



August 28, 2015

SOWMA – A Leader in Onsite Wastewater Management Education

SOWMA is becoming recognized as a go-to leader in providing onsite wastewater education to the industry, the regulatory community and the general public.

Over the next couple of months, representatives from SOWMA will be providing presentations on onsite wastewater technologies at the Regina CIPHI conference and at the PARCs convention in Saskatoon. Presentations to these and other stakeholder groups ensure industry sustainability. As regulators and homeowners become more aware of the available technologies, complexities and operation and maintenance best practices, they gain a better appreciation and understanding of the need for a professional, trained onsite wastewater industry.

Whenever we hear about onsite wastewater systems failing, the solution always seems to be to bring in a centralized wastewater collection system. The reality however, is that it is not financially feasible in many instances to provide centralized sewers in rural areas. In many rural communities, there is not enough population density to support the construction of such systems let alone to pay for ongoing operation and maintenance.

In fact, onsite wastewater systems are an effective and sustainable solution to managing wastewater in rural areas. Onsite wastewater systems provide many advantages:

- More cost effective than centralized systems
- Ease of maintenance
- Long term sustainability
- Ensures maintenance of the hydraulic cycle

The caveat here is that in order to provide the above advantages, onsite wastewater systems must be designed, installed, operated and maintained properly. Of course even if the system is designed and installed properly, once the contractor leaves the site the system is in the hands of the homeowner whose responsibility it is to operate and maintain the system.

This is the point at which education becomes critical. Prior to leaving the site, the contractor should sit down with the homeowner and review the operation and maintenance requirements of the system. All systems require maintenance. If the homeowner is aware of the proper use and care of this critical infrastructure, it can save them time and money down the road.

The contractor should provide the homeowner with an operation and maintenance manual. The manual should include simple dos and don'ts along with a maintenance log for keeping track of maintenance that has occurred on the system and when the next maintenance is due.

Contractors can access preprinted homeowner manuals from the association or direct homeowners to our website: www.sowma.ca.

At the end of the day, if we work to educate the homeowners it will help to reduce system failure due to poor operation and maintenance habits and that is good for the credibility and sustainability of our industry in the long term.

FAQ: Is It Time To Renew My Membership?

Your membership expiry date is located on your membership card. Renewal reminders will be sent out, however if you check your card and see it's time to renew you can contact the office or renew online. <http://www.sowma.ca/members/become-a-member/>

Save The Date!

The 2016 SOWMA Convention and Trade Show has been announced:

March 11, 2016

Saskatoon, SK

Onsite Wastewater Practitioner Training

The next available training session dates are:

Days 1 – 3 – October 28, 29 & 30, 2015 Regina, SK

Days 4 – 6 – November 16, 17 & 18, 2015 Regina, SK

Registration for this training program is now open. For more information, please go online to <http://www.sowma.ca/training/> or contact the SOWMA office at 1-855-872-2650.

Trench & Excavation: Competent Person Training

United Rentals offers Competent Person Training seminars designed for all employees involved in trenching work, including job foremen, job superintendents, engineers and any personnel involved in underground projects.

September 1-3 Saskatoon

October 28 Saskatoon

<http://unitedacademy.ur.com/trench-excavation-cpt-saskatchewan>

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association Annual Convention

January 31 – February 3, 2016

Regina, SK

Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan - PARCS

The Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan has contacted SOWMA and requested that we provide a presentation on the proper operation and maintenance of holding tanks and onsite wastewater systems in lakeshore communities at their annual convention. The convention is being held on October 16 & 17 in Saskatoon. Saskatchewan Health has also been invited to present at this event. Public education on the proper operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater systems helps to promote industry sustainability.

Saskatchewan Association Of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Annual Convention & Trade Show

MIDTERM CONVENTION November 5 & 6, 2015 Conexus Arts Centre – Regina, SK

ANNUAL CONVENTION March 7 -10, 2016 – Regina, SK

Canadian Institute Of Public Health Inspectors – Saskatchewan Chapter Annual Convention And Trade Show

SOWMA will be hosting a booth at the annual CIPHI Conference, which is being held in Regina on September 29 and 30th. This will be the third year in a row that the association has participated in this event. SOWMA will be providing a presentation on the various types of systems and technologies available for the collection, treatment and dispersal of onsite wastewater at the request of Brad Giesbrecht from Cypress Hills Health Region who is organizing this event. SOWMA works towards creating and maintaining positive relationships with our fellow industry stakeholders.

855-872-2650 tf

<http://www.sowma.ca/>