



IN THE TRENCHES

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From the President's Desk

Greetings LICO Members,

Winter seems to have set in; most contractors have headed back to the shop to perform maintenance. There a few diehards who will brave the frost and the cold to bury a few more maxis; the rest have made their way to southern destinations to enjoy a well-deserved vacation under the sun.

The 60th anniversary of the LICO Convention was a great success with fantastic attendance yet again. I'd like to thank my wife, Kirsten, for creating a well-received Spouse/Guest program. Please reach out if you have any suggestions for next year's program. Again this year and for the final time, John Johnston and Frank Kains worked their magic. They pulled everything together behind the scenes and arranged a great program of speakers. We have been very lucky to have their support and expertise for all these years. I believe that the contractors who participated in the Drainage Forum all agree that we have generated interest in updating how we do things in Ontario. I also believe that Garnet Peters from PLS in Manitoba painted a very clear picture of how fortunate we are to be doing business in Ontario. While our system may be in need of a few tweaks, the Convention served as a reminder that Ontario is, and will continue to be, an industry leader, and it would be much more difficult to do what we do on a daily basis without the Drainage Act. Once again, I want to thank our OMAFRA friends and in particular, Sid Vanderveen, for facilitating the breakout groups and the meeting in general. All of the comments, suggestions and concerns will be compiled and reviewed in the coming months by the LICO Executive. The findings will be made available for all members to review and final LICO recommendations will be presented to OMAFRA.

As always, the LICO Convention was an opportunity to learn and celebrate amongst lifelong friends. We are fortunate to have such a strong and supportive community.

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From the President's Desk - (Cont'd. from Pg. 1)

The members of the LICO Executive also need a huge pat on the back for their efforts that helped to make the Convention a success. Dennis Kuepher has served his term on the board as Director. Thank you Dennis, for your service and for always making our meetings entertaining! Dennis will be replaced by Mike McCarthy, as he steps in to his role as our newest LICO Director. I'd like to recognize Peter Johnson for not only his work this past year but also his excellent performance as Master of Ceremonies at the banquet. Well done, Wheat Pete!

Please remember to check out our new additions to the newsletter. We have added a free "Buy/Sell" section for members to list industry-related equipment that they are either looking to sell or needing to buy. Also, there is a new "Shots from the Field" section. Please send your pictures and advertisements to jjohnston@gto.net for the next addition of "In the Trenches."

The 2019 LICO convention dates are set for January 22-24. Please book your rooms ASAP by calling 519-681-7151. There's no need to wait until next January to find out that the rooms are all gone!

Please take some time to enjoy the fruits of your labour; according to the new Warton Willie, we only have 6 more weeks until winter is over!

Jamie Turvey

OMAFRA Report - Sid Vander Veen

Business License Renewals:

Application forms to renew a drainage business license were sent to tile drainage businesses on February 15, 2018. If you have not received your renewal form, please contact me.

When you receive the application form, please review the form. Check if any information is missing, paying particular attention to the following:

- The email address field – we may be moving to electronic renewal of licenses, so if you have an email address, please include it on the form.
- Business location information (upper left side of the form): Input the lot, concession, township and municipality of your business location. On our "Drainage Contacts" layer (www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/drain-con.htm), we plot the location of all licensed tile drainage contractors in Ontario. This helps potential clients to find a licensed tile drainage business in their area. So ensuring that this information is correct will allow us to properly locate your business on the "Drainage Contacts" layer.
- The list of machines associated with your business. If any machines that your business owns or uses are missing, please add them to the list. If the machine is not licensed, you will need to submit a machine license application form.

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OMAFRA Report - (Cont'd. from Pg. 2)

- The details of your machines. Many of the machine model numbers that we have recorded in the past are actually the power unit model. So please provide the correct information for the power unit and the machine itself. Here are two examples:

Machine Type	Machine Make	Power Unit Model	Machine Model
Plow	Bron	550	DL750
Plow	Wolfe	540	Parallel Link

- The machine operators associated with your business are listed. If an operator license has expired, it will be shown as expired in the column on the right. If an operators is missing, please add their name and their operator license number.

Tile Drainage Work Records:

As a condition of renewing your business license, the business is required to submit records of the work they completed in the previous year. The following forms of records will be accepted:

- A CD/DVD or thumb drive of your digital GPS data (e.g. GPS, DXF, SHP, etc.) accompanied with a spreadsheet of the individual records (for a copy of the spreadsheet, email Becky Curran at becky.curran@ontario.ca). You may also submit your data by email to Becky. For more information on the GPS records, contact:
 - Dan Bihari at 519-826-4041 (email: dan.bihari@ontario.ca) or
 - Bob Steiss at 519-826-4032 (email: bob.steiss@ontario.ca) or
 - Andy Kester at 519-826-3551 (email: andy.kester@ontario.ca).
- Use the Agricultural Information Atlas website to generate tile drainage record forms and complete the information: www.ontario.ca/drainage, click on "Mapping". If you need assistance in using the Agricultural Information Atlas, check out the tutorials at www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/gis/agatlas-help.htm#tutorial.

We strongly recommend that you make copies of your tile drainage records before they are mailed to us to avoid problems in the event that the originals are lost in the mail.

Drainage Courses

The Primary Drainage Course was held in Marden, Ontario from January 8 to 12 and there were 40 participants, most of whom passed the course.

There were 27 participants in the Advanced Drainage Course which was held February 5 to 15, 2018, also in Marden, Ontario. At this time, the exams have not yet been marked.

Unlicensed Contractors:

If you are aware of contractors providing agricultural tile drainage services without the required licenses, please let me know. My telephone number is 519-826-3552 and my email is sid.vanderveen@ontario.ca.

*Spring is when you feel like whistling, even with a shoe full of slush.
Doug Larson*



LICO Convention, Jan 23 – 25, 2018, London - Franklin Kains, Convention Coordinator

The 2018 convention of LICO and the DSAO has come and gone and another successful event it was.

A number of interesting talks were presented over the 3 days of the convention. A continuing and escalating concern for Ontario agriculture is the issue of deteriorating water quality in the Great Lakes partly due to the nutrient rich runoff from cropland. Government programs to deal with the problem were presented by Jenn Richards of OMAFRA, who talked of the Canada-Ontario Lake Erie Action Plan and Nicola Crawhill who gave an update of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative that she introduced last year. Kevin McKague and Chris Van Esbroeck of OMAFRA presented the latest findings of their research into what nutrient losses come from overland flow and tile drainage water and what land management practices can mitigate the problem.

The presentations will be posted on the LICO website.

Drainage Forum:

This year saw the first Drainage Forum where a couple of hours were set aside for the contractors to discuss issues of concern to them related to the business of drainage with particular emphasis on licensing of companies, operators and machines. To set the stage for the round table discussions, Sid Vander Veen of OMAFRA detailed the history of the licensing in Ontario starting with the Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act. Following Sid was a presentation by Garnet Peters of Precision Land Solutions, a tile drainage contractor from Manitoba. Garnet described the drainage industry in his province and the involved permit system that must be navigated before a drainage project can be started. Those attending then broke into 9 smaller groups where they were asked to share their thoughts on a list of specific questions related to the drainage licensing and other items. Those thoughts and concerns were recorded and the results will be collated and presented to the LICO executive for further action.

Banquet

Again, a wonderful banquet was provided by the Lamplighter Inn that drew 233 people. Robert Brown of Coldstream Concrete was honoured as a Life Member of LICO for his contributions to the drainage industry over the years. On Thursday afternoon, Coldstream hosted the post-conference tour to their facilities in Coldstream, which drew 50 people.

There was an auction of a wooden model of an antique car built by the late Frank Kistner. The winning bid of \$1100 was made by Gerald Neeb of Roth Drainage, who bought Frank's drainage business in the early years of his career. The proceeds from this auction will go towards the support of the research projects of LICO. Following the dinner and the presentations, the crowd was entertained by Lulu's Band, who played to the early hours of the morning.

This year's convention drew 259 registrants for the convention, the highest yet. And another high of 29 exhibitors filled the Regency Room.

So, another convention is complete. And a significant one as it was the 60th anniversary of LICO. We will all gather again in London a year from now for the 61st.

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LICO Convention, Jan 23 – 25, 2018, London - (Cont'd. from Pg. 4)



2018 LICO Convention banquet



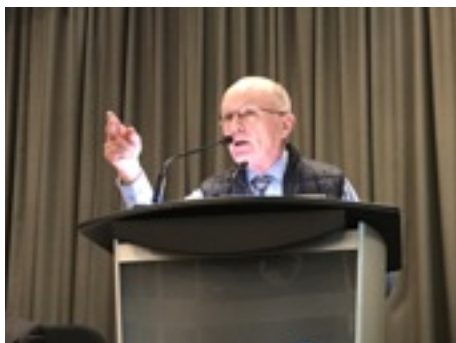
Cake celebrating the 60th anniversary of LICO



Presentation of Honorary Life Member to Robert Brown of Coldstream Concrete Presented by President Jamie Turvey and Peter Darbishire.



Presentation of plaque to outgoing president, Matt Williams by Jamie Turvey and Jason Van Gorp.



Auctioning of the Fred Kissner wooden carving by auctioneer Brian Inglis



Winning bidder was Gerald Neeb, Roth Drainage.



Brad Van Gorp at the dance with several future drainage industry participants

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 21 - 24, 2019
LICO Conference
Best Western Lamplighter Inn
591 Wellington Rd,
London, Ontario N6C 4R3



Dilbert Quotes

A magazine ran a Dilbert quotes contest. These are actual quotes from managers out there.

As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday and employees will receive their cards in two weeks. (This was the winning quote from Charles Hurst at Sun Microsystems)

What I need is a list of specific unknown problems we will encounter.

How long is this Beta guy going to keep testing our stuff?

E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business.

Turnover is good for the company, as it proves that we are doing a good job in training people.

This project is so important, we can't let things that are more important interfere with it.

Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule.

No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now, go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them!

Points to Ponder

If your gecko is broken, do you have a reptile disfunction?

A recent study has found that women who carry a little extra weight live longer than the men who mention it.

Just two days from now, tomorrow will be yesterday.

You will never find anyone who can give you a clear and compelling reason why we observe "Daylight Savings Time".

When we were children, nap time was a punishment. Now it's a small vacation.

The biggest lie you can tell yourself is you don't need to write it down - you'll remember it.