



# IN THE TRENCHES

December 2005

**"Drainage Doesn't Cost - IT PAYS!"**

[www.drainage.org](http://www.drainage.org)

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## From the President's Desk

Hello fellow members,

Hard to believe this is my last message for the year. As I write this it looks like winter is here and I hope it doesn't come on too strong, at least until after Christmas.

You all should have the convention package by now, so please fill them out and send them in as soon as possible. It makes it a lot easier for John and his crew to have everyone pre register, so they know the numbers for the hotel activities.

The convention agenda is enclosed as well, and I think you will agree, it will be excellent. Hats go off to Frank for the program.

The only subject I have to discuss at this time is whether we should be investing some resources to research. There are some issues such as source water protection, tile water quality, what does a farmer do when he has a nutrient problem, to stop it from going into the water sources, also water table management and how it can help water quality and quantity to name a few.

We should all think of how we can better position ourselves to properly have the scientific information to offset the negative attitudes there are about what we do.

There are some agricultural groups such as Ontario Pork and Ag Care, who are investing in that cause. Should we be helping these groups by investing in their research or investing in our own? It is something to think about.

In closing, I do hope you are all having a successful year and look forward to seeing you at the convention. Gail and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and prosperous years to come.

Yours sincerely,  
Steve Cronsberry

## Your LICO Website

Your website - [www.drainage.org](http://www.drainage.org) is now five years old. We set it up in April 1998. Has it met your needs? Is there something else you would like to see available on the site? The original purpose was to promote work for contractors, promote a positive image of tile drainage, to provide positive information for persons having an interest in tile drainage. It is your site so make use of it. Have you linked it to your own website?

## Vegetative Strips Soak Up Runoff – (Excerpts Ontario Farmer, November 8, 2005)

The 20 metre by 20 metre piece of dark soil next to the yard looks like any other fall-seeded patch of wheat. However, that's the cover crop. Underneath, tall fescue and ryegrass will grow through, which will eventually filter away the nutrients from the barnyard runoff.

A small holding tank has to be installed. The tank will catch the liquid and then pump it up to a perforated header pipe, which will sit from 12 to 24 inches above the ground at the top of the slope of the vegetative filter strip.

The water then flows out and into the grass. It will take about four hours to pump the water from a typical rain from the holding tank to the filter strip.

The pipe and pump will be set up so the water will back flow into the tank to avoid frozen pipe problems

Previous vegetative filter strips had something like a gravel strip at the top, into which the runoff was deposited. Those strips would eventually clog up with sediment. It's hoped the perforated pipe, with the runoff applied with pressure, will solve that problem.

The filter strip is two percent slope. The barnyard is sloped appropriately that the water will run to the point at which the holding tank will be installed.

Vegetated filter strips do have to be engineer approved.

Soil structure is also important for the feasibility of a vegetated filter strip. If it is heavy clay, they might as well stop at that point. Lighter soils work better, although there are limitations at both ends of the soil structure spectrum.

## For Curious People - Ross Irwin

Ross Irwin upon retirement in 1986 deposited many files photos and slides with the University of Guelph Archive (in the McLaughlan Library) as well as in the Agricultural Museum Archive at Milton. These two collections are now at Guelph. The files etc are principally on Ontario land drainage as well as on early farm machinery. Anyone interested in seeing what is available can check the website and then arrange to view the material in the University of Guelph Library. There are two collection numbers in the "Ross Irwin Collection" - RE1 OAC A0711 which is the original university collection deposited in 1986. Material transferred in 1999 from Milton is found under RE UOG A1877.

Start by typing - <http://trellis3.tug-libraries.on.ca>. That gets you to the library catalog. In the search Box type in one of the collection numbers above and then in the View box check "Full" in the centre and then push Search. You can then highlight any entry to see its contents. Should you want to look

at it then record the number and come to Guelph when the Archive is open to see it. Actually quite simple.

The old records of the Ontario Farm Drainage Association are deposited in the Ontario Archive at Toronto and can also be viewed. To save your time it is best to advise them when you plan to visit.

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If you have articles, events or notes of interest you wish to add to this newsletter, please send your submissions (not more than **225** words) to the following:

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## **Convention News – John Johnston**

Frank has lined up what promises to be a great program for the 2006 convention. Starting on Monday January 23 (the date on the conference registration form says the 24<sup>th</sup> but it IS the 23<sup>rd</sup>) with a computer mapping course, then WHMIS and Red Cross on the 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lamplighter – a stimulating program on environmental programs as they affect tile drainage and ending with a great speaker on the new engine emission requirements for 2007.

Join you friends for a fantastic lunch in the Atrium on Wednesday – everyone who registers for the conference gets a ticket but if you want to bring your companion you will need to purchase a ticket for them.

The trade show will be full of suppliers of equipment and services that contractors need. Come see the new offerings for 2006.

See you in London and DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER EARLY!

## **Eastern CA Rejects Wetland Rules – (Excerpts from Ontario Farmer, November 8, 2005)**

The board of directors on the Raisin River Conservation Authority is the second CA board in eastern Ontario to vote against enacting the province's new generic rules at this time, which would have allowed them to expand their wetland designations. The neighbouring South Nation CA was the first board to turn down implementing the new rules.

“The board decided we didn't have the resources to carry this out.”

The new rules will allow the CAs to, “use actual hazards as a trigger line,” rather than roads or lot lines.

The CA will continue to regulate the coastal wetlands along the St. Lawrence as they have for 20 years

The Raisin River CA “is in the development of a source water protection plan, mapping everything.”

## **Conservation Authorities Streamline Wetland Rules – Excerpts Ontario Farmer**

Conservation authority (CA) regulations are being revised so that wetlands will be included in the regulated areas specified in the Generic Regulations. Each CA will be holding public meetings in the near future to explain the revisions.

The new regulation's title “The Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourse Regulation” replaces the existing “Conservation Authority Fill Construction and Alteration to Waterways” regulation.

## **Generic Regulation for Conservation Authorities – Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation**

A primary mandate of Conservation Authorities in Ontario is to prevent the loss of life and property due to flooding and erosion, as well as conserve and enhance natural resources in the watershed.

The existing regulation, the Fill, Construction and Alteration to Waterways Regulation is to be replaced by The Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses, (Ontario Regulation 97/04), also called the “Generic Regulation”; one consistent regulation will be administered by all Conservation Authorities in Ontario. This is **not a new piece** of legislation, but rather amends the already existing regulations. Conservation Authorities have until May 1, 2006 to adopt the amended regulation.

Through the Generic Regulation, Conservation Authorities can:

- Prohibit, regulate or provide permission for straightening, changing, diverting or interfering in any way with the existing channel of a river, creek, stream or watercourse or for interfering with a wetland.
- Prohibit, regulate or provide permission for development if the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land may be affected by the development.

The following development activities require permission:

- The construction, reconstruction, erection or placing of a building or structure of any kind,
- Any change to a building or structure that would have the effect of altering the use or potential use of the building or structure, increasing the size of the building or structure or increasing the number of dwelling units in the building or structure,
- Site grading, or
- The temporary or permanent placing, dumping or removal of any material, originating on the site or elsewhere.

A permit from the Conservation Authority does not replace building permits or any other permits.

What type of lands are affected?

**River or stream valley systems** – depressional features associated with a river or stream, whether or not they contain a watercourse; floodplains, stable valley slopes and their allowance, unstable valley slopes and 100-year stream bank erosion allowance plus stable slope allowance. Allowances of 15 metres are applied to all riverine and shoreline hazard limits.

**Watercourses** – depression in the ground in which a flow of water regularly or continuously occurs.

**Wetlands** – land that is seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water or has a water table close to or at the surface, contributes to the hydrological function of a watershed through connection with a surface watercourse, has a hydric soil caused by the presence of abundant water; or, has vegetation dominated by hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. **This does not include periodically soaked or wet land that is currently used for agricultural purposes and no longer exhibits wetland characteristics.**

*Editor's note Based on the articles included in the newsletter the generic regulations are not receiving unanimous support. There will be meetings held by local Conservation Authorities this winter in anticipation of adopting or not these regulations by the deadline of spring 2006. Members should attend these meetings to participate in the discussions so there are no surprises when you go to start work in 2006.*

## Lines from Lambton - Dean Hodgson

The fall weather in Lambton County has been almost perfect for farmers and contractors this year. Much of the soybean harvest was completed by early October and most were pleasantly surprised with their yields after such a dry summer. Most of the corn harvest was also completed by the end of October though some delayed harvesting to let Mother Nature help dry down the crop. Some were harvesting corn in early October with less than 20% moisture and many were reporting " humongous " yields, some so high I wouldn't dare repeat them. The sugar beet harvest appears to have been completed by mid-November with above average yields being reported. Most of the beets are piled at central locations for winter storage to be trucked to the refining plant in Michigan when required. Hopefully they will have better luck than last year when many of the beet piles spoiled because of wet, warm weather.

With all this perfect weather many farmers are on the land daily, plowing, discing and cultivating. What ever happened to no-till and those high fuel prices ? The tile drain contractors in Lambton were forced to raise their prices because of these rising costs but nothing seems to deter our Lambton farmers from more drainage.

One of Lambton County's biggest sugar beet producers and LICO member Steve Vokes had the misfortune to break his leg during the harvest season. When last seen however, he was carrying on with the work, driving trucks, tractors or whatever else was required to keep the Vokes Bros. Enterprises surging forward. Vokes Bros. along with all other Lambton County tile contractors are busy taking advantage of the beautiful fall weather conditions.

Spoke with Bob Mater down in Euphemia Township and they have had another good year tiling. Both Euphemia and Dawn townships where Bob generally works have an over abundance of gas pipelines. Over the years Bob has learned to work with these pipeline companies as they cross many of the farms in south Lambton. However, like most contractors he finds it is more and more difficult to operate his business while trying to abide with the seemingly endless changes concerning on site locations. Every year we seem to have new personnel, different locate methods, even more rules and regulations which always seem to cost the contractor more time and money.

Everyone agrees we should Call before we Dig but the system needs to be more stable. Stick with what works, quit changing methods and personnel every year. Lets hope Call One doesn't have yet another series of meetings next spring to explain their new plan to discouraged contractors.

Bob tells us his cousin Eugene Barnes of Dawn Township has purchased Allen Griffin's rubber-tired plow and has been busy tiling all fall. Eugene Barnes has been operating his Buckeye trencher for many years and already has many customers in Dawn Township. Some years ago he and his brother operated a dozer-plow in the area before going their separate ways. Gordon Barnes, their father, was in the tile drainage business in Lambton County for many years and so the two boys grew up working in the business.

There was also some sad news this fall. On October 11 / 05 Stewart Saul of Camlachie, a former President & Director of LICO, passed away at the early age of 68. Stewart Saul was in the tiling business in Lambton County for many years and was well known by all of us old-timers. Stew farmed, tiled and later expanded into other businesses in the Sarnia area. He will be missed by all his family and friends throughout the district.

At the end of September we finally got a copy of OMAFRA's " new " Drainage Program. It is difficult to understand why it took so long as there were no improvements to the old program BUT there were a lot of changes. Any property owner planning drain improvements should thoroughly study the new program before signing a petition. This new program has cut back on items eligible for grants but has added more regulations and continued downloading onto the municipalities. Perhaps we should be thankful most of the existing benefits were retained and for this we can probably thank our committee volunteers. After waiting 14 months any plan seems like good news.

## Lines from Lambton - (Cont'd.)

Of course funding will be lower, down to 6 million from the 10 million just a few years ago even though all cost keep rising. Fewer grants will be available for landowners who wish to improve problems on their own property. Many of these will be assessed as benefits to the property owner so now many solutions to soil and environmental problems will be postponed. Engineers will now be responsible for deciding whether a grant may be paid on agricultural lands. This adds to the engineers' work and responsibility. Guess who will pay for these extra costs ?

Of course in Part 11 it is pointed out OMAFRA has no obligation to pay grants. Drainage grants are provided at the discretion of the Minister. This particular government seems to feel any drainage improvements are only for enriching farmers rather than providing benefits for the environment and all of society.

OMAFRA, MNR, MOE, Fisheries and Oceans, Conservation Authorities and all sorts of environmental groups still make recommendations on every municipal drain but are not assessed any responsibilities. These groups all have budgets enabling them to send paid professionals to every drain meeting often making recommendations which add cost to the drain. Many are capable of recommending valuable improvements to a project but they should be assessed the extra costs as many of these improvements are often a benefit to society as a whole rather than the individual property owners on the drain. All these groups should be assessed in accordance with their input to the project. Perhaps even some federal funds could be available through the DFO. During the upcoming federal election would be a good time to ascertain the mandate of the DFO. A drainage ditch in the back 40 seems a long way from the ocean.

LICO and all drain contractors in his area should contact and support George Underwood of Wingham whose complaint appeared in the September issue of "In the Trenches." We need people like George Underwood to step up and lead the way but all rural property owners must provide support. There is too much outside interference with no responsibility. We all know we must protect our soil, water and the environment. We can construct drains that will better protect the environment as well as save our water. But all society must share in these costs.

## Something To Think About To Promote Your Business - Ross Irwin

Climate change is with us. Bone dry summers, excessively wet seasons, high intensity rains, low ground water levels. There are proposals to change the design criteria for drainage where there will be a reduction of return period for major rainfall and runoff events. The old standards are probably in need of change. Change will cost money. All of the above affects your business. You need data to support whatever choice you might wish to propose.

Your contribution is to be aware of what is happening on your piece of real estate. Most contractors have a rain gauge, or your tile supplier should give you one, but few monitor the ground water level at the depth where you do much of your work. You should.

Ground water observation wells are easy to make, monitor and to record the number in a book.. You might wish to pay a child a buck a reading to encourage a work habit.

Choose a site on level ground away from a work area. Auger a 4 to 6 inch hole to a depth of 6 feet or more. Fill the hole with a length of 75 or 100 mm perforated plastic tubing. Drop about 100 mm of small stones in the bottom of the tubing and backfill around the outside if needed to hold it in place. Put a removable cover (tin can) over the upper end of the tubing.

Ground water elevation will soon come to an equilibrium level in the tube. Measure down to the water level and record the value and the date in a book. The period between measurements is up to you as change will be slow most of the year but more frequent when the water table is rising or falling.

Measurement of water level is easiest done by blowing in a length of small plastic tubing and listen for bubbles. Some use a small bell or nut on a string and listen for a "plop". The hardest is with a measuring tape, but anything that works is fine.

## Preparing an Emergency Plan

An emergency plan is the answer to the question “What do we do if a disaster occurs?” It can be simple – for an office it is a fire evacuation plan to get everyone safely out of the building and a call to 911 – so don’t forget to put a sign with the phone giving the street address – many people forget that when they are in a panic! For a more complex workplace – a manufacturing plant, oil refinery etc it is more complicated because the risk is greater.

The process for determining risk requires considering all the things that could occur and that have the potential for disastrous consequences. Natural events – such as winter storms, tornados, lightening storms; technological events – such as building collapse, communications failures, power outages, fire, release of hazardous materials, disease (foot and mouth) and human events – such as accidents, arson, sabotage, strikes, etc. are risks that should be evaluated and prepared for.

The fourteen steps to prepare a plan are as follows:

1. Assemble a team capable of providing specialized knowledge and carrying out tasks in their area of expertise.
2. Identify all possible risks and assess each in terms of frequency ( how often) and severity (how serious the consequences could be).
3. In consultation with outside groups ( police, fire departments, municipal officials) determine where your responsibility ends and where your plan must interface with those of others.
4. Make a list of available resources that may be called upon in an emergency. Start with obvious – fire, police, ambulance, provincial and federal contacts and extend the list to such things as rental agencies and back up suppliers of critical items.
5. Develop a system for notifying the required people. Who decides when people are to be notified? Who needs to be notified? How will they be notified? Who notifies them?
6. Assign duties to individuals and back ups to the individuals.
7. Put together a management and control structure that clearly identifies duties and responsibilities.
8. Define the communication system that will be used and a back up in case that is the reason for the emergency. Ultimately, people delivering notes and messages may have to be relied on.
9. Liaise with other groups in the community to coordinate plans.
10. Draft a plan and circulate it to the all involved for review and suggestions.
11. Test the plan.
12. Revise the plan according to what has been learned in the tests – both in terms of filling in details and making changes, additions and deletions to make it fit.
13. Have the owners approve the plan.
14. Publicize the plan and inform your staff so that everyone knows about it.

## Research Rewrites P Runoff Thinking – (Excerpts from Ontario Farmer, October 18, 2005)

Researchers exploring how phosphorus interacts with soil and water have recently zeroed in on spring thaw as a critical link in the nutrient cycle.

The preliminary findings from a project conducted by University of Manitoba soil scientists challenge conventional strategies for reducing the amount of phosphorus leaching into surface water.

Traditionally people thought that zero-tillage, vegetative buffer strips and vegetative riparian areas were going to solve all our problems.

It's generally accepted that reducing soil erosion is a good thing to do on many fronts, including reducing nutrient runoff into water bodies. The prevailing theory is that nutrients are bound to soil particles, so keeping the soil intact will keep those nutrients at home.

Studies have shown that the losses of phosphorus from zero-tilled and perennial forage land to surface water are nearly as high as those from cultivated land. The difference is that this phosphorus is dissolved into runoff water.

In fact, phosphorus dissolved in water is frequently the dominant form of phosphorus lost from farmland.

Researchers speculated that one explanation could be phosphorus released from vegetative material during snow melt.

To test that theory a team of scientists collected plant remains from four fields that sloped towards a waterway. Three of those fields were conventionally tilled fields, and one was zero-tilled.

The residues were soaked in water, frozen and thawed to simulate spring thaw.

They found that the water-extracted nutrients in the plant tissues from crops and riparian vegetation were frequently greater than what was collected from the top centimeter of soil that might interact with snow melt runoff.

“Vegetative residues contained up to five to 10 times more water extractable phosphorus than the top one centimeter of soil.”

No-till fields and forage fields have more plant residue, which contains nutrients that are released as part of the nutrient recycling process as the plants decay. Those nutrients are freed, reclaimed by the soil and used to feed a new generation of plants.

However, it appears that at least some of those nutrients are also picked up by the spring run off and carried into waterways.

We need to consider the benefits of soil to intercept the nutrients lost from vegetation.

*Editor's Note – Is this an opportunity to point out the benefit of tile drainage in reducing surface runoff during spring melt?*

## Tile Contractor's Moto

**W**e the willing, led by the incompetent, doing the impossible, for the ungrateful, have for so long, done so much with so little, that we are now qualified to do anything with nothing.



## Report on LICO Summer 2005 Tour - Franklin Kains

### June 25, 2005; Tavistock

The tour was conducted by Joe de Laronde and Dana Boyter, fish habitat biologists with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Sarnia and Burlington).

In the morning they reviewed the biology of baitfish particularly as to how it relates to the ditches that are used as outlets for agricultural drainage works. They talked about the many channel features – the material of the bottom, riffles, pools, stream bank vegetation, woody debris as well as water temperatures and nutrient loading – that can be beneficial to a particular species of fish for their habitat or that enhances their food supply. They discussed the classification of drains and how this will affect the restrictions that are placed on construction on the drain. Finally, they suggested some simple features that could be included in a drainage works plan that could enhance the habitat for the bait fish.

In the afternoon we took a bus tour to visit 4 different sites showing a variety of drains – cold water, warm water, natural, improved. Electro shocking was used to demonstrate the number of species of fish in these waterways. Each site yielded between 4 and 7 species including minnows, darters, dace, shiners, suckers, chub, trout and pike (on the previous day's dry run).

Take home messages.

A variety of channel features will attract a variety of baitfish.

Overhanging trees and vegetation not only provide shade but also food in the form of bugs that drop into the water.

The formal classification of ditches are not rigid but are rather a guide. They may be modified by DFO upon an on-site inspection. If the local DFO decision regarding a ditch is a concern, a contractor can ask for a review by DFO management.

A particular piece of a drain may have an affect on a fishery some considerable distance downstream. It could be the source of food or may be the site for spawning for only a short time each year even if the drain flows intermittently.

The review of plans for a ditch works by DFO is reactive to the proposal presented. They do not necessarily suggest the best alternative available. There may be better ways to do it.

Examples of mitigation features discussed: pools created in ditch bottoms, rip rap around the outlet to prevent scouring, leaving trees next to ditches for shade (replacing perforated tile with solid tile near the tree).

DFO seldom has funding for such features but the conservation authorities or stewardship councils might

The commercial bait fish industry includes 2000 harvesters and licenced dealers and is the third largest segment of the Ontario fishery. Much of their harvest comes from agricultural drains.

Similar workshops will be offered by DFO in the future.

*References: The Baitfish Primer by DFO and Bait Assoc. of Ont., 34 pages, covers 82 species of baitfish.*

Stats

Total attendees – 18	10 contractors	1 media
	2 consultants	1 OMAF
	1 drainage supervisor	2 instructors
	1 coordinator	(9 did not show)

## **Drainage of the Soil -- Part 13** - Ross W. Irwin

### **Overview of Drainage Need**

There are few farmers who would dispute the need for drainage in order to improve the potential of their lands. Benefits from drainage are very extensive and include a wide range of factors affecting crops, livestock and machinery performance. It is, however, difficult to quantify drainage benefits in economic terms, in respect of improved yields, animal live weight gains and field working conditions as these will depend upon a number of variable factors such as the soil, the local climate and the standard of farm management. Particularly important in quantifying the worthwhileness of drainage works is the actual drainage status and land use before any improvements are carried out. In this respect four situations can be identified:

1. *Reclamation— Drainage to make agriculture possible.*

Meaningful farming is not possible without drainage but given the right soil, even high intensity farming may be possible afterwards. Soundly conceived reclamation projects can bring high rewards. However, in today's atmosphere of concern for the environment projects such as the reclamation of the Holland Marsh, or even the drainage of much of the County of Kent would not be tolerated.

2. *The farming breakdown situation.*

The farmer must either abandon his present farming system or improve the drainage of the land. This implies that the existing drainage is poor, yields are low, and cultivation and harvesting are difficult. In these circumstances very significant benefits may be expected after drainage.

3. *Drainage for improved productivity.*

This is the difficult situation economically, as the initial state of the land may vary from being close to breakdown to being sufficiently good that drainage may not effect any significant improvement.

4. *Drainage to change the farming system.*

In this case drainage is one of the investments which might be made to change from one farming system to a more profitable one. Changing from low-output pasture and other grassland to some form of cereals is one example. Care is needed in comparing the economics of the two systems because all capital inputs for machinery, building renovation and stock, etc. as well as drainage must be included, except perhaps in the case of the isolated field being brought up to the standard of other land.

## **If A Dog Was The Teacher You Would Learn Stuff Like:**

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them. Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy. When it's in your best interest, practice obedience. Let others know when they've invaded your territory. Take naps. Stretch before rising. Run, romp, and play daily. Thrive on attention and let people touch you. Avoid biting when a simple growl will do. On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass. On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree. When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body. No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout..! run right back and make friends. Delight in the simple joy of a long walk. Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough. Be loyal. Never pretend to be something you're not. If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 25-26, 2006**  
**LICO Conference**  
**Best Western Lamplighter Inn**  
**591 Wellington Rd., London, Ontario**  
**N6C 4R3**  
**Phone: (519) 681-7151**  
**Fax: (519) 681-3172**  
**Toll Free (800) 528-1234**



**February 7-9, 2006**  
**Canadian International Farm Equipment Show**  
**International Centre, Toronto**

**March 20 and 21 2006**  
**7th Annual Ontario On-Site Wastewater**  
**Conference and Exhibition**  
**Delta Kitchener Hotel and Conference Centre**  
**Kitchener, Ontario**  
[www.oowa.org](http://www.oowa.org)

**NOTE: 2005 Municipal Directories are still available.**



## Passings

**Dr. Lyman Willardson** - October 5, 2005, Professor, Utah State University, performing research related to drainage and irrigated agriculture.

**Dr. Hugh Ayers** - November, 2005, Professor at the University of Guelph, supporter of the formation of OFDA and the operation of the Drainage Courses at the University.

**Julia (Overweel) Darbishire** - July 6, 2005, Julia was the wife of Honorary Life Member Peter Darbishire.

**Stewart Saul** - October 2005, former Tile Drainage Contractor, Director and President of LICO.

## **Ontario Government Acts To Preserve Province's Agricultural History- OMAFRA News** *Release December 2, 2005*

### ***Not-for-Profit Agricultural Organization To Take Over Milton Museum***

MILTON - The Ontario government is preserving the province's valuable agricultural heritage by taking action to transfer ownership of Country Heritage Park, in Milton, to Country Heritage Experiences (CHE) Inc., Carol Mitchell, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Leona Dombrowsky announced yesterday.

"Country Heritage Park is an integral and valued part of Ontario's agricultural community and this province's history," said Mitchell. "The government has been working on transfer options with CHE since 2001 and we are now taking action to ensure that the museum and its collections continues to remain viable and accessible to all Ontarians."

The McGuinty government is providing \$750,000 towards support of the Park. In addition, a further \$143,000 will be provided to help maintain and preserve the collections.

Country Heritage Park was originally known as the Ontario Agricultural Museum. The museum, established in 1967 as part of the country's centennial celebrations, was intended to stimulate public awareness of the evolution of Ontario's agriculture and food system and preserve its heritage. CHE, a non-profit organization, took over its management and operation in 1997.

Situated on 80 acres just east of Milton, the facility features more than 30 buildings of historical or historically representative importance which house a collection of 20,000 artifacts.

"The Government of Ontario is committed to building a strong future for this province," said Dombrowsky. "Preserving our heritage is a key part of that process."