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The Ontario Regional Common
Ground Alliance (ORCGA) is an
organization promoting efficient
and effective damage prevention

for Ontario's vital underground
infrastructure. Through a unified
approach and stakeholder consensus,
ORCGA fulfills its motto of "Working
Together to Build a Safer Ontario."

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ALLIANCE (ORCGA)



20 Years and Counting...

By Doug Lapp, President & CEO, ORCGA

Hard to believe that in 2023 the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance is celebrating 20 Years of working with our generous sponsors, many dedicated committee and event volunteers and committed members to promote safe digging practices, while supporting the damage prevention industry in Ontario and across Canada.

From its humble beginnings in 2003, the creation and establishment of the ORCGA began at the ground level in the late 1990's. Several separate groups in the construction industry were discussing improvements in safe excavation to reduce infrastructure damages, but the action plans were very fragmented. It wasn't until 1999 when Ontario One Call's Damage Prevention Committee comprised of utilities and locate organizations amalgamated with the Third Party Damage Prevention Task Force made up of utilities, industry associations and the TSSA in an effort to bring the stakeholders together.

During the same time in the United States, similar efforts were underway with the development of a set of industry Best Practices, ultimately leading to the creation of the Common Ground Alliance (CGA) in 2000. The CGA then approached the Canadian Gas Association to have Canadian representation on the continued development

of the Best Practices. Through this good work and collaboration, it was then determined to pursue forming a Chapter of the CGA outside of the US and use their methodology to increase the participation and development of Ontario Best Practices. With the endorsement of the US Common Ground Alliance, the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance was incorporated in 2003.

Through the first 20 years, there have been many accomplishments with continuous improvement along the way; including our Committees (Best Practices, Reporting & Evaluation, Events & Communication and Education & Training). Through the hard work of the ORCGA Committees, annual deliverables such as the DIRT Report, Ear to the Ground publication, Tolerance Zone Newsletter and Best Practices updates are generated and delivered for our members. The Committees also organize ORCGA events including the annual Symposium, Dig Safe Month, Golf Tournament and Locate Rodeo & Excavator Challenge, all of which are planned, executed, and well attended. Member engagement is maintained during the course of the year through the Geographic Council Meetings which are held twice per year across the province in the thirteen Geographic Council areas.

The development and ongoing delivery of ORCGA's Training Programs

including the Damage Prevention Technician (DPT) Program, Safe Excavation Training (SET) Program and the ORCGA Tailboard Talks (TbT) have also been a cornerstone of the ORCGA throughout its' 20 years.

The ORCGA has also created and upheld annual recognition programs for our members including the Excavator of the Year Awards for each underground excavation work type, the Member of the Year Award and the Jim Douglas Award of Excellence in Damage Prevention.

In summary, the development and accomplishments of the ORCGA from its inception through to our 20th year and beyond has been very dynamic; and is well captured in the Vision of the organization:

"Every Dig, a Safe Dig"

This vision is delivered through our Mission:

"Driving Safe Excavation for workers, the public and underground infrastructure through Advocacy, Education and Engagement"

I believe it goes without saying that all of the above could not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the ORCGA staff, for which I am personally very grateful for their hard work!

Let's continue this good work into the next 20 years and beyond...



20 Year ORCGA Member Spotlights



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Radiodetection is strongly committed to ensuring damage prevention and works along with all stakeholders while continuing R&D investments in this regard. Radiodetection is member of ORCGA since inception of the Alliance and appropriately playing its role in exposing latest technology to the industry. Proud to be part of ORCGA since 2003 and congratulations to all the members. Please keep doing what you are doing in best interest and safety of Ontarians and Canadians.



OSWCA

The OSWCA is a champion of environmental protection and best practices in safety and water system management. We have represented the sewer and watermain construction industry in Ontario since 1971. We represent over 750 companies across Ontario including contractors,

manufacturers, distributors and consulting engineers. The OSWCA membership is structured by ten local associations, two pipe producers and one independent association. Collectively, we perform over \$1 billion a year in capital projects to ensure clean safe drinking water and environmentally responsible wastewater treatment and disposal.



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We are a proud member of the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) and have been pleased to support its excellent work since the organizations' inception in 2003. Over the past 20 years, the ORCGA has provided valuable support and guidance that has helped to significantly advance damage prevention in Ontario. By bringing together experts from across utilities, excavators, and municipalities, the ORCGA continues to provide incredible experience and knowledge to its members. It has also provided value through its events and offerings and

has created a forum for collaboration in addressing complex excavation issues while always keeping safety top of mind. Congratulations on achieving 20 years of success and safety!

"At Enbridge Gas, safety is our culture. We take great strides in ensuring the safety of our employees, partners, stakeholders, and every community we serve. As such, we're pleased to be a member of the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA), and champion its efforts in advancing the efficient and effective damage prevention of Ontario's vital infrastructure. Third-party damages can be disastrous to the safety and sustainability of communities, and we thank the ORCGA for their hard work and dedication to safe digging practices." – Dean Dalpe, Vice President, Distribution Operations, Services and Governance, Enbridge Gas Inc.



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TSSA

The collaboration and understanding between the TSSA and ORCGA have always had common goals in damage prevention and public safety. We have worked together to raise the bar for public safety, in ensuring that excavation industry understood the meaning of a "Valid Locate", in order to deliver this message to the excavation industry both TSSA, Enbridge and ORCGA developed a pamphlet and a training program explaining how to read a locate sheet. This training was delivered province wide by all three parties. We feel that we have not only improved by raising the "bar" in the excavation safety, but also public safety and the integrity of how safe excavations are conducted in Ontario.

TSSA has a strong commitment in Public Safety, which relates to excavation safety and will and have continued with their membership to increase a better understanding of the ever-changing Best Practices, damage prevention and education and field issues being dealt with by contractors, utility companies and with locators and regulators.

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Looking at 20 Years of Damage Prevention in the Rear-View Mirror



By Gord Campbell
Technical Trainer, OQ Evaluator
at Aecon Utilities Inc.

With the ORCGA Damage Prevention Symposium now behind us, you can't help but feel the momentum of progress that these events inspire. During this year's symposium we celebrated 20 years of promoting our common goal: to reduce damages to underground infrastructure. As we have this opportunity to look back at ourselves over the last 20 years, we can celebrate the many achievements of countless individuals and corporations. As an organization whose goal is promoting efficient and effective damage prevention, I'm amazed at how far we've come in such a short period of time. It must have looked daunting back in 2003 when Jim Douglas and the other members applied to be the first chapter of the Common Ground Alliance (CGA)

outside of the US. The founders envisioned an organization that would bring together all stakeholders in the industry to promote and share best practices and facilitate education and research. Today, representing approximately 500 members of Ontario's damage prevention industry, including municipalities, utility companies, construction, and safety organizations, the ORCGA remains the voice of utility infrastructure damage prevention. The ORCGA works with many different industry stakeholders, including local, provincial, and federal government, utilities, contractors, suppliers, and consultants, to promote public safety, protect the environment and minimize utility damages.

Since its inception, the ORCGA has grown to become a nationally recognized organization dedicated to the prevention of damages to underground infrastructure. The primary objective of the ORCGA is to raise utility damage prevention awareness by producing practical tools and services for use in the field, most notably, the CCGA Underground Infrastructure Damage Prevention Best Practices which describes industry best practices including safe excavation best practices around utilities. The first ORCGA Best Practices manual, largely adopted from the CGA, all the way up to the current version 4.0 of the now national CCGA Best Practice manual, has been blessed by the combined wisdom and contribution of so many dedicated individuals. Through a unified

approach and stakeholder consensus, this document is updated regularly and is the framework that, when adhered to, works to ensure the safety of the public and workers. The best practices in the manual represent a dynamic statement of the type of activities that the ORCGA believes would provide optimum levels of diligence towards preventing damage to underground infrastructure. The ORCGA has developed these Best Practices through the commitment and consensus of its members working together towards a safer Ontario. No other non-partisan source of recommendations exists in the marketplace.

Saying all that, we have a lot more to be proud of. Over the last twenty years, under the leadership of the ORCGA, the focus on damage prevention of underground utilities has grown significantly. As technology has advanced in the name of safety, the ability to detect and prevent damage to utility infrastructure, such as power lines, gas, telecom, and water lines, has become incredibly important. So too has our reliance on these vital services. Underground infrastructure, everything from cable, line, pipe, conduit, or structure used to gather, store, or convey products or services beneath the ground surface, keep Ontario homes and businesses supplied with warmth, power, communications, computer data and water. Preservation of this infrastructure is paramount to the mission of the ORCGA. We rely on these services so

much now that even a small interruption of services can have a huge impact on our lives and the lives of others. Back in 2018, the ORCGA and its members presented at the “Dig Safe - Construction Safety in the GTA” hosted by the City of Toronto in which each stakeholder gave a presentation about the costs of utility damages on the system and the risks to workers.

Damage prevention technology, such as utility location, aerial surveillance, and GPS based software, have

become commonplace in many areas. Additionally, the use of software and digital mapping has made it easier to identify potential areas of vulnerability and assess the impact of potential damage. As a result, the amount of damage to utility infrastructure has been significantly reduced, and the safety of communities and the environment has been greatly improved.

One of the original motivations to form the ORCGA was to promote use of a One Call system through actively

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promoting “Call Before You Dig”. After 10 years of promoting “Call Before You Dig” for Ontarian’s, the dream suddenly came true as part of a bargaining chip for a minority government. In 2012 the Ontario government passed the OUINS act creating the notification service we have today. The work didn’t stop there, in fact you could say the pace of advocacy has not changed. With recent changes to the original act, the ORCGA still plays an important part in how these changes will affect the industry.

The ORCGA has also developed a number of educational and training programs. In 2007, the ORCGA introduced Damage Prevention Technician training for members. In an effort to fulfil its mandate of strengthening existing excavation processes and to prevent damage to underground infrastructure, the ORCGA provides and runs Damage Prevention Technician courses, designed to teach students on achieving competence in locating buried utilities, to understand the fundamental principles of locating, to properly operate the equipment they are using, as well as an achieve an excellent grasp of the subtleties of locating the many and varied types of buried utilities. The aim was to improve the skill set of existing and new locators and set the bar for locators around the province. Today, after certifying nearly 2500 technicians across the province, a new challenge awaits. The Industry, the Government and the Facility Owners want a new measure of locator competency in order for one DPT to successfully locate all utilities on a job. Safe Excavation Training (SET), Tailboard

Talks and other educational programs round out the offerings dedicated to safe excavation.

The ORCGA also collects vital data and performs analysis of the root causes of damage to underground infrastructure. Amongst the most exhaustive reports the ORCGA puts out is the DIRT Report, or Damage Information Reporting Tool Report. “The DIRT Report identifies the root causes of events and uses that information to prevent or reduce damage through public education, focused damage prevention programs and improved industry practices,” says Doug Lapp, President and CEO. The DIRT report can be a powerful ally in damage prevention planning. The data in the report is completely voluntary and therefore does not represent all damages that occur. It’s crucial that everyone who owns infrastructure makes the effort to report damages into DIRT so that we all can make better decisions on the direction of policy. The more complete the data, the better the decisions we can make about our direction.

Because of all this, the ORCGA and its members know that their efforts have made, and will continue to make, communities and infrastructure assets across Ontario safer. The ORCGA has always been committed to fostering collaboration, innovation, and best practice standards to ensure the safety of the public and the protection of underground utilities. As their vision statement says, make “Every Dig a Safe Dig”.

In closing, on this momentous occasion of the ORCGA’s 20th anniversary, I would like to congratulate the ORCGA, its members, staff, and countless volunteers for an amazing 20 years. I know I am joined by so many others in hoping that the ORCGA will continue to be a leader in the damage prevention industry for many more years to come and we wish them much success and continued growth in the future. On a personal note, I am immensely grateful to the ORCGA, its staff, its members and non-members alike that I have had the privilege to collaborate and gain knowledge from. Your wisdom and expertise have been invaluable.



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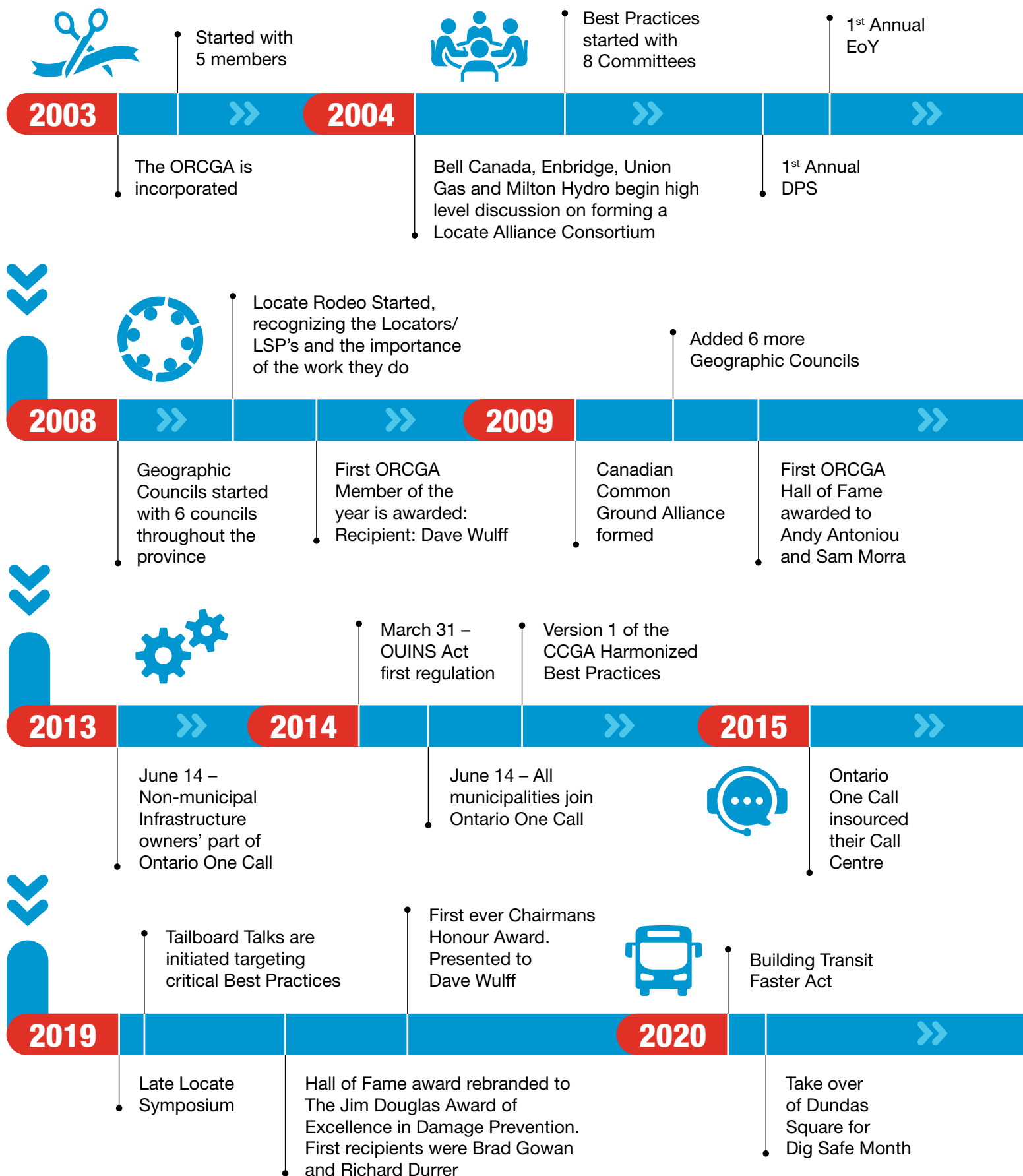
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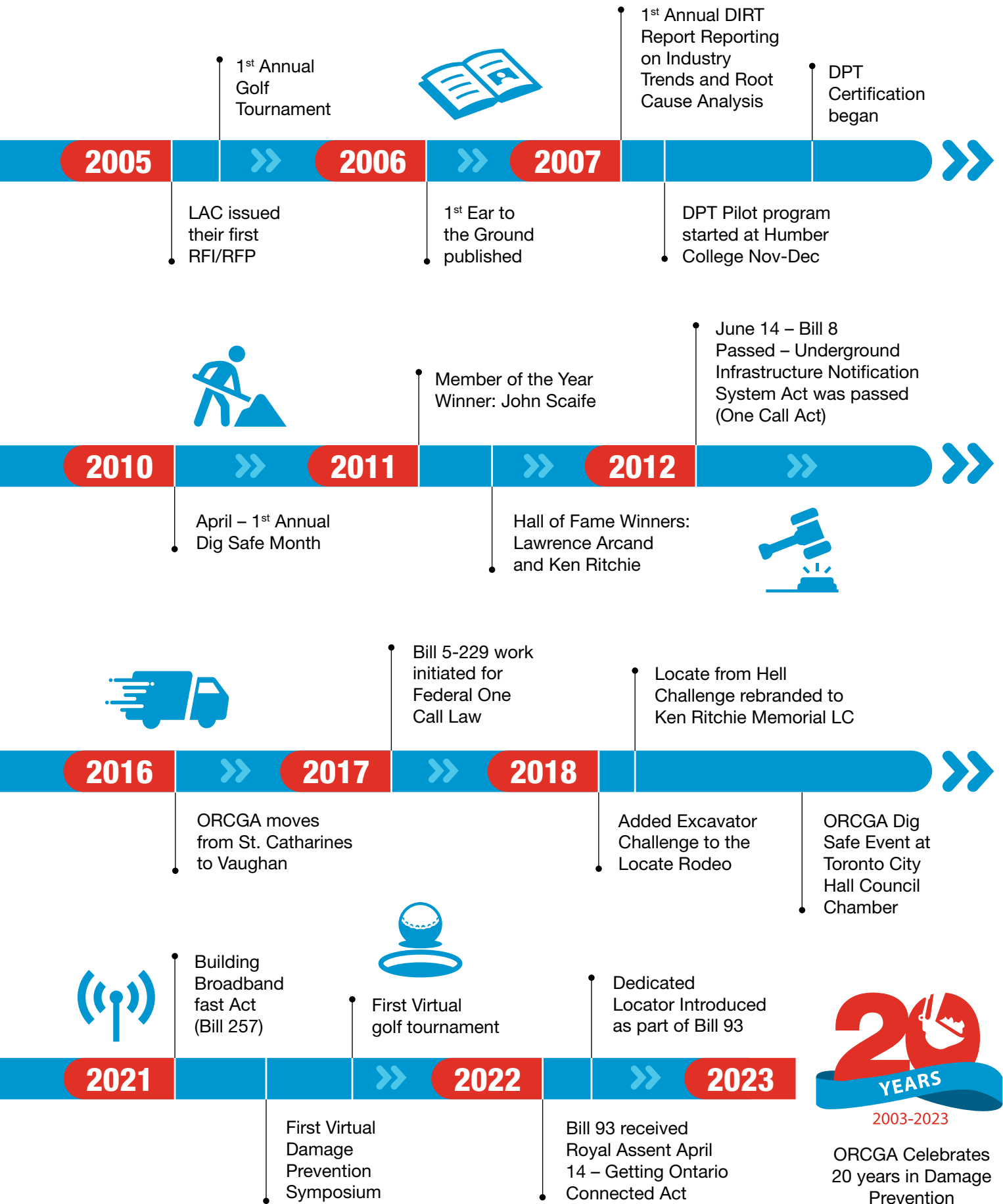
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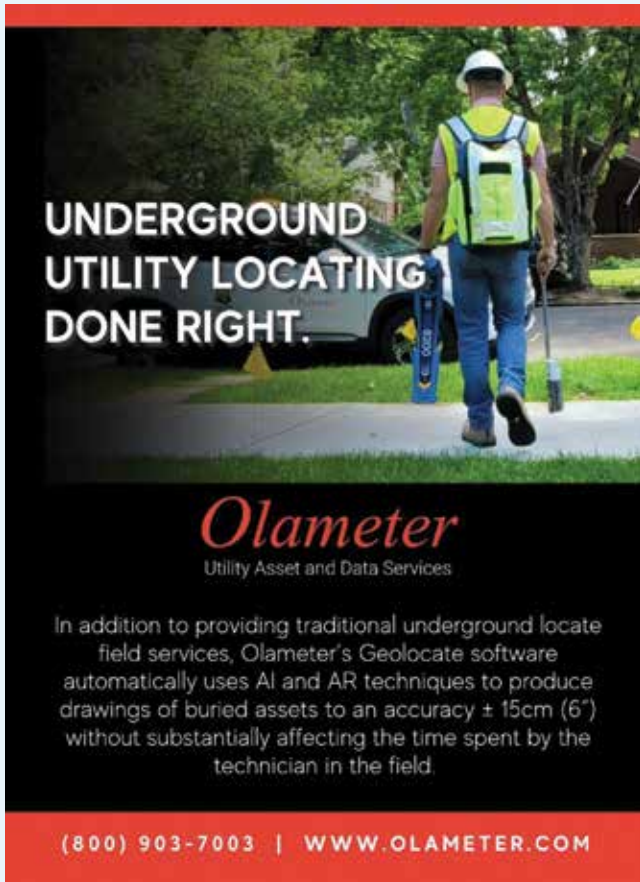
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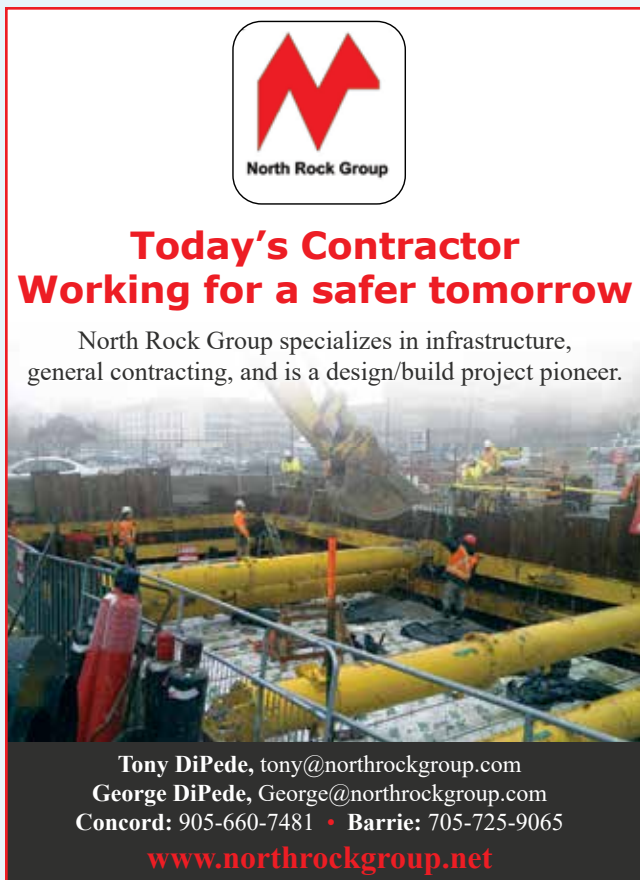



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