



IN THE TRENCHES

September 2007

"Drainage Doesn't Cost - IT PAYS!"

www.drainage.org

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From the President's Desk

Hello to the LICO Membership. I hope everyone has had a busy summer. It has gone by very quickly. It has been a very hot and dry summer in most parts of Ontario.

We are now experiencing a couple of weeks of colder, wet weather. Fall is upon us, kids are back to school (Parents are Happy!), and harvesting has begun with potatoes and silage corn.

There is a Provincial election on the horizon in Ontario. As I sit here catching a few minutes of the Blue Jays game (another disappointing year for the birds) it seems like every commercial is a plug for one of our provincial political parties, which we are all paying dearly for. I for one am very tired of all the promises being made by all parties and the complaining they do about each other - this is getting very old. Would it not be a refreshing change to have a leader stand up and say, "I am not going to make any promises. I am going to do the best job I can representing the taxpayers of Ontario. I will be honest with everyone and I will treat everyone fairly." I for one would vote for a leader like this!!!

We have had a nice bounce back in drainage activity in 07, compared to 06. The fall looks to be busy. We have approx. 2 ½ months remaining to our season, which will lead us into our 50th year anniversary at the end of January.

I have been catching up on some drainage history on the internet and according to the article I have read, we need to give thanks to John Johnson. No, not LICO's John Johnston, John Johnson of Seneca County, New York. In 1838, according to the Johnson website, John emigrated from Scotland and brought the first drainage practice to North America. He laid 72 miles of clay pipe on his 320 acre farm and his wheat yield went from 12 bushels/acre to 60 bushels/acre. Johnson continued to advocate drainage throughout his life. Drainage continues to be a very important part of crop production all over the world!!!

Our LICO Executive has continued to work on Ag in Classroom and the 1st phase of the COWSEP Program is complete. We have also been planning LICO's 50th anniversary, which will be a very informative and fun program. Please plan to attend - you do not want to miss our 50th anniversary!!!

Thanks again for continuing to support our newsletter.

Your President,
Chris J. Groot

Lines from Lambton - Dean Hodgson

Talk of the weather has dominated Lambton County through June, July and August. What had started out as an optimistic spring, with fine dry weather, rising commodity prices and great demand for our grain crops had Lambton farmers in an upbeat mood. After the frustrating fall harvest of 2006 the world was looking much brighter. Slowly, however, these high hopes shriveled away under bright and sunny skies.

Corn, beans, sugar beets and spring grains all got off to a great start but lack of adequate rainfall, along with fluctuating markets, slowly replaced the happy faces with slight frowns. As sunny, June weather made harvesting a light hay crop comparatively easy, farmers began looking anxiously toward the sky for some moisture but it was not to be. By July the dreaded drought word was becoming familiar across Lambton County and this continued into August. The corn fields were stressed and soybeans began to wilt under the relentless sun. Rainfall was spotty throughout the County with about one inch in June, a quarter of normal, but even less in many areas. July was less than an inch in most of Lambton and as this continued into August the corn crop became extremely stressed. When the rains finally came, about mid-August, many felt it was too late for the hay and corn but hopefully other crops may rebound.

Soybeans appear to be gaining new life from the frequent rains of late August. The sugar beets seem to have weathered the drought better than most crops showing a dark green canopy but this is just what we see above ground.

But farmers are a resilient lot and the winter wheat harvest surprised and pleased those farmers who had managed to seed some wheat during the terrible conditions last fall. While only about a third of the usual fall wheat acreage was seeded in 2006, most somehow survived the winter and harvest results pleased everyone. Farmers harvested a high quality crop and although yields varied greatly from 50-75 % of normal, prices were rewarding to those fortunate enough to have a wheat harvest in 2007.

I came across a familiar problem on my wanderings last month when seeing an outside contractor tiling an old pasture farm in Sombra Township. A property owner in south Lambton had brought in an outside contractor, who apparently was not familiar with the characteristics of Sombra's heavy clay soil. Possibly in an effort to cut costs during a slow tiling year this Kent County contractor just dropped his tile outlets over the creek bank and plowed in the tile across humps and hollows at depths which might work in lighter soils but are merely sewer outlets in the heavy clays of Sombra Township. The uneven terrain of the abandoned pasture farm resulted in the tile to being installed much too deep for beneficial drainage. Much more time should have been spent surveying and planning.

Often we have discussed the minimum depths of tile as recommended in the Drainage Guide. In the heavy clay soils of Sombra, Dawn and Enniskillen townships in Lambton County, anything over 30" deep becomes nothing but a sewer outlet. Experience has proven tile installed too deep will not provide a satisfactory return on the farmer's investment.

Property owners would be well advised to always hire a local contractor who is familiar with the soils in his township. Often in the heavier soils the contractor must spend more time surveying, designing and installing more main drains in order to maintain uniform depths. Most contractors who work in the heavy clay soils have found they must closely watch their minimum depths to avoid the average drains being too deep to provide quality drainage. In the old days contractors attempted to avoid deep digging because this slowed the wheel machine's progress but today's plows surge right through 4'-5' depths with ease. The objective should be to provide the best drainage possible for that property. It takes more time and cost is higher but everyone will be happier with the results. Hopefully this Sombra Township property owner saved enough dollars to cover this upcoming crop losses and possible repairs along the creek bank.

(Continued Page 4)

Lines from Lambton *(Cont'd. from Page 3)*

On a brighter note we find that over in Brigden the Franklin Wilson family is celebrating an 80th anniversary in 2007. This Wilson family has a long history in Lambton County with some of their ancestors settling in Sombra Township in the 1830's. However, it was in the spring of 1927 when Franklin Wilson's father, Norman Wilson, purchased his Buckeye 'O' tiling machine from the estate of Charles Tulloch of Sombra Township. Norm Wilson had worked with his cousins, the Tulloch family, in the summer of 1926 learning the trade of farm tiling and attended the farm drainage course at O.A.C. in the winter of 1927. Norm learned the fundamentals of drain surveying from Professor Ferguson that winter and stringently followed the recommended procedures throughout his working life. Norm Wilson was a successful farm drainage contractor in the area southeast of Brigden for over 40 years, with his son Frank Wilson taking over the family business in the late 1960's. Franklin Wilson and his family have carried on the tradition ever since. Frank and Martha Wilson raised a family of 3 sons and 3 daughters, all of whom worked in the family business. Four of the children, Deanna, Daniel, Jarrod and Scott obtained their Class 'A' Drainage licenses and operated in the fields. Frank and his wife Martha also have their Class 'A' licenses giving the Wilson family 6 licensed Class 'A' operators. Most of the children have now moved on to other endeavors but Jarrod and Scott continue to work with Franklin and Martha carrying on the longest continually operated family tiling business in Lambton County for over 80 years.

Other Lambton County families, such as Maters, Tullochs and Griffins may have started in the tiling business even sooner but have not carried on one continuous family operation as have the Wilsons, now in their 3rd generation. Congratulations to Frank, Martha and their family carrying on the tradition started by grandfather, Norman Wilson.

The Dalton family of Dawn Township also celebrated a family history by erecting a historical plaque at the site of the Dalton Brothers Clay Tile Yard at lot 27, concession 3, of Dawn Township. Several of the descendants of the Dalton brothers, led by Paul Dalton, member of the D.S.A.O. and road superintendent for the municipality of Dawn-Euphemia, felt it was past time we honoured some of the pioneers of our industry. There are many other deserted clay tile yard sites scattered throughout Lambton County, unrecognized by historians and even their own families, for the tremendous contribution they made to the development of our rural communities.

Hopefully there will be more families who decide to honour their ancestors for their part in building Lambton agriculture. LICO members across the province should perhaps become involved in recognizing some of the pioneers in their counties.

High School Reunion

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table.

My wife asks, "Do you know her?" "Yes," I sighed, "She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.

"My God!" says my wife, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?"

So you see, there really are two ways to look at everything.

OMAFRA Drainage Coordinator's Report - Sid Vander Veen, Drainage Coordinator

Tile Loan Program: A total of \$2.79 million in tile loans has been processed or is on hand as of today. By comparison, at this time last year, farmers had borrowed over \$1.46 million and in the previous year, it was \$2.42 million. Although tile loan activity is up slightly from the past two years, the general indication is that there is lower tile drainage activity thus far in 2007.

Drainage Guide: The new Drainage Guide was released this past July, and it's got a whole new look. The text is easier to read and the document is visually much more pleasing. There are new charts and figures which have been updated and produced in colour. The Table of "Ontario Soil Series and Related Drainage Design Code" has been expanded to include northern Ontario soils along with their drainage design codes. Finally, while the Guide is produced with metric units, the imperial equivalents are added for convenience.

The new Drainage Guide sells for \$20 per copy. A complimentary copy of the Guide will be sent to each tile drainage contractor in Ontario with their 2008 business license renewals. A copy will also be sent to pipe manufacturers with the annual survey request. Anyone else can order a copy by calling 1-877-424-1300 and order Publication 29, Drainage Guide for Ontario.

Fisheries Act: A Drains Action Working Group has been established with representatives from the Drainage Superintendents Association of Ontario, the OSPE Land Drainage Committee, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association, Conservation Ontario, Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This working group was established to respond to issues that arise between the implementation of Drainage Act activities and the application of the Fisheries Act. The group has met on four occasions and the preliminary results seem positive.

Mark Your Calendars For The 2008 LICO Convention!!

Mark your calendar now for the 2008 convention January 23 & 24, 2008 at the Lamplighter Inn in London. Remember there are two Best Western Hotels in London so if you book your room through the Best Western central booking number specify the Lamplighter to make sure you do not miss any part of the convention.

We are planning a photo display of past and current contractors. If you have not been contacted for photos please email your photo - identifying the people - to Frank Kains at Kains@golden.net.

At the convention bring your memorabilia items they you are willing to show others - but make sure they remain with you so nothing "goes missing" at the convention.

Eye Test

Count every " F " in the following text:

FINISHED FILES ARE THE RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY COMBINED WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS...

How many ? WRONG! There are 6 -- no joke.

The brain cannot process OF. Incredible or what? Go ahead and look again. Anyone who sees 6 the first time is a genius.



Safety Services Company

Are you looking for a quick, easy, cost effective answer for your Safety Meetings?

Safety Services Company can provide Land Improvement Contractors of Ontario members all the components needed to manage and maintain a comprehensive company safety training program. Our primary focus is providing customized subscriptions for Tailgate/Toolbox safety training for the construction industry. Below is a list of some of the products available, all LICO members receive a 15% off our regular prices.

Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training Meetings: Normally \$199 per year (\$169 for LICO Members)

Select your 52 weekly meetings from our catalog of over 500 topics. All meetings are provided on 2-ply NCR paper for easy documentation and reference; Included in the yearly meeting subscription:

- We provide a toll-free safety HOTLINE: no cost personal consultation for any and all of your safety regulations.
- Free At-request topics: we will research and write meetings for any topic not on our list!

Health and Safety Program Manuals: Normally \$425 (\$360 for LICO Members)

150-300 page company safety policy (manual and CD softcopy). This serves as your company cost containment program, detailing your areas of risk and proper response. Some areas covered are (*optional sections):

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Corporate Safety Policies/Procedures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electrical Lockout & Tagout | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Driver Safety Policy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety Committees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WHMIS Program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Forklift Safety Policy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety Rules/Codes of Safe Practice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Protective Equipment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Hot Work Safety Policy |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Machine/Equipment Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Posting Requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orientation Form |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accident Investigation Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Respiratory Protection | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety Meeting Minute |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency Response & Fire Prev. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Stairway & Ladder Safety Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cost Containment/Loss Prevention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CPR & First Aid | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Fall Protection Plan in Construction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asbestos |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazard Assessment Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Scaffolding for Construction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAZWOPER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blood borne Pathogens | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Excavation Procedures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electrical (General) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workplace Violence & Harassment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *Confined Spaces Policy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mold Abatement |

For more information call John Shelman at (866) 204-4786

Safety Sam says:
"A safety program is not only a good idea...it's the Law."



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Toll Free: 1-(866) 204-4786 / Fax: 1-(928) 627-0004

A Sample Training Program Follows on Page 8



Tailgate/Toolbox Safety Training

Safety Services Company-Safety Meeting Division, PO Box 6408 Yuma, AZ 85366-6408 Toll Free (866) 204-4786



Company Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____
 Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Canada Topic 33: Hazard Assessment (Job Hazard Analysis)

Introduction: A job-site hazard poses potential for harm. In practical terms, hazards are a condition or activity that, if left uncontrolled, can result in an injury or illness. Workplace injuries and illnesses can be prevented by looking at workplace operations, establishing proper job procedures, and ensuring that all employees are trained properly. Identifying hazards and eliminating or controlling them as early as possible will help prevent injuries and illnesses. A hazard assessment or job hazard analysis is a technique that focuses on identifying hazards before they occur. Hazard assessment focuses on the relationship between the worker, the task, the tools, and the work environment. Ideally, after hazards are identified, steps will be taken to eliminate or reduce the hazard to an acceptable risk level.



A job hazard analysis can be conducted on virtually any area of the workplace with priority going to the following types of jobs:

- Operations with the highest injury or illness rates
- Tasks with the potential to cause severe or disabling injuries or illness
- Procedures complex enough to require written instructions
- Situations in which one simple human error could lead to a severe accident or injury
- Jobs that are new to the operation or have undergone changes in processes and procedures



Involve all employees: It is very important to involve employees in the hazard analysis process. Workers have a unique understanding of their job, and this knowledge is invaluable for finding hazards. Involving employees will help minimize oversights, ensure a quality analysis, and get all personnel to "buy in" to the solutions.

Conduct a preliminary job review of the known existing hazards in the current work surroundings and ways to eliminate or control those hazards.

Review the worksite's history of accidents and occupational illnesses that needed treatment, losses that required repair or replacement, and any "near misses" (events in which an accident or loss did not occur, but could have). These events are indicators that the existing hazard controls (if any) may not be adequate and deserve more scrutiny.



Immediate action must be taken to protect workers if any hazards exist that pose an immediate danger to life or health.

A job hazard analysis is an exercise in detective work with the goal being to discover the following:

- What can go wrong?
- What are the consequences?
- How could it arise?
- What are other contributing factors?
- How likely is it that the hazard will occur?

To make the job hazard analysis useful, document the answers to these questions in a consistent manner. Describing a hazard in this way helps to ensure that efforts to eliminate the hazard and implement hazard controls target the most important contributors to the hazard.

Good hazard scenarios describe:

- Where it is happening (environment)
- Who or what it is happening to (exposure)
- What precipitates the hazard (trigger)
- The outcome that would occur should it happen (consequence)
- Any other contributing factors



Hazard Control Measures: Information obtained from a job hazard analysis is useless unless hazard control measures recommended in the assessment/analysis are incorporated into the tasks. Supervisors should recognize that not all hazard controls are equal, and some are more effective than others at reducing the risk.

The order of hazard control precedence is: 1) Engineering Controls, 2) Administration Controls, 3) and Personal Protective Equipment.

Use of one hazard control method over another higher in the control precedence may be appropriate for providing interim protection until the hazard is permanently removed. In reality, if the hazard cannot be eliminated entirely, the adopted control measures will likely be a combination of all three items instituted simultaneously.



Conclusion: Rarely is a hazard a simple case of one singular cause resulting in one singular effect. More frequently, many contributing factors tend to line up in a certain way to create the hazard. If there have been "near-misses" or actual accident cases, then the likelihood of a recurrence would be considered high. Regular weekly review of the workplace hazard assessment/job hazard analysis will ensure that it remains current and continues to help reduce workplace accidents and injuries.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____
 Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures: _____ (My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____
 These guidelines do not supercede local, provincial, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OHS regulations.

Falling Pipe Crushes Construction Workers - (Excerpts from article by Jean Lion, OHS Canada July/August 2007)

Two workers were killed and three others injured in May when a steel pipe rolled off a semi-trailer truck at a construction site in Candiac, Quebec, south of Montreal.

The workers were removing straps securing a load of pipes when one pipe, measuring 20 metres long and weighing almost a tonne, rolled off the truck. The two employees – one 17; the other 35 – died from crushing injuries.

Tips on safe loading and unloading:

Workers should maintain eye contact with the load-operator at all times and stay out of the way.

The straps securing the load should be securely fastened and spaced 20 feet apart over the length of the load. The driver should occasionally check that the load is secure and walk around the trailer to verify if it is stable before unhooking tie-down straps. If the load has shifted during transit, the driver should ask the load-operator to stabilize the load before unhooking the binders.

Signallers should be used and at least one must be in direct contact with the operator.

Establish a clear control zone.

Conservation Authority Challenge to Drainage (Don Lobb)

On July 20th, at the invitation of the Drainage Superintendents in the Niagara area, I participated in a meeting with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) to discuss their proposed “Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the Administration of Ontario Regulation 155/06, and Land Use Planning Policy Document”. This is their version of the amended Conservation Authority Act.

Following are some points of interest from that meeting:

The CAs are operating under a directive from MNR to apply the terms of the revised Conservation Authority Act (Generic Regulations) to meet MNR objectives. The CAs have been directed by MNR to regulate municipal drains.

The GTA CAs want the generic regulations applied to the maximum; i.e. a 120 m. buffer around a 2 ha wetland. They are applying pressure on other CAs to follow suit. The NPCA are resisting this and are using a 30 m. buffer.

A NPCS spokesperson was adamant that it is the CAs responsibility to encourage wildlife expansion and to protect it. They accept no responsibility for the impact of wildlife or anything else that results from the establishment or enlargement or protection of a wetland or any other protected area. The benefit of drainage in producing a healthier, safer environment for people, livestock and crop is ignored.

The maintenance and construction of drains along roads and built up areas is considered to be infrastructure and not subject to CA requirements for environmental impact studies (EIS). Municipal and farm drains are subject to EIS. Apparently, food production does not require infrastructure! Perhaps a food shortage is necessary to change perceptions.

More Flexibility Urged In Granting Drain Cleanout Approvals - (Excerpts from Ontario Farmer, September 18, 2007)

“Inconsistencies, delays and too many fees” have put many a rural Eastern Ontario municipality on the warpath against what it sees as bureaucratic overkill preventing expeditious maintenance of municipal and farm drains.

It can take from three months to a year to get final approval from DFO and/or conservation authorities which have jurisdiction within the municipalities.

South Nation Conservation general manager Dennis O’Grady countered that the authority is mandated by the Ministry of Natural Resources to conduct drain inspections and supervision and can’t unilaterally change the practice.

In July, South Stormont council unanimously passed a motion calling for DFO to review and shorten the time frame required for approval of maintenance requests.

A second motion on September 12 seeking consolidation of drain improvement applications which now go out twice, to DFO and the local conservation authority; a full review of required application fees; and provision of federal funding covering increased expenses incurred in dealing with delays.

Council maintains that drains are part of the municipal infrastructure, designed, engineered and approved by the province, and as such shouldn’t require any additional approvals from conservation authorities in conducting routine maintenance.

These are drains which in many cases are dried up in the middle of the summer. They’re just as important in the township infrastructure as roads and bridges.

“DFO conservation authorities, and biologists need to have respect and common sense when it comes to working with farmers and other landowners.”

Farmer Water Committee Election Process Halted - (Excerpts from Ontario Farmer, September 18, 2007)

The Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition (OFEC) has been ordered by the provincial government to cease their elections of farmers onto source water protection committees after Oct. 3.

There are six of the 19 regions which have already elected farmers into their committees and the conservation authorities (CAs) in those regions have been advised that they “have to be prepared to accept and look at additional nominations to adhere to the law.”

OFEC had moved to set up the farmer election meetings across the province, with the dates based on the draft documentation of the Clean Water Act, which had set an August deadline for nominations. However, when the final law was released in July it gave an early October date for nomination cut-off.

When stopping the process, “they put us in a box,” said Fitzgibbon. “We could not accept nominations until Oct. 3, plus we had to supply them with the list on October 3rd. It was physically impossible.”

Critics of the government intervention note that the election of a large number of Landowner farmers, committed to farmer compensation under property rights, could possibly be the reason for the process being stopped, giving the OFA time to regroup.

(Continued Page 10)

Farmer Water Committee Election Process Halted *(Cont'd. from Page 9)*

There was also provincial government interference in the local process of CAs picking the Source Water Committee Chairperson. With the local region vetting and interviewing the candidates for chair and sending that name they picked as the best candidate to the MOE Minister's office in Toronto, there were three of the 19 names refused, with three other people being directly appointed by the Minister.

With the provincial government highlighting this decision process as being local based, there was "extreme hostility" over this process being circumvented.

Editor's Note: If the Minister of Environment does not get "eco-friendly" appointees locally, the government will change the rules or the laws until she does.

Clean Water Act Awaits Regulations - *(Excerpts from Ontario Farmer, July 10, 2007)*

The first set of regulations set out how conservation authorities will organize themselves to administer the act.

Some of the conservation authorities jumped the gun and started recruiting committee members and gathering information for plans. They want to access the money the province has set aside to fund the programs.

That money could disappear at the end of the fiscal year if the politicians who win this fall's election choose different budget priorities.

The bigger funding issue is who will pay for implementation. Municipalities are suspicious that they will be stuck with big bills and property owners are anxious to know how much compliance will cost them.

Farmers Sought for Water Committees *(Excerpts from Ontario Farmer July 10, 2007)*

The Ontario Farm Environment Coalition (OFEC) is warning the agriculture community to become involved in placing good people on the 19 Source Water Protection Committees in the province, which will be rapidly formed over the next month and a half.

These committees will determine the terms of reference for the assessment report and plan, identify and deal with significant risks, plus be part of the ongoing decision making.

The committees will range in size from 10 to 16 people, including the chair. One-third of the committee will be selected jointly by the councils of those municipalities within their region, one-third representing the sectors, like agriculture and industrial, while the remaining one-third must represent the interests of the general public and will be selected by the CA's.

The only set rule for municipal appointments is that municipal councilors or members sitting on a CA board of directors are not eligible to sit on these committees.

David Armitage, a senior researcher with OFA outlined how members will be nominated for these different committees. He stated that agriculture committee members, should represent all of agriculture, not just their narrow sector and should be bona fide, active farmers. Retired farmers and other agriculture related people knowledgeable on water issue, could be put on the committee in the other two appointment areas, through the municipalities or the general public. This committee work will involve a lot of time, probably two meetings a month. The amount of pay to committee members has not been included in the regulations so far but Armitage feels that with the numbers being bandied about, it will be in the \$250 a day range. The time line is early September to have these committees fully formed.

OME Water Conservation Initiatives (Don Lobb)

A Water Conservation and Efficiency Workshop, Towards Implementation of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement” was held on August 28th in Toronto. Ontario Ministry of the Environment was the organizer. The 80 participants included a wide range of stakeholders. I was invited to participate as a LICO representative. Agriculture was also represented by one person from OMAFRA and one from OFA.

Some interesting points from the discussions on the promotion and accommodation of water conservation include:

- Need incentives or funding.
- Need to showcase best practices.
- Need to meter all water users.
- Need to provide flexibility in what practices are used.
- Ontario needs to demonstrate leadership.
- Need financial support for research and promotion.
- Should not move so quickly that we destabilize some industry.
- Climate change incentives are expensive.
- Should occur on a watershed basis.
- Should consider demand as well as supply.
- Water is first limiting factor in food production.
- Assist innovators and early adapters.
- Ensure that research is used by including demonstration sites and pilot projects.
- Focus on what saves money and on greatest inefficiencies.
- Need better groundwater research.
- Encourage landlord involvement.
- Invest in infrastructure – stop the 10-50% leakage experienced by some municipalities.
- Don't encourage practices that cost; i.e. water brings wildlife in conflict with food production.
- Avoid conflicts; i.e. storage ponds bring mosquitoes to urban areas.
- Avoid institutional barriers (i.e. regulators), which limit water conservation.
- Determine if all water uses should be allowed.
- Need effective auditing of water use.
- Identify and focus on the real issues.
- Need to improve irrigation efficiency.

The organizers did not share what the intended outcome of this workshop would be. However, agriculture and drainage are likely to be implicated.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 23 & 24, 2008

LICO Conference

Best Western Lamplighter Inn
591 Wellington Rd., London, Ontario
N6C 4R3



This is the fiftieth anniversary meeting of the Association. Book your rooms early so you do not miss out on any of the planned events.

February 5—7, 2008 Canadian International Farm Equipment Show, International Centre, Toronto
The LICO Booth is number 5010 in Hall 5.

March 5—7, 2008

Western Fair Farm Show

Western Fair Grounds, London, Ontario

www.westernfair.com

Actual Metaphors from High School English Assignments

Even in his last years, Granddad had a mind like a steel trap. Only one that had been left out so long, it had rusted shut.

He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.

The ballerina rose gracefully en pointe and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.

The plan was simple, like my brother-in-law Phil. But unlike Phil, this plan just might work.

The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.

It was an American tradition, like fathers chasing kids around with power tools.

He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.

How to Call the Police When You're Old and Don't Move Fast Anymore

George Phillips of Meridian, Mississippi was going up to bed when his wife told him that he'd left the light on in the garden shed, which she could see from the bedroom window.

George opened the back door to go turn off the light but saw that there were people in the shed stealing things.

He phoned the police, who asked "Is someone in your house?" and he said "no". Then they said that all patrols were busy, and that he should simply lock his door and an officer would be along when available. George said, "Okay," hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again.

"Hello, I just called you a few seconds ago because there were people stealing things from my shed. Well, you don't have to worry about them now because I've just shot them." Then he hung up.

Within five minutes three police cars, an Armed Response Unit, and an ambulance showed up at the Phillips' residence and caught the burglars red-handed.

One of the Policemen said to George: "I thought you said that you'd shot them!"

George said, "I thought you said there was nobody available!"

(True Story) - Don't mess with old people!!