

November, 2011

ASTTBC Onsite Wastewater Forum Builds Teamwork

The Sewerage System Regulation was proclaimed into law in May of 2005 and with it responsibility was assigned to ASTTBC as the body to certify and register those authorized to plan, install and maintain onsite systems. In the past 6 years ASTTBC, in collaboration with other stakeholders, has built a professional reliance model for this sector. With formal education and training, field experience including a field audit of the first system designed and installed, professional references and other requirements to get registered, the professionalism of onsite wastewater practitioners has grown substantially.

At present ASTTBC has just under 600 Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners (ROWP). A significant recent initiative was the development of a guide for training providers. Outlining the competencies required of the ROWP, the ASTTBC guide was built on work completed by the BC Water and Waste Association (BCWWA), an example of a collaborative effort emerging in this industry. To help build acceptance and to confirm content, ASTTBC convened an advisory group (öForumö) including key industry stakeholders. The first meeting was in September and the second, with a much broader agenda of issues being addressed, was just convened. öWe have had two great sessions with participation from almost all interested parties. The dialogue has been constructive and directed to the issues at hand,ö said ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech who is chairing the forums. öWith the spirit of cooperation demonstrated at the first two meetings we are well on our way to building a æcommunity of common interestsö.

The program has grown over the six years based on a strong group of dedicated volunteers and staff. The Chair of the Board, Jim Andersen, has been working hard to build capacity and a team of volunteers serving the profession and this industry. Ron Hein, Manager, Onsite Wastewater Registration Program provides the staff support and leadership to bring it all together.

See Photo below:



The ASTTBC Onsite Wastewater Forum convened to address areas of common interest. Attending the first meeting were (left to right):

- John Rowse, Executive Director, BC Onsite Sewage Association
- Brent Schofield, ROWP, BC Representative for Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association (WCOWMA)
- Rupert Benzon, Ministry of Health
- Keith Gylander, Executive Director of WCOWMA
- Mike Seymour, AScT, EngL, Representative for BC Water & Waste Association
- Ron Hein, ROWP, ASTTBC Manager, Onsite Wastewater Registration Program
- Bill Hyslop, PhD, Executive Director, Environmental Operator Certification Program
- Steve Warren, ROWP, President, BCOSSA
- Jim Anderson, ROWP, project consultant for ASTTBC

Missing from the photo is ASTTBC Executive Director, John Leech (who took the picture).