoroughly to get informed on some of the issues and decisions the board is working on.

We have a new executive administrator and I would like to welcome Anita Fortune to the job. She can be contacted at our office daily and after all the training has been completed will be able to answer most of the questions from membership. Anita is profiled in this newsletter so members can get to know her better.

The IIABC has a new office in downtown Abbotsford which also has storage rooms. It has a boardroom and side room that has capacity for up to 10 people to write exams. We will likely take advantage of this in the future for the certification examinations. The address and phone numbers are provided in this newsletter.



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### Special points of interest

- AGM is November 2, 2020.
- CID exams now available by appointment.
- There is a new Executive Administrator at IIABC



The IIABC is actively updating our database to ensure the emails and pertinent information of our members is up to date. If you suspect that some information is missing or in error please call the office. We are aware that some members are having problems accessing their accounts and we are taking steps to correct that.

The annual AGM will need to take a different form this year

because of the pandemic. The Board of Directors has discussed this at the September Board meeting. Details are provided in this newsletter. We are certainly willing to consider good ideas from our membership on how to improve our AGM in the future. You can send your ideas to [admin@irrigationbc.com](mailto:admin@irrigationbc.com).

In the meantime, please stay safe and keep in touch.

You can also stay in touch with the IIABC via:

**Facebook:** [https://www.facebook.com/Irrigation-Association-of-British-Columbia-116768020165416/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/Irrigation-Association-of-British-Columbia-116768020165416/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

**Instagram:** @iiabc1

## CONVENTION 2020

It is with regret we announce the cancellation of the IIABC 41st Annual Convention and Tradeshow 2020. Covid-19 is the cause for changes in our society, cancellations of large gatherings being but one of many. Let's stay healthy.

## CONVENTION 2021

In the hopes of a new year permitting old traditions, we are planning the IIABC 41st Annual Convention and Tradeshow for the year 2021. Stay tuned for more details.

## New IIABC Executive Administrator

Anita Fortune brings years of administrative experience to the IIABC. Most relevant is Anita's experience from her administrative position at the Chartered Professional Accountants Association of B.C. (CPABC). At CPABC Anita worked in the Public Practice Department and the Ethics Department. Working closely with accountants that provide services to the general public, Anita assisted with the registration and education required for these public practitioners. Preparations of course materials, meetings, conferences, and responding to queries are just some of the skills Anita brings to her role at IIABC. Rumor has it that when Anita is not enjoying her work at the office, she loves to knit, read, and spend time with family.



## IIABC Annual General Meeting Notice

Due to Covid-19, the IIABC will not be able to hold an AGM similar to what was done in previous years. Instead we will run a virtual AGM on Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. The Board of Directors will prepare an agenda package for all members and send it to you electronically a few days prior to the meeting. For the most part the package provided will be for information purposes only, but there will be some items that require ratifying. Two items of importance will be to vote for approval of the new board and to vote on the proposed dues increase.

All the current IIABC Board of Directors has put their name forward for one more year to make the process of selecting a new Board easier during the pandemic. New elections will be held at the convention being planned in November 2021 in the lower mainland. This decision will need to be ratified by the membership virtually on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. A ballot sheet with information will be provided in the package.

The proposed dues increase also needs to be voted on by the membership on or shortly after November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. A simple majority vote by all ballots received will be sufficient. This will also be explained in the AGM package.

## IIABC Dues Notice Update

At the Board of Directors meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> the financial report for the year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was presented. It became evident to the Board that a correction to the revenue stream was required to make the IIABC sustainable moving into the future. The IIABC general operating account that looks after society administration and wages, insurance, computer, and website expenses showed a deficit of \$50,000 last fiscal year. Much of this deficit is made up with certification examination fees and course revenue but the need to increase membership dues must also be addressed.

The IIABC has consolidated our storage locker and office into one location which has increased costs. The Covid-19 situation has not helped and the requirement to cancel the convention this year will also impact the revenue of the society. We are not able to operate as many courses and while we will be trying to offer CIT -1 and CIT -2 courses the attendance will be smaller and therefore less revenue.

Did you know that the IIABC has not had a dues increase for 15 years? If a modest 2% per year increase is applied due to inflation, the annual dues for a company should currently be about \$202.00. The Board of Directors has, therefore, approved a dues increase from \$150.00 to \$200.00 for company members and an increase from \$75.00 to \$100.00 for individual and associate members.

These increases will have to be approved by the membership at the AGM. A virtual AGM will be held in early November. When you receive the package by email, members can return their votes to the IIABC office by email as well. A simple majority of the votes returned will determine how we move forward.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**November 2, 2020,  
is this year's virtual  
Annual General  
Meeting**

Due to Covid-19 the AGM will be virtual. To participate, make sure we have your current email. Add our email, [iiabc@irrigationbc.com](mailto:iiabc@irrigationbc.com), to your safe sender's list to ensure the AGM package we email lands in your inbox instead of your spam folder.

## REMINDER

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

Your annual IIABC membership dues must be paid on or before January 1, 2021. Dues must be paid on time to ensure your membership remains valid. Invoices will be mailed out soon.

### ANNUAL CERTIFICATION FEE (ACF)

Annual Certification Fees (ACFs) are owed separately for each certified staff member and individual. This is as well as your Membership Dues.

### HOW TO MAKE A PAYMENT

Membership Dues and ACFs are both payable online by logging into your IIABC account. If you want to mail a cheque, please make it payable to the *Irrigation Industry Association of BC*. Including a copy of the invoice with the cheque is helpful. In the memo portion of the cheque please state what is being paid (i.e. dues or fees) and the name of the person or people the payment is being made.

## YOUR CLAIM TO FAME

### OFFICE ARTWORK

The new IIABC office is looking for office artwork to adorn the walls of the boardroom and lobby area.

Posters from the companies that make up our membership is what everyone has agreed would look best and best represent you to the people that visit our office.

If you are interested in donating a poster that we will frame, please send an email or ship it directly to us. Our contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

## CIT (Certified Irrigation Technician) Course Offerings and Exams

The IIABC is going to attempt to hold CIT-1 and CIT-2 courses via zoom this fall and winter. A number of members have requested a CIT-1 course already and they will be contacted with the dates. Once organized, members will be contacted and able to register for the courses. There is a possibility that some courses will be held with a few people – 5 to 10 in attendance and the rest attending via zoom. There were also two CIT-2 courses that were cancelled due to the pandemic and they will be rescheduled as well. The IIABC is also considering recording the sessions so that on-line courses may be offered to members in the future.

The tricky part will be the examinations. CIT examinations will be held at the IIABC office for all lower mainland participants. Approximately six people will be able to write at one time. After completing a CIT course, those that have registered for an exam can

register for a scheduled examination date by contacting the office. For registrants outside the lower mainland examinations may be proctored at a location on Vancouver Island or the BC Interior.



*IIABC looking at alternative formats for courses.*

## CID (Certified Irrigation Designer) Exams

The IIABC will also be allowing members to write CID exams at our office at a time that is mutually convenient. Members that wish to write a CID exam can register a time by contacting the office. This would be most ideal but for those that cannot travel to the IIABC office an exam can be set up with a proctor. It will be the responsibility of the examinee to organize a proctor and pay any applicable fees. The proctor will have to be approved, in writing, by the IIABC. We would like members to write at the IIABC office in Abbotsford if at all possible.



## Thank you to our IIABC Gold and Silver Members for all your continued support

### Gold Company Members

Iconix Waterworks

Andrew Sheret Limited

### Silver Company Members

Consolidated Supply

SiteOne Landscape Supply

Van-Kel Irrigation



*Plan for the future — get licensed now.*

## What You Need to Know

*By Ted van der Gulik, P. Eng.*

### What May Happen on March 1, 2022 If Groundwater Users Do Not Apply for a Licence ?

#### Answer: For Some it Will be Very Problematic

Has the agriculture community and other groundwater users become indifferent to the requirement that groundwater must be licensed for everything except domestic use? It seems so.

In January of this year I attended the Pacific Agriculture Show in Abbotsford, the water seminar in particular. There was a presentation from the province on groundwater licensing, but very few producers were in attendance. A number of good questions were raised and those in attendance heard some answers that were never provided before, at least not in printed media. It made me think that another article outlining some of the things that may happen is probably worthwhile.

The Partnership for Water Sustainability does a bi-weekly eblast that goes to about 2200 subscribers (registration is free) province wide. A few weeks ago, the topic was on groundwater licensing. We received quite a bit of feedback, both positive and negative. Many indicated that the entire story should have been told so I will attempt to do so here.

### Annual Certification Fee (ACF)

Your ACF is required to be paid in order to maintain your credentials once certification has been achieved. Maintaining your certification status by keeping up on your ACF is your personal responsibility, regardless of your employment. YOU must ensure either you or your employer has paid your ACF each and every year.

Only one ACF is applicable per person and shall be applied to the highest certification held.

The ACF for Technicians is \$25.00 and includes all CIT-1, CIT-2, CIT-Agriculture and CIS certifications.

The ACF for Designers is \$50.00 and includes all CID/Turf Residential and Commercial, CID/Landscape Drip and Ag-Sprinkler as well as CID/Ag-Trickle

### 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.

Submit your nominations now to [iiabc@irrigationbc.com](mailto:iiabc@irrigationbc.com) with "Dave Peach Award" in the subject line.

Let's start with some of the more obvious answers. If your well was drilled before March 1, 2016 you can apply for a licence based on historical use. You will not have to pay an application fee but you will need to pay the water rental from March 1, 2016 onwards. As long as an application is made before March 1, 2022 you will be in compliance with the Water Sustainability Act regardless how long it takes for the province to issue a licence. The applicant will also retain the FITFIR date of when the well was drilled.

So, what happens if you wait until after March 1, 2022. The applicant will have to:

- Pay an application fee of \$250.00
- Water rentals may still have to be paid back to March 1, 2016 since the user has been taking the water since the Act came into force. (Recently I have heard conflicting information from the province on this and as this will not need to be applied till after March 1, 2022 it is unclear what will happen then.) However, fines for noncompliance could be levied.
- Historical use applications are no longer an option and the well will be considered a new well. As a new well, an assessment will likely be required. At a minimum the assessment may only be a pump test on the well but it could also include an assessment of creek flows and other wells in the vicinity. A licenced professional will need to be retained to do the assessments. The costs can range from \$10,000 to as high as \$50,000 or more. This has already been the case on some new well applications. The province is reviewing the assessment criteria but it will not be eliminated entirely so there will be extra cost
- The date on the licence will be the date of the application, therefore the FITFIR date will be much later and the well priority date will now fall behind all of those that did apply for historical use. Use of the well in the future may not be as secure, especially in groundwater areas that are under stress.

That is just the beginning. After March 1, 2022 the following may also happen.

- When an application is made the province may curtail use of the well until a licence is issued. This could take a number of years.
- If an application is not made or a licence is not held and someone complains about the use from the well the province will be obligated to issue an order to curtail use.
- The province may also issue an order because the user is not in compliance with the Water Sustainability Act and no authorization for withdrawal has been given. True, they may not find everyone for a number of years but what does the future hold? Water is going to become scarcer in our drier summers and it is likely that it would only be a matter of time until it becomes evident that there is water being taken without a licence. Those with a licence will be allowed to take water and those without may be ordered to shut down.
- Banks are now starting to ask if the well on the property has a licence or if there are sufficient water rights for the property. A mortgage may not be given to a potential buyer if the well is not licenced, at least not for the asking price. This will impact those trying to sell their farms. The farm will be worth considerably less. Water is valuable and banks are starting to put a value on water rights. Would a rancher not want to maximize the value of their assets?
- If a person applies on or after March 1, 2022, they may not even get a licence in those areas where the stream and aquifer are connected and the stream is already fully recorded!
- As time goes on water rights may also be licenced to other users, which could mean aquifers may become fully recorded with no other rights being issued. Existing agriculture use cannot be considered as part of this process if the licences are not in place. If the water is licenced to agriculture then we have security as an industry, if not it may be given to others.

I actually cannot think of one reason that can support the notion of not obtaining a licence. Water is too important to agriculture. Sure, it takes a bit of time to apply but the cost in the total scheme of things is quite small. Why would agriculture risk losing a resource that we depend on and let others make future decisions for the industry. That is a scary thought and it is starting to happen already in some instances. Take control and make sure that your water resources are secured. Your grandchildren will be thankful that you did.

Contact Front Counter BC to talk to someone at the province with regards to your groundwater application.

## IIABC Constitution

The name of the society is *Irrigation Industry Association of British Columbia*, hereinafter known as 'IIABC', 'Society' or 'Association'. IIABC is a not for profit society established in the province of British Columbia.

The society is a member-funded society. It is funded primarily by its members to carry on activities for the benefit of its members. On its liquidation or dissolution, this society may distribute its money and other property to its members.

## IIABC Mission Statement

"Promoting Efficient Irrigation."

## IIABC History

The Irrigation Industry Association of B.C. was conceived in February 1978, by participating irrigation dealers, distributors, manufacturers, and involved individuals at a three-day seminar in Vernon, B.C. An ad hoc committee consisting of a representative cross-section of the industry was elected and given the mandate to proceed with the establishment of a formal association. On February 9, 1979, the Irrigation Industry Association of B.C. (IIABC) was officially founded with an elected directorate, constitution and by-laws.

At issue in 1979, was the application of the B.C. government's Agriculture Land Development Act Loan program which offered farmer reduced loans for irrigation and drainage costs. To encourage farmer to support B.C. dealers rather than dealers in the United States of America, the association lobbied for a better loan payment system.

In 1986 the *IIABC General Specifications for Turf Irrigation Systems* was published to provide a standard for its members and provide guidelines for the turf irrigation industry. In 1997, the IIABC revised this publication with a new, *Standards for Landscape Irrigation Systems*.

In 1988, the IIABC began its certification program. The objective of this program is to establish irrigation design standards and criteria throughout the industry and to promote individuals who have achieved a level of competence. The program now has seven categories: Turf-Residential, Turf-Commercial, Turf-Golf, Landscape Drip, Agriculture-Sprinkler, Agriculture-Trickle and Landscape Irrigation Auditor.

In early 1997, the IIABC voted in the *Certified Irrigation Contractor Program*, which offers qualified member irrigation contractors Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC) status in two categories: Turf-Residential and Turf-Commercial.

The IIABC is an affiliate member of the Irrigation Association in the United States of America.

## IIABC

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## Bronze Members Acknowledged and Appreciated

### Bronze Company Members

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The Golden Lotus Sprinklers Co. Ltd  
T. Moscone & Bros. Irrigation Contractors

Coastal Irrigation Ltd.

Iritex Pumps & Irrigation Inc.

Wes-Tech Irrigation Supply Ltd.

Pronto Enterprises Ltd.

R. F. Binnie & Associates Ltd.

ProSource Supply

## Stay Safe and Stay in Touch