

## **B-65 Tank Regulation.**

### **TAKE CONTROL OF THE FUTURE**

**(Alex Zaboroski)**

By now I'm sure most of you have heard about the CSA B65-12 Standard, did you also know that the province is looking to adopt it in part or in whole? They are, and they've asked OWSIM to review and make recommendations as to what should or shouldn't be adopted.

For those who still aren't sure what this standard is all about I strongly encourage you to visit the CSA website and buy a copy of B65-12 standard. This Standard covers decentralized wastewater systems that use soil absorption systems for infiltration, dispersal, and final treatment of wastewater and serve residential, institutional, and commercial establishments. Basically everything that involves installing a septic or holding system, from tank size to field construction and everything between is covered in this standard.

It is now the responsibility of the installers through OWSIM to decide which parts of this standard is acceptable to be put into practice in our province. One thing installers have griped about is how Manitoba Conservation is always writing rules and regulations without consulting the industry for which they are written. Well this is your chance, by becoming a member of OWSIM you are eligible to join the committee that will be working in conjunction with the province to put forth a standard that works for the industry. Having a "provincial installation standard" will also provide easy reference for new environment officers and new installers, weeding out the "fly-by-night" guys who just want to cut corners to maximize profits.

Of course none of this is possible without the continued help and support of OWSIM's membership, so please sign up to join a committee and make a difference in your industry's future.

To join the B-65 advisory or any other committee visit the OWSIM website.  
[www.owsim.com](http://www.owsim.com)

or

Email: [admin@owsim.com](mailto:admin@owsim.com)

To purchase a copy of the CSA Standard B65-12 visit. <http://shop.csa.ca/en/canada/plumbing-products-and-materials/b65-12/inv/27033772012>



## **The OWSIM Installer**

### **Express/Fall 2013**

OWSIM Inc. is now sending out the Installer express, a condensed version that we can mail to our membership. Quick reading on important issues that are happening .

Hopefully everyone had a safe and productive summer. Looks like this fall will be a busy one for OWSIM and it's members. Several training courses have been reviewed and looks like will be available to our members.

The OWSIM website is up and running, any information you need is available here

[www.owsim.com](http://www.owsim.com)

## **Strength In Numbers, But Most Importantly at the Core**

### **Some insights from a neighbour to the East.....**

#### **Written by John Doner**

I have now been to three or four annual meetings of OWSIM, and I have been impressed by the dedication and drive by a number of individuals in your association. There is clearly a motivation to strengthen your association as a voice to government and industry. Now all you need is a call to action.

I have just completed a 9 year stint as a Board Member of the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association. During this time, I was President for 2 years, Acting President for another 2, Governance Chair, and most recently, Conference Chair. All of this experience has given me the opportunity to see the different dynamics of different board structures, different leadership, and also different staff structures.

During this time, one thing was constant, membership growth. In the beginning, membership was small, but now we are approaching 700 members, and we have achieved a great deal. I would like to share a few of these programs with you in the hopes that they may help your association grow.

The Ontario association was born out of an academic environment, with the focus on education and research. This helped involve the engineering, regulatory and academic communities, along with installers and industry business to work together and start the association. Today, as a result, we see many of these same people over and over at our trade shows, events, and the annual conference.

While I am not suggesting that OWSIM go down this road, it is important to understand the strength your association can have with sheer numbers. A large membership gives you not only credibility, but also financial resources that enable you to improve member benefits and services. At the recent AGM I was told that it is difficult to get installers out to the AGM and trade show. Given the low turnout, I can see that it is a challenge for you but it is a challenge to get installers out to our show as well. So we have discussed the numbers, let's talk now about the few. The core of your association is the Board of Directors. These are the people you appoint to shape your association. As members, you have the right and obligation to put the best volunteers in place for these positions. It is also really important that you get an appropriate mix of stakeholders on your Board of Directors. This is an installer association so make sure the installers are represented. One of the things I noticed about the meeting in Winnipeg.

was that there are only seven positions available on the OWSIM board. In Ontario there are 15 board positions. While this seems like a lot, inevitably, 4 or 5 cannot make it to each meeting, so there are still enough people there to make a representative decision, which is in the best interest of the entire association. I am not suggesting you change the makeup of your association, just merely making an observation. More directors mean more participation, which inevitably fuels growth, excitement and the real motivator, PRIDE. Once the pride level has reached a certain point, there's no stopping the machine. Your members will be behind the association, your industry will depend on the association and the Province will solicit your input on important issues. This is already happening with the recent request from Manitoba Conservation for an OWSIM technical review of CSA CAN B-65, the new standard for installation of systems in the country.

Build your association also by continuing this happens, you know you have traction, and your membership will increase as well as your revenues and credibility

Expand your membership services. Your newsletter is a great way to send information to your members and drive some advertising dollars into the association. It can also be a link between the association and the government, which is invaluable. I saw some membership programs and these are good for showing membership benefits.

Be proud of what you have started. I have always had great conversations with the group of people at the OWSIM AGM. The other buzz word I like to use in this situation is fraternity. I feel the same way about any trade association. It is a brotherhood (and sisterhood) of like minded individuals with a common goal...to strengthen an industry. While in Manitoba this seems to exist among the education programs you are currently running. I was impressed with what I saw. The drive for extra qualification under OWSIM can be a vehicle for increasing enrolment as a friendly competitiveness among the installer fraternity, with all installers striving to achieve that extra qualification that will give them an edge in the market. Another driver of having continuing education levels is that you may find that a designer of a larger system may make a minimum qualification a requirement to bid a specific project. When suppliers, it does not seem to be evident in the installer group. I strongly recommend that if you are an installer in Manitoba you need to step up, be part of the association that was designed for you, participate in the association that is there for you, and support your Annual Meetings with relish. This is an opportunity for you to share experiences, learn new things, and support a group of core individuals that have been leading your association for years.

Support the Core, accept the call to action, and help your association grow into a strong industry voice and fraternity.