



How the Building Codes can Save our Sewers

Moderator(s): Kenneth Lapp

DATE: Tuesday, October 1st, 2024 TIME: 8:30 am

LOCATION: Salon H,J

GUEST SPEAKERS: Barbara Robinson - Norton Engineering Inc.

DESCRIPTION: Don't miss this lively and engaging presentation on all things sewer, both private and public side. Barbara, who has been studying the building codes for years, will discuss the myriad of ways in which building officials, inspectors, etc., can use the Code to achieve best practices in the installation, inspection, testing and acceptance of the Sanitary Building Sewer, to reduce the risk of groundwater leaking into our public sewer systems. She will also introduce her latest research into inadvertent gaps in the Codes (to wit – women's toilet stalls do not contain sinks or trash cans) that are wreaking havoc with our public sewer systems and the environment. Hear about her efforts with municipal, provincial, and the federal government, to address climate change effortlessly by building better sewers, better.

BIOGRAPHY: Barbara Robinson, P.Eng.

Barbara is Canada's national sewer expert. She has spent her entire career working on all aspects of sewer systems. This included being trained directly by sewer operations staff and learning everything about the operation and maintenance of sewers in the field. Once Norton was established, Barbara became fluent in the Building Code as it relates to sewers, with the help of building officials across Canada. She has studying the standards and specifications for the sanitary building drain and sewer - essential to solving our sewer woes! She is an honorary plumber (just as relates to sewers). Barbara is the public face of sewers in Canada, appearing frequently on TV, radio (she has been CBC's infrastructure columnist since 2015) and in journals and newspapers. She has been speaking directly to public groups for about 5 years, directly teaching residents about all things sewer. She conceived of and brought to fruition the first two National Sewer Guidelines and still finds time to help lower tier municipalities find and fix clean water leaking into their sewers.