



## WHAT IF, WE LIVED IN A PERFECT WORLD....

By Douglas R. Smorol | Circuit Rider II

Sometimes, as I drive from system to system across this great state, I reflect on what it would be like to live and work in the “Perfect World”. Of course living in a “Perfect World”, there would be no need for a technical assistance provider, or problem solver, or Circuit Rider because there would be no problems.

Still, my mind wanders and wonders, what it would be like **IF**:

- pristine water flowed from the earth in unlimited quantities
- these water sources were at such an elevation that pumps are not necessary
- water was delivered to customers in pipes made of materials that could not corrode
- water was stored in tanks and vessels sized perfectly for the systems they serve
- the pipe running down each street in concrete conduits was large enough for a man to walk through and tap new services at chest height
- the meters being the first connection off the main and hard wired to the reading system
- the service lines running from the main to the customer through SS conduits facilitating service line replacement without excavation
- meters registered at each service that tells the customer exactly how much water they are using and how much their bill is in real-time
- waterproof, dirt-free valve boxes where the valve nuts are located at street level under the valve covers
- electronically controlled isolation valves at 500ft intervals could be operated from a smartphone
- UV disinfection at regular intervals throughout the distribution system negated the need for chemical introduction for disinfection
- there were separate systems for fire-fighting and drinking water
- hydrants that when in flushing mode and are flushed, automatically control the necessary valves to result in unidirectional flushing of the system
- hydrants that are opened hydraulically from fire-fighting

or system service vehicles

- there were certification and recertification classes that are held every Tuesday from 8 AM to 3 PM, year round, at the New York Rural Water Association offices
- there were mandatory training for mayors, supervisors, town and village board members to include topics on water, sewer, DPW, and highway
- there was a National Infrastructure Agency modeled after NASA

These are just a few of the items I would like to see addressed in our industry, a “Utopia” of sorts for water system personnel. Maybe some of these “far-fetched ideas” will come to pass like the dreams of a young boy in the 1950’s and 60’s who dreamed of men going into outer space or landing on the moon. As always “hold fast” and continue to deliver ‘Quality on Tap’. 💧💧