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ONEIA is the business association representing the interests of the environment industry in Ontario.

Environmental Commissioner offers mix of 'good news' and 'red flags' at annual ONEIA breakfast meeting

On February 1, 2000, Gord Miller was sworn in as Ontario's Environmental Commissioner. Three days later he made his first public presentation at a special breakfast meeting of ONEIA. On March 20 2014, some 60 environment industry representatives, including more than a dozen prospective ONEIA members, gathered in the Toronto offices of Blaney McMurtry to network and meet face-to-face with the Commissioner for the 15th consecutive year.

Over the course of an hour, Miller reviewed a number of topical issues from his last Annual Report, "some lighter and some more substantive," including:

- New compost quality standards — "With labelling requirements now in place, we can start doing business."
- Developing the Ring of Fire in Northern Ontario — "It would be better for everyone if we could weave all the approval processes together. The current approach is very frustrating for mining companies, First Nations and environmental groups."
- The looming shortage of phosphorus — "We need a new phosphorus management hierarchy based on reduce, retain, recycle and re-place."
- Developing Ontario's shale gas reserves — "Before we start drilling, we should have some rules in place."
- The safe disposal of unwanted drugs and 'sharps' — "After sending out

"Developments in environmental regulation, policy and law influence ONEIA and the environmental industry perhaps more than anyone else."

**Gord Miller,
March 20, 2014**



Environmental Commissioner Gord Miller chats with ONEIA members after speech

Clock is ticking on Wastewater Systems Effluent Regulations

Developed under the federal *Fisheries Act*, the regulations set national effluent quality standards based on secondary treatment (or its equivalent). They apply to any wastewater system designed to collect an average daily volume of influent of 100 m³ or more. Operators of wastewater systems with combined sewers overflows (CSOs) also are required to track the quantity and frequency of effluents discharged, submit annual reports and develop a reduction plan. While an estimated 850 facilities across the country require upgrades, only 7 of 109 systems in Ontario are considered medium or high risk.

- 1.1.13 Effluent quality and quantity monitoring and CSO recording began
- 5.15.13 1st quarterly monitoring report due
- 2.14.14 1st annual monitoring report due
- 2.15.14 Deadline to submit first CSO report
- 6.30.14 Deadline to apply for Transitional Authorization (TA)
- 1.1.15 Effluent quality standards and limits in TAs are in force (except for total residual chlorine for <5,000 m³/day systems); application for temporary bypass authorizations may be submitted; acute lethality monitoring begins for systems that meet the effluent quality standards
- 6.30.17 Progress report due for systems with a TA expiry date of 12.31.20
- 6.30.20 1st progress report due for systems with TA expiry dates of 12.31.30 and 12.31.40

our 'secret shoppers,' we gave the program a B+."

Miller also decried that the amendments contained in last year's Budget Bill to Ontario's natural resources legislation, including the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994* and the *Public Lands Act*, were made without public notification and debate. "Shielding such important amendments from scrutiny is not a healthy thing for democracy," he says.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Miller answered questions from the audience on:

- Energy-from-waste — "We need to sort out which high BTU wastes will go to EFW and which are to be recycled."
- Industrial, commercial and institutional waste recycling — "We can't tackle IC&I wastes until the new producer responsibility framework in Bill 91 is passed."
- The vulnerability of infrastructure assets to climate change — "The



province hasn't made climate change adaptation planning a priority yet."

- Ontario's new "excess soil" management guidelines — "It's a big issue in both urban and rural areas."

Despite some setbacks and problems, the Commissioner says Ontario has made real progress in confronting its environmental challenges. Miller says that he recently hosted a delegation from China. "One of the members looked out the window of my Bay Street office in surprise and said 'the sky is so blue here!' The air back home would have been a hazy brown," Miller recounts. "That is because of the culture we have and the business our environmental industry does."



ONEIA welcomes 11 new members

Novus Environmental Inc.

Experienced consultants specializing in the fields of building, local and regional air quality, wind & climate, sustainable water systems, and sound, vibration & EMI/RFI

CH2M HILL Canada Ltd.

Providing quality engineering services in Canada for over 85 years, CH2M Hill is a global leader in consulting, design, design-build, operations and program management

Maratek Environmental Inc.

Manufacturing solvent recovery equipment and providing liquid hazardous waste treatment and disposal, and liquid solvent and silver recycling services

ACG Technology Ltd.

Offering wastewater, stormwater and water treatment equipment, flow measurement and flow control devices, design assistance and installation services

Envirocan Wastewater Treatment Equipment Company Ltd.

Offering a full line of wastewater treatment equipment and systems for the municipal and industrial (including pulp and paper) market sectors

Renteknik Group Inc.

Providing green energy engineering, energy management and optimization, environmental and technology solutions, and commissioning services for existing buildings and new construction

Safety Power Inc.

Designing and manufacturing selective catalytic reduction, diesel particulate filter and oxidation catalyst after-treatment systems for diesel and natural gas on-site power engines

Greyter Water Systems

Offering water recovery and reuse management solutions for reducing the water and wastewater demands of commercial and residential buildings

CENNATEK

A technology development, R&D and consulting company, focusing on industrial applications for agricultural biomass, including biofuels and bio-based specialty chemicals

H2Flow Equipment Inc.

Supplying process, water and wastewater treatment equipment and custom engineered solutions for municipalities and industry (including food, auto, pulp & paper, metal & steel and chemical)

Powersmiths International Corp.

Supplying products and services that reduce electricity waste, identify resource use, manage greenhouse gases and meet corporate greening goals

2014

Environment and Cleantech Business & Policy Forum

After months of hard work, with the valuable participation and support of ONEIA's members, the program for this year's event is set.

Our morning **Municipal Opportunities Panel** features representatives from the City of Toronto, Region of Waterloo and Regional Municipality of Durham, and is followed by our industry expert **Alternative Financing Panel**.

The **Joint Luncheon Address** is provided by Paul Evans, Deputy Minister of Environment, and Drew Fagan, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure.

For the afternoon **'Off-the-Record' Roundtables**, our industry co-chairs are joined by government specialists:

Water: George Mandrapiliadis (MEDTE) and Barb McMurray (MOE)

Waste/Organics: Greg Sones, Tom Kaszas & John Armiento (all with MOE)

Brownfields: Hannah Evans (MAH), Steve Klose, Chris Lompart & Kathleen Anderson (all with MOE)

Air/Approvals: Doris Dumais (MOE)

Green R&D: George Cadete (MEDTE)

The **Evening Reception** is co-hosted by the Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Jim Bradley (invited).

Date: Wednesday April 23, 2014

Time: 7:30 AM - 7:30 PM
(Registration and breakfast at 7:30)

Location: Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel,
525 Bay St, Toronto, M5G 2L2

For more information, contact Marjan at the ONEIA office at 416-531-7884 or mlahuis@oneia.ca.



Policy & Law Report

The Ministry of the Environment has released a new draft of its *Protocol for the Sampling and Analysis of Industrial/Municipal Wastewater*.

Last updated in 1999, the Protocol describes the sampling, analytical, QA/QC and data reporting techniques required to meet the province's nine MISA regulations and many Environmental Compliance Approvals. The draft adopts up-to-date procedures, consolidates and revises tables, incorporates the MEWS data reporting system, and adds a number of parameters often referenced in ECAs. Posted to the Environmental Registry on April 16, the deadline for comments is June 15, 2014. The new Protocol will not come into effect until MOE finishes its revisions and posts a final notice on the Registry.

On April 14, 2014, the Ontario Municipal Board dismissed an appeal by Hunder Development Ltd. to have prime agricultural lands in the Conestogo area rezoned to allow the establishment of a new gravel pit and recycling facility.

There are 17 aggregate licenses active in the Township of Woolwich. Over the last five years, two have been approved, one withdrawn, one is pending and the Hunder application was denied. The OMB determined that

the proposed rehabilitation of agricultural lands on the site did not conform to the Regional Official Plan, while traffic on the haul routes and inadequate noise mitigation measures would result in unacceptable impacts. It also directed the Minister of Natural Resources to refuse to issue an aggregate license.

We don't know how long the provincial Government has left before an election is called, but there are several important environmental bills currently mired in the approvals process.

After months of debate and delay, the *Protection of Public Participation Act* (Bill 83) finally passed Second Reading on April 17, 2014, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy. The bill would establish a judicial process for quickly identifying and dismissing "strategic lawsuits against public participation" (SLAPPs).

The *Waste Reduction Act* (Bill 91) is still stuck in Second Reading debate, but hasn't been discussed in the Legislature since last December. Bill 91 would replace the current Act with a waste recycling and reduction system based on individual producer responsibility.

The *Great Lakes Protection Act* (Bill 6) passed Second Reading on October 9, 2013, and is currently before the Standing

Committee on Regulations and Private Bills.

Finally, the *Invasive Species Act* (Bill 167) was introduced for First Reading on February 26, 2014, and has seen one day of debate in the Legislature. The bill would speed up the identification, control and eradication of invasive species in Ontario.

On April 7, 2014, MOE released its revised *Test Holes and Dewatering Wells: Requirements and Best Management Practices* manual.

In addition to covering the requirements of Regulation 309 (Wells) under the *Ontario Water Resources Act*, the Manual presents a series of best management practices (BMPs) to better protect Ontario's groundwater resources. These cover siting and initial planning, construction, disinfection, equipment installation, measurements and testing, maintenance and repair, well records and tagging, and abandonment.

MOE is also looking for comment on *Water Supply Wells – Requirements and Best Management Practices*. The water wells Manual, issued back in 2010, has been revised to correct some administrative errors and to include a number of the relevant BMPs developed for test holes and dewatering wells. The draft was posted to the Registry on April 7, with a deadline for comments of May 7, 2014.

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