



## New Selkirk Training Bursary Announced

WETT Inc. and Selkirk Canada Corporation are pleased to announce the creation of a training bursary. This bursary, funded over a five year period, will cover the course fees for one individual per year seeking WETT certification.

“Creating this award signifies Selkirk Canada’s commitment to the industry,” says Tim Valters, President, Selkirk Canada. Proper training in all aspects of installing, maintaining and inspecting wood burning systems is an essential component of the industry’s product stewardship requirements.”

“WETT is pleased with the support offered by Selkirk Canada and we applaud their commitment to training,” says Anthony Laycock, WETT’s Executive Director. “Annually over 1000 people take WETT courses from coast to coast, and the participation of the manufacturers and industry suppliers is essential for the WETT program,” adds Anthony.

The purpose of this award is to provide financial assistance to a person seeking WETT certification as an installer, system advisor or sweep following the WETT path to certification. A committee struck by WETT Inc. annually will review the applicants to select the nominee. Recipient selection criterion will include but not limited to: prior exposure to the industry, perceived interest in the programs, references provided and perceived financial need.

For more information on the bursary please contact the WETT office or visit our website at <http://www.wettinc.ca/paths.html>.



## Inspection log now required for Basic Inspection Certification

In the last issue of WETT Ink, we outlined the new requirements for Basic Visual Inspection certification. The new changes included the need to complete both the Code Compliance course and the Woodburning Systems course in order to qualify for basic inspection certification.

All levels of WETT certification require the completion of a mandatory declaration of applicable experience in the area where certification is sought. For example, those seeking certification as an installer must complete the Code Compliance course, the Woodburning Systems course and also declare 80 weeks of installation experience.

For Basic Visual Inspection certification, there needs to be a declaration of experience that includes 80 weeks of field inspection activities which must include at least 60 wood burning appliance inspections. Inspection activity can include fire inspections, building inspections, insurance inspections and pre-purchase home inspections provided that at least 60 inspections of wood burning appliances have been completed. A log must accompany the declaration form. The log must, as a minimum, list the dates and locations of these inspections.

This change does not affect those already certified, but inspectors are reminded that they must complete the Woodburning Systems course before December 31, 2009 to maintain their certification.

Regularly, WETT reviews its training program to ensure it is providing the best training for all WETT certificate holders. In its vision that these changes have been made to the declaration process for inspection certification.

# Standards Update

Although there are no code changes on the horizon that will affect your work in the near future, there are some developments underway that you might find interesting. The first report is on proposed changes to CSA B365, the solid fuel installation code. The second is on progress toward an emission test standard for outdoor boilers.

## ***B365 Committee Meeting, November 1, 2006***

It was a full committee room on November 1st with almost all members in attendance, despite the meeting being held during the busy season. There are five WETT instructors on the committee and they were all present at the meeting. The committee has been working on a number of revisions since the last edition was published in 2001.

Please note that the revisions reported on here have not been balloted and approved by the committee, but are part of its working draft. None of these changes would become enforceable until the committee approves the standard in a new edition and that new edition is adopted into building codes.

## **Wood Stoves in Mobile Homes**

For many years the question has been asked: when is a mobile home no longer a mobile home? For example, if a mobile home is permanently placed on a foundation, must a wood stove installed inside be certified for use in a mobile home? This question has become more relevant since the question of outdoor air supplies has been clarified and is no longer mandatory in the National Building Code or CSA B365. The committee is considering the following new clause:

**3.2.3** *When a mobile home is placed at a location in a permanent fixed manner, an appliance shall not be required to be certified specifically for use within a mobile home.*

## **Wood Stoves in Garages**

The rules for stoves in garages have been controversial because some committee members claim that one is without technical foundation and the other is too vague to be enforceable. The rules are stated in subsection 3.3 Hazardous Locations:

*An appliance may be installed in a*  
*(a) storage or residential garage, provided that the appliance is mounted **on a platform** at least 450 mm (18 in) above floor level and protected against physical damage; or ...*

The underlined phrase “on a platform” is a proposed revision that makes the requirement more stringent considering that the 18” height has sometimes been interpreted as being from the base of the firebox, not the appliance legs. There is resistance to the requirement to raise the appliance because the

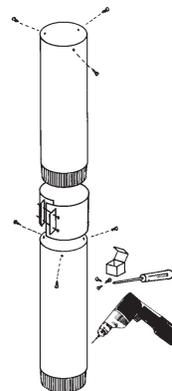
idea that a stove is an ignition source for combustible vapours that are heavier than air has not been demonstrated, especially considering that an operating stove creates a convection current in the garage that would mix vapours thoroughly with the rest of the air. It is also argued that raising the stove can make the installation unstable. The requirement for protection against physical damage is too vague to be enforceable and has resulted in demands by insurance inspectors for steel posts embedded in concrete. There will be more debate on this issue as the revision process continues.

## **Certified Single Wall Flue Pipes?**

For more than a decade the committee has been discussing a move to make testing and certification of single wall flue pipes mandatory. The rationale is that certification would ensure better design and quality control of components like adjustable elbows. The following sentence has been added to the working draft:

*5.4.3 Flue pipes shall be certified to ULC S641.*

The change would have been approved years ago except that the test standard, ULC S641, doesn't include a heat loss per metre test that would substitute for the prescriptive limitation in B365 to a maximum of ten feet in overall length of the flue pipe assembly. The change to certified single wall pipe, therefore, would require cooperation between the B365 committee and the ULC committee, something which has happened in the past, but is a slow process. With about 1.7 million existing wood stove installations in Canada, most of which likely use single wall pipe, the transition to certified pipe would take many years, during which uncertified pipe would need to be acceptable to inspectors. So far, no one has been able to suggest an effective way to make that transition. As a result, this revision may not make it into the next edition of the standard.



*Safety tested and certified single wall flue pipe is considered desirable, but some practical obstacles stand in the way.*

## Outdoor Appliances

There is a move to extend B365 to cover outdoor appliances like outdoor boilers and outdoor fireplaces. So far, the proposed new clauses just cover minimum chimney heights that are still under development.

### Outdoor boilers

Outdoor wood boilers (OWB) have become a popular heating option almost everywhere in rural Canada. Their large uninsulated fireboxes and operating cycle tend to result in a lot of smoke, which has attracted the ire of their neighbours and the attention of environmental regulators, especially in the north eastern US. Two reports on the problems with OWBs have been published by governments there, and there is an emissions test standard for OWBs being developed by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

### Two Critical Reports

The first report was prepared by the New York state Environmental Protection Bureau and published in August 2005. Titled *Smoke Gets in Your Lungs: Outdoor Wood Boilers in New York State*, the report contains the following unambiguous statements:

*“We found that while OWBs are advertised as a clean and economical way to heat one’s house and water, OWBs may be among the dirtiest and least economical modes of heating, especially when improperly used. Even when used properly, OWBs emit, on an average per hour basis, about four times as much fine particulate matter pollution as conventional wood stoves, about 12 times as much fine particle pollution as EPA-certified wood stoves.”*

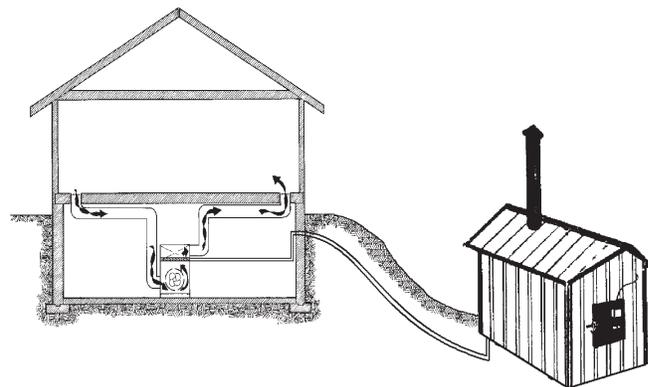
*“The EPA has found heating efficiencies of about 54 percent for conventional wood stoves, and 68 to 72 percent for EPA-certified wood stoves. In comparison, data obtained from manufacturers on tests conducted on OWBs found that they have heating efficiencies ranging from 28 to 55 percent, with an average of 43 percent.”*

The second report was published by the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) in March 2006. Here is a brief excerpt from the report, titled *Assessment of Outdoor Wood-fired Boilers*:

- *OWB use has become more prevalent, commonly replacing indoor woodstoves, and continued increases in sales are likely.*
- *OWBs emit significantly more particulate matter than other residential wood burning devices and short term particulate matter spikes can be extremely high.*
- *OWBs could contribute almost 900,000 tons of particulate matter by 2010.*
- *Local populations are likely subject to elevated ambient particulate matter levels from OWB smoke.*

## An Emissions Test for Outdoor Boilers

Under pressure from these state governments and with the involvement of the US EPA, the ASTM standard is under development. The committee’s chairman, Frank Moore of Hardy Manufacturing, reports that there have been two ballots on the new standard and most negative ballots have been resolved. Another meeting is scheduled for late November 2006 and third ballot is scheduled for January 2007. Mr. Moore is optimistic that the committee will reach consensus on the standard at the ASTM meeting next April. Once the standard is approved by the committee, manufacturers can start testing their new designs. If everything goes well, we may see emissions certified outdoor boilers on the market within a couple of years.



*Outdoor boilers can make a lot of smoke and have attracted the attention of regulators in the US.*

### Pete Singer 1955 - 2006

Pete Singer, the well known and much loved hearth dealer, passed away suddenly on December 4, 2006. Pete was a pioneer, having opened The Efficient Wood Stoves in 1977 in Huntsville, Ontario. He lived with MS for many years but never let the illness slow him down and he never complained about the limitations it forced on him. He was a generous contributor to his industry as a WETT program instructor and as a long time member of the CSA B365 solid fuel installation code committee. Pete was a one-of-a-kind friend and colleague who will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him. Contributions to the trust fund for his daughters can be sent to: Andre Singer in Trust, c/o TD Canada Trust, Huntsville, Ontario, transit #2664, account #6268658.

# WETT Web site Update

Recently the WETT website underwent some major changes to enhance the end user experience. These changes include an improved Members Only section, ecommerce for WETT renewals and Ontario course registrations (as testing bed) and a unique simplified homepage. All new enhancements were finalized and launched on December 1, 2006.

## Members Only section

The Members Only section continues to be a valuable resource to WETT members. This area informs the WETT Membership of the latest news and downloads, gives them full control over their online referral directory listing. WETT members now have the following service sections:

- **Manage Profile** - The Manage Profile form is an efficient way of managing how the WETT office contacts you by both mail and e-mail.
- **Manage Directory** - This form allows you to control how your company's contact information is viewed publicly on search results generated on the "**Find a WETT certified professional**" search form.
- **View Certification** - In this area Members can view the status of their WETT certification and course results from past WETT courses.
- **Get Dues** - This section allows you to preview your "Dues History" and your total dues owing.
- **Search Members** - This form allows WETT Members to search for WETT Certified professionals. If you perform a search and cannot find yourself please make sure that you have completed the form in the "**Manage Directory**" Members Only section.
- **Continuing Education** - This page includes information about continuing education opportunities including the extension approved course list of all non-WETT eligible CE credit courses.
- **Downloads** - Downloads features minutes, forms and graphics that are for WETT Members. If there is a download that you would like and its missing from this section you can e-mail the WETT office and have it added.
- **Discussion Board** - The Discussion Board is a forum for members to post information related to the industry. This section has been simplified by automatically logging in the WETT member.
- **Upload Wallet Card Photo** - Use this section to submit a digital version of your headshot for your WETT wallet card. Ideally WETT needs an image that is in colour, has a blank background, is current and features only your head and shoulders.

Once logged into the Members Only section of the site members are greeted by a new informative interface that personally invites them to navigate through all of the

WETT Member Services. The Members Only homepage now includes WETT Member News, a link to a yearly renewal form (explained in detail below), a quick reference to the WETT Members' current membership status and mailing profile and WETT Ink Newsletter downloads.

## Ecommerce

The Web site now includes online credit card payments for WETT Membership renewals and Ontario course registrations. To pay yearly membership dues a WETT member clicks on the "renew now" button on the WETT Members Only homepage.

This button takes the member to an online membership renewal form. The renewal form previews the Total Dues owing for the member and explains the pricing table for membership renewals. The form also allows the member to update their mailing address information and submit changes to their online members directory listing. Once the form is completed properly and submitted the renewal process is complete. This is a quick and easy way to renew your membership and submit any changes to the WETT office at the same time.

Online payments can be made for Ontario-based courses in 2007. Ontario has been selected as a testing bed for course payments online. If this process is a success it is envisioned that other provinces will also include online payments in the future.

A completely revamped course registration form has been created to include course registrations in multiple provinces on the same submission. Registrants can now easily register in any province that a WETT course takes place regardless of their location and can register for up to three courses at the same time. Please note that online course registrations with payment follow the same cancellation policy as all WETT courses. Details of this policy are displayed online after an online registration has been made.

## Homepage

The wettinc.ca homepage has also been overhauled to quickly direct visitors to separate areas of our website. The homepage clearly breaks these audiences down to home owners (looking for WETT certified members or wood heating information), potential WETT members inquiring about WETT courses and what WETT is and current WETT members with access to the Members Only section. A teaser window appears below these sub-sections which invites visitors to click-through to other sections of the website.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the WETT website please contact the WETT Inc. office at [info@wettinc.ca](mailto:info@wettinc.ca).