



# IN THE TRENCHES

## EXECUTIVE & STAFF

### PRESIDENT

Jason Van Gorp  
(519) 521-9086  
[jason.vangorp@gmail.com](mailto:jason.vangorp@gmail.com)

### PAST PRESIDENT

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

### VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Hall  
(519) 421-0036  
[robh@rwfbron.com](mailto:robh@rwfbron.com)

### DIRECTORS

Michael McCarthy  
(705) 309-2315  
[mccarthyland@hotmail.com](mailto:mccarthyland@hotmail.com)

Mark Nesbitt  
(519) 617-4247  
[nesbittfarmdrainage@gmail.com](mailto:nesbittfarmdrainage@gmail.com)

Jesse Tait  
(613) 558-8248  
[jesse@taitbros.ca](mailto:jesse@taitbros.ca)

### Secretary & Convention Coordinator

Sid Vander Veen  
(519) 577-5335  
[lico.secretary@cyg.net](mailto:lico.secretary@cyg.net)

### Administrator/Treasurer

Sharon Cousens-Bond  
(519) 993-0918  
[timetoupdate@hotmail.ca](mailto:timetoupdate@hotmail.ca)

### Environmental Advocate

Peter Johnson  
(519) 318-2040  
[peter.johnson@bell.net](mailto:peter.johnson@bell.net)

## From the President's Desk

Greetings LICO Members,

The wheat's off and the cooler days of September have arrived. At least the weather and the seasons are still normal in 2020.

You will have seen or heard of the **Board's decision to cancel the 2021 Convention**. This was not a decision that was taken lightly because the Board certainly looks forward to the convention and I think most of the membership does as well. But with the COVID-19 restrictions, there just wasn't a practical way to proceed with the convention this coming January.

The theme of our last convention in January 2020 was "A 2020 Vision for Drainage". We like to look forward and try to predict trends and practices on the horizon that may affect our industry. But did anyone, with their 20/20 vision see a global pandemic? Did any of us predict the use of masks and hand sanitizers and "physical distancing"? Did anyone predict that the LICO Board would be meeting via Zoom? It has been an incredibly weird year.

But we need to keep a positive outlook. Agriculture continues on and with it does drainage work. Some of you may have seen a small decrease in the amount of work, but overall, our businesses were far less affected than other industries.

So keep calm and drain on. We will see you at the convention in January 2022.

Jason Van Gorp

## Thoughts for Thanksgiving

When you love what you have, you have everything you need.

We can always find something to be thankful for, no matter what may be the burden of our wants, or the special subject of our petitions. - *Albert Barnes*

I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual. - *Henry David Thoreau*

## **OMAFRA Update – Tim Brook**

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy and safe (and busy installing tile)! OMAFRA staff continue to work remotely while supporting the contractors and other drainage stakeholders through these interesting times.

**Virtual Inspections** – As reported in the June 2020 newsletter, OMAFRA was exploring the possibility of conducting some remote / virtual inspections under the Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act. To that end, Andy conducted one (1) remote inspection via video conference for a Class A Operator early in 2020. The inspection certainly had some practical and technology challenges but overall the process was acceptable.

Thankfully, Andy is once again able to conduct on-site inspections while following physical distancing and other safety requirements for a variety of inspections including business, Class A operator, machine and complaint inspections. However, there may be a need to conduct an inspection remotely depending on the inspection location and other circumstances. It is recommended that you discuss your specific request for in-person or remote inspection with Andy when arranging an inspection.

**Business License Renewal and Tile Drainage Records** – We recognize that for some contractors, this year been particularly challenging in many ways including completing and submitting the annual business license renewal form and required Tile Drainage Records (TDR). Many forms and TDRs were received after the March 31, 2020 expiry date and we have worked hard to follow-up with each company to understand their specific circumstances. However, there are still a few contractors that have not renewed their license or provided us with usable TDRs - we are not able to issue a license without these documents.

OMAFRA sent out business license renewal notices in early February 2020 and if we have not yet received your renewal form, we are assuming that you are no longer operating this year. If you are operating, please contact us immediately as operating without a license is a contravention of the Act and OMAFRA would like to ensure that all contractors remain licensed while conducting their work.

**Primary and Advanced Drainage Courses** – Ridgetown College and OMAFRA are optimistic that the courses will be delivered in 2021 in person at the Marden Community Centre. The proposed course schedule is as follows:

- Primary Drainage – Monday, February 1 to Thursday, February 4, 2021  
– Monday, February 15 to Thursday, February 18, 2021
- Advanced Drainage – Monday, March 22 to Saturday, March 27, 2021

However, it is expected that the format of the courses will look different from previous years in order to keep students and instructors safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. It may be necessary to limit class sizes to allow for physical distancing, which may limit enrollment. It may also be necessary to offer online or blended learning options to allow participants to stay close to home if conditions warrant.

Updated information will be posted on the Ridgetown College website - <https://bdc.ridgetownnc.com/takecourse/>

## Crushed Tile and New Technology - Peter Johnson

**Crushed Tile:** There have been some incidences recently of newly installed tile that were crushed repeatedly by large sprayers running narrow tires and crossing newly installed tile. When we split the tile on my home farm 4 years ago, the next spring the sprayer "fell into" the tile trench on several occasions, and I wondered if the tile would be crushed. Fortunately it was not, but this spring there were some issues reported of exactly this happening.

This problem is likely to get worse. Sprayer booms are stretching out from 120 feet to 160 feet, and sprayer tanks get bigger every year. Growers want to run the narrowest tires possible, to avoid tramping the crop. Tile manufacturers could make tile that would resist being crushed, but that makes the tile prone to feeding issues going down into the trench, with the tile becoming more brittle (as I understand it). It would also add to the cost, and challenging to know when it was needed. Thus different tile is probably not the best solution.

There are a few things that all tile installers should probably begin to mention to their farm clients. The first year after tiling, it would be best to use the floater tires on the sprayer, if at all possible. Spring installations are at most risk. If tiles are installed a bit on the shallow side in a field, or area of the field, make the grower aware, so they can try to find solutions to avoid crossing the tile that first season.

While this is not a huge problem yet, going back to fix tile is expensive, and an aggravation for all involved. The more we can avoid it, the better. Unfortunately, the bigger the sprayers get, the more likely this problem becomes. And they will get bigger!

**New Technology:** While we aren't quite at the implementation stage with this, there may be a practical and simple solution to greatly reduce phosphorus (P) from water moving through blind inlets. If you have listened to any of our recent updates around phosphorus in tile water, you will know that surface runoff is typically 10 times the P concentration of tile water. However, a blind inlet allows surface water to directly enter the tile, allowing high P runoff water to move directly into the environment through the tile. Not really acceptable.

At a recent update organized by the Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative (TRPRC), Dr. Chad Penn, ASDA/ARS, presented his most recent findings. There were a lot of gems in Dr. Penn's presentation, but one jumped out at me: add 8% metal shavings to the gravel in the blind inlet. As the metal shavings oxidize, they bind P from the water moving through the inlet, significantly reducing soluble P that enters the environment. The metal continues to oxidize over time, making more P binding sites available, and again keeping P out of the water. The metal shavings are inexpensive and effective. In fact, iron (metal shavings) is one of only 2 products that Dr. Penn believes can be effective, the other being aluminum.

WAY COOL! If all it takes are some metal shavings, blended with the gravel, to make a significant improvement in off target phosphorus movement through tile! Stay tuned!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 18 - 20, 2022**

**LICO Conference**

**Best Western Lamplighter Inn**

591 Wellington Rd,

London, Ontario N6C 4R3



### LICO and DSAO Board Letter to Members - Emailed to membership September 2020

The Joint LICO/DSAO convention has always been an opportunity to see new products and services, to hear about new ideas and latest trends or the most recent regulations. But mostly it was a once a year opportunity to see old friends and swap stories...some of which may have been true!

Therefore, it is with regret that we announce that the convention that was to be held in January 2021 has been cancelled. The COVID 19 restrictions are simply too big of a barrier to overcome. Not only would there be physical distancing restrictions, but there would also be significant limitations in hotel food services available for the convention. We have contacted the Best Western Lamplighter Inn and they will be cancelling all guest room reservations that have been made in anticipation of January, 2021 and advising them by email. They cannot carry over reservations into 2022.

But the convention will be back as strong as ever. The 2022 convention is scheduled for January 18 – 20. If you would like to make room reservations for the 2022 convention, contact the hotel at 1-888-232-6747 or 519-681-7151 or through their website: [www.lamplighterinn.ca](http://www.lamplighterinn.ca).

Both the Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario and the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario are required to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM). The Province of Ontario's Declaration of Emergency has allowed AGM's to be delayed, but they will likely have to be held at some point in 2021. Further details to follow.

Some of you may also have planned to recertify your Red Cross First Aid training at the convention this year. We recommend that you contact the local branch of the Red Cross to see what training options are available in your area.

Finally, stay safe and be well.

Jason Van Gorp  
President  
Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario

Lu-Ann Marentette  
President  
Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario