



Annual
Convention
and
Expo

2026

Summary PACKAGE

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Did you capture photos at the convention?!
Share them with OOWA using the QR code
or send them to info@oowa.org.

WHAT'S INSIDE

1 Convention Summary

4 Sponsors & Exhibitors

9 Annual General Meeting

11 2026 Industry Awards

18 2026 Scholarships

20 Equipment Rodeo

21 International Women's Day

22 Board of Directors Update

23 2027 Annual Convention

24 Call for Presentations

25 Get Social

About



The Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOOWA) is dedicated to representing and educating members within the onsite and decentralized wastewater community in Ontario. OOOWA 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.



300+
attendees



34
exhibitors



3300+
followers



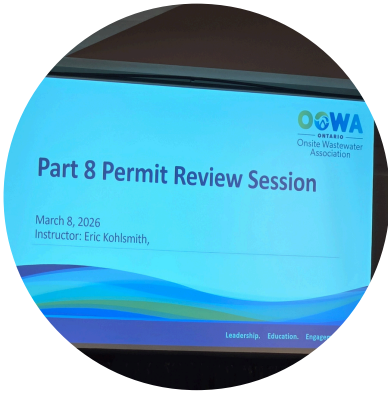
850+
members

OOOWA's convention has grown consistently over the past 26 years. This annual event unites professionals from all areas of the onsite and decentralized wastewater industry. This year, we connected with more than 300 industry members, helping to support their success. Attendees benefited from training courses, keynote speakers, informative presentations, and valuable networking opportunities.

About our Convention



Sunday Training Sessions



OOWA training sessions allow for in depth learning and skill development in specific areas of interest. In 2026 we offered two concurrent training opportunities:

Part 8 Permit Review (Condensed)

Led by Eric Kohlsmith, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

Design Workshop

Led by Anne Egan, R.J Burnside & Associates



OOWA delivered 23 different sessions in three days



Did you miss a session? 20 recorded sessions will be available soon on the virtual platform and 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:

- **Groundwater Mounding**
- **The Experimental Testing of Gravity Distribution Methods**
- **Reading the Code**
- **An update from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing**
- **Ultra-Low Nitrogen Treatment**
- **Combined Treatment and Dispersal Systems**
- **An “Ask the Expert” Panel Discussion**



KEYNOTE ADDRESS



OOWA was pleased to welcome two outstanding speakers from the wastewater and skilled trades industries. With International Women’s Day serving as a central theme of this year’s convention, their presentations were especially meaningful and well-aligned with the event’s focus.

Banu opened the convention with an engaging and informative presentation on PFAS and microplastics in wastewater, offering valuable insights into emerging environmental challenges. Kate Campbell followed with an inspiring talk, drawing on her personal journey, expertise, and platform to empower women to pursue careers in the trades, confidently take up space in male-dominated industries, and build strength both on and off the job site.

Banu Örmeci

Ph.D., P.Eng., Professor and Jarislowsky Chair in Water and Health
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Carleton University

*Pictured:

Kate Campbell

TV Personality and Contractor

NETWORKING

Each year, OOWA’s convention brings industry professionals together to connect, collaborate, and build relationships. We place a strong emphasis on networking by offering opportunities in both structured and informal settings. From shared meals and planned breaks to a central gathering space in the exhibit hall—made possible by our valued partners—we create an environment that encourages meaningful interaction throughout the event.

This year, 44 of us kicked things off with a memorable visit to the Niagara Parks Power Station the night before the convention. This historic site offers an immersive experience, showcasing the evolution of hydroelectric power through interactive exhibits and stunning architectural spaces. It was a unique way to connect, learn, and enjoy an iconic Niagara attraction together. We’re excited to grow this into an annual tradition and begin each convention with a fun and engaging social outing.





Sponsor

Sponsoring the convention enhances your visibility while showcasing your commitment to the onsite and decentralized industry. It offers a valuable opportunity to connect directly with key decision-makers, build lasting relationships, and reinforce trust in your brand. OOWA event sponsors are recognized 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 a leading event for connecting with professionals throughout the onsite and decentralized industry. Our exhibitors play an essential role in shaping the experience, adding energy and value to the event each year. With breaks, lunches, and morning receptions all taking place in the exhibit hall, there is steady foot traffic and frequent opportunities to connect with existing customers and engage new prospects. Exhibiting at the convention elevates your brand's presence and creates opportunities to build meaningful business relationships at scale.



We had 34 exhibitors and 15 sponsors attend in 2026 to engage with 300+ industry attendees

THANK YOU *Sponsors!*

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsor

Reception Sponsors



Stage Sponsor



Equipment Rodeo Sponsor



Coffee Break Sponsors



Scholarship Sponsor



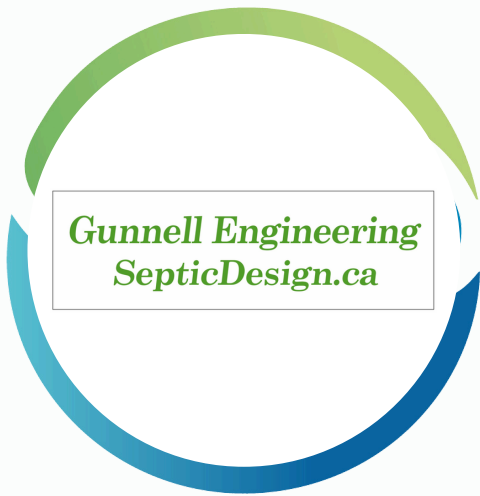
Swag Bag Sponsor



Banquet Wine & Trivia Sponsor



Without sponsors, our Annual Convention & Expo would not be possible. Thank you to these 15 incredible sponsors.



For us, it's not so much about advertising or getting our name out there but more on supporting the platform for both the organization and industry to grow. OOWA's Annual Convention & Expo has been a cornerstone event on our calendar for years and we will continue to support it however we can!

The Team at Gunnell Engineering



At Canadian Sanitation, we believe it is important to support organizations like OOWA because of the vital role they play in advancing our industry. The continued education and training that OOWA provides for both seasoned professionals and those new to the field is essential to maintaining high standards and promoting innovation within the wastewater sector.

Equally important is the strong sense of community that OOWA fosters. Bringing together like-minded individuals and companies creates opportunities for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and long-term industry growth.

By supporting events such as the annual conference, we are investing not only in our own team, but in the future of the industry as a whole.

Brock Peel
Canadian Sanitation

THANK YOU

Exhibitors!



Interested in exhibiting or sponsoring in 2027?
Email op-coordinator@oowa.org to learn more.



“We’ve been members of OOWA for several years and find great value in what the Association has to offer. Whether it be another fantastic annual Convention & Expo, a regional meeting, the golf tournament, online resources, training courses, access to the membership list, etc., the Association and its Team do a marvelous job of bringing those involved in the Onsite Wastewater Industry together and informed. As a regular exhibitor, we have an opportunity to showcase what our organization can offer to the many installers and designers that attend the annual Convention, and it provides us a chance to interact with many of the suppliers whose product we distribute. By exhibiting we can show our support and give back to OOWA as a thank you for the many projects they tackle each year. Thinking of joining the Association.....I strongly recommend it!”

Sean Pattee

Near North Supply



“We at Cromar Environmental believe it's important to exhibit at the OOWA Convention each year because it allows us to network face-to-face with installers, regulators and others in the onsite wastewater industry across Ontario. These connections provide an expanded opportunity to grow our business and keep up with ongoing changes within the industry. OOWA's reach is greatly beneficial to our business, and we look forward to continuing to exhibit in the future.”

Sam Martin

Cromar Environmental

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Review

OOWA President, Bill Goodale, welcomed attendees to the 2026 AGM and highlighted the strong engagement of both new and returning members within the onsite wastewater industry. He emphasized that the association's strength comes from its diverse, collaborative membership and noted the continued growth of the annual conference and expo, along with the valuable support of sponsors and exhibitors. Bill underscored OOWA's volunteer-driven nature, recognizing the contributions of board members, committee volunteers, task groups, and staff. He also stressed the importance of collaboration with regulators and stakeholders, reaffirming the association's focus on education, advocacy, best practices, workforce development, and protecting public health and the environment. Committee chairs then presented annual reports summarizing the past year's activities and outlining priorities for 2026.

Treasurer, Danielle Ward, reported that the association remains financially strong, with healthy assets and reserves at the end of 2025. Although a deficit was recorded, it was lower than expected and reflects a planned strategy to reinvest in growth through expanded programming, staffing, and outreach. Increased revenues from events, membership, and advertising demonstrate continued engagement, while a planned deficit for 2026 will support further development and enhanced services. Members also approved the reappointment of Baker Tilly as accountants following an RFQ process, and passed an extraordinary resolution to move from a full audit to a more cost-effective review engagement for 2026.



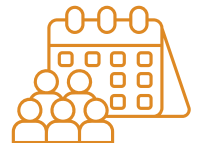
Committee chairs presented annual reports summarizing the past year's activities and outlining priorities for 2026, including:

OOWA's External Relations Committee will continue to strengthen relationships with peer industry associations, the MMAH and MECP. It will also continue to support decentralized/commubnal discussions through a symposium series throughout the 2026 year.



OOWA's Professional Development Committee is actively working with developers to design and pilot training courses for Advanced Design, Large Systems Design, and In-field installation training days.

OOWA's Events Committee plans on hosting 23 events in 2026. The events include training, symposiums, as well as industry networking events and fun social events.



The Installer Advisory Committee will be producing short-form video content to aid in knowledge sharing, support best practices in the field, and provide accessible, practical guidance for installers at all levels of experience.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



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Share them with OOWA using the QR code.

Collaborator of the Year

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and
Housing (MMAH)



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 is an organization that has been a great partner of OOWA over the past number of years. We have regular meetings with this group, and they are always open-minded and ready to work with us to advance our industry. They are also fortunate to have a great staff that are always kind and very knowledgeable.”

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Industry Ambassador of the Year

Mike Varty, EnVision Consultants



This award honours an individual who has made an outstanding contribution within the past year to improve the onsite wastewater industry, their community, and awareness of decentralized wastewater management in Ontario. The recipient is recognized for their integrity, strong values, ethical conduct, and active advocacy for the industry.

“This year’s recipient has been a trusted and respected leader in Ontario’s onsite wastewater industry for more than two decades, and has demonstrated exceptional dedication, advocacy, and professionalism. They have been a continual contributor to OOWA over a long period of time including a stint on OOWA’s Board of Directors. They are a regular panelist and presenter at OOWA regional meetings and at this conference.

This person is currently a member of the Professional Development Committee and the Events Committee and what sets them apart is their continual desire to improve the field we all work in. Their fairness, integrity, and strong personal values consistently align with the OOWA Code of Ethics and strengthen the reputation of the onsite industry.”

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Director of the Year

Eric Kohlsmith, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority



This award recognizes an OOWA Director for their outstanding contributions to the association and its members over the past year. The recipient has shown strong leadership, dedicated significant time and effort to advancing the organization, and consistently prioritized the best interests of the association and industry.

“This year’s recipient is a member of the Professional Development Committee and the Onsite Technical Committee, including a few OTC Task Groups. This Director always answers a call or an email when staff or anyone else needs help with something. And, they don’t just answer the call they seem genuinely happy to do so. Basically, they are someone that you can always count on. This person is an instructor for OOWA courses and was the lead with our inaugural equipment rodeo at last year’s conference.”

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Young Professional of the Year

Jeff Brett, MNT Consulting Group Inc.



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.

“This year’s recipient delivers high-quality onsite wastewater designs across Ontario. Their work reflects a sound understanding of the Ontario Building Code, and a focus on long-term system performance.

At an early stage in their career, they consistently demonstrate maturity, accountability, and professionalism beyond expectations. They exhibit the enthusiasm, drive, and work ethic required for success in our industry. This recipient represents the next generation of professionals in onsite wastewater and they are a member of OOWA’s External Relations Committee.”

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Small Business of the Year

Bert Knip, Make-Way
Environmental Technologies Inc.



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 may be one of the kindest people in our industry. Whenever someone has had a question or needed some advice and reached out to this person, they have taken the time to talk and provide guidance. This person’s business is a long-time exhibitor at OOWA events and sponsors everything. There are multiple people at this person’s business that have helped a lot with OOWA over the past number of years. There is also a rumour that there is a picture of this person in one of the first OOWA newsletters. That’s how far back this person has been a supporter of our association. We would love to show this person our support, appreciation and recognition for all that they have done for OOWA over the years.”

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch.

Corporate Steward of the Year

Rick Esselment, ESSE Canada



This award honours a business or organization that demonstrates leadership in environmental initiatives, particularly in water protection, resource management, and decentralized wastewater solutions. It recognizes those who have significantly improved industry standards, influenced public policy, or raised awareness in Ontario. The recipient also serves as a role model by supporting their community and advocating for environmental sustainability.

“This year’s recipient has played a significant role in protecting Ontario’s water resources through the servicing, maintenance, and inspection of both advanced wastewater treatment systems and standard sewage systems.

They have established a corporate culture rooted in technical excellence, environmental responsibility, and continuous professional development. The company sustains this culture through rigorous field training, ongoing independent learning, structured peer support, and the adoption of innovative software and diagnostic technologies. They have demonstrated leadership in promoting responsible system ownership and improving long-term system performance. They have also worked collaboratively with OOWA and other industry stakeholders.”

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Volunteer of the Year Memorial Award

Danielle Ward, Adams Bros
Construction



This year, OOWA updated its Volunteer of the Year Award after a suggestion to honour the memory of a valued member who recently passed away. Going forward, the award will be dedicated each year in recognition of a member whose legacy the association wishes to celebrate. This year, the Volunteer of the Year award was in Honour of long-time OOWA member, Brian Howden .

The recipient of this award has contributed to the following committees: Finance, Governance, Onsite Technical, Communications, New Initiatives, Membership Convention Task group, Strategic Plan Task Group, Chair of Installer Advisory Committee. She has been a part of the Executive of OOWA as the Treasurer for the past 5 years and on the Board of Directors since 2020.

Award presented by John Doner

Arielle Santos

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



Current Line of Studies:

“The objective of my research is to investigate the prevalence and potential importance of shallow drainage infrastructure in rural areas in rapidly delivering wastewater contaminants from OWTS to streams. To address this, I am conducting widespread sampling of residential drains, storm sewer drains and agricultural tile drains discharging to streams in areas with high OWTS density across the Lake Erie Basin.”

With the support of our members and event attendees, Arielle was presented with a \$3,000 cheque, raised through both our Annual Golf Tournament and the 50/50 draw at the Awards Banquet during the Annual Convention & Expo.

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

Christian Obregon

Environmental Studies
Seneca College



Current line of studies:

“Although I don’t yet have extensive real-world experience, I am currently enrolled in Environmental Studies at Seneca College, and I’ve already built a strong foundation through hands-on field and lab work. This includes completing water quality testing using a YSI meter, OWES wetland mapping, and EMAN protocol work. I have also participated in benthic sampling using a D-net with the kick-and-sweep method and completed basic soil investigations using hand augers. In addition, I have practiced the early stages of environmental assessment work through a Phase I-style ESA approach.”

Award presented by Bill Goodale and Katherine Rentsch

This year was the second year of our Equipment Rodeo!



Thank to our sponsor, ESI Group, our equipment provider, Cooper and our volunteers from RVCA!

Congrats to our winners!



Novice Category:

- 1st- Will Rounds
- 2nd- Rob Vanoverbeke
- 3rd- Nico Nirschl

Expert Category:

- 1st- Joey Herrison
- 2nd- Jordan Walker
- 3rd- Ryan Dolderman

International Women's Day

March 8, 2025

About This Day

International Women's Day is celebrated every March 8.

A global movement to recognize women's achievements.

A call to action for gender equality.



The Importance of Equality



Empowered women strengthen families, communities, and economies.



Equality leads to better education, health, and innovation for all.



Equal opportunities create a fairer society where everyone can reach their full potential.

This year, International Women's Day fell on the first day of our Convention.

We asked women in our industry to participate in a survey to ask them questions about their work in the wastewater industry. Here's what a few participants had to say...

Question: What challenges have you faced working in this field?

Answer from Anne Egan, RJ Burnside: Technical challenges come and go on a daily basis and as engineers, we are problem solvers so we come up with solutions. The challenges that are harder to navigate are the ones that involve people and personalities, and we must try to navigate these with professionalism and respect, even when that respect it is not necessarily being returned.

Answer from Luisa DiBernardo from DLK Septic Services: After 30+ years in office environment my biggest challenge hasn't been competence, it's managing an environment where equipment, apparel and norms weren't designed with women in mind. I hope to change that one day.

Question: If you could change one thing about the industry, what would it be?

Answer from Sam Martin, Cromar Environmental: One thing I'd like to change in the industry is to increase the representation of women in the industry! So many companies in this industry have men doing the physical work and being the face of the company while women are in the background doing the designs, paperwork and all the office work. Women are such a big part of the industry and do so much but we rarely see them unless they are actually out on the job site pumping a tank or knee deep in wastewater!

Answer from Michelle Dada, MNT Consulting: I'd like to see more collaboration across the construction industry and clearer support for decentralized wastewater systems, especially for rural communities. Rural servicing can be efficient, practical, and environmentally conscious, and with better support, we can move forward and build family-oriented communities as part of the housing solution.

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.

OOWA's Board Of Directors welcomes Jameson Gallinger to the roster.



Jameson Gallinger
Waterloo Biofilter Systems Inc.

Thank You

OOWA's Board Of Directors thanks Katherine Rentsch for her dedications and commitment to OOWA's Board of Directors over her tenure. Your leadership and contributions were unmatched and we wish you the best of luck!



Katherine Rentsch
Crozier Consulting Engineers

SAVE THE DATE



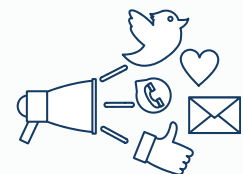
Deerhurst Resort,
Muskoka

March 7-9, 2027

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



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



2027 ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPO

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

OOWA Annual Convention & Expo

March 7-9, 2027

Deerhurst Resort, Huntsville ON

DEADLINE

for submissions

September 30, 2026

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 7-9, 2027.

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

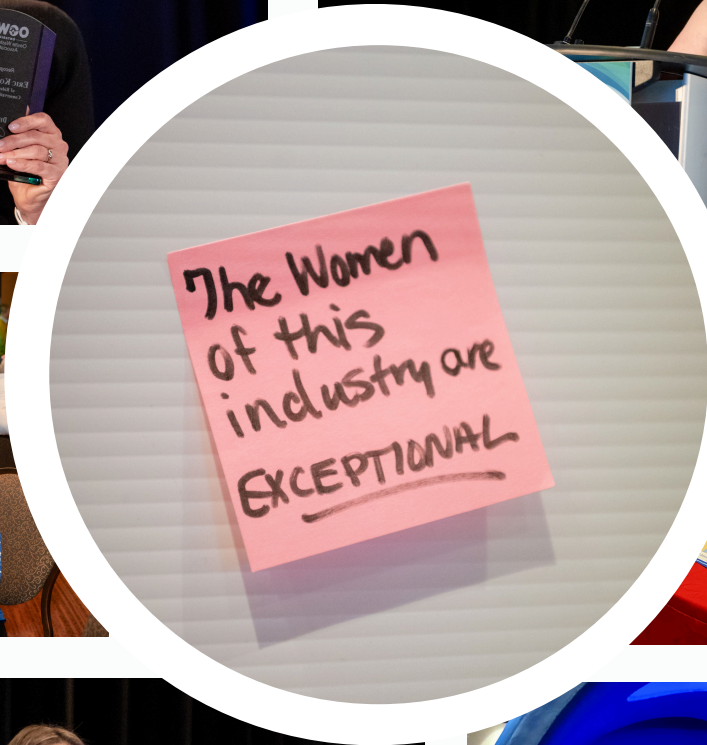
Advantages:

- 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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or send them to info@oowa.org.

GET SOCIAL

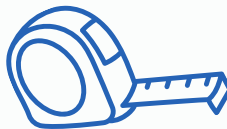
OOWA's Convention brings people together—offering a great opportunity to meet industry peers, make connections, and enjoy the experience.



Trivia Master Brady Straw tested players on their knowledge of International Women's Day, the natural wonders of the world, and bathroom activities.



Table games at the Awards Ceremony and Banquet had participants measuring staff and Board members, asking about committee participation, and exploring the Find a Professional directory for answers



Convention attendees worked hard to earn gamification points by visiting exhibit booths, scanning other attendees' badges, and participating in challenges

