

Alberta Mechanical Officials Society



Spring 2005 Issue

**Promoting
Professional
and
Uniform
Safety
Services**

President's Message



Reg Adair

I was just prodded by a member to put pen to paper and realize how much work and planning it takes to keep AMOS current and meaningful. Without naming individuals for fear of missing a few I would like to express my gratitude to those who step forward and give freely of their time and resources to better our organization. Some serve on the executive, others serve on various industry committees, publish our newsletter, prepare and present training and update courses, work tradeshows, find conference speakers, work on conference presentations, find wine and cheese sponsors, accumulate door prizes, keep/audit our books, attend our conferences without employer support... Thank You.

I encourage everyone to make the effort to get to Red Deer April 29 and 30, there are training courses planned prior to our meeting, Alf Durnie will be there to "talk private sewage", industry committee updates including progress on professional status, the executive is committed to making our conferences meaningful and encourage comments and input, if you're happy tell someone who didn't attend, if you're not happy tell me (anonymous letters and ones wrapped around a brick will not be responded to).

As I write this it is Valentines Day, the day when all men become romantics for their token once a year and watch chick flicks, eat at restaurants we would never even consider and spend a fortune on roses that were one quarter the price a week ago. If you didn't get her a card or you bought her something for the house and she still hasn't forgiven you, bring her to Red Deer, a morning to sleep in with no responsibilities to wake up to, a romantic glass of wine at a table for 10 may do wonders. See you in Red Deer. 

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Education Coordinator by Ducharme

As high lights of the 2004 Fall Annual General Meeting unfolded I was disappointed to learn that Glenn Costello will no longer act as AMOS'S Education Coordinator. Professional development is of a primary importance to all AMOS members. Glenn especially listened to our members needs and made the necessary arrangements and coordination efforts to meet those needs. Thank you Glenn for all your hard work.

Education Coordinator position was filled by Richard Burk. Richard has been silently working on the sidelines for many years with the City of Calgary mentoring new Safety Codes Officers. His passion, commitment, and integrity to the trade and the profession will greatly contribute in establishing and maintaining excellence for AMOS members.



Onsite Wastewater Management by R. Burk

The Alberta Onsite Wastewater Contractors Association held their 2005 convention and trade show at the Banff Centre from January 12 to the 14. There were introductions again of new concepts and new products that keep this industry in flux.

Important information: The Association voted unanimously to change the name to be more inclusive of the various stakeholders, suppliers, and regulators.

The new name will be: **Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association**.

The new website will be at **www.aowma.com** where all available members, scheduled training, activities, and related codes will be available.

The theme of the convention was:

Is Alberta the Leader for practical solutions for onsite systems?

Speakers from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario described their management systems, changes, and what their plans are for the future. It would appear that Alberta is near the lead but B.C. and Ontario have permanent training facilities for installers. This is a proposal under discussion and review by the AOWMA executive.

Pat Lang, Alberta Environment's Program Manager for Drinking Water

Branch, and a member of a Water For Life Committee gave a key note address on the future of water resources in Alberta. There is a real concern for the future of Alberta's lakes, rivers, and ground water table with increased usage by urban communities, agriculture, and industry. There will be various committees established with representatives from all stakeholders and partners to address the issue. The government's design is to reduce consumption by at least 30% through management and stewardship by stakeholders rather than by legislation and regulation. Most of Alberta's water is in the north while the major consumption is in the south with 90% of water consumption being used for irrigation purposes.

The current study suggests that there are 600,000 Albertans obtaining water from private systems that may not have any form of treatment. This exemplifies the requirement for protection of the ground water by installation of acceptable onsite wastewater systems and continued maintenance and management of the systems. For more detailed information or if you wish to comment to the government or be involved on any of the committees go to:

www.waterforlife.gov.ab.ca

An important issue raised by the haulers is the depth of bury and accessibility of the septic tanks. Most vacuum trucks can only lift 27 feet in Alberta. If the tanks are buried deeper and/or installed



in locations that are inaccessible where friction loss occurs in long pump truck hoses, the septic tanks cannot be properly maintained.

There were various presenters giving evidence on the success or failures of the "at grade systems". The general consensus is that the systems appear to work successfully, but particular attention must be paid to installation methods required to prevent freeze ups, even distribution, and continued operation during wet periods.



The secret appears to be keeping the distribution pipe off of the ground, providing drain holes or grading back to the pump chambers, providing vents in ends of runs, and providing good and adequate mulch cover.

Soot

Soot is a common byproduct of any process involving incomplete combustion of carbon. Fortunately for homeowners, the combustion processes in most household appliances are properly vented to ensure fuels undergo complete combustion. Studies of sources of microscopic soot, such as diesel engines and factory emissions, show these particles enter the lower respiratory tract, including the alveoli, and are not easily discharged. Safety Codes Officers Investigating household complaints of

black residue are urged to take these complaints very seriously. The common suspects are candles, attached garage leakage, poor burning back drafting appliances, air intakes pulling combustion products from outside sources, etc. During your interview and inspection process do not discard your heating appliance as being a possible source until you are sure the appliances heat exchangers have been thoroughly inspected for leakage. A hole of any size in a heat exchanger can clearly be a problem, as it may

disrupt the combustion process enough to cause CO and soot production or even raw gas leakage. Soot on the walls and furnishings is unsightly, and may also be a sign of serious problems. It may also be unhealthy, as inhalation of minute particles of soot has been documented to cause health problems.



Recalls 2005

APB 02-05 CSA International and Maytag Corporation Announce Recall to Repair Jenn-Air Gas Cooktops



In cooperation with CSA International, Maytag Corporation of Newton, Iowa is voluntarily recalling approximately 30 Jenn-Air Downdraft Gas Cooktops in Canada. The recalled cooktops have switches located too close to the gas tubing leading to the grill burner.

Electrical arcing can cause the tubing to leak gas and ignite, resulting in a fire hazard to consumers.

Maytag has received four reports of cooktops catching fire during use as a result of a gas leak. There have been no reports of injuries.

The recall includes Jenn-Air model JGD8348CDP downdraft gas cooktops. They have serial numbers xxxxxxxEA through xxxxxxxER. The cooktops were manufactured by Maytag between January 1, 2004 and September 17, 2004. The model number and serial number are printed on a label on the vent fan housing, which is visible in the cabinet under the cooktop.

Consumers who have purchased one of these recalled gas cooktops should contact Maytag to schedule a free, in-home repair. Consumers should stop using the grill or burners activated by the two left hand controls until the repair is completed. The centre and right hand burners can be used.

Reportable Accidents in the Gas Discipline

ALBERTA REGULATION 16/2004 Safety Codes Act

Administrative Items Regulation

Reporting in the gas discipline

12(1) Subject to subsection (2), a person who knows of

- (a) a fatality involving a gas installation or gas equipment,*
- (b) property damage estimated to exceed \$250, if it is caused by a fire or explosion, or*
- (c) an accident involving a gas installation or gas equipment where the accident results in injury to a person that requires professional medical attention, must notify a safety codes officer for the gas discipline of the circumstances and details of the accident and provide the safety codes officer with any other information that the safety codes officer requests and the safety codes officer must notify an Administrator for the gas discipline of the accident.*

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who knows or has reasonable grounds to believe that the accident has been reported to a safety codes officer for the gas discipline.

Carbon monoxide poisonings involving natural gas, and propane appliances are also considered reportable accidents.

A Fire Department could report accidents in the gas discipline (propane and natural gas) to the local Plumbing & Gas Safety Department, and they would forward a report to Carey LaRose, the Provincial Chief Inspector (*Administrator for the gas discipline*). Based on the reports sent to Carey, he is able to identify trends related to accidents in the gas discipline and take appropriate actions to ensure gas safety concerns are addressed.

In the absence of a local Gas Safety Department, reportable gas accidents can be reported to Alberta Municipal Affairs Safety Services at: **1-866-421-6929**





The Alberta Mechanical Officials Society exists for the purpose of promoting professional and uniform safety services for Alberta by working in partnership with government, industry, educational institutions, and the public.

There were a number of questions at the 2004 Fall Conference regarding private sewage systems, Level 2 certification requirements, proposed changes, and rumors of changes. Alf Durnie will be attending this spring conference in Red Deer on April 29/30 to update our membership on these issues.

Courses: IAS Venting Course will be held on April 29, 2005 in Red Deer
2 Day Technical Seminar will be held on April 27 & 28, 2005 in Red Deer
Please Contact Richard Burk for details: Contact: 403-239-7824
rsburk@telusplanet.net



~~Amos 2005 Spring Meeting~~

*Friday, April 29, 2005, 6:30 P.M. - 11:30 P.M. and *Saturday, April 30, 2005, 8:30 A.M.

The Conference will be held at the:

Red Deer Holiday Inn,

A block of rooms set aside for AMOS will only be held until April 6, 2005

Please reserve ASAP



Code of Ethics

Continued Education

Certification

Professionalism

Things that may come to pass for 2005:



The B149 will be issued as a Canadian Standard as of January, 2005 and will be adopted as an Alberta Regulation hopefully in July of 2005.



Uniform Permit Regulation may make an appearance and perhaps be ready by Fall.

Rick Gillen will locate the coveted Red Eye award by April...And

Brad Ball will take it home.



Your Call

Why does this stuff always go down in my area? These are Carrier roof top units. The original tar and gravel roof seemed too costly at the time to replace so this enterprising roofer built a roof system over the existing roof. What do you think we told them? Every once in while someone does come along and substantiates our existence.

