



IN THE TRENCHES

December 2012

"Drainage Doesn't Cost - IT PAYS!"

www.drainage.org

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From the President's Desk

Fellow Members:

It is hard to believe the Christmas countdown is on when I look outside and see green grass. The temperatures are indeed cooler and snowflakes have threatened a time or two, but as far as December weather goes, I could certainly get used to this!

This will be my last message as your President. It has been an honour to serve as your President for the past two years and I thank you for the opportunity. It is amazing how quickly the past two years have gone by. I look forward to working with incoming President as my role evolves to that of Past President.

The annual banquet is fast approaching. We have an exciting program planned for you this year and you do not want to miss it! We encourage everyone to register as early as possible. I encourage our younger members to attend as this will be your organization one day soon. This organization is only as strong as its members. On that note, I would like to invite you to join the Executive if you are so interested. I think you will find it to be a worthwhile and rewarding endeavour; I know I certainly did.

As we head into the busy holiday season and the shopping that inevitably goes hand in hand, please remember that MADE IN CANADA is important. This goes for the food on your table as well as the gifts under the tree.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. To you and yours, a safe and happy holiday season.

Hope to see you in January!
Greg Walker



MTO – Questions and Answers

Question #1 What pre-trip inspection paperwork is required for drainage contractors working within a 160 km radius or outside a 160 km radius?

Answer: A person driving a Commercial Motor Vehicle (truck) with a registered gross weight exceeding 4,500 kg (CVOR vehicle) must complete a daily inspection of the truck and any trailer drawn by it. The inspection is valid for a 24 hr period from the time of inspection. This requirement applies regardless of how far the vehicle travels from its home base.

Question #2 Do we have to keep a pre-trip inspection book?

Answer: While most commercially available pre-trip inspection reports come in book form (31 days) only the current day report has to be carried and surrendered to an officer. The driver must also carry and surrender to the officer a copy of Schedule 1, (the list of items to be inspected). A report book usually has it printed on the inside cover.

Question #3: Do we have to keep a log?

Answer: A driver is not required to keep a daily log under the following conditions:

- A. The driver operates the vehicle only within a 160 km radius of the location where he/she starts the day, and
- B. At the end of the day returns to the same location.
- C. The operator (employer) keeps a record of the driver's day showing;
 - The date,
 - The driver's name,
 - The location at which the driver starts and ends his/her day,
 - The cycle the driver is following (7 or 14 day),
 - The hour at which each duty status starts and ends and the total number of hours spent in each duty status (off-duty, on-duty-not driving, driving, off-duty in the sleeper berth where applicable), and
 - The total number of on-duty hours the driver accumulated each day during the past 14 day period.

Note: A driver does not have to keep or surrender to an officer a copy of the above described record. When stopped by an officer he/she would state "I'm a local driver" or words to that affect.

However, if any of the above conditions are not complied with a properly completed daily log must be completed and surrendered.

Question #4 Do we have to count the hours worked on the job but not driving as part of the hours of work (On a daily basis and a weekly basis)?

Answer: All hours in a driver's day, on-duty, off-duty, driving etc, must be recorded on a daily basis.



Lines from Lambton - Dean Hodgeson

Most of Lambton County has been blessed with near perfect weather and growing conditions for all of 2012. Except for the killing frost in the orchards of North Lambton in April and a few areas that suffered from insufficient rainfall, it has been a perfect season. Most of the County received adequate rains at just the right time and farmers have been harvesting bumper crops as a result. As the perfect weather continued into September, an early soybean harvest was averaging yields of over 60 bushels per acre with some farmers reporting more than 80 bushels. The only complaints were that the beans were too dry, most testing 12% moisture, but everybody continued to smile as the fall wheat was planted into perfect soil conditions. The soybean harvest started in mid-September as did the bumper crop of sugar beets planted in March. Apparently this is the best crop both for yield and sugar content since the sugar beets returned to Lambton County about ten years ago. The corn harvest was well underway before the fall rains began in mid-October but by then 90% of the soybeans had been harvested and about half of the corn crop. The wet weather in the last half of October slowed the corn and sugar beet harvest but by late November most of the harvest was completed with yields above average and the quality was excellent. It also looks as if Lambton farmers have seeded more winter wheat than usual because of the perfect soil conditions. There are acres and acres of green wheat fields everywhere as we crop tour through the County. This has certainly been the best year for farming in the history of Lambton County.

The only complaints from area tile drain contractors are that they are too busy. They just do not have enough time to keep up to the demand even though they have had near perfect working conditions all year. Wayne Dupuis has had some big jobs in St. Clair Township while Allan Jardine installed over 200,000 feet on one farm down in Oakdale. We see the Vokes Bros. doing a large job on Confederation Line in Plympton Township. Most contractors are so busy they do not have time to visit. It looks as if the biggest problem in Lambton County this year will be the shocking bottom line when the farmers and contractors file their income tax returns. Presently though, everyone is smiling as they drive to the bank in their flashy new vehicles.

I read an article in the Ontario Farmer that Wolfe Equipment of Melbourne has been sold and moved to a new location in Strathroy. I have been meaning to visit our good friend John Wolfe for several years but just never find the time. I first met John and his brother Grant at the Ridgetown Drainage Course in 1965. I have always admired how John Wolfe built his tile equipment business from part-time sales on the farm into an international success story. John got into the supply business in the 1960's in an effort to provide more affordable parts for fellow tile contractors. We used to pick up parts at John's farm long before he began designing and building his own tiling machines. Although John became a successful business man, I believe he always missed the actual field work of laying tile "on grade" for his local farm customers. John and I shared the feeling that all tile drains must be installed "on grade". John was a very meticulous surveyor when he worked as a tile drainage contractor. Contractors took a lot of pride in draining a farmer's land back in the 1960's and I always felt that John Wolfe set a high standard for us to follow. But time marches on and we must accept and adjust to change.

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:

Sharon Bond
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Guelph, ON N1C 1H1

Phone: (519) 837-0169
E-mail ssbond@rogers.com

Wayne Wilbur Drainage - Dean Hodgson, assisted by Velma and Wayne Wilbur

Wayne Wilbur has been tiling in the area of south Lambton and north Kent Counties since 1980. Wayne was born and raised on the Wilbur family farm at lot 29, con. 10 of the former Sombra Township (now part of the amalgamated St. Clair Township).

In 1973, Wayne bought the home farm from his parents, and switched from mixed farming to beef and cash cropping. Wayne soon realized he needed better drainage for his cash crop enterprise but became frustrated as local tile contractors were too busy to do his job. Not one to sit and wait, Wayne bought a Buckeye '301' from John Wolfe in Melbourne. Wayne then contacted a neighbour, George Moulton, who had owned a tiling machine of his own at two different periods of time and throughout his life had over a total of fifty years in the drainage business. With George's experience and Wayne's enthusiasm, the two set to work tile draining the Wilbur family farm. Although Wayne Wilbur was not experienced in tile drainage, he is an expert mechanic and soon mastered all of the intricate workings of the Buckeye trencher. With the assistance of George Moulton, Wayne soon learned the art of drain surveying and the two worked very well together tiling Wayne's farm. Soon the neighbours were dropping in to inspect the capabilities of the area's newest contractor and wanting to hire Wayne to install tile on their farms.

The next winter Wayne attended the OMAFRA drainage courses at Ridgetown College and upon his successful completion of the exams, was awarded his Class 'A' Drainage licence in 1979. At this time Wayne decided to replace his '301' with a newer Buckeye '302' trenching machine. He and George were kept busy tiling and repairing all the next summer. Then Wayne purchased a used Buckeye Super 'D' trencher on rubber and they could then move easily from farm to farm. Now Wayne became a full-time tile drain contractor, installing 500,000 feet of tile his first year with the new machine. However, the drainage business was booming and the big dozer ploughs were installing plastic tile at a much faster pace than was possible with the wheel trencher. The farmers were impatient to get the jobs done as quickly as possible.

Wayne Wilbur did not like the trenchless ploughing method. He and his farm customers preferred the open trench method so you could inspect the work before it was buried. Wayne Wilbur purchased a Barth Chain Machine, model K170, from Alex Rivard, through Kraft Machinery Company and increased his daily footage tremendously. Over the next several years, Wilbur Farm Drainage installed millions of feet of tile drains in the Wallaceburg, Tupperville and Sombra area. Wayne worked for the pipeline companies, on construction sites, or wherever good quality work was required. However, Wayne preferred the farm tiling, assisting the farmer to install a good drainage system to achieve top production from the land. As the years went by, George finally retired and Wayne has slowly been easing out of full time contracting. The last few years Wayne has been tidying up small jobs for his neighbours and concentrating more on his own farm production. As a result of the cost of moving equipment to and from these smaller jobs, Wayne decided to invest in a pull-behind type of drainage plough. In 2008, Wayne purchased a used Persall mini-tiler, had it graded by the OMAFRA drainage inspectors, and it is now fully licensed. Wayne is finding that this machine is more convenient for helping his friends and neighbours with their smaller jobs while also keeping his hand in the tile drainage work he loves so well.

Besides drainage and farming, Wayne Wilbur is involved with several conservation organizations. Wayne is an avid hunter and environmentalist. For many years, he has been actively involved in the National Wild Turkey Federation at the local level as an enthusiastic sponsor and for a year as President. He has also been a member of the Lambton Woodlot Owners Association and presently is a member of Lambton Sportsman.

In 1962, Wayne Wilbur married Velma Annett, an elementary school teacher, and they have raised three children on the Wilbur Family Farm. Today two of the children are educators, and one is a corrosion specialist by day and a farming partner with his dad by night and weekends. Wayne and Velma are still enjoying the quiet and contented life on the farm. Wayne feels he would like to retire some day but with all of his off-farm interests and the busy phone calls requiring his assistance to repair local drainage problems, he fears that day is not in the immediate future.

OMAFRA Drainage Coordinator's Report – Sid Vander Veen

Licensing Update: Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act:

Operator Licenses: Most operator licenses expire on December 31, 2012, so check your operator's license. If it expires this December, a license renewal form should have been sent to your home address in mid-November. If you haven't received it yet, please contact Valerie Anderson at 519-826-3324 or valerie.j.anderson@ontario.ca. Business owners, check with your machine operators to confirm that their licenses have been renewed.

Machine Licenses: All machine licenses expire on December 31, 2012 and the license renewal form was sent to you in mid-November. If you expect to be working in January, send in renewal form along with the fee of \$50 per machine. If you haven't received a renewal form, please contact Valerie Anderson as indicated earlier.

Business Licenses: This is a reminder that the expiry date of your business license issued under the *Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act* is now March 31. Therefore, we will be sending business license renewal forms to you in mid-February. Please remember that if you do not submit your tile records along with the renewal form and fee (\$250), the license will not be renewed.

New Tile Drainage Businesses: A number of new tile drainage businesses have started up in 2012. As a result, Andy Kester has been quite busy performing machine and business inspections to ensure that these new businesses comply with the requirements of the *Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act*. Many of these new businesses will be sending individuals to the Primary and Advance Drainage Courses this fall.

Tile Loan Program: As of December 1, 2012, we have processed \$3.25 million in tile loans.

Legal Outlets: With the pressure of too much work and not enough time, there may be a temptation to take shortcuts. We have been hearing about some tile drainage systems being directed to questionable outlets. This is a reminder that the following are not legal outlets:

- **Roadside ditches:** You can only use roadside ditches as an outlet if permission is granted by the road authority. If permission is granted, we recommend that you get it in writing.
- **Private ditches:** Private ditches are private infrastructure and unless permission is given, another property owner has no right to connect a newly installed tile drainage system to a private ditch that flows across a neighbouring property. Similar to using a roadside ditch as an outlet, if permission is given, make sure it is in writing. If work needs to be done on the neighbouring property, make sure all parties are clear on cost-sharing and also that all parties are clear on the extent of work and the potential disruption of land.
- **Municipal drains** where any part of the land being tiled is not assessed into the drain. Only the portion of the property that is assessed into the municipal drain can be connected to the drain. If you're not sure, check with the local drainage superintendent before undertaking the work.
- **Wetland or low area:** Sometimes it's tempting to outlet a tile drainage system into a wetland area, particularly if the wetland is located on your client's property. However, before doing so, you should examine the area to determine if the outletting of the tile drainage system could be any impact on other property owners. If there could be, don't do it without first acquiring permission.

If you are unable to get permission, the owner of the land has the right to petition their municipality under the Drainage Act for an outlet. Although it takes longer to get the outlet using the Drainage Act, when it is done, you can have confidence that the tile drainage work you perform will not result in legal action. If you still decide to take shortcuts on legal outlets, remember that the courts consider the tile drainage contractor to be an expert. You may want to check out the liability risk of you and your business.

I want to wish all of you and your families a "Merry Christmas" and hope that you have a joyful and safe New Year's celebration. I hope to see you at the convention in January.

The Phosphorus Saga Continues - Don Lobb

The *Farm and Country* December 2012 issue carries a story that quotes researchers who claim that no-till and drain tiles are the culprits that cause the soluble phosphorus problem in Lake Erie. Soluble phosphorus produces the much reported algae growth. Much of what the researchers claim is apparently based on their perceptions and a very narrow research focus. Some of what is stated does not fit what we know about phosphorus in crop production and they have disregarded some important land management issues.

They ignore that total phosphorus delivery is what really matters. This includes soluble phosphorus, which is predominantly released from decaying organic matter and particulate that is primarily attached to soil particles and originates as commercial fertilizer.

The narrow focus on soluble phosphorus disregards the fact that the much larger volume of particulate phosphorus eventually becomes soluble.

Yes, some soluble phosphorus will be discharged by drains and some will leave no-till fields (and every other vegetated area). Research has shown that sub-surface drainage greatly reduces loss of soil sediment with the attached particulate phosphorus. Without drainage there would be increased surface runoff of phosphorus in all forms.

Research also has shown that no-till greatly reduces sediment loss (up to 90%) and with it the loss of particulate phosphorus. As cropland is retired and converted to other forms of vegetation (e.g. grass) and as stream buffers are increased then the relative amount of soluble phosphorus will increase.

Water quality in Lake Erie and other water bodies needs attention. However, if the causes are not correctly or fully identified then the remedies applied may not improve the situation and may in fact cause even more damage.

It is noteworthy that LICO, along with the ANSWERS Group, is participating in a research project to assess the contribution of sub-surface drainage and no-till to phosphorus levels in drain and surface water. First, we need to know if there is a problem. If there is a problem, then we need to know how significant it is and finally, how to fix it.

This is the right way to approach the phosphorus issue.

LICO would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the "beary" best for the holiday season and the year to come!



2013 LICO and DSAO Annual Convention - Franklin Kains

Once again, the Annual Convention will be held at the Lamplighter Inn in London in January 23 and 24, 2013. Here are 3 of the talks that you will hear this year:

Stress in Running our Business? What Stress? As with running any business, it can be stressful at times – whether it is dealing with the weather, with employees, with suppliers or your customers. Dr. Lynda Pennington of Pinnington Training and Development will discuss the topic of stress in the workplace – how to recognize it and how to deal with it.

Where is my drainage contracting business now? Where might it be 5 to 10 years from now? What could I do to prepare for the future? Peter Darbishire, drainage industry writer and Ken Farrow, financial advisor will lead a discussion on planning for the future by looking at a variety of case studies and what should be considered in each case.

Floats and the Law. Returning this year will be Hans Jons to review the regulations regarding licensing and operating floats. This has been a popular topic for the conference in the last several years and always generates a lot of interest. This year Hans will make a short presentation and devote the rest of the time to answering your questions regarding the regulations around floats.

Additional topics will include GIS mapping, land clearing, phosphorous in drainage runoff and the Tier 4 engines. On Thursday afternoon we will tour the London plant of Kal Tire to see what goes into retreading tires.

Refer to you the package that you received recently and register for the conference today. See you in London in January.

I'm playing it safe this year.
I'm marinating the Turkey in vodka,
making vodka cranberries, vodka
stuffing and a jello shots
for dessert.

That should calm
things down.



ROTTENeCARDS USER CARD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 22 & 23, 2013
LICO Conference
Best Western Lamplighter Inn
591 Wellington Rd.,
London, Ontario N6C 4R3



Passing Kuepfer, Harold (Roly)

June 04, 1943 - December 04, 2012



Passed away suddenly on December 4, 2012 at his home R.R. # 1 Newton. He was born 69 years ago in Mornington Township. Dear son of Mary S. (Kuepfer) of R.R. # 1 Newton and the late Aaron J. Kuepfer. Beloved husband of the late Almeda (Albrecht) Kuepfer who predeceased him January 13, 2001. Loving father of Glen & Edith Kuepfer of R.R. # 3 Listowel, Cindy & Ervin Streicher of R.R. # 1 Newton, Cathy & Mark Krabbe of Listowel, Dennis Kuepfer of R.R. # 1 Newton & friend Tiffany Baechler. Sadly missed by his grandchildren Cody, Ainsley, Kayla, Cory, Dustin, Devon, Almeda (Mia), Makenna and Marly. Remembered by his sisters Lydiann & Joel Wagler, Adeline & Germain DeBrouwer all of R.R. # 1 Newton, Muriel & Larry Harvey of Meaford, brother Joseph & Rosanna Kuepfer of R.R. # 1 Newton, sisters-in-law Sarah & Sam Kuepfer of R.R. # 1 Newton, Kathleen & John R. Kuepfer of Listowel and Esther & Ken Kuepfer of R.R. #1 Newton. Harold was predeceased by his children Roy (1970), Joanne (1977), father-in-law and mother-in-law Daniel R. & Veronica Albrecht and sister-in-law Muriel & Aaron S. Kuepfer. Harold was a member of Morningview Amish Mennonite Church, R.R. # 1 Newton. Harold owned Kuepfer Farm Drainage for many years. As expressions of sympathy donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario or Starlight Canada. On line condolences and donation information available at www.markjutzifuneralhomes.ca

Charities: Although charitable funds are sent directly to the charity, please remember to contact us directly to give a card from you to the family in memory of their loved one.

Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario

2-1373 Victoria Street North
Kitchener, ON N2B 3R6
Phone: (519) 571-9600

Listowel Memorial Hospital

255 Elizabeth Street East
Listowel, ON N4W 2P5
Phone: 519-291-3120

Starlight Children's Foundation Canada

2770 14th Avenue, Suite 100
Markham, ON L3R 0J1
Phone: 1-800-880-1004

OMAFRA Contractor Courses – Tim Brook and Jim Ritter

OMAFRA is once again offering contractor courses in the areas of agricultural drainage and erosion control during the winter of 2013.

Primary Drainage Course

The purpose of the Primary Drainage Course is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand common surveying terms, establish drainage slopes, grade changes and depths, and ensure installations comply with the 'Drainage Guide for Ontario'.

Course Outline

1. Roles, Responsibilities, and Requirements
2. Measuring
3. Design
4. Installation

The Primary Drainage Course is being offered from January 14 to 18, 2013 at the Marden Library just north of Guelph. Please note that course is being held before the LICO convention. The course instructor will be Tim Brook.

Advanced Drainage Course

The goal of the Advanced Drainage Course is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills required to assess, plan and design agricultural sub-surface drainage works. Learners will gain an understanding of tile drainage design, so that design and installation will comply with the 'Drainage Guide for Ontario'.

Course Outline

1. Roles, Responsibilities, and Requirements
2. Site Assessment
3. Preliminary Design
4. Legislation and the Environment
5. Drainage System Design
6. Construction and Materials
7. Existing Systems
8. Cost Estimates
9. Post Construction Records

The Advanced Drainage Course will be held February 4 to 14, 2013, also at the Marden Library. The course instructor will be Tim Brook.

(Continued Next Page)

OMAFRA Contractor Courses - (Cont'd.)

Agricultural Erosion Control Structures Course

The purpose of the Agricultural Erosion Control Structures Course is to increase the ability of contractors who are holders of a Class "A" machine operator licence (drainage licence), or have completed the Primary Drainage Course or a survey course at college, university, etc. to recognize and analyze soil erosion problems on agricultural lands. This course will prepare participants, not only to do most of their own designs, but will also help them recognize which situations require more specialized professional design.

Course Outline

1. Soil Erosion – this material is covered in a pre-course study package.
2. Problem Analysis
3. Erosion Control Materials
4. Structural Controls
5. Bioengineering Approaches
6. Maintenance, Management and Legal Responsibilities
7. AgErosion is a software application that was produced by OMAFRA to assist certified contractors and consulting engineers engaged in the design of agricultural erosion control structures. The software application was developed as an aid to facilitate the use of OMAFRA Publication 832, Agricultural Erosion Control Structures – A Design and Construction Manual. Course participants will receive a hands-on demonstration and use of the software. Participants who take this course and obtain their certification will receive the AgErosion software by mail with their Certificate of Achievement.

The Agricultural Erosion Control Structures Course will be held February 25 to March 1, 2013, at the Marden Library with one day at the OMAFRA Office at 1 Stone Road to cover the computer software. The course instructors will be Jim Ritter and Kevin McKague.

To obtain additional information or to register for any of the three (3) Courses, contact the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus at 519-674-1500 x63504 or online at http://www.ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca/bdt/bdt_training_index.cfm