

They were WOW-RA'ed

Joslyns recipient of 'Rejuvenate a Family' septic system donation
by **Emmitt B. Feldner of The Review staff - Plymouth, WI**



Local and state officials and members of the Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association (WOWRA) joined Barb Joslyn (center) and family members for a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday for a new private onsite wastewater treatment system (below right) at the Joslyn home on County V, donated and installed by WOWRA members as part of their "Rejuvenate a Family" program. — Review photos by Emmitt B. Feldner

CASCADE — For Barb Joslyn, the group's acronym said it all.

The Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association installed a brand-new private onsite wastewater treatment system at the County V home of Ron and Barb Joslyn, just north of Cascade, Thursday, to kick off WOWRA's "Rejuvenate a Family Day" program.

Association members donated all materials for the design and installation of the system for the Joslyn family, who have struggled with more than \$2.5 million worth of medical bills for Ron over the past decade and could not afford to replace their aging system.



“God bless you for the work you’ve done here,” Barb told the WOWRA members present for a dedication of the donated system. “That’s how I’ll always think of you – WOW-RA!”

She professed her deep belief in God and the human spirit, then stated, “You’ve shown me here today that he still lives in us.”

“The inaugural ‘Rejuvenate a Family Day’ began as an idea to give back to a family in need. I could not be more pleased with the outcome for WOWRA, our member companies and especially the Joslyn family,” local WOWRA member Damon Huibregtse of Dirkse and Huibregtse in Hingham, one of the contractors who worked on the system, said.

Local and state officials, including Secretary of the Department of Safety and Professional Services Dave Ross, State Sen. Joe Leibham and Sheboygan County Administrative Coordinator Adam Payne, were on hand for the dedication ceremony.



Ron and Barb Joslyn express their thanks to WOWRA members who installed a private onsite wastewater treatment system at their rural Cascade home.

“I find it incredible when people give back like this,” Ross said to the assembled association members.

“It’s important for your industry to get the message out, how sophisticated and beneficial it is to have new technology on your property,” Leibham noted. WOWRA President Aaron Ausen of Dalmaray Concrete of Janesville noted that the Joslyns’ old system was “decrepit. It was endangering them and neighboring wells.”

Once the Joslyns were selected for the initial “Rejuvenate a Family” project, 90 percent of the material needed had been donated in a matter of three or four days, according to Ausen.

“I’d like to see this roll out as an annual or biennial event. This is what non-profit organizations should do,” Ausen added.

“We’re so proud your first initiative was here in Sheboygan County,” Payne told the WOWRA members. “What you do is so important for the environment and our community, but you don’t get a lot of recognition.”

“It’s honorable to see and a joy to see competitors come together for a good cause,” WOWRA Executive Director George Klaetsch said. He said the project represented an \$8,000 to \$10,000 investment on behalf of the association members involved.

Work on the removal of the old system and installation of the new one began Thursday morning and was completed by the end of the day.

Klaetsch also lauded the help from the Joslyns’ family members and neighbors, both for the project and for the Joslyns in general.

He said the “Rejuvenate a Family” effort is part of WOWRA’s philosophy of environmental stewardship and to maintain and enhance Wisconsin’s public health and safety.