



# WWNS NEWS

**Waste Water Nova Scotia**  
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December 2020

*For the latest of happenings at WWNS, read on...*

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Once again our season is coming to a quick closure and everyone seems to be working diligently to get the last system installed before the freeze up begins. From all accounts, this was a very busy year for construction in Nova Scotia. There were a number of challenges including supply issues and working safely through Covid 19 but hopefully everyone had a safe and successful year.

WWNS began the year normally with the regional meetings in January and February across the province. As the first wave of Covid spread to our region through late winter, it became obvious that our Septic Pumping Expo and Annual General Meeting, held in Truro each spring, would not be possible and the meetings were cancelled. Continued concerns around public gatherings will continue to prevent us from holding in-person meetings until it is safe to do so. The Board of WWNS has continued to meet through virtual meetings and we do hope to have some on-line offerings for education in the new-year. As usual, any suggestions for content are always welcome.

WWNS continues to ask Nova Scotia Environment (NSE) to make the development of sloping sand filters a priority. Some progress has been made and an update from NSE is included in this newsletter.

The educational booklet "A Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems" has been distributed by many industry members in the past as a way to educate homeowners on the usage of their on-site systems. The booklet has been updated and WWNS will be printing 20,000 copies of the booklet for distribution through our members.

I would like to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and hope that you and your families are able to safely celebrate and that you all have a very safe and prosperous New Year!

Eric Morse, P.Eng., NSLS.  
Chairman, WWNS

### With this Issue:

#### **2021 WWNS Membership Application**

[http://wwns.ca/UserFiles/file/WWNS\\_membership\\_form\\_2021.pdf](http://wwns.ca/UserFiles/file/WWNS_membership_form_2021.pdf)

## **WWNS 2020 Bursary Program**

Each year, WWNS offers three annual awards to support students with an interest in on-site wastewater systems.

2020 saw a large increase in the number of applications received. We would like to thank everyone who applied and encourage those who have not yet received an award to please apply again next year.

Congratulations to 2020 Bursary recipient Sarah van den Heuvel

Sarah is the niece of WWNS member Ken Burrows in HRM and is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Environmental Engineering student at Dalhousie University.



**Sarah van den Heuvel**



**Kameron Myles and WWNS Chair Eric Morse**

Congratulations to 2020 Bursary recipient Kameron Myles

Kameron is the son of WWNS member Marlene Myles and is enrolled in the Heavy Equipment program at the Dexter Institute.

Congratulations to 2020 Bursary recipient Blake Rafuse.

Blake is the son of WWNS member Jason Rafuse and is enrolled in the Heavy Equipment program at the Dexter Institute.



**Blake Rafuse**

## **Nova Scotia Environment Update**

### **COVID 19**

Due to the ongoing pandemic this past year has presented some unique challenges. NSE staff have worked hard to keep the application process moving for installations and complete audits as required. Due to gathering restrictions training and examination options have been limited. NSE has moved some examinations to an online format and will continue to explore this format even after the pandemic to provide alternative options for people looking to enter the industry.

### **Selectable sloping sand filter**

As the request of WWNS Nova Scotia Environment began development of a selectable sloping sand filter concept. This work is still underway, but progress is being made. There are no additional updates on when or if this would be available to QPs at this time. We hope to be able to reach out to industry in winter 2021 to discuss in more detail. We will continue to provide updates to the WWNS Board on the progress of this initiative.

### **Home inspections**

We have heard concerns regarding uncertified people inspecting onsite systems and providing conclusions that result in homeowners replacing their systems when a replacement might not have been necessary. NSE will continue working with WWNS to develop an Inspection Best Practices document. This document will provide a baseline for minimum inspection requirements to help provide homeowners a level of quality of service and reliability of information to better inform upgrade and replacement decisions, especially during real estate transactions.

As usual, contact your local NSE office for any file specific concerns or questions on the Onsite Program. For any general questions, Stefan Furey can be reached at [Stefan.furey@novascotia.ca](mailto:Stefan.furey@novascotia.ca).

## **WWNS Meetings for 2021**

WWNS has been receiving many inquiries about the Professional Development Program, the Annual General Meeting and the winter meeting schedule. Due to Covid 19 and Public Health protocols, in person meetings continue to be suspended for the immediate future.

We have been working on solutions to the continuing education program and the attainment of points for the PDP cycle disrupted by Covid 19. **If we are unable to offer opportunities for obtaining points by either in person or virtual meetings this winter, we will let you know how this will be addressed in the spring of 2021**

## **WWNS Membership 2020 and 2021**

Membership renewal for 2021 is included with this newsletter. Many people renew their membership each year at the Annual General Meeting and due to the meeting being canceled this spring there is a large group who did not renew their membership for 2020 (and collect the 10 PDP points associated with it).

You may still renew the 2020 membership and can include it with your 2021 renewal. Please note it on the current form if you are submitting them together.

## **Home Owners Guide to Septic Systems Booklet**

The booklet "A Homeowners Guide to Septic Systems" has been updated and 20,000 copies are being printed for distribution by WWNS members. If you are interested in receiving copies, please contact the WWNS office.

## **Advanced Treatment Unit Repair and Maintenance**

There has been a great increase in the number and variety of ATU's available for use in the province over the past few years. Persons performing repairs or maintenance on these units should ensure they have been trained by the manufacturer in the use of proper materials and procedures.

### **WWNS Board of Directors**

Your current Waste Water Nova Scotia Society Board of Directors are:

**Eric Morse**, Chair, Kings, Annapolis  
**Emery Peters**, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, Halifax, Hants  
**Arthur Backman**, Shelburne, Queens, Lunenburg  
**Tom Curry**, CB Island, Guysborough, Antigonish  
**Jonathan Lepper**, Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou  
**Steve Meuse**, Digby, Yarmouth  
**David Roy** Halifax, Hants

**Darrell MacKenzie and Mark Jodrey**, representing the Septic Tank Cleaners and Portable Restroom Operators for the province.

The contact information for Board members can be found in the "Contact Us" section of the WWNS website at <http://wwns.ca/contact.php> should you have any comments or issues.

### **On-Site Sewage Program Tidbits**

1. The purpose of the newsletters is to keep the industry informed on what is going on and to solicit feedback from industry on any concerns. It is our hope that we can continue to expand the use of email to provide this service in order to cut down on postage costs. If there are changes to your postal or email address, please let us know, so that you do not miss any mailouts.
2. New On-site Sewage Regulations can be found at <http://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/envsewage.htm>
3. On-Site Sewage disposal Systems Standard can be found at <http://www.novascotia.ca/nse/wastewater/docs/on-site-sewage-disposal-systems-standard.pdf>
4. A list of Certified people can be found on NSE's website at <https://www.novascotia.ca/nse/cms/search.asp>
5. Please visit the WWNS website to check your Professional Development Point totals. Members of WWNS should verify that their contact information displayed on the Members Page is correct.
6. Please find included with this newsletter:  
**2021 WWNS Membership Application**  
[http://wwns.ca/UserFiles/file/WWNS\\_membership\\_form\\_2021.pdf](http://wwns.ca/UserFiles/file/WWNS_membership_form_2021.pdf)
7. The latest **newsletter** can always be found on the WWNS website.