



IN THE TRENCHES

September 2010

"Drainage Doesn't Cost - IT PAYS!"

www.drainage.org

EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Gerald Neeb
(519) 656-2618
rothdrainage@sympatico.ca

PAST PRESIDENT

Chris Groot
(705) 434-0709
cgroot@armtec.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Greg Walker
(705) 340-5500
gregwalker24@hotmail.com

DIRECTORS

Brad VanGorp
(519) 765-4445

Joe Frankis
(519) 420-0014
jfrankis@armtec.com

Erick Nooyen
(519) 674-2109
jillandErick@netscape.net

Secretary Treasurer

John R. Johnston
231 Dimson Ave.
Guelph, ON N1G 3C7
(519) 836-1386
Fax: (519) 836-4059
jjohnston@gto.net

Convention Coordinator

Franklin Kains
519-742-4591
Kains@golden.net

Environmental Advocate

Don Lobb
(905) 838-2221
dwlobb@xplornet.com

From the President's Desk

Fellow Members:

WOW!! Labour Day weekend is here again. As I am writing this letter I am looking out the window at some pretty crappy weather. I was just commenting to Gwen I was glad the kids were all grownup - otherwise we would have been out there camping with them this weekend no matter what the weather was like. Not that we didn't have lots of fun camping with them, it just seems that the weather conditions are a higher priority for us now to go camping.

Looking back at the last few months we all have experienced weather and soil conditions that have been awesome. With all those 30C plus days it sure has brought the crops ahead of schedule, which in turn gives us all a few extra weeks of work.

Things have been very quiet for the LICO association so it's been very hard to keep the articles for the newsletter interesting. If you know of anything that would be of interest, we appreciate a call or forward it on for the next issue.

Hancor/ADS had a grand opening for their plant with a field demonstration of their products being installed by LICO contractors on August 31. Greg Walker and I manned the LICO display and there was a good turnout.

Looks like Franklin Kains has a great line-up for our convention in January. I have to admit that before I was on the executive board I did not give the convention much thought until December. I would urge you to talk with your employees about attending the 2011 convention in January. It is always informative and it is always good to get ideas from others. Gwen has been working on the Ladies program and it sounds like she has another good program in the making. Give some thought to registering early - details will be in the December newsletter. Let's make the upcoming convention as successful as last the last one.

In closing I would like to say to everyone have a safe and successful fall. Gerald.



Lines from Lambton - Dean Hodgson

Lambton County farmers are enjoying one of the best growing seasons that anyone can remember. Despite some unsettled weather during the spring seeding season in May and some rainy weather during the wheat harvest, farmers are enjoying a marvelous growing season. All three major crops have been growing 2-3 weeks ahead of normal. Bryan Boyle, Lambton County OMFRA agent, reported in a recent news article that the fall wheat harvest averaged over 80 bushels per acre with many reporting yields of over 100 bushels per acre. Though there were some touchy moments with all the rain storms in July, the crop came off in very good condition. The corn, soybean and sugar beet crops all look to be well above average. Dairy farmers have been harvesting tremendous yields of hay, in between showers. These conditions make a lot of happy faces around Lambton County this summer although many are again looking for some rain toward the end of August. September 1st reports corn crops are turning brown but the sugar beet harvest has started a month early.

All the Lambton County farm drainage contractors are extremely busy. When farmers are pleased with their crops and prices trend upward, they tend to spend money improving their farms and so more and more fields are being tile drained again this summer. I was talking with Donald McGee of Sombra and though he hadn't been too busy during the spring, there were a lot of jobs on the books for wheat ground. Donald and his wife were participating in the annual horse show in Brigden on July 10th, during the rainy weather in the middle of the wheat harvest. Donald farms several hundred acres besides operating his farm drainage business. I also spoke with Wayne Dupuis during the wet weather. The Dupuis brothers were completing a challenging job on Lot 24, Con. 3 of Enniskillen Township during the wet spell in July. Just down the road their cousin, Allan Jardine, was completing a job on Lot 19, Con. 7 of Enniskillen. Ken Jaques was busy over in Moore Township in between the July showers and then moved back to Enniskillen for a good job along the Petrolia Line. We spoke with Scott Wilson working on Lot 27, Con. 5, in Moore Township. As usual weather is a major factor for everyone.

Recently we spoke with Franklin Wilson of Brigden about his family's long involvement in the drainage industry in Lambton County. Frank recalled that his father, Norman Wilson (1907-1988), started tiling with his cousins, the Tulloch family, on their farm in Sombra Township where he learned the intricacies of the trade. Later Norman Wilson attended the drainage school at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. At O. A. C. Norman came under the tutelage of Professor Fred Ferguson, one of the early advocates of properly installing farm drainage tile on grade. Professor Ferguson taught his students the art of surveying, proper adjustments and care of their survey instruments and the need to ALWAYS install tile drains on grade. These lessons stuck with Norman Wilson all his life and he had a reputation as an excellent farm drainage contractor. Norman Wilson tiled in the area of the Four Corners of Dawn, Moore, Enniskillen and Sombra Townships for over forty years. During that time he established a reputation as a very knowledgeable ditcher who was very concerned with the proper installation of the tile drains as well as the benefits of tile drainage to his customers. In the late 1920's Norman Wilson purchased a Buckeye '0' tiling machine and the Wilson family have been draining Lambton County farmland now for over 80 years. Norman's eldest son, Franklin Wilson, worked with his father in the drainage business and took possession of the family business during the 1960's. Frank has always attempted to live up to the reputation established by his father.

In 1960 Franklin Wilson married Martha Mills and they have carried on the family tradition. Franklin and Martha have six children, Deanna, Daniel, Kimberly, Jarrod, Ellen and Scott. This Wilson family's life has revolved around their Farm Drainage business. At one time six members of the family held Class 'A' drainage licenses. After Franklin, his daughter Deanna obtained her Class 'A' drainage license in 1982 and worked with her father in the field for several years. All three boys obtained their Class 'A' license as did their mother Martha. In the 1980's Martha and her son Jarrod successfully completed the Contractors Erosion Control Course at Kitchener and they also completed the C.E.C.C. Review Course in 2007. Wilson Farm Drainage has truly been a family affair.

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

Over the years Franklin had worked with his father on the old Buckeye trencher which they continually upgraded with new ideas and attachments. The Wilsons built their own quick-hitch trailer for moving the track-driven Buckeye from job to job. Franklin built his own auger back-filler to fill the open trenches. When they purchased a Speicher Tandem Trencher in the 1970's, Frank Wilson was one of the first contractors to install laser grade control on a wheel machine. Like all drain contractors, Franklin Wilson is always open to new ideas but also likes to cling to the tried and true.

As the years passed, some of the family drifted off into other careers but the two youngest boys, Jarrod and Scott, stuck with the farm drainage. Besides drainage Jarrod and Scott have also been involved in construction and pipeline work. In 2007, Jarrod Wilson purchased his own dozer, later a 'Cat' 315 excavator and now has his own land improvement business. Franklin Wilson has now semi-retired after passing his seventieth birthday in 2008. Scott Wilson now operates the Wilson Farm Drainage business and recently purchased his own GPS system. However, both Frank and Jarrod are still available when Scott needs extra help to keep the Wilson Farm Drainage business going strong after more than 80 years.

Drainage System Firm Hard-Pressed to Meet Demand - *(Excerpts Ontario Farmer, September 7, 2010)*

Advanced Drainage Systems Ltd's new manufacturing plant in Heidelberg is going full steam, three shifts a day, to meet the demand for field drainage systems.

The plant hosted an open house recently. The company is the world's largest maker of HDPE (high density polyethylene) drainage pining with 34 plants in the United States and another 10 in other countries.

The plant here which employs about 40 people, makes pipes of three to 30 inches diameter and stocks piping from other plants of 36 to 60 inches.

The company also manufactures HP (high performance) drains for storm sewers.

One of the other companies at the demonstration was EFS Precision of Elmira Farm Service Ltd., showing off its GPS capabilities which can guide the drainage-ditching equipment within one-tenth of a foot both horizontally and vertically.

Cats

Cats do what they want.

They rarely listen to you.

They're totally unpredictable.

They whine when they aren't happy.

When you want to play, they want to be alone.

When you want to be alone, they want to play.

They expect you to cater to their every whim.

They're moody.

They leave hair everywhere.

They drive you nuts, and cost you an arm and a leg.

Conclusion: They're tiny little women in cheap fur coats.

OMAFRA Drainage Coordinator's Report – Sid Vander Veen

Tile Loan Program: As of September 1/10, 75 tile loans have been issued that total \$2.01 million. The following is a comparison to total loans as of September 1 in previous years:

2009/10 \$1.56 million	2005/06 \$1.89 million
2008/09 \$1.57 million	
2007/08 \$2.09 million	

Only once in the past 5 years has there been a higher pace of tile loans by September 1.

The Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act:

It may surprise some of you, but the *Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act* was passed 37 years ago. The purpose of the Act is to regulate the workmanship of tile drainage contractors, along with their machines and machine operators and to protect the agricultural community in the investment they make beneath the surface of their agricultural land.

I've decided to do a series of newsletter contributions on the *Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act*. In this edition, I'll be covering the "Operator License" in detail. Further newsletters will provide articles on (2) The Drainage Contractor Courses; (3) The Machine License; (4) The Business License; (5) The Inspector and (6) What We Don't Regulate or Inspect

THE OPERATOR LICENSE

To be effective, subsurface tile drainage systems must be properly designed and accurately installed. While there are many factors that influence a proper functioning subsurface drainage system, one of the most influential factors is the operator of the machine installing the system. For this reason, the *Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act* requires anyone operating a tile drainage machine to have a machine operator license.

This operator license requirement only applies to individuals who operate machines specifically designed to install tile drainage systems beneath agricultural land. It does not apply to the operation of bulldozers, backhoes, excavators and other equipment that may be associated with the tile drainage business.

To be an effective tile drainage machine operator requires a combination of training and experience. The training is provided through two training courses that detail the survey, planning, design and layout of tile drainage systems. More information will be provided on these courses in the LICO newsletter edition. The experience is gained through a graduated licensing system that is guided and supervised by experienced machine operators.

Classes of Machine Operator's Licenses:

Class "C" operators are apprentices. To obtain this license, the applicant must have at least 60 days experience working in the tile drainage business. This working experience may be in making connections, stringing tile, running a backhoe or dozer, etc. It does not include experience operating a tile drainage machine since operating a machine without an operator's license is usually illegal. Application forms are available on the OMAFRA drainage page: www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/landuse/drainage.htm or you can call or email me. An individual who has a Class "C" operator license may only operate a tile drainage machine under the constant supervision of a Class "A" or Class "B" operator.

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OMAFRA Drainage Coordinator's Report *(Cont'd. from page 5)*

Class "B" operators are mid-level operators. They may operate tile drainage machines on their own, provided a Class "A" operator is present and in actual contact at least once every 3-hour period. To upgrade to a Class "B" license, an individual must have passed the Primary Drainage Course and have a minimum of 250 hours operating machines as a Class "C" operator. Individuals who wish to upgrade their license must now record their hours of operating experience. A sample log sheet is being included in this newsletter.

Class "A" operators are experienced operators who can perform all the work necessary to plan and install a tile drainage system. Before an individual can upgrade their Class "B" license to a Class "A", they must have passed both the Primary and Advanced Drainage Courses and have a minimum of 500 hours total experience as a Class "B" or "C" operator, operating a tile drainage machine. They must also pass a field test conducted by the Drainage Inspector.

During the field test, the operator will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of the design of the tile drainage system – ideally, the applicant would have designed the system personally. They must also demonstrate the setup of the grade control system and the proper method of making connections. Finally, they must operate the machine to install the tile drainage and the grade on the tile will be checked against the design grade.

Operator License Details:

Operator licenses are issued for a three-year term that expires on December 31. If you are issued a new Class "C" operator license partway through a year (e.g. in September 2010), this license will expire on December 31, 2012. The operator license fee is \$50 for the three-year term of the license.

To Upgrade the Class of Your License:

Complete the Application to Upgrade a Machine Operator's License and attach the log that lists the hours of machine operating experience. Include a cheque with the \$5 change of class fee and send it to the address indicated on the form.

Universal Law

Law of Mechanical Repair - After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch and you will have to pee.

Law of Gravity - Any tool, nut, bolt, screw, when dropped, will roll to the least accessible corner.

Law of Probability - The probability of being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of your act.

Variation Law - If you change lines (or traffic lanes), the one you were in will always move faster than the one you are in now (works every time).

Law of the Result - When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Law of Logical Argument - Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

Wilson's Law of Commercial Marketing Strategy - As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

The Sewage Double Standard - (Excerpts from Better Farming October 2010)

New rules still won't penalize cities for sewage dumping

In 2002, Environment Canada announced that Hay Bay Farms Inc of Napanee and its manager, Mark Davis, would each be fined for \$5,000 for violating the Fisheries Act and ordered to pay \$25,000 to the Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority for fish habitat and stream rehabilitation.

Hay Bay and Davis had failed to comply with a 1998 directive issued by the environment department to stop pollution from the farm reaching a fish habitat area in the Bay of Quinte. Three charges of "depositing a deleterious substance in water frequented by fish," as spelled out in Section 36(3) of the Fisheries Act, were suspended and the company and Davis were placed on probation.

Environment Canada tested water beside his farm in 1998, and ordered a cleanup before testing again 30 days later.

In October, 2002, acting upon a complaint of a disgruntled neighbour, an Environment Canada inspector determined that the Orangeville area farmer David Moritz was polluting Willow Creek by allowing cattle access to the stream which bisected his farm. A letter from the department warned Moritz that a first offense would result in a fine of as much as \$300,000.

"We got 30 days notice from the time the letter was mailed and it took two weeks to get here," Moritz recalls.

This spring, Environment Canada published a new regulation that "would decriminalize sewage discharges that are currently illegal under the Fisheries Act."

If the regulation is adopted, Section 36(3) will no longer apply to municipal sewage facilities. There will be guidelines for operation of the 3,700 municipal sewage systems in Canada secondary sewage treatment, but municipalities will get lots of time to comply.

"Wastewater systems posing a high risk would be required to meet the effluent quality standards within 10 years, medium risk within 20 years, low risk within 30 years."

That's a far cry from 30 days notice that farmers Moritz and Davis received.

Ottawa knows what the issue is with sewage treatment in Canada. "Effluent from wastewater systems represents one of the largest sources of pollution, by volume, in Canadian waters," the Canada Gazette says. "Negative impacts to aquatic ecosystems and to Canadians from harmful substances found in wastewater effluent have been documented domestically and internationally for over 20 years."

Editor's Note: Municipalities are exempted from prosecution and get 30 years to comply with guidelines, but individual farmers will still be charged and are given 30 days to comply.

Mini Tilers

There have been reports of mini tilers on the concession roads installing tile. While a farmer is allowed to use one of these machines to tile his own land, an operator is in contravention of the Agricultural Tile Drainage Installation Act if installing on land owned by others.

If you see one of the mini machines operating immediately notify Sid Vander Veen (519) 826-3552, as the operator has to be observed by a Provincial Offences Officer before any legal action can be taken. If we do not report these individuals when we see them, we are not entitled to complain about their work.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 19 & 20, 2011
LICO Conference
Best Western Lamplighter Inn
591 Wellington Rd.,
London, Ontario N6C 4R3



Passings:

MAITLAND, Ross Albert Garland "Bert"
Suddenly on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 in his 83rd year. Owner of Maitland Farm Drainage and Curvue Farms of Jasper. Beloved husband of the late Helene Maitland (Willoughby). Dear father of Sharon (Mike Howitt), Shirley, Don (Barbara), Jim (Lauri) and the late Kevin (Barbara). Cherished grandfather of Farrah Howitt; Adam, Maria & David Kuzych; Erin, Laura, Matt, Eric, Emily, Kyle, Krissie & Jessica Maitland. Survived by his brother William (Margaret).

TAIT, Karen Christina; Suddenly at her home at R.R. # 2, Grand Valley on Monday May 31, 2010 in her 51st year. Beloved wife of Jim Tait of Grand Valley. Dear mother of Christa (Kevin) Tait of Grand Valley and Jesse Tait of Low, Que. Loving nanny of Blayne and Trent. Cherished daughter of Ken Wren of Grand Valley and Marilyn Hatfield of Alliston. Fondly remembered by her father and mother-in-law, John and Plonie Tait of Grand Valley. Survived by six brothers, three sisters, one brother-in-law and four sisters-in-law and Joey. Predeceased by brother Chris Wren.

ADS Hancor - Open House, August 31, 2010 - Heidelberg, Ontario



The tour of the facility was very impressive. It was interesting to see how they go from raw components to a finished product. I was very impressed with the safety and efficiency demonstrated in the production process, and the quality of the final tubing. After the tour, we were treated to a great BBQ luncheon which allowed me to talk to a variety of people in the industry. All in all it was an afternoon well spent!! Thanks for allowing me to attend. SCB

The ADS Hancor open house was a great opportunity to see a demonstration of old and new tile laying technologies in action. There was a wealth of experience to be shared by the various attendees and I learned a great deal about agricultural drainage - from the differences in equipment and methodology to the differences in components and application of the drainage tubing itself.

