



# The WEAO – Our Membership, Mission and Accomplishments

*PRESENTED AT*  
*BUC/WEAO Seminar on Building Trust and Partnership*  
*Between Biosolids Generating and Receiving Communities*

*BY*

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# Today's Topics

- The Water Environment Association of Ontario
- Challenges facing the industry
- What we can do?
- WEAO Achievements
- The road ahead



# Mission Statement

WEAO will be the pre-eminent organization of technical and professional individuals dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of Ontario's water environment.



- Biosolids
- Wastewater Collection
- Wastewater Treatment Technologies
- Government Affairs
- Public Education
- Professional Development
- Conference
- Operations Challenge
- Communications
- Member Services
- New Professionals
- Past Presidents
- Special Events



# Association in Brief

- 1300+ Members
- Board of Directors and fourteen committees
- Total of approximately 130 active volunteers
- Annual budget of CDN\$500,000
- Annual conference 800 – 1000 attendees



# Key Goals

- Be a recognized knowledge source for protecting Ontario's water environment on the basis of sound science
- Be in a position to assist government on issues affecting the environment
- Attract new professionals to the industry and our membership



# Challenges Facing the Biosolids Industry

- Public concerns
  - Environment and health
  - Odours
  - Well-organized activist movement
- New potential contaminants
- Increasing legislation
- Emotion vs. sound science



# What can we do?

- Research
- Improve our practices
- Regulatory initiatives based on sound science

Engage the Public



# The Biosolids Education Video



# Biosolids Education Model

- A hands-on model designed for middle school
- Can easily be used by the teacher



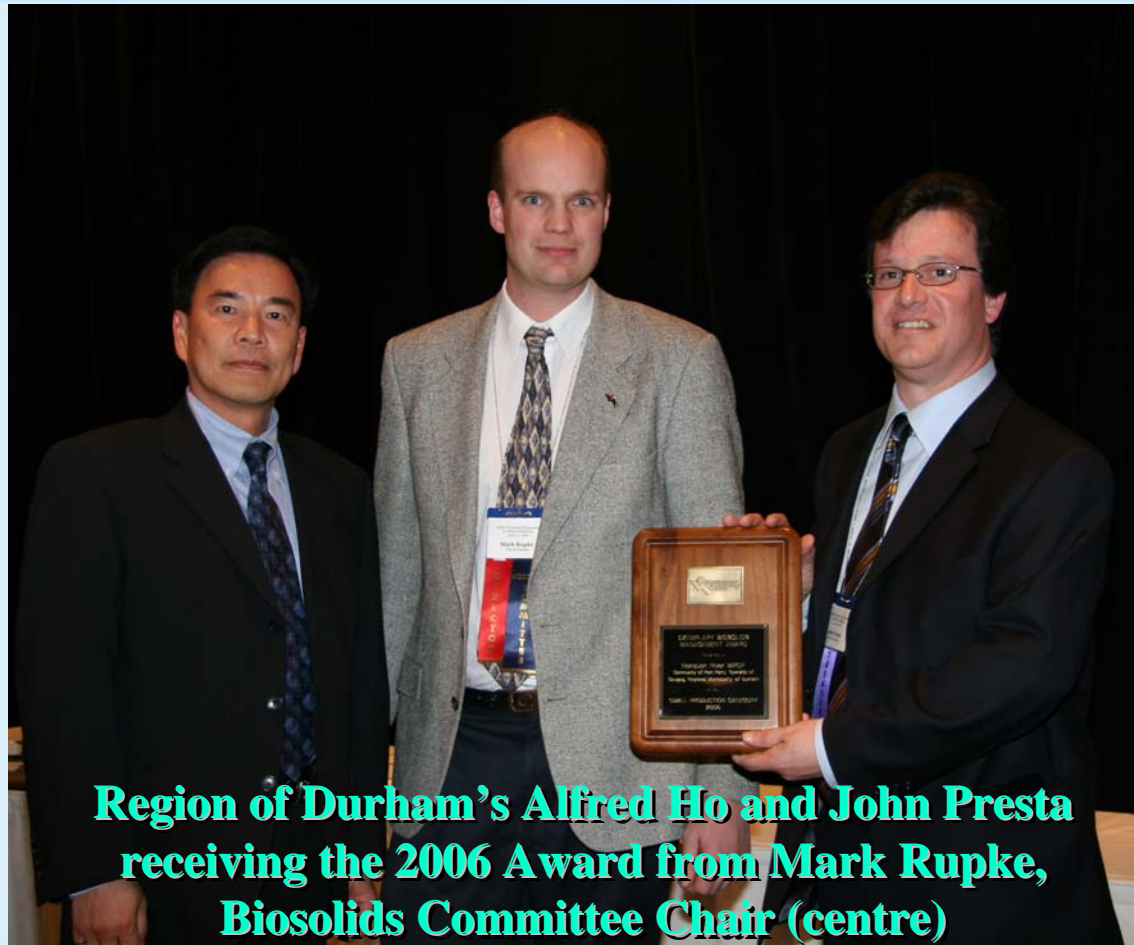
# Enviroscape Model

- **Drinking Water Sources and Treatment** — shows where drinking water (residential and commercial, rural and urban) comes from and how it is delivered to us;
- **Wastewater Treatment** — shows what happens to water and waste after we use it (how sewage/wastewater is treated)
- What **biosolids** are and how they are being used or disposed.





# Weao Annual Biosolids Exemplary Management Award



**Region of Durham's Alfred Ho and John Presta receiving the 2006 Award from Mark Rupke, Biosolids Committee Chair (centre)**



# WEAO Official Publication



- Full colour magazine premiered March 2006
- Four issues per year
- Circulation 2000



# Looking Ahead

- Continue to interact with regulators
- Create the next video
- Take the message to high schools
- Support research initiatives
- Promote sustainable action



# Thought for the day

## Thought for the day

“Treat the earth well for we did not inherit it from our parents, it has been loaned to us by our children”

KENYAN PROVERB

