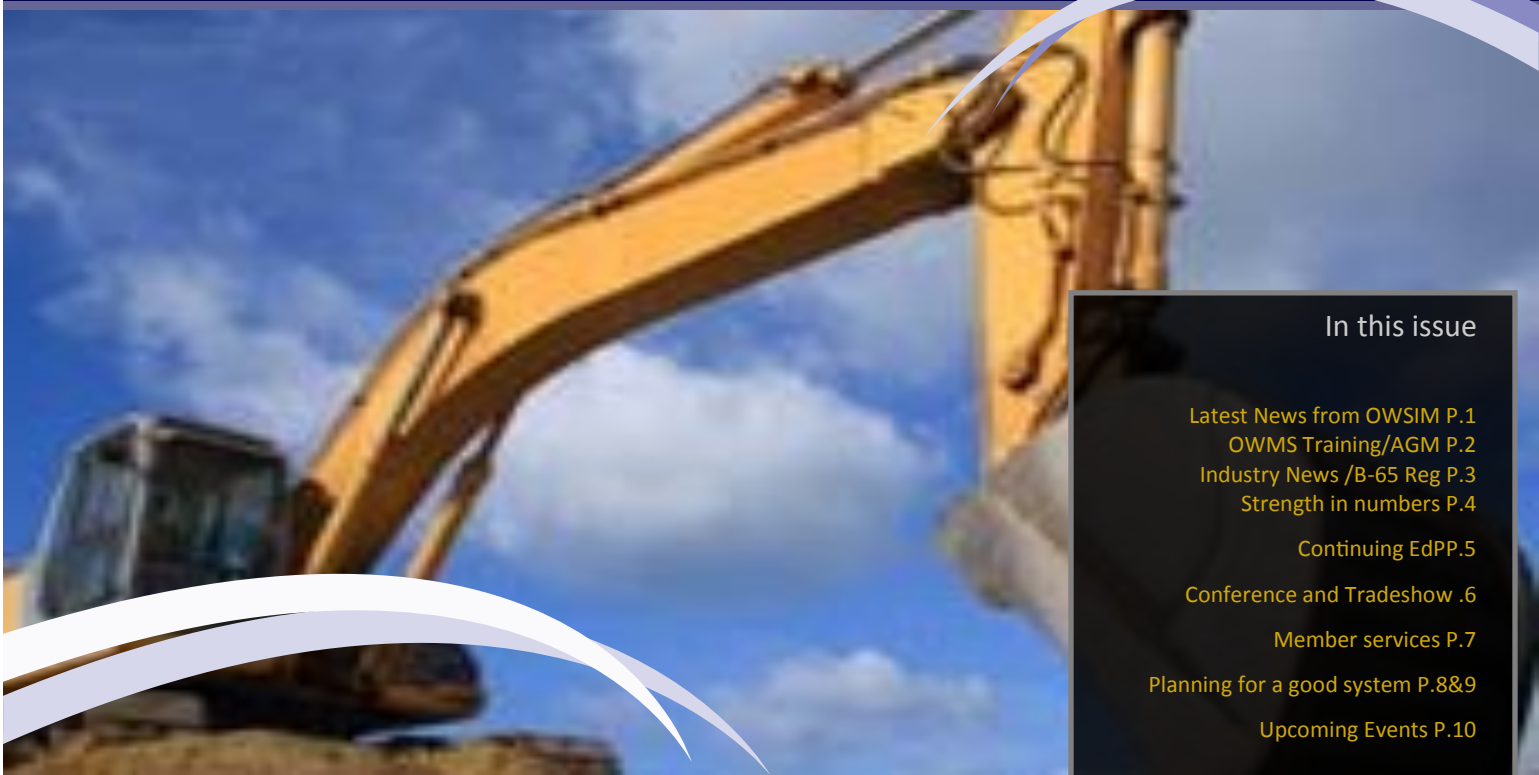


The OWSIM Installer

ISSUE 02 / April 2013



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Exploring the latest news and on goings within the Industry.

Welcome to the second edition of the OWSIM Installer. Here you will find the latest Industry news, events, and information OWSIM has been involved in.

If anyone has ideas or is an aspiring writer and would like to contribute in future issues, feel free to pass them along to admin@owsim.com



What's New in OWSIM

Red River OWMS Training and AGM

Red River OWMS Training.

Red River College had an inspiring amount of new systems installers come through the OWMS Installer training Course, Dave Bond (Member services chair), David Fehr, and Rudy Hartfiel (Office manager) attended the class in effort to recruit new members and make the newest string of certified installers aware that OWSIM Exists and that OWSIM is there for its members. A brief power



point presentation that has been developed by membership services committee was presented and well received by all the students in the class.

The next OWMS Installer training course is scheduled for October 2013. Anyone interested can contact Louise Cure at Red River Community College.

Email lcure@rrc.mb.ca

Telephone 204-632-3017

AGM

OWSIM Inc. 's 2013 AGM took place March 7, 2013 at the Canad-Inns, Garden City .

A fair amount of members attended and OWSIM Inc is pleased to announce that they once again have a full board of 7 directors.

2 new members were nominated David Fehr and Joey Futros will now join Alex Zaboroski, Steve Bonner, Dave Bond, Marie Taplin, and Hugh Bonner to form the new board of directors of OWSIM.

Also brought to the attention of the members at the AGM was that OWSIM has been requested to review the new B-65 tank regulation. There has been much discussion on this and OWSIM Inc. will be forming a committee to review the regulation. If you would like to join this or any other committee, feel free to contact the office by phone or by email.

Also discussed were member events and how we can get more members motivated to attend the events.



Office Manager Report

The Office has been buzzing since the last newsletter came out,.

Tradeshaw, AGM, GPS Training, Real estate inspections, along with the Hi-trac Member services and Red River OWMS Course Presentation. Have kept things going at a high pace.

There are still many things to go and planning never stops, After this issue we are looking at hopefully getting one more out in June/ July before the office slows down for the summer.

Great meeting many of our dedicated members at numerous events and hoping to meet many more in the future.

E-mail & Mailing

Addresses

Communications have been sent out on a regular basis, If you have had any change in email or mailing addresses please contact the office so we can ensure that you receive all future mailings and not miss out .

E-mail admin@owsim.com

Phone: 204-771-0455



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 en-

vironment 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

or

Email: 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/invt/27033772012>

EYE ON IT Soggy Spring?

Well Looks like old man winter is trying to stick around longer than expected. Lots of snow still on the ground, Installers are busy getting their equipment ready for what hopes to be a busy season.

With the high snow accumulations this winter, conditions on the jobsites will be wet, really test installers equipment and could pose some safety risks. Please exercise extra caution when working in the field this spring

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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.





Continuing Ed (Hugh Bonner)

Continuing Ed has been working hard to get things rolling again. A few Courses have been looked at to see what we can offer our members that will give them the upper hand in the future .

GPS Training course was introduced this March, The instructor had been given great reviews by those attending and was very knowledgeable in the use of GPS Units.

OWSIM Inc. will be looking at hosting this course again and with feedback received from members as well as instructor will be expanding the course.

Real Estate Inspections course was slated to take place but unfortunately was forced to be cancelled due to low registration numbers.

Continuing Education is a stronghold of OWSIM Inc.

Educating our members to better serve their customers and most importantly ,better serve the industry and maintaining the high standard of ethics that our members continually strive for.

Upcoming training courses will be this fall, Keep watching for updates.



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4th Annual Conference and Tradeshow (Steve Bonner)



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Member Services

Member services started off 2013 with a bang. On a cold January day, Hi-Trac graciously opened their doors to OWSIM and its members for a member luncheon. Approx. 20 members of OWSIM attended this event where Hi-Trac didn't hold out... Boardroom was all decked out with promotional items, lunch served, as well as 3 jackets raffled off to lucky OWSIM Members. A big thank you once again to the owners and staff at Hi-Trac for opening



their doors

Plans for more events are in the works, if you are interested in hosting one contact Dave Bond (Member Services Chair).

Member services also completed another presentation at the Red River OWMS Training course and as a

result we have one new member thus far arising from it.

Member Services committee has also announced that David Fehr has stepped down from the committee as he has now been elected to the OWSIM board of Directors. The resignation of David from the committee leaves a vacancy in member services. Marie Taplin has committed as a new member services committee member and there is a need for more volunteers. Please contact the office if you are willing to join any committee and volunteer a few hours every other month.

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Planning for a Good System

By Jim Anderson, Ph.D., and Dave Gustafson, P.E.

Article published in Onsite Installer Magazine/March 2013

For the last eight years we have presented workshops on installation practices at the Pumper and Cleaner Expo. Afterward, we always get questions and comments. In the next few articles, we'll highlight some of the materials we cover in these workshops – we hope this will lead to continuing conversations about best installation practices and techniques.

We like to point out that the definition of a "good" system has changed over the years, and some people installers meet during an installation have their own definition. For some people, the only definition that matters is low cost. This is one area right from the start where an installer can do some education, pointing out why – for system operation and long life – each component needs to be installed as proposed. To us, a "good" system is one that is:

Installed to protect public health and the environment

Installed according to the permit and the plan and with the proper materials

Installed so that all components are accessible for maintenance and management in the future

What you must do.

Here are some thoughts on installer responsibilities that, if observed, will result in good systems that will last indefinitely.

Envision the project.

Right from the first visit to bid on the job and the design, think about how the installation will be carried out. This is not only

important for the actual installation but also for bidding the project properly. Is there easy access to the site? Or are there problems like slope, trees, rocks or other items you need to address before starting work? Also think about where you will stage materials; how you'll protect the primary and alternate soil treatment units before, during and after installation; and how to finish the job.

Follow the plan.

If you are not the designer, you need to follow the design you're given. This means recognizing and identifying where the system is located, the important elevation differences, and how the system will lie on the land.

If possible, walk the area with the designer and owner to discuss any site limitations that might affect the installation. We recommend staking out the site to show the actual locations of the components, along with the significant elevations. You must use the materials called for in the design without substitutions.





Planning for a Good System By Jim Anderson, Ph.D., and Dave Gustafson, P.E. (Continued)

Use proper practices.

You are responsible for applying proper installation principles. For tanks, this means installing the proper size and seeing that it is properly bedded and backfilled. All appropriate attachments, such as effluent screens, need to be installed. Risers, pipe penetrations and seams need to be watertight.

Install the soil treatment unit at the proper depth, using the design media materials. We recommend checking the design calculations for the soil treatment area sizing. If the system uses pressure distribution, it is your responsibility to have the proper pipe, orifice sizes and spaces. If there are questions about any of these, consult the designer before proceeding.

Accessibility is important – include observation ports. As always, follow the Keep It Shallow, Keep It Dry and Keep It Natural principles. Make notes documenting any problems or unexpected conditions you encountered and what you did as a result.

Communicate with the inspector.

During installation, the system will be inspected for compliance. Communication with the inspector is key. Understand at what point the inspector wants to come in and discuss the timing. While you may have timing issues during installation, recognize the inspector may also have scheduling concerns. It is better to talk through them than to run up to the point where you need the inspector and then get frustrated or angry because it's not going as you feel it should.

The desired outcome is that the inspection meets all requirements and the system is in compliance with the permit. If it is not at the time of initial inspection, ask the inspector to go

through the entire system and indicate where changes are needed. This can avoid having the inspector back only to find out something else is wrong. It's your job to obtain a valid permit, so it's important to work toward that end efficiently – you'll save time and money.

Tie it in a bow.

Finishing well is important. Provide a to-scale, as-built drawing of the installation to the permitting authority, the owner and the designer, and keep one for your records.

The job isn't finished until the site is cleaned up, the backfill is properly placed, and vegetation is established. One customer-service approach we encourage is to visit the site a month to six weeks after the installation to fix any cosmetic problems that may have occurred from settling or other activities.

This is also a good time to walk the owner through proper care for the system. You can provide good information about the specific system and provide any of several good general homeowners guides that are free or relatively inexpensive. If maintenance is part of your business, this is a good time to sell the owner on the virtues of that service.

Do all this and you will soon build a reputation as a customer-focused contractor who delivers high-quality, long-lasting treatment systems..

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Upcoming Events

- | | | |
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| April 10 | OWSIM Attending AMM / MTCML Show | Brandon, MB |
| April 20 | OWSIM Membership meeting 11:am Chicken Chef, | Stonewall,MB |

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