



IN THE TRENCHES

EXECUTIVE & STAFF

PRESIDENT

Jason Van Gorp
(519) 521-9086
jason.vangorp@gmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Jamie Turvey
(519) 535-4423
jamie.turvey@ads-pipe.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Hall
(519) 421-0036
robh@rwfbron.com

DIRECTORS

Michael McCarthy
(705) 309-2315
mccarthyland@hotmail.com

Mark Nesbitt
(519) 617-4247
nesbittfarmdrainage@gmail.com

Jesse Tait
(613) 558-8248
jesse@taitbros.ca

Secretary & Convention Coordinator

Sid Vander Veen
(519) 577-5335
lico.secretary@cyg.net

Administrator/Treasurer

Sharon Cousens-Bond
(519) 993-0918
timetoupdate@hotmail.ca

Environmental Advocate

Peter Johnson
(519) 318-2040
peter.johnson@bell.net

From the President's Desk

It's March now and so far the weather looks to be on our side again and allowing for an early spring, as long as the sun and the wind stay out we will be hitting the ground hard soon.

In February, we received an email containing a letter from the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The Ministry is proposing to remove the fees of \$50 or less from all the legislation that they administer. That impacts almost every license under the Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act except the business license. It's important to note that they are not eliminating the license, just the fee for the license. We've responded by indicating that the removal of the fees is not as significant as addressing some of the issues we identified in our earlier letter. Those issues, which we identified about two years ago include:

- More enforcement by OMAFRA. There is a widespread disregard for the requirements of the legislation and regulations that is not being adequately enforced by OMAFRA.
- Retraining of machine operators to keep up with rapidly changing technology. This should be a condition of operator license renewals.
- Regular machine inspection and recertification. The quality and effectiveness of some tile drainage systems is compromised by machinery in poor condition.
- An increase in fines. The current penalties are out of date and are not being used.
- A review and update of the Drainage Guide for Ontario, the technical guidance document for tile drainage installation in Ontario.

Since we sent this letter, some members have contacted me and told me that they feel the business licensing fee should be increased. They feel that it should cost members the same amount to licence a big truck, just to give an example. This might sway them from hopefully trying to undermine us and our licence.

Continued Pg. 2

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

Also in discussions Upper Thames River CA, has approached our organization on starting a project soon similar to the Huronview project although with a lot less slope to it, and implementing contoured drainage and pattern tile drainage and various different spacings from ultra close spacing to "Normal close spaced tile".

Tile manufacturers have already expressed an interest in helping out, just looking for a few contractors to help out, with Ken McCutcheon being the lead contractor on this project. If everything plays out like they hope plans to start the project will be in early to mid June.

If you have any concerns, please let me know by calling me or text. I am happy to discuss any further plans our ideas with our organization.

May all your 2021 tile drainage jobs have no stones, long runs and good paying customers.
Jason Van Gorp.

New Honorary Life Members announced - Peter Darbishire, Honorary Life Member

It is a privilege for me to introduce the most recent inductees for Honorary Life Membership in LICO. Three individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our industry were nominated by current Honorary Life Members and they have been recently accepted by the Board of Directors. They are:

Ron Hall: principal of RWF BRON, manufacturer of drainage plows for his long service in manufacturing and developing machinery for pipe installation, especially the double link plow.

Don Lobb: recently retired as LICO's Environmental Advocate, for his life-time in the promotion of tile drainage as an essential element in the adoption of on-farm methods to conserve our soils while increasing agricultural production.

John Johnston: for his life-time career as the drainage specialist for the Province of Ontario and more recently as Secretary/Manager of LICO.

In this and the next issue of *In The Trenches*, a review of their careers and contributions to our industry will be featured. A more formal introduction will be made at our next convention (hopefully in 2022!)

In preparing the upcoming profiles, I have gathered mostly basic background on these three outstanding individuals. With a view to the more formal future convention introduction, I would enjoy the opportunity to include anecdotes and reminiscences of members' experiences and interactions with them. Please forward these to me at: pdarbishire@hay.net and make sure you register for the next convention to hear all the details!!

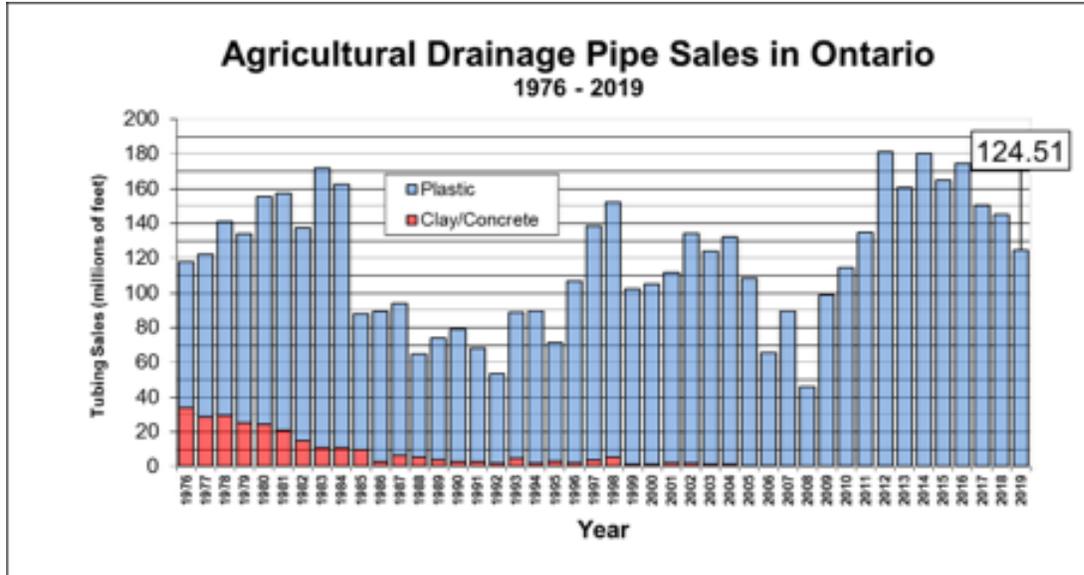
Rural Rescue offers online first aid training at www.ruralrescuetraining.com

Cost: \$125 + HST/participant (includes online and in-class). Duration: Online course is 7 hours and in-class is 7.5 hours.

In response to the COVID-19 situation, Rural Rescue is pleased to offer online first aid training to ensure that your employees are up-to-date on their certifications. Our online program is a certification through the Canadian Red Cross and is completely virtual. This training is available for our Standard First Aid course with CPR-C and the certification is recognized by WSIB. Upon completion of the course, the participants will receive a temporary certification that is valid for workplace first aid requirements until June 30th, 2021. To obtain the full 3-year certification, participants need to attend the in-class portion of the course prior to June 30th. Contact Rural Rescue for more information.

OMAFRA Report – Tim Brook

I wanted to use this opportunity to present the tile sales data that OMAFRA has collected over the years including the most recent data from 2019. The graph below provides the total pipe sales from 1976 to 2019 and the table provides a breakdown by size and with/without envelope material.



Length of Agricultural Drainage Pipe Sold in Ontario in 2019 (feet)			
SIZES	PLASTIC		TOTAL
	(NO FILTER)	(WITH FILTER)	
All sizes <4"	155,150	6,900	162,050
4"	81,568,495	36,584,294	118,152,789
6"	2,482,228	1,216,606	3,698,834
8"	1,019,447	416,750	1,436,1979
10"	323,454	136,980	460,434
12"	266,983	115,800	382,783
All sizes > 12"	202,581	10,590	216.171
TOTAL	86,018,338	38,487,920	124,506,259

Continued Pg. 4

OMAFRA Report – (Cont’d. from Pg. 3)

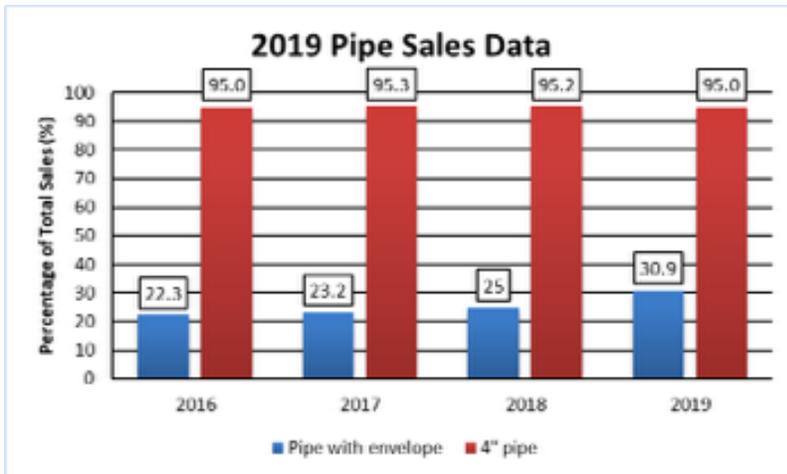
A few points can be made about the data collected specifically from 2019:

- Total reported pipe sales were 124.51 million feet
- However, only 4 of the 9 suppliers responded to the survey
- From the 2019 data:
 - o 95% of the 124.51 million feet of pipe sold was 4” in diameter
 - o 30.9% of the pipe was sold with envelope material

In the graph below covering the years from 2016 to 2019, the percentage of 4” pipe compared to total sales has been steady at 95%. Based on your design of these tile systems, does this match your experiences with the main drains accounting for 5% of the pipe installed?

The percent of pipe sold with envelope is trending slightly upwards from 22.3% to 30.9% over the same period. Are contractors being asked to drain slightly more unstable or marginal soils? Has the cost differential between pipe with and without envelope material decreased so that it is becoming an insurance policy to install pipe with envelope more often?

I would love to hear your thoughts on what the data is telling us and what other data and analysis would be helpful for the drainage industry. Feel free to contact me at timothy.brook@ontario.ca with any insights and thoughts.



OMAFRA will be sending out the survey requesting sales data for 2020 to the various pipe suppliers across the province shortly. As previously mentioned, the number of suppliers participating in 2019 was small. For this data to be useful, it is important that the majority of pipe suppliers participate. If contractors find this data useful, you may want to encourage the pipe supplier that you deal with to complete the survey.

Review of the 2021 LICO Annual General Meeting - Sid Vander Veen

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 LICO convention was cancelled. To comply with the Ontario Corporations Act, the Annual General Meeting was held on February 17, 2021 via Zoom with the LICO Executive and 17 other participants.

President Jason Van Gorp gave some introductory remarks regarding the challenges of working in the COVID pandemic environment and how fortunate it was that tile drainage is recognized as an essential service for agriculture. He summarized some of the Board activities including keeping the membership up-to-date on COVID regulations; updating the LICO website; and writing to the OMAFRA Minister regarding the Tile Loan program interest rate and loan limit and commenting on the changes to the licensing fees under the Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act.

The motions made and approved at this meeting included:

A By-Law amendment made necessary by the COVID 19 pandemic regarding the duration of terms for 2019/20 Board members being extended by one year until the 2022 Annual General Meeting. At that time, the amendment will be removed from the By-Law, with terms of office for the Board of Directors returning to the same position as would have happened had the COVID 19 pandemic not occurred.

Financial statement approval for the 2019-20 fiscal year will be deferred to the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

David McCann was appointed as LICO Auditor and that Carlyle Peterson was appointed as LICO lawyer for the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The membership ratified the actions of the Board of Directors for the 2019-20 year.

A concern was raised that the Province's proposed changes to the licensing will make it too easy to get into the tile drainage business. It was noted that other than removing the fees for licenses of \$50 or less, all the other requirements remain the same, including the training and apprenticeship requirements for the operator license and the machine license requirements.

It was confirmed that it is the farmer's responsibility to make sure the contractor is licensed.

Howick Township council passed a resolution requesting that the Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act be amended to require tile drainage contractors to submit plans to the municipality in which the drainage work was performed. Wray Wilson from Howick Township provided some background. There was discussion around whether or not new farm purchases would be able to locate drainage records if the contractor was no longer in business; municipalities having copies of plans submitted with tile loans but little else; only looking for an "as built" plan and not getting into approval of design drawings; the appropriateness of the farmer submitting the plan to the municipality as it is he who owns the information; lessened concerns about OMAFRA posting the detailed tile plans on the AgMaps website; whether or not the municipalities will keep the plans and if the Province would be a more appropriate keeper of the records; individuals who are exempt from licensing should also be required to submit tile plans; and the value of the plans in the future should the runs need to be split at a later date. Wray expressed his appreciation for the comments.

A question was raised about the Excess Soils Regulation. This new regulation was briefly discussed, however, LICO has not had any involvement with the Excess Soils Regulation.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 18 - 20, 2022

LICO Conference

Best Western Lamplighter Inn

591 Wellington Rd,

London, Ontario N6C 4R3



Passings

DAPRATO, Lindsay June 21, 1962 – February 13, 2021.

Passed away tragically at home on Saturday, February 13, 2021. Lindsay DaPrato of Alexandria: age 58 years. Loving husband of Heather Farrell.

Beloved father of Alexandra DaPrato of Gatineau, and Dustin DaPrato (Mélina Lecompte) of Hammond. Cherished grandfather of Layla Cormier.

Beloved son of Alan and Vivian DaPrato (nee Menard) of Alexandria.

Dear brother of Scott DaPrato (Ellen), and Alanna DaPrato-Leger (Mike) both of Alexandria.

As expressions of sympathy Memorial Donations to the Cornwall Hospital-Community Addiction & Mental Health Services, 850 McConnell Ave., Cornwall K6H 4M3, or to the Glengarry Memorial Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Online messages of condolence may be made in the obituary section of: www.munromorris.com

DEVEREUX, Peter James

A resident of Ridgetown, Peter Devereux passed away peacefully with family by his side at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance on January 6, 2021 at the age of 70.

Born in Chatham, Peter was the son of the late Glen and Margaret (nee Doyle) Devereux.

Loving father to Meagan Devereux (Jeff), and Nicole (Darren) Beuckelare.

Best friend and partner to Donna Galbraith.

He will be forever Papa Pete to the many grandchildren in his life.

Brother to Paul (Karen) Devereux, Jean (late Jim) Newman, Mary Devereux, Bridget Devereux, and predeceased by John Devereux.

Peter will be remembered as an honorary member of Donna's family as well as being a wonderful uncle, friend, and mentor to many.

Peter was a proud member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 243 for 46 years, Freemason, and a lifelong business owner of Devereux Drainage.

Donations made in memory of Peter to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 243 would be appreciated in lieu of flowers. Online condolences may be left at www.mckinlayfuneralhome.com