

# ROWP NEWS LETTER

June 2014

## Message from the Manager, Onsite Wastewater Registration Program: Bob Burns, ROWP

Taking over the position of Manager, Onsite Wastewater Registration Program (OWRP) has certainly been a learning curve for me! After fielding calls from Members, Health Authorities and the general public I became aware of the complex issues and complicated circumstances surrounding this industry. As Chair of the Onsite Wastewater Registration Board (OWRB), I reviewed files, took part in policy discussions and worked towards changes that would benefit the industry as a whole. But when I took on the role of Manager, the enormity of the issues that were coming my way really opened my eyes. I continue to move forward to find that balance between my own business responsibilities and the responsibilities associated with being OWRP Manager.

If at any time you need assistance, need a question answered or just have an inquiry email me at [bburns@asttbc.org](mailto:bburns@asttbc.org) or call the ASTTBC office 604.585.2788 and leave me a message.

I thank you in advance for your patience as I meet these challenges..... because these are mighty big shoes Ron has left behind!

## UPDATES:

### **BC Standard Practice Manual Version 3 Draft:**

Please visit the link below for latest draft of the 'BC Standard Practice Manual (SPM)'.  
[www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/lup\\_standards.html](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/lup_standards.html)

### **Real Estate Council of British Columbia:**

The Real Estate Council of British Columbia has recently put forward an initiative to improve the competency levels of their licensees. ASTTBC staff and members of the OWRB have provided insight to help make these improvements. A copy of this initiative will be published in an upcoming issue of the Real Estate Council's newsletter and will become part of their professional standards manual. It has been forwarded to their council for approval.

### **Health Authority File Searches:**

There have been calls from ROWP members who have expressed a concern regarding file searches at their local Health Authority. They are running into resistance trying to access all the paper work or experiencing long delays in receiving documents, which results in delays with Real Estate transactions. This complaint does not relate to all Health Authorities. If any ROWP has had similar difficulties or delays with a file search, please [email Bob Burns](mailto:bburns@asttbc.org) to advise which Health Authority and when.

### **ROWP Practice Guidelines:**

New ROWP Practice Guidelines are in the process of being completed; this has been a work in progress by the OWRB and ASTTBC staff. It will be edited, fine-tuned and when completed be posted for all to read.

### **Website:**

We continue to work on upgrades to the OWRP website. We hope to be able to make improvements over the summer months... stay tuned.

### **ROWP Registration:**

There are ever increasing issues with the quality of information provided by applicants wishing to be registered as a ROWP or to have a restriction removed. The amount of missing information as per SPM guidelines is raising concerns. Details to drawings and design rational for planners seem to be an issue. What future applicants must remember is although they follow the guidelines of their mentors, they also have an obligation to follow the guidelines of the SPM. With installers it is difficult for the file reviewers to assess the competencies of the installers by a few distorted pictures and rely mainly on the recommendations provided by the reference. These same issues are a concern with Maintenance Providers. It has been suggested to several applicants (although it is not mandatory) that they provide short narrated videos of a walk through and a detailed description of the process. This will help in the evaluation process. We have had several applicants include videos in their application package and this was of great value in evaluating their knowledge of the category they were applying for. This will enhance your application process and allow for feedback if improvements are needed.

### **Oversight Guideline:**

There seems to be an ever growing problem surrounding ROWPs who employ individuals to undertake work on their behalf. When doing so ROWPs must remember that they are subject to the OWRP policy Appendix D section 2 Oversight of Contractors, Homeowners or Others: "The ROWP must be in charge and take full responsibility and liability for the actions of a contractor or others, who are non – authorized persons, engaged in an onsite wastewater activity or task; to ensure that they perform their work in accordance with the requirements of the Standard Practice Manual. The oversight requires that the ROWP must be present on site while the work is being performed."

### **Working outside ROWP's Scope of Practice:**

Again we must be aware not to work outside our scope of practice. If you have a restriction contact [Bob Burns](#) to be advised of your status and how we can move you forward to getting those restrictions removed.

### **Contacts for Liability Insurance:**

To inquire about liability insurance please contact our Member Service Representative from Willis Canada: Cathie Hartsell e-mail [cathie.hartsell@willis.com](mailto:cathie.hartsell@willis.com) phone # 604-638-6831 or visit <http://www.asttbc.org/services/programs/>

Bob Burns, ROWP  
Manager, Onsite Wastewater Registration Program  
Tel: (604) 585-2788 ext. 255  
Fax: (604) 585-2790  
[bburns@asttbc.org](mailto:bburns@asttbc.org)