

## **John Leech Speaks to Onsite Practitioners at WCOWMA AGM**



WCOWMA President, Brent Davis (left) welcomes ASTTBC's John Leech to the Association's AGM

*'Professional Reliance: Serving the Public Interest'* was the theme when Executive Director John leech spoke to members of the Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association (WCOWMA) in Abbotsford. Leech spoke to about 175 members of WCOWMA in attendance at the 2013 AGM. "I welcomed the opportunity to speak with Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners (ROWP) as it enabled me to speak about future directions for enhanced professional regulation as it applies to ROWPs," said the Executive Director. "ASTTBC enjoys a solid partnership with WCOWMA. I applaud WCOWMA for their efforts to provide professional development for their members," enthused Leech. WCOWMA President Brent Dennis, PEng, expressed appreciation for ASTTBC's support and cooperation in delivering qualified, registered and accountable professionals.

John's remarks are summarized in the following over-view:

The trend toward 'professional reliance' has been gaining a head of steam in recent times, with Government and Regulatory bodies looking to individual practitioners to set and maintain standards for training, certification, registration and professional accountability. As Governments continually look for more effective ways of doing business (read cut costs) and reducing and even removing administrative barriers, the notion of professional reliance has gained acceptance as a viable model by which to conduct business. The model is not new. Professions such as engineering, medicine and law have self-governed within a professional reliance model for the better part of a century. The OnSite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP) program was one more step in applying professional reliance.

Where do ROWPs and ASTTBC stand in our journey toward full professional reliance? This question will be the focus of the presentation. Enhanced elements of professionalism such as mandatory reporting and auditing of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), practice audits, peer reviews, standard practice guides and professional errors and omissions insurance are all part of the work ahead. Greater professional accountability and enhanced public awareness help to round out ASTTBC's role as a professional regulatory body.