OOWA
ONTARIO
Onsite Wastewater Association

Annual Convention ~and~ Expo | 2025

Summary *package*

CAPTURED!















Did you capture photos at the convention?!
Share them with OOWA using the QR code.

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About

The Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA) is dedicated to representing and educating members within the onsite and decentralized wastewater community in Ontario. OOWA has become the most trusted source of industry information and guidance. Our members are among the most well respected practitioners in the industry dedicated to providing the best services available, while working to preserve Ontario's water resources and environment.

330 + attendees

33 exhibitors

2300+ followers

750+ members

About our Convention

OOWA's convention has been steadily growing over the last 25 years. This annual event brings together all categories of professionals within the onsite and decentralized industry. This year we engaged the minds of over 330 industry members empowering them toward success. We delivered training courses, keynote addresses, engaging presentations and ample networking opportunities.

Engaging *minds*
Empowering *success*







Sunday Training Sessions

OOWA training sessions allow for in depth learning and skill development in specific areas of interest. In 2025 we offered two concurrent training opportunities:

MTO Requirements, Road Safety and CVOR Compliance
Led by Hank Dubee, MTO

Installation of a Septic Tank with a focus on 50,000L plus
Led by Ryan Weddel, Newmarket Precast and Rob Sanna, Boyd Brothers

OOWA delivered 24 different sessions in three days

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20 recorded sessions are now available on the mobile app!

The convention featured engaging and interactive sessions for participants such as case studies, panel discussions, keynote addresses, and more. Some of the topics included:

- **The Importance of Ventilation**
- **Applying Code Requirements to Shallow Buried Trenches**
- **Insurance in the Wastewater Industry**
- **System Remediation**
- **An update from MMAH**
- **An Installer panel discussion**
- **Gravel-less systems**
- **A Decentralized Systems Panel Discussion**









KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The perfect way to begin our Convention is with an inspiring speaker who challenges us to reach our fullest potential and sets an uplifting tone for the days ahead. This year, Dr. Sara Heger did just that—and so much more. Please note that keynotes are not recorded, so we highly encourage you to join us in person to experience everything we have planned next year.

Dr. Sara Heger

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Research Associate, University of Minnesota

Jen Grant

Comedian, Stress Management Expert

NETWORK

Each year, OOWA's convention serves as the premier gathering spot for industry professionals to connect and collaborate. We prioritize networking by creating opportunities in both professional and relaxed settings. Shared meals, scheduled breaks, and a central hub in the exhibit hall—supported by our dedicated partners—help maximize meaningful interaction throughout the event.

This year, 50 of us kicked things off in style with a private suite at an Ottawa Senators game the night before the convention. Maybe we brought them luck—they won! We're excited to turn this into an annual tradition and start each convention with a fun social gathering.











Sponsor

A heartfelt thank you to our 2025 sponsors—this event wouldn't be possible without your generous support! Sponsoring the convention not only boosts your visibility but also positions your brand as a proud advocate of the onsite and decentralized industry. It's an opportunity to engage directly with key decision-makers, build valuable relationships, and strengthen trust in your business. OOWA event sponsors receive recognition through:

- **OOWA's website**
- **Promotional materials**
- **Convention programs, signage, mobile app, virtual platform, on-site screens**
- **OOWA's social media, newsletter & monthly e-bulletin, etc.**

Exhibit

OOWA's annual convention is the premier event for connecting with professionals across the onsite and decentralized industry. Our exhibitors are a key part of the experience, contributing to the energy and value of the event each year. With all breaks, lunches, and morning receptions hosted in the exhibit hall, there's consistent foot traffic and plenty of opportunities to engage with current customers and meet potential new clients. Exhibiting at the convention boosts your brand's visibility and opens the door to meaningful business relationships on a large scale.





We had 34 vendors and 14 sponsors attend in 2025 to engage with 330+ industry attendees

THANK YOU *Sponsors!*

KEYNOTE SPONSOR

INFILTRATOR® water technologies

SWAG BAG SPONSOR

BIONEST Sustainable Wastewater Management

TRIVIA SPONSOR

Waterloo BIOFILTER

MEAL SPONSORS

BNA BERGMANN NORTH AMERICA INC.

NPC NEWMARKET PRE-CAST Solid For 60 Years

TRAINING & BREAKOUT SESSION SPONSOR

TATHAM ENGINEERING

RECEPTION SPONSORS

CROZIER

Enviro-STEP Technologies Inc.

Liberty Pumps

POLYLOK Inc. Innovations in Precast, Drainage & Wastewater Products. Zabel® A Division of Polylok Inc.

NETWORKING BREAK SPONSOR

MAKE WAY ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES INC.

STAGE & BANQUET WINE SPONSOR

BROOKLIN CONCRETE PRODUCTS

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR

Ontario Rural Wastewater Centre

BREAKOUT SESSION SPONSOR

BURNSIDE

Without sponsors our Annual Convention & Expo would not be possible. Thank you to these 14 incredible sponsors.



"At BNA, we believe that supporting OOWA's annual conference is about more than just visibility — it's about investing in the future of our industry. This event brings together professionals who are passionate about doing things better — through innovation, collaboration, and shared knowledge. Sponsoring the conference aligns with our commitment to raising the bar in onsite wastewater treatment and supporting a culture of continuous improvement."

Miles MacCormack
Bergmann North America



"It is important for Waterloo Biofilter to exhibit at OOWA's convention and maintain our membership because a strong industry association is essential for advancing best practices, advocacy, and innovation in onsite wastewater. Being there allows us to support that mission while connecting face-to-face with clients, colleagues, and industry leaders. It also gives us a valuable platform to showcase the proven benefits of our technology and demonstrate how we stand apart from other solutions in the industry."

Dana Jagt
Waterloo Biofilter

EXHIBITORS





































































Interested in exhibiting or sponsoring in 2026?
Email info@oowa.org to learn more.

EXHIBITOR HIGHLIGHT

“Participating as an exhibitor at the OOWA Convention allows Granby Composites to connect directly with industry professionals, showcase our fiberglass water and wastewater storage solutions, and stay informed on emerging trends and regulations in Ontario’s onsite wastewater sector. It’s an invaluable opportunity to build relationships and share our expertise.

Being a member of OOWA strengthens our commitment to the industry by supporting advocacy, education, and professional development. Membership helps us stay engaged with key stakeholders and align with the highest standards in the field, reinforcing our leadership role in providing durable, sustainable solutions for wastewater and water storage needs.”

Isabelle Doyon
Granby Composites

“Our organization has been representing Polylok all across Canada for over 35 years now, and me, personally, for the last 25. We’ve been along for the ride and involved with OOWA since the very beginning, as a member, a sponsor and as an exhibitor. Over the years, OOWA has proven to be a great organization to be associated with, as it not only monitors the pulse of our province’s on-site industry, but also brings together all of our market’s finest companies and individuals.”

Gary Deppe
Polylok

Surplus Spending

OOWA was excited to once again host an in-person conference this year at the Ottawa Conference and Events Centre. This event provides a valuable opportunity for our members to connect, expand their industry knowledge, and take part in a variety of training sessions.

As part of our ongoing commitment to education, both for our members and the public, OOWA recently added a third team member to help support our growth and enhance member engagement.

To further this mission, we've allocated funds to our External Relations, Communications, and Events Committees. These resources will support increased access to in-person gatherings, the creation of educational videos, and the development of new initiatives. Throughout the year, the Finance Committee will continue to provide long-term financial forecasting and will collaborate closely with the Membership, Events, and other Committees to guide progress and assess key milestones.

OOWA delegated surplus funds to different committees to support new initiatives and events to grow the association and give back to its members.

OOWA's External Relations Committee: OOWA was able to send representatives to the OBOA AMTS Conference in London, the Concrete Precaster's Association Conference in Huntsville in 2024, and the OASIS Convention in Ajax in early 2025.





OOWA's Professional Development Committee will be able to pay course developers to design and pilot training courses for Design 1, Design 2, and Large Systems Design by the fall.

OOWA's Events Committee will be hosting our first ever Golf tournament in September.





OOWA's Communications Committee has been working with a videographer to bring you more high-quality educational videos.

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Collaborator of the Year

Ryan Weddel, Newmarket Precast



Both individuals and organizations can receive this award. Eligible recipients collaborate with OOWA on projects or initiatives aimed at enhancing industry performance, environmental sustainability, or community well-being.

"This year's recipient, Ryan, represents both an outstanding individual and a supportive organization, Newmarket Precast. Newmarket Precast has been a long-standing and valued partner of OOWA and has consistently contributed at the highest sponsorship levels. As a trusted, multi-generational, family-owned business, they've played a key role in the onsite wastewater industry. Ryan is a Director of our Association and also a member of other industry related organizations. He balances work, volunteering and a young family with dedication and grace."

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Industry Ambassador of the Year

Anne Egan, R.J Burnside



The OOWA Industry Ambassador of the Year award honors an individual who has made an extraordinary impact over the past year by promoting decentralized and onsite wastewater management in Ontario, demonstrating exceptional integrity, advocacy, and commitment to the industry's values and ethics.

“In one person’s words this award winner is everywhere, doing everything, all the time. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience that is used to advance our industry. In simple terms there simply is not much that se has not done.

She leads by example, upholding strong personal values and the OOWA Code of Ethics. Respected by clients, peers, and colleagues alike, Anne is known for her integrity and is a passionate advocate for the industry.”

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Director of the Year

Andy Bauman



This award recognizes an OOWA Director for their outstanding contributions to the Association and its members over the past year.

"This year's recipient, Andy, has shown strong leadership, strategic insight, and unwavering dedication to OOWA's goals. He has been proactive and generous with his time, serving on both the Onsite Technical and External Relations Committees, actively participating in Board meetings, and representing OOWA at numerous trade shows. Though Andy only recently returned as a Director, his previous experience on the Board has been invaluable. He's proven to be a trusted ambassador and a key supporter of the Association, always putting the organization and the industry first."

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Young Professional of the Year

Dominic Bauer



This award honours a young OOWA member (around 30 or younger) who shows exceptional dedication, leadership, and professionalism in the onsite wastewater industry, actively contributes through volunteering, and upholds the OOWA Code of Conduct.

"[Dominic] is a rising star in the industry and a valued member of OOWA. Dominic served on the Onsite Technical Committee and shared valuable insights as a panelist at one of our regional meetings last fall. He previously ran for the Board of Directors, and the company he works for [Gunnell Engineering] has been a long-time contributor to our association. Over the past year, I've had the pleasure of getting to know Dominic, and it's clear he is deeply dedicated and committed to advancing our industry."

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Small Business of the Year

John Martin, Cromar Environmental



The Small Business Owner of the Year award recognizes an OOWA member who is deeply committed to the industry, delivers high-quality service, and upholds the Member Code of Conduct.

"This year's recipient, John, is a trusted professional with nearly 20 years of experience in the onsite wastewater industry. Ten years ago, he launched a thriving business based in Brantford, Ontario, earning a strong reputation among installers, engineers, and homeowners across the province. Known for his integrity, reliability, and dedication to staying current, John consistently provides exceptional service to his clients."

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Terry Davidson



This is a recognition reserved for those who have demonstrated unparalleled dedication to both OOWA and the onsite wastewater industry.

This prestigious honor is so exceptional that it has never been granted to anyone in the history of our organization.

We were honoured to present the first ever OOWA Lifetime Membership plaque to Terry Davidson.

Award presented by Roddy Bolivar

Guarav Bhardwaj

2nd year PhD student, Civil and Environmental Engineering, York University



Current Line of Studies:

“I’m second year PhD student in Civil and Environmental Engineering at York University. My research primarily focuses on investigating microplastics in wastewater treatment systems specifically looking at the impacts these tiny plastic participles have on biological treatment processes...”

What are your plans, post-graduation?

“After graduation, my goal is to continue contributing to the wastewater industry, particularly by bridging research and practical applications. Ideally, I would like to pursue a role where I could directly collaborate with industry professionals, policy makers and communities to implement sustainable wastewater treatment solutions. I’m also passionate about knowledge transfer, so engaging and teaching, mentorship or community outreach will certainly be part of my career path.”

Deanna Marshall

Environmental Tech
Durham College



How did you become interested in the wastewater industry, including onsite wastewater?

“My [professor] has direct experience in the wastewater industry and provided a lot of insight and additional conversations around the field. Her enthusiasm, as well as the sheer importance of clean water to the health and well-being of everyone is what really drew my interest to the industry.”

What are your plans, post-graduation?

“At the moment, with the large variety of pathways in the environmental field, I don’t have a specific plan at this time, but I am pursuing as many new learning opportunities and experience as I can to get a better sense of the specific direction I want to go. But right now, wastewater treatment and conservation efforts are piquing my interest the most and I’m also looking into some potential pathways to further my education after graduation.

OOWA's board consists of 15 amazing volunteers.

Each year OOWA holds elections for our Volunteer Board of Directors. This takes place at our Annual General Meeting, held at the Annual Convention & Expo and was also broadcasted online. We were thrilled with the enthusiasm of our members this year.

OOWA's Board Of Directors welcomes Dan Friesen and Kathleen Shepherd (back) to the roster.



Dan Friesen
ESI Group



Kathleen Shepherd
Township of Cavan Monaghan

Thank You

OOWA's Board Of Directors thanks Brady Straw and Arlene Quinn for their dedications and commitment to OOWA's Board of Directors over their tenure. Your leadership and contributions were unmatched and we will miss you dearly.



Brady Straw
Waterloo Biofilter
Served 3 terms (9 years)



Arlene Quinn
Stoughton Septic
Served 1 term (3 years)

SAVE THE DATE



Niagara Falls

March 8-10, 2026

We’re heading to Niagara Falls!
Join us from March 8-10 at the Sheraton Fallsview for our 2026 Annual Convention & Expo.

Check out this video to see why you should join us next year at our Annual Convention & Expo in Niagara Falls!

Watch your email and social media for more details on accommodations, agenda, registration, etc..

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS



OOWA Annual Convention & Expo:
March 8-10, 2026
Sheraton Fallsview, Niagara Falls ON

DEADLINE

September 30, 2025

Who can present?

Presenters from any business, industry, public organization and institution, university, municipality or regulatory agency are invited to submit a proposal.

Presentation Types:

- Treatment, system optimization and service
- Innovation
- In-the-field case studies
- Strategies for small-medium business

Details:

Submit a 250-500 word abstract, with a brief bio of the speaker. The abstract shall clearly specify the name and complete contact information of the speaker, the title and duration of the presentation, and key take-away messages. Specify your availability to present between March 8-10, 2025.

Advantages:

- Free registration for that day of the Convention
- Present to targeted audience
- Publication on the OOWA website
- An exceptional forum and captive audience of industry experts

Submit to:
info@oowa.org

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