

# MEMBER PROFILE

## Monique Sauve

Lead Sewage System Inspections,  
South Nation Conservation Authority

My hometown is a small town called Alexandria in the eastern region of Ontario, 10 minutes from the Quebec boundary. At one time I was a small town girl living on municipal sewers and not very familiar with the term 'wastewater'. I have resided in this area all my life with my two brothers and my mother. I have raised my two beautiful children, Kayla and Kristian on my own so, I have not had the chance to travel the world yet but plan on doing so with my partner Charles in a few years. I enjoy hunting on our 10 acre property and in the summer, we cruise the St-Lawrence River on our boat and enjoy fishing. I also grow a large variety of vegetables and fruits which I harvest and use to then treat my family to good healthy meals. I own a small hobby farm which keeps me quite busy especially our golden pheasants and my oasis of Orchid flowers. Managing all this replenishes me after a long day of work.

As a single mom at 26, I decided to study as a Registered Nurse but during the process realized I was desperately craving the outdoors. So I returned to school and completed an Environmental Technical course and that's when I started working for Raisin Region Conservation on the Loch Garry and Middle Lake study.

I spent two years on the project enjoying the outdoors. At this point, I discovered the importance of our Conservation

Authorities (CA) throughout Ontario with their projects and programs that protect nature in our own backyards. I put in all my efforts and hoped that I would someday be working for a CA full time. In 1998 I was hired by South Nation Conservation (SNC) as a staff person in their communications department. During that time, SNC had the opportunity to apply for a contract position assisting the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU) with the septic inspection program in the five united counties of Prescott-Russell, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. The program involved 12 municipalities all together. SNC was awarded the contract and a description job was posted. I applied along with several hundred applicants and was granted the office manager position. This is where it all started for me and septic systems.

I then became an inspector for the United Counties of Prescott-Russell for 2 years and then transferred shortly afterwards to the position of Compliant Officer. This is when I got to see all the different types of systems that existed in our area. I was challenged with different situations; building code interpretation, being a female in the field, public confrontations and gaining excellent hands-on experience. At times I wanted to give up, but didn't. With all that experience, I was then designated as the Deputy assisting the EOHU Chief Building Official. In 2012, the EOHU decided to step down and the septic inspection program was returned to the municipalities. With the support of my CA, we approached those municipalities and were granted management of the program in 12 municipalities in the eastern region.

Now CBO of this area and 16 years in this field, this is a very big accomplishment



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for me. In less than 10 years, I have seen some significant changes in our area and a result I have become a true believer in public education. This is what really makes the difference. I have noted in the past few years, that individuals in the industry have taken this to a much higher level.

I am proud of my region, which is the reason for my devotion as a regulator. I have learned so much in this industry and am still learning. The challenges I have dealt with in the past seem to improve with every passing year. I now see the dedication of our contractors, designers, pumpers and consultants which makes my job easier. I am surrounded by knowledgeable people in this industry which is what keeps me going every day. I have and will continue to devote myself to the onsite industry. I cannot see myself doing anything but that, as my children would say.

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