



# IN THE TRENCHES

## EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT

Joe Frankis  
(519) 420-0014  
[jfrankis@armtec.com](mailto:jfrankis@armtec.com)

### PAST PRESIDENT

Greg Walker  
(705) 340-5500  
[gregwalker24@hotmail.com](mailto:gregwalker24@hotmail.com)

### VICE PRESIDENT

Matt Williams  
(519) 291-3587  
[williams@explornet.com](mailto:williams@explornet.com)

### DIRECTORS

Jamie Turvey  
(519) 535-4423  
[jamie.turvey@hancor.com](mailto:jamie.turvey@hancor.com)

Keith Frey  
(519) 698-9933  
[aefarm@sgci.com](mailto:aefarm@sgci.com)

Tim Gillier  
(519) 436-6134  
[tim@gillierdrainage.ca](mailto:tim@gillierdrainage.ca)

### Secretary Treasurer

John R. Johnston  
231 Dimson Ave, Guelph, ON  
N1G 3C7  
(519) 836-1386  
[jjohnston@gto.net](mailto:jjohnston@gto.net)

### Convention Coordinator

Franklin Kains  
(519) 742-4591  
[kains@golden.net](mailto:kains@golden.net)

### Environmental Advocate

Don Lobb  
(905) 838-2221  
[dwlobb@explornet.com](mailto:dwlobb@explornet.com)

## From the President's Desk

Yes, it's that time of year again when we are thinking about Christmas and getting together with friends and relatives. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday.

It is also the time of year to start thinking about the LICO convention. We are hoping that many of you are planning to attend. It looks like another great convention shaping up. On the Tuesday we will once again have the Canadian Red Cross First Aid Course, and what looks to be another great workshop on Mapping. The next two days will be filled with great speakers, meetings and discussions. Also don't forget the Banquet will be on Wednesday night again this year. I hope to see many of you at the convention in January and, as always, I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

As this will be my last newsletter I would like to thank you for the opportunity to represent LICO as President.

With the New Year quickly approaching, I would like to wish you all a successful and prosperous New Year.

Joe Frankis



Christmas is forever, not for just one day,  
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away  
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf.  
The good you do for others is the good you do yourself.

*Norman Wesley Brooks*

*For a number of years Dean Hodgson has been writing "Lines from Lambton" for the LICO newsletter "In the Trenches". At age 81 Dean has decided that it is time to retire from writing for In the Trenches and relax. He always had good stories of the happenings in Lambton County and biographies of drainage contractors from that area. It is time to thank Dean for his many years contributing to the newsletter and to print HIS biography. Al Jardine also provided a poem that he had written sometime in the past recognizing the work that Dean performed while employed by Jardine Farm Drainage.*

## Biography of Dean Joseph Hodgson 1933-

I was born in the City of Sarnia and raised on a mixed farm at lot 4, con. 6 of Sarnia Township. I currently live with my sister in Sarnia. I worked ten years for Marshall and Milway, Ontario Land Surveyors, 1952-1962. Over those years we worked on roads, ditches, highways, pipelines, subdivisions and constructions sites over much of Ontario. The experience and skills developed during those years assisted me in many of my other ventures later in life.

I formed a partnership with Allen Griffin of Sarnia Township and we tiled together from 1963-1965. We bought a Buckeye "302" from the Roth Brothers at Gadshill and though Allen and I went our separate ways we always remained friends and I often sought his advice. I operated the Buckeye on my own 1966-1969 when I bought a Speicher from Kraft Machinery at Pigeon, Michigan. In 1969 formed a partnership with my brother John Hodgson and we tiled together from 1969-1977.

I bought a 100 acre cash crop farm in Sarnia Township in 1960 and then moved on to a 200 acre cash crop and hog farm near Thedford in Bosanquet Township in 1970. In 1977 I sold that farm and moved to a 455 acre cow-calf farm near Emo in the Rainy River District. Here I met and worked with a lot of wonderful people and enjoyed the clean air of Northern Ontario.

I was involved with the Emo Minor Hockey system, coaching and serving on the executive from 1979-1989. Also served on the Emo Arena Board and was chairman when we installed artificial ice in 1982. I enjoyed those outside rinks at 30 below when we played in Manitoba and across the Rainy River in Minnesota.

I was also involved with many agricultural groups and served on the Boards of the Rainy River District Federation of Agriculture, the R.R.D. Cattlemen's Association and the R.R.D. Soil and Crop Improvement Association. I worked with these groups along with Geoff Young, the R.R.D. Ag. Representative, and the area municipalities to encourage farm drainage in the District. I worked as Drainage Superintendent for eight of these municipalities from 1981-1989.

It was during these years that I began writing agricultural articles for the Fort Frances Times and the Rural Voice. Somehow this led to writing articles for "In the Trenches" 2003-2014.

However, the low grain prices and high interest rates of the 1980's discouraged everyone in the Rainy River District and so I sold my farm in 1990 and moved to London. I worked for Stanley Engineering as Construction Inspector for parts of 1990-1991 and then worked repairing Municipal Drains for Jim McConnell, the Drainage Superintendent for London Township during 1991 and 1992. In 1993 my brother and I went to work for Allan Jardine Drainage of Petrolia. We operated the Speicher trencher, installing the main drains while Allan followed installing the four inch laterals with the plow. This system worked out well for all of us but old age forced us to retire from the drainage business in 2004. We had a lot of good times and thoroughly enjoyed those twelve years working with Allan and the farmers of Lambton County.

Since retiring my hobby has been researching Lambton County history and I have written ten books since 2003. The Lambton County Historical Society has printed six of the ten books which are:

The History of Tile Drainage in Lambton County – 2003

Pat Stonehouse and his History of Enniskillen Township – 2005

Family Farms of Lambton County – 2008

More Family Farms of Lambton County – 2009

Family Farms of Sombra Township – 2012

History of Sarnia's Market Gardeners – 2014

## **OLD FAITHFUL - Al Jardine**

Old Faithful is my Speicher  
It's a machine I'll never sell  
A 1958 model  
Oh the stories it could tell.

It keeps on purring like a kitten  
And doesn't ask for much repair  
As long as the operator  
Will give her a little care.

Dad used to pat her on the hood  
Talk nice and wink his eye  
He said his language had improved  
From when he ran the old Buckeye.

He taught me how to be patient  
And give her the gentle touch  
Don't bang on those stones he'd say  
You have to be damn quick on the clutch.

So old faithful keeps working hard  
And does everything I could ask  
Because her operator knows  
How to put her to the task.

Dean Hodgson runs her now  
Cause my Dad's been gone for quite a while  
And I know that he would approve  
Of the way Dean puts in tile.

You can tell from Dean's story  
How much he cares about old drains  
And the values of farm drainage  
His tale does explain.

So if you want to know about tiling  
And how the water can stay pure  
Listen to Dean Hodgson  
Just like my Speicher, he's ever faithful, ever sure.



---

## **Claus & Co. - A Modern Organization**

Santa's main Distribution Centre (DC) is a sight to behold. at 4,000,000 square feet (370,000 sq m), it's one of the world's largest facilities. A real-time warehouse management system (WMS) is of course required to run such a complex. The facility makes extensive use of task interleaving, literally combining dozens of DC activities (putaway, replenishing, order picking, sleigh loading, cycle counting) in a dynamic queue. The DC elves have been on engineered standards and incentives for three years, leading to a 12% gain in productivity. The WMS and transportation system are fully integrated, allowing (the elves) to make optimal decisions that balance transportation and order picking with the other DC costs. Unbeknownst to many, Santa actually has to use many sleighs and fake Santa drivers to get the job done Christmas Eve, and the transportation management system (TMS) optimally builds thousands of consolidated sacks that maximize cube utilization and minimize total air miles.



## Opt In to Receive LICO Emails

In an effort to decrease the circulation within Canada of Spam or malicious electronic communications, the Ministry of Industry has issued new regulations in the form of the Canadian Anti-Spam Laws (CASL) outlining parameters and guidelines for the use of electronic channels (such as emails) to send promotion or information about an organization to recipients. The primary launch date of this legislation was July 1, 2014.

For several months prior to this date, many organizations sent out emails to people on their existing email lists requesting their consent to continue to send emailed communications. If you elected not to provide consent, they were required to remove your email address from their database and you would then need to re-register for future emails.

LICO has been known to use emails from time to time to communicate with our members. To ensure that we comply with this new legislation, and to allow our members the opportunity to state their preference, we propose the following.

If you would like to continue to receive emailed LICO information and updates, please send an email to [jjohnston@gto.net](mailto:jjohnston@gto.net) with the Subject Line "**Consent for LICO Email**". To ensure that we know who is sending this message (email addresses are not always clear), we would also ask that you please include your **Name and Organization** in the Body of the message.

On March 1, 2015, LICO will review the current email database against received notices of consent. Any members who did not send their consent will have their emails removed from the LICO email communication list.



What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Christmas....perhaps...means a little bit more! - *Dr. Seuss*

To give up one's very self - to think only of others - how to bring the greatest happiness to others - that is the true meaning of Christmas - *American Magazine, 1889*

## Fixing the Sediment Problem - Don Lobb

I continue to come across examples of unacceptable points where sediment, phosphorus and other materials can enter sub-surface drains. As an industry, we need to fix this problem.

One example is the use of riser inlets to accept surface runoff without the use of a surface water collection basin where sediment and phosphorous (P) can settle out. This allows downstream contamination of drain water (see riser installed in surface drain ditch).

Another example is the installation of catch basins at or below grade (see catch basin photo). Once again, this allows unrestricted inflow of sediment, P, and other products, through a sub-surface drainage system to an outlet where it is discharged into a drainage ditch or waterway. To avoid this problem, catch basins should be offset from concentrated surface flow and placed at a higher elevation to avoid surface water entering. The function of catch basins in a sub-surface drainage system should be to provide pressure relief if the drain pipe is overloaded and to allow air into the drain pipe so the drain water can flow more freely.

We need standards for the installation of these drain features that demonstrate industry integrity and environmental responsibility in protecting downstream water quality.



Riser Inlet



Catch Basin

## New Years Resolutions

I was lying around, pondering the problems of the world, when I realized that at my age, i don't really care very much anymore.

...If walking is good for your health, the postman would be immortal.

...A whale swims all day, only eats fish and drinks water, but is still fat.

...A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years, while a tortoise doesn't run and does mostly nothing, yet lives for 150 years.

And you tell me to exercise??? I don't think so!!!

## OMAFRA Report - Sid Vander Veen

We seem to live in an age where change is constant and rapid. Farming is much different today than it was just a generation ago and it's no different for the tile drainage industry. There are things being done in the tile drainage now that would not have been considered twenty years ago.

For several years, Don Lobb has been teaching us that crop production needs effective "soil moisture management" and has pointed out that drainage is one important component of this. But it also shows that soil, not soil drainage, is the most important component of crop production and that there are other aspects of moisture management. Years ago, it might not have been important for contractors to be educated on this. I think it is now.

I received a notice for "SoilSmart 2015", a one-day conference being held in Waterloo, Ontario on January 23, 2015. It features experts from across North America who will be speaking about improving the understanding of soil and soil health enhancing practices for the goal of responsible crop production now and in the future. <http://farmSMARTconference.com/soilSMART-2015>

Maybe this is not something that tile drainage contractors normally attend. But should they?

### **Drainage Licensing:**

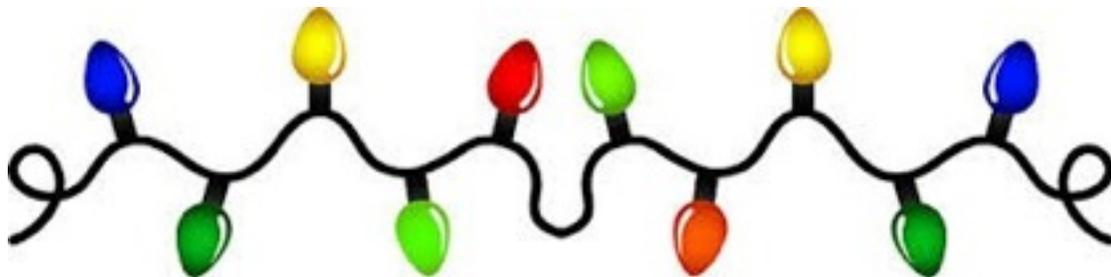
As winter sets in and machines are being shut down and cleaned up for the winter, it's time to start working on your tile drainage records for your 2014 work. Here's what we will accept:

- GPS files, as long as you include a Master List that provides a summary of your GPS files. We have this master list in an Excel spreadsheet format. Talk to us if you need it. You can email the records to us ([valerie.j.anderson@ontario.ca](mailto:valerie.j.anderson@ontario.ca)) or save it to a CD or flash drive and send it to us.
- Create a "Tile Drainage Record" plan from our mapping website ([www.ontario.ca/drainage](http://www.ontario.ca/drainage)). Print out a plan for each of your jobs, plot the tile drainage work on it and send them to us.
- Continue to use the green "Tile Drainage Record" forms (*least desirable alternative*). In fact, considering that the Tile Drainage Records printed from our website are so much more accurate, we will have staff at our booth at the LICO convention who will work with you. If you give them the location of your 2014 jobs, they will print out these plans for you.

Your current business license expires on March 31, 2015. Renewal application forms will be sent out in mid-February. Remember, we will not renew a business license unless we have the completed renewal form, the fee and the records of your 2015 work.

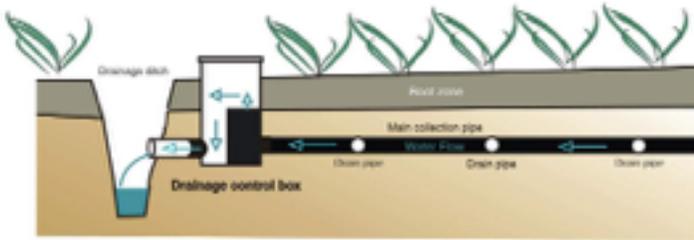
**Drainage Courses:** The drainage courses offered this winter are listed in the Calendar of Events on the back page of this newsletter. To register for any of these course, go to [www.ridgetownc.com/ce](http://www.ridgetownc.com/ce)

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. See you at the convention in January.



## 2015 LICO Convention, January 20 – 22, 2015 - Franklin Kains

### Theme: Controlled Drainage



How will climate change affect drainage? Controlled drainage is one adaptive technology that will help control the flow of water and nutrients. Two projects – one in the South Nation watershed, the other in the Holland Marsh – will be presented as local examples of controlled drainage. A computer program that will aid in the design of the controlled drainage will be discussed.

Drones have had considerable use in military applications. They are now being employed for many civilian uses including agriculture. Their use in looking at and mapping drainage systems will be presented.



There are dangers under ground that drainage contractors must contend with. Pipelines have always been a hazard but there is a more recent one, the power lines that serve the 6700 wind towers that have been or will be built in Ontario. Both of these will be examined.

In addition, there is a Tuesday afternoon workshop on using and understanding the Agricultural Information Atlas, the Red Cross First Aid Course, the history of the double link plough, a tour to Bron Industries, a full day ladies program and the banquet.

**To register, look for the LICO Conference registration package, sent out in November or visit the programs and events page at the LICO website: [drainage.org](http://drainage.org)**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 21 & 22, 2015**

**LICO Conference**

**Best Western Lamplighter Inn**

591 Wellington Rd,

London, Ontario N6C 4R3



**January 12 - 16, 2015**

**Primary Drainage Course**

**Marden Community Centre**

Marden, Ontario

**February 2 - 12, 2015**

**Advanced Drainage Course**

**Marden Community Centre**

Marden, Ontario

**February 23 - 27, 2015**

**Agricultural Erosion Control Course**

**Marden Community Centre**

Marden, Ontario

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

