

Save the Date: Septic Awareness Week Runs September 14–18, 2026

A Week of Learning and Engagement for Onsite Sewage (Septic) System Owners

The Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA), in collaboration with the Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association (WCOWMA), the Waste Water Nova Scotia Society (WNSS), the Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services (OASIS), the Concrete Precasters Association of Ontario (CPA), Ontario Ministry of Education (MOE), Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing (MMAH), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), invite all onsite sewage system owners across Canada to take part in **Septic Awareness Week**, taking place **September 14–18, 2026**. This initiative is aimed at promoting responsible septic system use and maintenance, with an emphasis on septic system access safety, through education and public engagement.

Kicking off the week is a **free, interactive webinar** on **Monday, September 14, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Open to onsite sewage system owners and users, this online session will provide practical insights, maintenance tips, and expert guidance to help participants care for their systems and learn best practices for protecting nearby water sources.

In response to the conclusions of a 2025 Ontario Coroner's Review regarding septic system safety, OOWA and our participating partners have prioritized greater attention to septic system access safety. This focus will include greater public awareness, increased community outreach & training, and a complimentary webinar on **Wednesday, September 16 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm** featuring representatives from OOWA, the Ontario Association of Sewage Industry Services (OASIS) and the Concrete Precasters Association of Ontario (CPA). Included in this safety initiative is the creation of a new *Septic Safety Checklists* and a *Safety Booklet*, which will be available in both print and digital form, and will be the webinar's main focus.

Throughout the week, OOWA will be sharing daily tips and helpful hints for homeowners on sewage system care via its website and various social media channels. Homeowners are also encouraged to explore OOWA's Homeowner Resources page at www.oowa.org/homeowner-resources for practical guides, videos, and downloadable materials.

With millions of onsite sewage systems in use across the country, it's critical that owners understand how their systems work and what simple steps can extend the life of their investment. *Septic Awareness Week* encourages everyone to be proactive in ensuring these essential systems function efficiently and safely.

"Safety starts with the choices we make every day. As President of the Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association, I encourage every Ontarian and all Canadians who rely on an onsite sewage system to take the time to understand their system, maintain it properly, and recognize the importance of using it responsibly. Septic Awareness Week is a reminder that knowledge only makes a difference when it leads to action. A well maintained sewage system helps prevent accidents, safeguards our water resources, and supports public health. By working together, we can build a stronger culture of responsibility and environmental stewardship across Ontario and throughout Canada." — *Bill Goodale, President of the Board of Directors, Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association; Tatham Engineering Ltd.*

"One of the Association's key priorities is educating the public about onsite wastewater treatment systems. Understanding how these systems work, how to care for them properly, and how to ensure they remain safe is an essential part of responsible ownership. Septic Awareness Week provides an opportunity for system users to learn not only about maintenance and environmental protection, but also about septic system access safety. Damaged, unsecured, or improperly maintained septic lids can pose serious risks to children, pets, and others who may come into contact with them. By raising awareness we can help keep families and pets safe. When it comes to onsite sewage systems, 'out of sight' should never mean 'out of mind.'" — *Kelly Andrews, Executive Director, Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA)*

To register for Ontario's webinars, scan the QR codes provided on the flyer or visit the following links:

[Septic System Basics Webinar](#)

[Septic Access Safety Webinar](#)

Contact

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The **Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association (OOWA)** is a not-for-profit organization that represents professionals within the onsite and decentralized wastewater industry in Ontario. OOWA is dedicated to promoting best practices, advancing education, and supporting sustainable wastewater solutions across the province. Learn more at www.oowa.org.