

EAR TO THE GROUND

ISSUE 17 | FALL 2014

Working Together to Build a Safer Ontario

STRATEGY-

ORCGA Plots its **Strategic Direction**



INSIDE: 2014 LOCATE RODEO | CCGA
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EAR TO THE GROUND

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Working Together to Build a Safer Ontario

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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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BY JIM DOUGLAS, ORCGA PRESIDENT & CEO



Strategic Direction & Best Practices for Canada

I'M DELIGHTED TO be back at the helm of ORCGA and very excited about our plans to grow the Alliance in Ontario. In addition; as one of seven regional partners, the ORCGA is very much involved with the progress of the Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) which represents damage prevention from a national perspective.

First and foremost, earlier this year the ORCGA Board of Directors met on two occasions and developed a five-year strategic directional plan for the Alliance under the guidance of a professional strategic direction facilitator. The plan is divided into six strategic areas, they are:

- Staffing Resources
- Improved Membership Value
- Increased Membership (Growth)
- Focused Marketing
- Value in Training
- Industry Lobbying

In order to begin implementing the overall strategic direction, the first priority that needs to be addressed is staffing resources. This work has begun with the recruitment process underway for the hiring of a Vice President. It is expected that after six months, the VP will take over from me as President & CEO. A few months later, an additional staff member will be hired in the role as Senior manager. These appointments are expected to be in place by May 1, 2015.

In addition, work has also begun in the other five strategic areas. While the duties will be completed by the ORCGA staff, we will be utilizing the skills and ideas from some of our member volunteers through our "task team" process already in place within our provincial committees. We are also very fortunate to receive guidance from some of our members who are willing to share their expertise in some of these areas.

It is expected that much of the progress for this initiative will gain momentum as we move into the early part, and in particular through the last half of 2015.

Progress on the strategic plan will be monitored by the ORCGA Board Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC) with feedback provided to the board of directors through the GNC Chair.

Included in this addition of 'Ear to the Ground' is an article from Jim Tweedie, past chair of the Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) outlining the process that led to the eventual agreement reached by the CCGA best practice task team in August on the first set of national best practices i.e. CCGA Best Practices, Version 1.0

As stated in the article on page 7, the CCGA's best practices were based on the ORCGA's Best Practices Version 8.0. Published August 2014. Our version 8.0 is a culmination of 10 years of dedication by our best practice committee. During that period our committee spent an enormous amount of time developing these best practices which included new, revised and re-formatted versions. The committee was always willing to consider new ideas and revisions. At times, gaining committee consensus on a number of these BP's took a great deal of patience by our Co-chairs and task team leaders, as well as the entire committee.

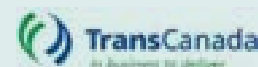
As we now pass the torch to the CCGA to handle the of Canadian best practices, I would like to pass on our thanks to the ORCGA Board of Directors for their willingness to be part of the CCGA and allow the transition of our Best Practices, Version 8.0 to the CCGA. We also wish to pass on our sincere to all our best practice committee members and our Co-chairs for their dedication over the past 10 years. We now look forward to the release of CCGA Best Practices, Version 1.0 in October 2014 and, in conjunction with our CGA regional partners, continue to develop underground infrastructure best practices across the country.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Ear to the Ground*. I would also encourage you to become involved with the bi-annual editions of our magazine by contributing articles.

Please feel free to call me to discuss anything to do with the magazine or for that matter any aspect of the ORCGA operation.

Sincerely,
Jim

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BY JIM TWEEDIE, DIRECTOR OPERATIONS, SAFETY & INTEGRITY
MANAGEMENT, CANADIAN GAS ASSOCIATION & CCGA PAST CHAIR 2013



Canadian Common Ground Alliance: Harmonized Best Practices Version 1.0, 2014

The Canadian Common Ground Alliance (CCGA) is an organization representing a wide cross-section of stakeholder groups promoting efficient and effective damage prevention practices to reduce damages to underground plant, ensuring public and worker safety, environmental protection and the ongoing integrity of critical underground services.

For a number of years, these stakeholder groups have been active in promoting “Call Before You Dig” and, more recently, “Click Before You Dig”, as well as other Safe Excavation damage prevention practices through regional partnerships. These regional partnerships, or Regional Common Ground Alliances, have come together and amalgamated under one common banner, the CCGA, to provide a single national voice representing the damage prevention community in Canada.

Over the last year, a CCGA Task Group with representation from the British Columbia CGA, Alberta CGA, Saskatchewan CGA, Manitoba CGA, Ontario Regional CGA, Info Excavation in Quebec and the Atlantic CGA, produced **National Harmonized Best Practices** based on the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance Best Practices, version 8.0. The CCGA also acknowledges the established Common Ground Alliance Best Practices (United States) initiated by the Common Ground Study & presented to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation in June 1999.

This set of National Harmonized Best Practices is the first. Through the commitment and consensus of its members working together towards a safer Canada, it will be part of an ongoing effort to develop new damage prevention practices as well as improve existing ones. These practices represent a dynamic statement of the type of activities that all Common Ground Alliances, both national and regional, believe will provide optimum levels of diligence towards preventing damage to underground infrastructure.

CCGA Best Practices Version 1.0, 2014 will be maintained and governed, with the approval and oversight of the CCGA Board of Directors, via a process involving both national and regional Common Ground Alliance Best Practice Committees. These committees shall reach decisions using a consensus based approach aimed at achieving the most acceptable overall solution, even where this may not be optimal in all circumstances, based on the following principles:

- Each member has the right to present their position.
- Positions must have veracity and be reasonable in order to be considered.
- The final position reached is supportable because it can be deemed reasonable & to have been arrived at in a fair and open manner.

Comments and suggestions on improving the Best Practices will be welcomed and encouraged. If there is

**CCGA BEST PRACTICES
VERSION 1.0, 2014
WILL BE MAINTAINED
AND GOVERNED,
WITH THE APPROVAL
AND OVERSIGHT OF
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PROCESS INVOLVING
BOTH NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL COMMON
GROUND ALLIANCE
BEST PRACTICE
COMMITTEES.**

an opportunity to improve upon these Best Practices, your input in helping us do so would be most appreciated. To submit a suggestion, or to participate in a committee meeting, please visit the CCGA web site at canadiancga.com to learn about the logistics and scope of this or the other various CCGA Committees.

CCGA Best Practices Version 1.0, 2014 will be formally rolled out at the Canadian Common Ground Alliance's second annual Damage Prevention Symposium being held in Banff, Alberta on October 28, 29 & 30, 2014. ■



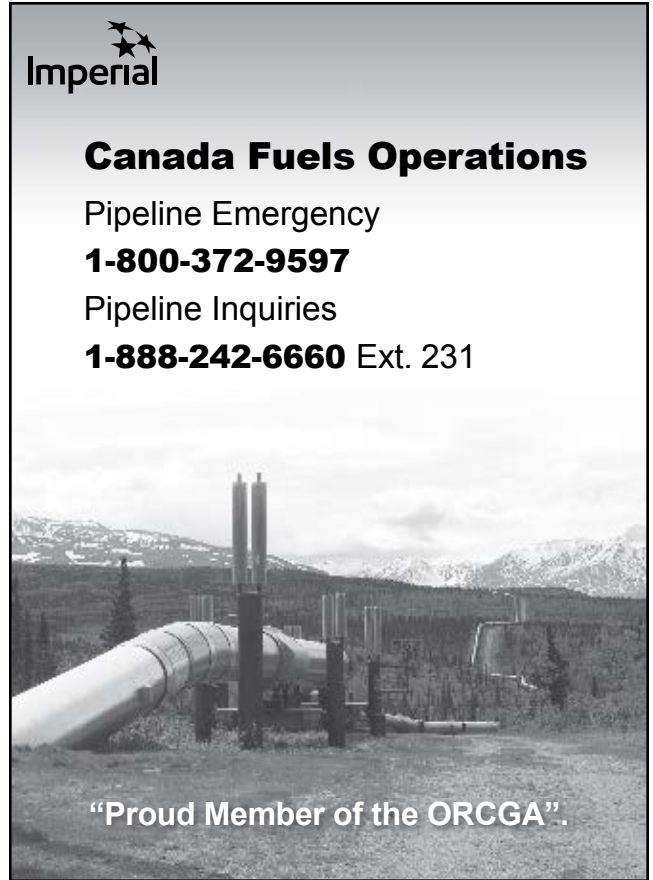
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BY TROY DE SOUZA, TRAINING SPECIALIST, SENSORS AND SOFTWARE

Role of Ground Penetrating Radar in Utility Damage Prevention

Modern society's dependence on the uninterrupted availability of telecommunications, power, gas distribution and water/sewer networks has made damage prevention a greater priority. Greater awareness of the costs of repair, service disruption, not to mention compensations for injury or death, have created a strong demand for more effective methods of detecting buried infrastructure.

Ground Penetrating Radar & its Benefits

Most sensing technologies use electric and magnetic fields or acoustic signals to detect the presence of underground objects. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is no different; it uses high frequency, low power radio waves to image the subsurface. GPRs contain a transmitter, which directs radio waves into the ground, and a receiver that detects and measures the radio waves reflected from the object.

GPR has many advantages; it can detect both metallic and non-metallic objects as well as sense previously disturbed soil. Being non-invasive and self-contained, GPR does not require physical connection to the buried object. In good conditions, GPR can "see" objects that are one to five metres below surface, establish surface positions within centimeters and determine depths with accuracies to better than a few per cent. By being able to locate non-metallic objects (without tracer wire), GPR complements other locating technologies.

How GPR Works

To detect an object, a GPR system needs to pass over the object and the object must return a detectable signal.

Since radio waves are absorbed by soils and rocks, there is a limit to how deep the GPR signal will penetrate. How deep a target is buried before it becomes undetectable is very site-dependent. Typically, heavy clay soils absorb energy rapidly and penetration depth can be less than one meter, whereas penetration in sandy soils can be much greater, in the order of a few meters.

It is important to remember that GPR doesn't identify the type of utility present, just that there is something there. Use of other information (maps, surface expressions, common practice) is required for the operator to determine the type of utility. Naturally if you are excavating, you may want to avoid all utilities in the area.

GPR can be used in three different ways, depending on the requirements of the investigation:

- 1. Locate-and-mark approach** (Figure 1) is the most common mode. The GPR sensor moves over the ground. When an object is sensed, the operator backs up, positions the sensors directly over the target, and marks the ground with paint or flagging.
- 2. Scan an area in a grid pattern** is the next level of GPR. Using PC software, the data can be transformed into a 3D image (Figure 2), much like medical imaging produced by CAT and MRI scanners.
- 3. GPS connected to the GPR**, somewhat similar to the second approach, is the most advanced method of operation to follow. Figure 3 shows an example of a surveyed grid at a gas station, showing underground storage tanks (USTs), plotted as a Google Earth overlay.



Figure 1: Locating objects in real-time

Figure 2: Creating a 3D image of an area, showing three utility pipes

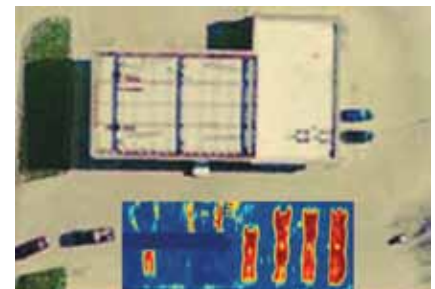
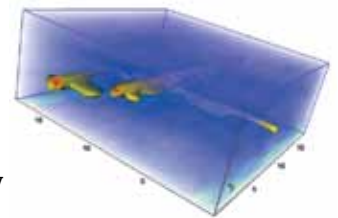


Figure 3: GPR plan map of underground storage tanks, overlaid on Google Earth

The locate-and-mark approach provides the most cost effective use of GPR and works best in simple situations. In complex, congested sites, the more advanced scanning methods are often the only way to understand what lies beneath.

Why should I use GPR?

Ultimately you must answer the following questions:

1. What are the consequences of not being proactive on damage prevention?
2. Can I and my company live with the consequences?

Why would you not use the best technology available to prevent accidents? GPR completes the utility locator's toolkit and, coupled with training and experience, will help minimize the occurrence of underground damage. ■

BY RICHARD DEKKER, PRESIDENT, PVS

One Call, One Locate: The PVS Story



PVS was founded in 1977 as Peninsula Video & Sound Inc., and originally concentrated on installation and service of TV antennas, closed circuit TV, intercom and sound systems. Since I was an experienced Cable TV technician, we were approached by MacLean Hunter Cable TV and asked to take some of their overflow installation work. The company grew slowly over the next few years but the work was seasonal and it was difficult to get through the slow periods. We were always looking for more work to bridge the gaps.

One of the functions of any utility is underground locates. At MacLean Hunter, it was a job nobody seemed to want. It was passed around monthly from one tech to another. We offered to help with this to fill our time and in the 1980s we became a Locate Contractor. It was then that I first met Dave Wulff and purchased my first set of locate equipment. Once we started, we changed the way things were done. We were usually among the first on site and made sure the locates were completed in a timely fashion. We took pride in our drawings and put as much information on them as we could. The excavators appreciated the change.

Our company grew a little more with this work and so did our reputation. The number of locates was also growing and we were getting busy. In 1995, I received a call from Jim Douglas, of Consumers Gas, to see if

I was interested in doing some peak shave locates for the gas company. This was originally a temporary move only for the busy season but we jumped at the chance. I think for Jim and I it was already in our heads that one man doing two utilities at the same time was more efficient than sending two men in two trucks to do the same work. I don't know if we were aware at that time of where this could lead.

Next came a call from the St. Catharines Hydro. Their only locator was due to retire and they were looking to contract out their locates. They had just upgraded their records to digital, which meant we had to purchase a laptop computer. This was new for us, the cable company had paper records, the gas company had microfilm so we now were working with three different forms of records. At this time, we found that we needed a software program for data collection. There didn't seem to be anything available in our price range that would handle multi utility locates.

Software Developed

This is where Hans Peters came into the picture. Hans is a computer programmer who had been working with St. Catharines Hydro on another project. We were introduced and together we developed our own software package, Utilocate – a modular software and support system designed to facilitate the dataflow to and from customers, one call

systems, locate contractors and utilities. This package was developed specifically for PVS and multi-utility locates.

In 1996, we received the RFP for Bell Canada and we were awarded the Niagara area contract. This gave us four utilities in our area, so we had only one more contract to acquire to have a five-utility locate. The City of St. Catharines was contacted and they were interested in our proposal. The five-utility locate was at our fingertips but we still had to convince everyone to join the call center. Bell, St. Catharines Hydro and Consumers Gas had all joined Ontario One Call, but the cable company and the City had not as yet. They both had their own staff to receive and dispatch locate requests and wanted to continue with that. They both eventually agreed to join the call center and, in 1997, we had the elusive "One Call, One Locate" process in the St. Catharines area.

Common Locate Form

Each of our clients had their own locate form, complete with information and symbols pertaining to their own particular industry. All of the forms had an area for a locate drawing but in most cases, it was small and not practical for the amount of information we would be providing. We saw the need for a common locate form to be used for all utilities complete with a larger drawing area. This turned out to be more difficult than we originally



Richard Dekker, outside the PVS office.

IT WAS ALREADY IN OUR HEADS THAT ONE MAN DOING TWO UTILITIES AT THE SAME TIME WAS MORE EFFICIENT THAN SENDING TWO MEN IN TWO TRUCKS TO DO THE SAME WORK. I DON'T KNOW IF WE WERE AWARE AT THAT TIME OF WHERE THIS COULD LEAD.

thought. Each utility wanted their specific information on the form. We had several meetings with each before we came up with the finished product. The common locate form consists of a primary sheet with check boxes for each utility located, plus pertinent information and a list of symbols that covers every utility. In addition, the form includes a series of auxiliary sheets with large drawing areas for each utility. It is helpful for the excavators to have the same drawing, with the same located area, to compare the locations of each utility. This form is similar to the locate form that was later adopted and now used by the Locate Alliance Consortium (LAC).

One Call, One Locate Pilot Project

Under Jim Douglas's direction, the five Utilities and PVS formed a One Call, One Locate pilot study project and met monthly to discuss efficiencies, damages, cost savings and other benefits derived from this process. This study project in St. Catharines was unique in Ontario and possibly in Canada. The project was successful in providing an easy one call notice for excavators to arrange for utility locates prior to starting to dig and for getting prompt attention for the layout of those locates using a single locator. This resulted in a substantial reduction in the difficulty to arrange for locates and in the time to



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have them completed. The benefits were obvious, not only to utilities but excavators as well. This was substantiated in an excavator's Seminar put on by Consumers Gas Ltd. Written and verbal comments were received from contractors indicating how much better it was to have this service and that it made it easier to do work in St Catharines.



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LAC Pilot Project

In 2004, as a result of our diverse client list, we were approached by a group of utilities to participate in a pilot project for The Locate Alliance Consortium (LAC). At the time, this consisted of Union Gas, Enbridge Gas, Bell Canada and Milton Hydro. We met monthly and worked together to standardize processes, procedures, terms and conditions to ensure consistent service and quality with regards to locate services. The manual included in the first RFP was updated as a result of this pilot. The next year, we were awarded the LAC contract for the Hamilton, Niagara area and have held it ever since.

Expanding Awareness & Locate Requests

Locate awareness was rising and so was the number of locate requests. Our client list grew and so did our workforce. We added another One Call, One Locate scenario in Pelham when Niagara Falls Hydro and Peninsula West Power Joined to form Niagara Peninsula Energy.

Recently, with the passing of Bill 8, we have received many calls from utilities and municipalities interested in our services. Our One Call, One Locate areas have increased to four and hopefully will grow in the future.

PVS is a pioneer in Contract Locating and has been a leader in the Locate Industry for several years. We have been involved in every improvement of the processes and have supported each initiative that we felt would increase awareness and benefit the underground community. We have been a member of the ORCGA since its beginning and were involved in developing the Best Practices and the DPT course and manual.

Today, after more than 35 years in business, we have a total of 30 clients in our locate department in the Hamilton and Niagara Region. ■

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The Locate Alliance Consortium

Continuing to Set the Standard in Safety, Quality & Efficiency

The Locate Alliance Consortium (LAC) is a group of like-minded underground infrastructure owners, including utilities and municipalities, focused on delivering quality locates through a cost-efficient process utilizing a collaborative approach. This provides sustainable value to our members and actively promotes the One Call/One Locate Strategy that is mutually beneficial to all stakeholders within the industry.

Since the advent of Bill 8 and the ever-present increasing demand for locates to support third-party excavation activities, many infrastructure owners are finding themselves in a challenging position of having to fulfill their legislated locate obligations given their present resource situation and locate delivery model. Traditionally infrastructure owners have either hired a contractor or used their own employees to provide locates independently. This resulted in multiple site visits by different individuals on behalf of each infrastructure-owner utility to complete locates at one location. This practice can be both cumbersome and costly due to the challenges with resourcing and demand side forecasting that may not provide the desired outcomes for both the facility owners or excavators.

The LAC offers an industry-leading solution that has a proven track

record of quality locate performance that is built on industry best practices and comprehensive locate standards to deliver the desired results to all industry stakeholders. We accomplish this by taking a collaborative approach to the following core areas to drive sustainable value for our members, procurement of locate services, quality management of locates and the performance management of our Locate Service Providers.

Procurement of Locate Services:

We collectively develop and administer contracts with standardized terms and conditions and select the leading service providers in an effort to provide high-quality standards in locating in the most efficient way possible.

Quality Standards: LAC has established core locate standards and developed comprehensive policies that are outlined in the LAC *Common Locate Procedures Manual* that incorporates the most current industry best practices used to govern and manage the consistent, repeatable delivery of high quality locates to excavators throughout all of our LAC Geographic Regions. The timeliness and consistency of locates benefits the excavator community at large as they have become accustomed to receiving clearly defined standard locate documentation for reference in the field during excavation activity

that supports our Safety and Damage Prevention goals.

Performance Management: These quality standards are integral in the successful execution of locates and provide the key criteria used in our detailed performance-based metrics used to manage our locate delivery performance. The performance metrics include clear objectives, standard performance reporting, structured audits, competency assessments and workload planning.

Benefits: The LAC successfully manages these core areas as a transparent process that provides a healthy infrastructure owner-locate service provider relationship that facilitates the ideals of One Call/One Locate. This provides sustainable value to members by improving locate quality, timeliness and efficiency by completing locates on behalf of all LAC members in that geographic area, resulting in savings.

Excavators experience reduced administration and effort coordinating locates, one site meeting to review the work and any changes in scope or questions can be directed to an individual, rather than five or six as in the past.

The LAC is a group of infrastructure owners dedicated to providing the best locate service possible promoting safety and protecting infrastructure. ■

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Alternate Locate Agreements

Optimizing the efficiency of Locates

“Alternate Locate Agreements have enabled us to expedite our excavation services when clients are on tight deadlines...We look forward to the day when all Facility Owners offer an ALA!”

Steve Grove, Spring Grove Hydro Excavation

Alternate Locate Agreements (ALAs) continue to be a valuable addition to the locate delivery strategy for underground infrastructure owners and excavators. They provide the opportunity to perform work as defined by the facility owner in their specific scope of work criteria and methods of excavation. Some examples of defined work include: hand-digging, hydrovac excavation, water valve maintenance/repair, cable drops, removal of concrete or asphalt and utility pole replacement.

ALAs were recognized as an ORCGA Best Practice (section 3-19) in 2008. An ALA is a contractual agreement between an excavator and a facility owner. Excavators, facility owners or municipalities can benefit from the agreement, as it allows the ALA holder to proceed with an excavation without a traditional field locate (paint and paper). They must

Benefits of an Alternate Locate Agreement:

EXCAVATORS	FACILITY OWNERS/MUNICIPALITIES
Reduced locate wait times	Reduced load on field locates
Reduced load on field locates	Reduced wait time
Ability to expedite customer requirements	Reduced locate costs
Alleviates pressure on company resources	

still contact Ontario One Call (ON1Call) to inform them of the excavation using their specific ALA ID. A notification from ON1Call will be issued stating which facility owners have an ALA, and which ones they will be expected to wait for a standard locate. The ALA will be indicated on the locate confirmation sheet provided by On1Call.

Through the implementation of ALAs, Enbridge Gas Distribution has improved the efficiency and resource requirements to deliver locates and stakeholder efficiency while maintaining our safety and damage prevention goals. This increases flexibility in scheduling of project work for the excavator community. The ALA program has grown exponentially as more facility owners are recognizing their benefits.

For more information or to find out if you could qualify for an ALA contact Vicki Mitchell, Damage Prevention Program Manager at Enbridge Gas Distribution vicki.mitchell@enbridge.com. ■

“Alternate Locate Agreements have helped PowerStream manage the increasing costs as well as meet the regulatory time limits set out to com-

plete a locate. In the past two years, PowerStream has enjoyed a 10% reduction in field locates because the Excavator had an ALA. Just as important, the Excavator did not have to wait for a field locate, giving them flexibility to better manage their work. I see ALAs as a win-win relationship! “

*Shelly Cunningham, P.Eng,
Senior Vice President, Engineering Services, PowerSteam Inc.*



9th Annual ORCGA Golf Tournament

On June 18, the ORCGA held its 9th Annual Golf Tournament at Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility in Ajax. The tournament successfully sold out with 216 golfers. It was a perfect day with exceptional networking and spectacular golf.

Each year, the ORCGA selects a charity to support. Over the past years, we have supported local Food Banks, Children's Wish and Women's Place South Niagara. This year The Hospital for Sick Children was the chosen charity.

Sick Kids Hospital is respected as a world-renowned child health centre, providing care for over 100,000 children every year. Sick Kids strives to make a profound difference in the lives of sick children. The ORCGA through the tournament attendees was able to raise \$1,300 for the Sick Kids Foundation.

In 2015, we will once again be holding our tournament at the Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility. ■



2014 ORCGA Locate Rodeo



2014 Locate Rodeo Competitors



2014 Locate Rodeo Volunteers

2014 Locate Rodeo Winners

The 7th Annual ORCGA Locate Rodeo was held on July 10 & 11, 2014 at Durham College in Oshawa. The Rodeo was a huge success hosting 42 competitors and 62 volunteers.

The locate rodeo allows locators to come together and display their locating skills in a competitive and friendly environment. This competition raises awareness of the very important role the locating industry plays in protecting the underground infrastructure.

Those placing first, second and third in the four divisions (Power, Gas, Water, Telecom) and the Locate from Hell (LFH) were recognized at the awards banquet following the competition.

Three of the four first place winners represented the ORCGA at the International Locate Rodeo held in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 9, 2014. The ORCGA is proud to congratulate Paul Delsey, Frontier



Utility Locating, on his First Place finish in the Power Division, Andrew Scholcz, G-Tel, on his First Place finish in the Water Division and Joe Gigliotti, PVS Contractors,

on his Second Place finish in the Telecom Division in Atlanta.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the July 2015 Locate Rodeo. ■

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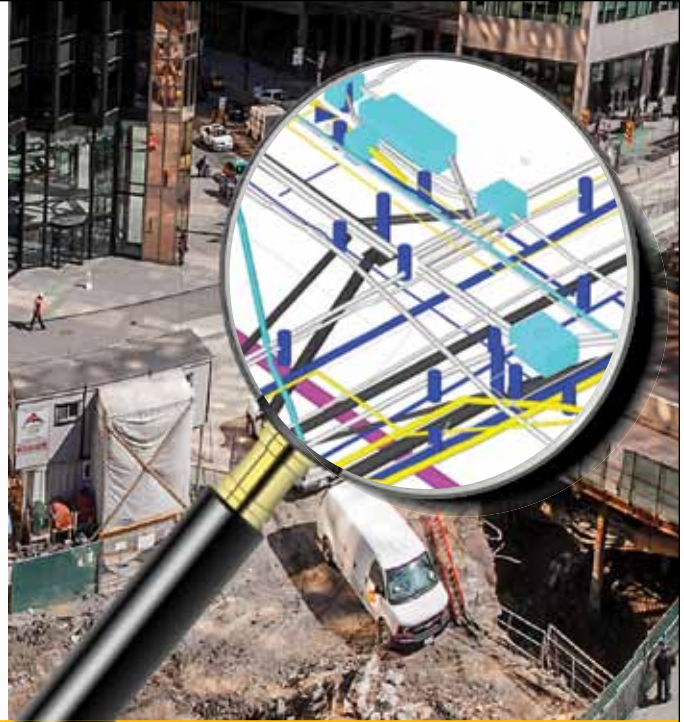
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