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ISSUE 18 | SPRING 2015

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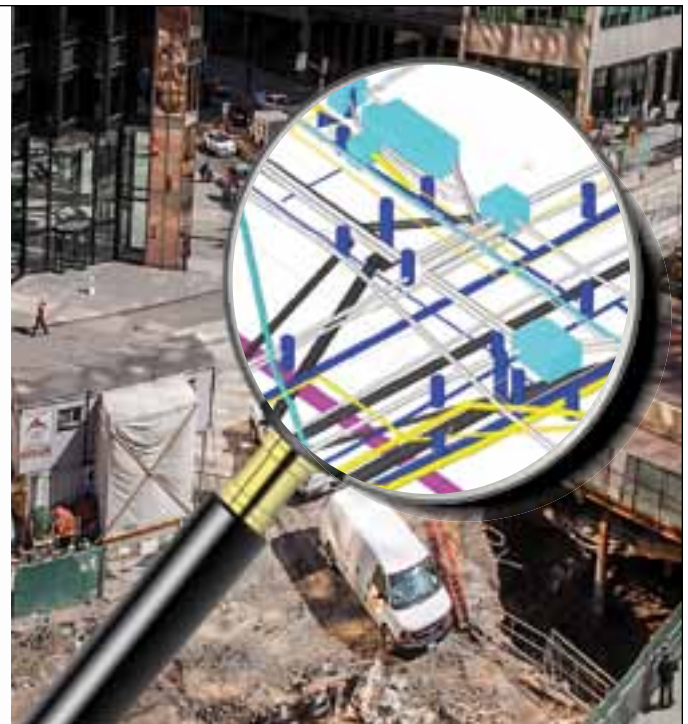
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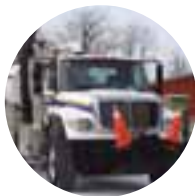
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EAR TO THE GROUND

ISSUE 18 | SPRING 2015

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



ORCGA Board of Directors

"Steering the Ship"

AS I'M WRITING this message, we have just completed another successful annual Symposium (our 12th). I cannot believe that the ORCGA is 12 years old. This means that I'm also 12 years older and for a job that I once said to my wife, I'll do this for a couple of years (the ORCGA) then find a job in sports administration. Well, as they say, "the rest is history." It has been and continues to be a privilege to be the President & CEO of the ORCGA.

Sometimes the word "unique" can be over stated. However, in the case of the ORCGA, I am very comfortable in saying that we are indeed a unique organization. We have 24 members on our board of directors, 19 of whom are industry stakeholders, and five members at large. These 24 members collectively represent a very diverse group of industry stakeholders. All of whom are committed to the fact that "Damage Prevention is a Shared Responsibility."

In the past, our board of directors has in the past has play a significant role in the success of the ORCGA, and they will continue to do so, going forward. They set and monitor the direction of the Alliance, as well as contribute in many other ways, such as helping to open doors for potential membership/sponsorship. There are three main committees on the board. They include, the Executive Committee (EC) who are responsible for overseeing the short-term oversight of the organization. The EC is made up of the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and President/CEO. We also have two additional board committees. The Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC) provides oversight on strategic direction, business plan, By-laws and other governance issues that may arise. The third committee is our Audit, Finance & Review (AFRC) committee that ensures the financial accountability of the corporation.

I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to all the members who are on our 2015 board and to all that who have served on the ORCGA Board of Directors since its inception in 2007. Together, we have faced many challenges, some of which were very difficult and at times dug deep into our resolve. However, each time we were able to reach consensus and continue to move the Alliance forward.

It has been my pleasure to work with all of you.

Below is a list of the 2015 ORCGA Board of Directors:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Kevin Bowers..... Gas/Oil Distribution | John MarshallRegulator |
| Doug Fairchild.....Electrical Distribution | Joe Vaccaro.....Home Builders |
| Ben Hamilton One Call Centre | Brad Gowan.....Locator |
| Andy Blokker.....Excavator | Tanis PetersonRailway |
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| Enzo Garritano.....Safety Organization | Giovanni CautilloMember at Large |
| Gary Auer.....Land Surveying | Jennifer Robertson...Member at Large |
| Mitch Gregoire Transmission Pipelines | John ThompsonMember at Large |

Sincerely, Jim



2015 ORCGA Board of Directors (not all members are shown in the photo)

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2015 Dig Safe Symposium Awards

RICH DEKKER – 2015 Hall of Fame Inductee



Rich Dekker's 35-year industry career began as an installer and serviceman for Bell Telephone, right out of high school. He then moved on to work with an independent phone company that was converting small-town phone systems from Magneto or crank phones to dial systems. He returned to the Niagara region to join MacLean Hunter Cable TV at their new system in St. Catharines.

Rich started Peninsula Video & Sound (PVS) in 1977 as an installation and service company for TV antennas and Sound systems but quickly changed to a Cable TV Contractor. In the 1980s, PVS began performing locates for the Cable TV Company.

PVS's business of performing locates grew and other Utilities came on board. In 1997, PVS had all five major utilities in St. Catharines under contract. Since all five companies were also members of Ontario One Call, PVS had the first "One Call One Locate" process in Ontario.

Today, PVS is recognized as one of the premier locating companies in Ontario. It continues to be one of the few locate companies that has been able to maintain a One Call/One Locate process

in the City of St. Catharines, which is now spreading to other parts of the Niagara Region. PVS Contractors now provides locate services to 30 clients.

In 2013, PVS Contractors is became a fully operational division of Oakville Hydro Inc. and is a member of the Ontario Locate Alliance (LAC)

Rich has been involved with the ORCGA since its inception in 2003. He played a key role on the original One Call best practice committee when the ORCGA was just getting started. Rich also has served a Co-chair and is still a member of the Events committee. He has been a division leader at the annual locate rodeo since it began. Rich is currently serving on the DPT Certification & Advisory Board.

Rich has been a pioneer in the locate industry for many years and has set a high standard for the delivery of the locate service in Ontario. His contribution to the ORGA has been admirable. His induction into the ORCGA Hall of Fame is so very well deserved.

GORD CAMPBELL – 2014 ORCGA Member of the Year



Gord has over 25 years' experience in Cable TV Business. He has held positions as a technician of

Installations, Service & Maintenance and as a Quality Assurance Inspector. After leaving the field, Gord joined Rogers Training for several years teaching technicians in Ontario and the East Coast before taking on his current role in Damage Prevention at Rogers.

Gord is a Platform Specialist for Locates at Rogers Communications Partnership. His responsibilities include managing the day-to-day field locates and the locate process in each province across Canada.

He is a member of the Society of Telecommunications Engineers as well as the Associate Director for Training, Development and Certification for the Ontario Chapter. Gordon is also a Certification Proctor for SCTE National Certification Programs and a resource for that interest in furthering their development in CATV.

Gord played a major role in the ORCGA events, councils & committees in 2014. He led a number of best practice task teams resulting in the successful outcome of new and revised best practices.

Gord made a number of presentations on nearly all of the ORCGA Councils across Ontario. He also has worked on a number of seminar presentations, including Alternate Locating Agreements (ALA), understanding fibre optics, what constitutes a valid Locate. He also led a seminar at the 2014 Expo.

He is a regular volunteer at the ORCGA events, including the annual Locate Rodeo and Dig Safe Fall Expo.

The ORCGA is proud to add Gord Campbell as the 2014 ORCGA Member of the Year.

EXCAVATOR OF THE YEAR



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ELECTRIC:
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HOME BUILDER:
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See chart below for the elite group of organizations that have also received this recognition. ■

LOOKING BACK: PAST EXCAVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

	Gas	Home Builder	Electric	Landscaping/ Fencing	Road Builder	Sewer/ Water	Telecommunications	Most Improved
2004	T.W. Johnstone Company Limited	Minto Developments Inc.	Lodder Brothers Ltd.	Lomco Ltd.	Four Seasons Site Development	SilverLine Trucking	Telcon Concealed Wiring Ltd.	
2005	T.W. Johnstone Company Limited	Minto Developments Inc.	Wiens Underground Electric Ltd.	Compact Construction	Paddock Developments Ltd	Drainworks	John McNeish Contractor Ltd.	
2006	V.J. McMullin Pipeline Limited	Minto Developments Inc.	Safeline Utility	Lomco Ltd.	Paddock Developments Ltd.	Fer-Pal Construction Ltd.	Trinity Cable	
2007	T.W. Johnstone Company Limited	Minto Developments Inc.	Safeline Utility	Roma Fence	Gazzola Paving Limited	Ontario Excavac	Intek Communications	
2008	Link-Line Construction Ltd.	Arista Homes	Wiens Underground Electric Ltd.	Lomco Ltd.	Sunrise Contracting Inc.	L M Enterprises	Wirecomm North Inc.	Powerline Plus
2009	T.W. Johnstone Company Limited	Minto Developments Inc.	Powerline Plus	Sunshine Tree Contactors	Maple Crete Inc.	Fer-Pal Construction Ltd.	Expercom	Con-Elco Ltd.
2010	T.W. Johnstone Company Limited	Minto Developments Inc.	Wiens Underground Electric Ltd.	Lomco Landscape Contractors	Maple Crete Inc.	Utility Force Inc.	Dyna-Co Construction	Thomas Cavanaugh Construction Limited.
2011	T.W. Johnstone Company Limited	R C C Group	El-Con Construction	Wm Weller Tree Service	A & F DiCarlo Construction	Fer-Pal Construction Ltd.	LDA Construction(1994) Inc.	Dufferin Construction
2012	T.W. Johnstone Company Limited	RCC Waterproofing	Kaladar Northern Construction	Lomco Ltd.	Rankin Construction	L M Enterprises	Telecon Datvox Inc.	Avertex Utility Solutions
2013	Link-Line Group of Companies	Jacques Bedard Excavation Ltd.	Safeline Utility Services Inc.	Lomco Limited	A & F DiCarlo Construction Inc.	Utility Force Inc.	Dyna-Co Construction	B-Line Trenching Inc.
2014	T.W. Johnstone Company Limited	Thomas Cavanaugh Construction Limited.	El-Con Construction	Loki Reforestation Limited	Brennan Paving	Wm. Groves	Dyna-Co Construction	Bradley Kelly Construction

BY CORINA EMDE, SR. COORDINATOR PLANT DAMAGE PREVENTION UNION GAS LTD.

Damage Prevention and Innovation

Union Gas has teamed up with Engineering faculty and students at McMaster University in Hamilton to bring a new innovation to damage prevention.

As part of its ongoing commitment to safety and industry leadership, the Ontario-based natural gas storage, transmission and distribution company recently partnered with McMaster's W Booth School of Engineering Practice on a project that focuses on damage prevention and third-party excavation risks.

Participating engineering students who are working toward a Master of Engineering have been engaged through an Innovation Studio, a W Booth initiative that allows students, faculty and business partners such as Union Gas to collaborate on real-world projects. Project work typically leads to tangible deliverables, such as reports, papers and prototypes that can be used to advance business solutions.

For this project, steps include: completing academic research; gathering statistics; reviewing legislation and industry best practices; observing and interviewing key stakeholder groups; and engaging excavators, facility owners and the public.

Student team members were able to do some of that research at the recent 2015 ORCGA Symposium, where W Booth and Union Gas presented a seminar on damage prevention and innovation to an audience of over 100 people.

Student Hermain Kazmi, who represented the team working with Union Gas, talked about how the project is applying the principles of "human-centered design" (hear, research, analyze



Pictured from left: student Abhishek Chaturvedi, Corina Emde - Union Gas, Dr. Robert Fleisig - McMaster University, students Nauman Saeed, Hermain Kazmi

and design) to the challenge of protecting underground infrastructure. At the symposium, students were able to connect with industry members to share ideas, learn from experts and gather information on trends and technologies dealing with damage prevention and safe excavation. More important, they were able to ask industry stakeholders about their experiences; learn what would make things easier for them, create efficiencies, cost savings and decrease damages. The students are taking what they learned and working on solutions that are based on both technology and human behaviour.

As one of three founding members of Ontario One Call, the Locate Alliance Consortium and the One-Call-One-Locate strategy, Union Gas is a staunch supporter of underground infrastructure notification legislation, and an ORCGA member since its inception. Union is

no stranger to embracing new ideas in its ongoing efforts to protect underground infrastructure. Damage prevention awareness programs, industry best practices and legislation have substantially decreased infrastructure damages over the past ten years, but third-party damages continue to pose the biggest threat to pipelines.

"To continue to reduce the risks surrounding third-party excavations, we're looking to innovation to help us take our damage prevention efforts up another notch," said Wes Armstrong, Director of Distribution Operations for Union Gas. "This is a complex problem that takes collaboration to solve. Union Gas applauds W Booth for creating meaningful and authentic real-world learning experiences for its students. We are confident that this Innovation Studio project will have a positive impact and help advance our industry." ■



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BY ANN NEWMAN, CET SRWA, SUPERVISOR, RIGHT-OF-WAY SERVICES,
EASTERN REGION OPERATIONS, ENBRIDGE PIPELINES INC.

High Pressure Transmission Pipeline Safety

There is a small group in Ontario known as the “Joint Pipeline Group” representing the larger high pressure transmission pipelines operating across Ontario. The group was formed long before the ORCGA came into existence to promote pipeline safety and educate the public on the practices for safe excavation around these larger pipelines. Pipeline operators participating in this group include Enbridge Pipelines Inc., Imperial Oil Ltd, Plains Midstream Canada, Sun Canadian Pipeline Ltd., TransCanada Pipeline Ltd and Trans Northern Pipelines Inc.

Pipelines that cross provincial or federal boundaries are regulated by the National Energy Board (NEB). The pipelines that operate strictly in Ontario are regulated by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA).

These pipelines will not be found running along the side of the road or servicing homes. These are LARGE pipelines transporting petroleum products, crude oil and natural gas from the source such as oil fields in Alberta or refineries in Sarnia, to the customer, such as other refineries and distribution terminals in eastern Canada. The pipelines run in designated pipeline easements crossing private lands.

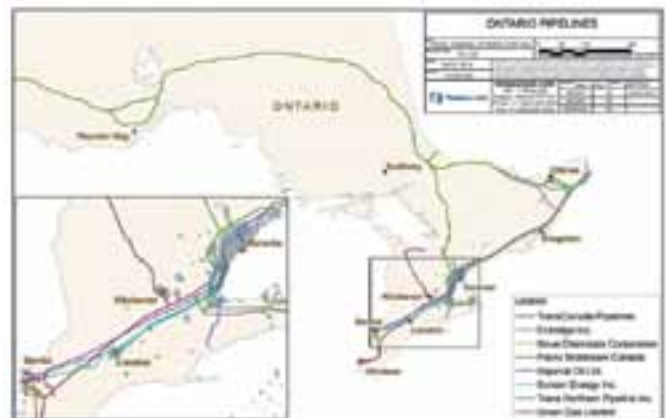
The NEB-regulated pipelines also have a designated 30m safety zone on each side of the easement. The 30m safety zone was established as a safety buffer to ensure the pipeline company is notified prior to excavation in close proximity to the pipeline. Under the NEB regulations “No person shall construct a facility across, on, along or under a pipeline or excavate using power-operated equipment or explosives within thirty meters of a pipeline” without first obtaining leave (permission) from the pipeline company. In addition, “No person shall operate a vehicle or mobile equipment across a pipeline outside a travelled road allowance” without obtaining leave from the pipeline company. Permission is typically granted in the form of a “Crossing Agreement.”

The pipeline company must be notified prior to excavating within 30m of the pipeline right-of-way and a pipeline inspector must be present when excavating within 3m of the pipeline. The purpose of the inspector onsite is to ensure the excavator understands the precautions to follow when excavating near pipelines and to ensure the regulations are



complied with. If a pipeline inspector observes activity that will put the pipeline at risk the inspector has the authority to stop the work.

All oil and gas pipelines are designed and constructed in compliance with CSA Standard Z662-11. Operating pressures range from approximately 200 psi to 1200 psi and regulations require a minimum depth of 0.6m in open fields and 1.3m when crossing under a travelled road or water way. The depth can change for various reasons and the pipeline may change direction in the middle of an open field. Always contact the pipeline company to confirm the location of the pipeline prior to any work within 30m of the pipeline. Contact information for the pipeline company can be found on pipeline signs located at road, water and rail crossings and other locations along the



pipeline right-of-way. Never assume the depth or location of a pipeline.

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pipeline down within minutes reducing the impact of a potential pipeline incident and protecting the public and the environment.

Pipelines are also routinely inspected internally for integrity of the pipeline. Internal inspection tools can detect small anomalies and the early signs of corrosion. If an internal inspection identifies an area of concern the operator will carry out a field inspection of the pipeline and, if needed, make repairs to ensure the continued safe operation of the pipeline.

Third-party damage during excavation is a serious threat to the integrity of pipelines. Everyone can help protect pipelines by ensuring they obtain locates prior to performing excavations, contact the pipeline company and ensure safe excavation practices are always followed. Pipeline companies are members of Ontario One Call and Locates are always free! Call Ontario One Call 1-800-400-2255 or contact the pipeline company directly if you have any questions regarding pipelines in your area.

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BY BEN HAMILTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ONTARIO ONE CALL

Delivery of Locates in Ontario

At February's ORCGA Annual Symposium, participants heard from excavators, locators and Ontario One Call about the realities of locate delivery in Ontario. With the full implementation of the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act* in June 2014, ORCGA members have been interested to see how the new regime would unfold and how quickly they would see the legislated mandate of five business day locates.

Speaking from the excavator perspective, Avertex Utility Solutions spoke about some of the initial challenges they have seen in 2014. Of greatest concern was the wide variance in timely locate delivery. When they do not receive all of the locates within the five day timeframe, they are at risk of missing tight client deadlines and paying contractual liquidated damages. Late locates also make it extremely challenging to schedule crews appropriately, and that has a knock-on effect on other projects as well. Even from the infrastructure owners' perspective, late locates put them in a situation where their own locates might expire and they are forced to provide costly remarks. When even one locate is late both excavators and infrastructure owners lose.

G-Tel Engineering talked about the significant increase in locate volumes they experienced in 2014: 50% growth in the last five years, and 10% growth in 2014 alone. This rapid growth in workload has stretched the resources of locate service providers and put more pressure on their ability to recruit, train and retain qualified staff. Locator workloads are also impacted by a number of abusive actions, including the abuse of the emergency locate process and the inappropriate use of locates for pre-engineering work. Successfully coping with higher volumes also needs greater collaboration between excavators and locators, especially as it pertains to negotiating dates and preventing the need for re-marks.

Ontario One Call spoke about the formation of its Compliance Committee, a key component of enforcing the provisions of the new law. Established at the end of 2014, the Committee contains representatives from both excavators and Ontario One Call members. This innovative, self-directed model of enforcement allows the participants in the One Call system to govern their own compliance with the law, without having to rely on outside parties.

When looking at compliance, Ontario One Call takes a "macro" perspective. As the central point for receiving and dispatching almost one million excavation requests each year, enforcement is based on numerous offences over a sustained period of time. As opposed to other regulators, the focus is not on field investigations of specific incidents. Such an approach allows the Compliance Committee to identify the worst systematic offenders and push them towards full compliance with the law. It also creates a "no surprises" basis for Ontario One Call's compliance approach.

What is clear is that every part of the One Call system – excavators, infrastructure owners, locators and regulators – have a huge role to play in the success of the new law, and that each need to work together to achieve the full benefits of the mandatory system that ORCGA and its members have worked so hard to achieve. ■





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BY JIM DOUGLAS, ORCGA PRESIDENT & CEO

ORCGA's Damage Prevention Technician, DPT® Program

“CLEARING THE WAY FOR EXCAVATORS TO DIG SAFE”

In 2006, the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) embarked on a journey with the Locate Industry in Ontario to develop a Standard industry Locator Training Program. The aim of the program was to provide an opportunity to recognize the significant knowledge and expertise required to complete the complicated task of locating underground facilities in Ontario.

In order to accomplish this objective, the ORCGA enlisted a number of subject matter experts (SMEs) from across the province to begin the process of designing the course structure. At the same time, the ORCGA established a partnership with Humber College (Toronto) to deliver the program. A technical committee made up of the SMEs and a consultant

from Humber College was formed to develop the program which would eventually consist of three components:

- In-Class Instruction
- Field Technical Review
- On-The Job Competency Assessment

After a successful pilot course was completed in 2006, the program was launched at Humber College in 2007 with a class of 17 locators. Since that time the DPT program has gone through a number of changes and is now recognized as the “Industry Standard, General Locate Training Program in Ontario.”

The ORCGA is very appreciative of the role that Humber College played in the launching of the program. However, the overall administration of the DPT program has been administered by the ORCGA since 2010.





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The ORCGA is also very appreciative of the major contribution that Dave Wulff (VIVAX Canada) has played in the overall success of the DPT program. Dave continues his role as our Sr. Technical Instructor for both DPT 100 & DPT 200 courses.

Currently the program features two main courses, the DPT 100 & DPT 200. The DPT 100 course provides 40 hours (5 days) of combined theory and technical training and will be of interest to existing industry utility locators, as well as those entering the locating industry.

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The DPT 200 course is an advanced 24 hour (3 days) combined theory and technical program designed specifically for industry locators who have a minimum of three years direct industry locating experience.

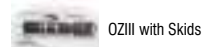
In order to recognize the significant knowledge and expertise required to perform underground locates, the original technical committee decided that a new title would be appropriate and agreed on "Damage Prevention Technician." In order to protect this new title, the ORCGA registered the new designation through the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) as Damage Prevention Technician, DPT®.

To date, the program has seen 1,262 students successfully complete Part 1 of the DPT 100 or DPT 200 programs through 69 courses held across Ontario. 488 of the total participants have gone on to complete Part 2 of the program and receive their Damage Prevention Technician, DPT® Designation.

The ORCGA is very proud of the success of our DPT program. It has raised the bar considerably for the locate industry in Ontario. It has also provided the locate industry in Ontario with the recognition they so undeservedly lacked. Today's Damage Prevention Technician, DPT is a skilled worker who has the very important responsibility of "CLEARING THE WAY FOR EXCAVATORS TO DIG SAFE." ■

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BY BRANDON SMITH, INSPECTIONS & LOCATES, POWERSTREAM INC.



Ice Storm 2013: We Have the Power to Survive

Welcome to the Great White North. Best-selling author, John Steinbeck, once wrote, “What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness.” Here in Canada, we are used to the extremely cold and sometimes unforgiving winter. We are teased by other nations worldwide for the stereotypical belief that we, as Canadians, live in igloos and tough out each winter around large bonfires keeping each other warm. As humorous as this Canadian stereotype is, it may occasionally hold a small bit of truth.

On December 21, 2013, a heavy downpour of rain hit Southern Ontario. From as far west as Sarnia, through the Greater Toronto Area, following the northern shores of Lake Ontario to east of Brockville, 40mm of rain fell in a 24-hour period. The rain quickly transformed into ice that evening as the temperature dropped. In the morning, the downpour and sudden freeze gave many plants a surreal look of icy beauty. Although fascinating to the eye, this sudden freeze was soon to become a major concern to many people.

As a thick layer of ice formed on vegetation and overhead wires, which drastically increased their size and weight in a small period of time. The combination of ice and strong winds was too much for many tree branches, causing them to break and damage the overhead system. This resulted in mass power outages

across Southern Ontario. At one point, more than two million people were without electricity – some for hours, others for days.

The arrival of the storm was not a complete surprise, as Hydro System Control throughout Southern Ontario began tracking the storm prior to its arrival. News release distribution and other related media messages were initiated to inform the public about how to prepare for power outages. Customer service staff, field staff and contractors, locally and from neighbouring provinces and the USA, were on standby to support system control,

many of whom sacrificed their holiday vacations. All staff was aware of the serious potential for mass power outages and everyone was preparing for the worst. The storm hit, power was lost, and it was time for everyone to take action.

Not only were the electrical utilities across Southern Ontario faced with the problem of restoring power as safely and quickly as possible, but this event also affected many of the other utilities. Telecommunication lines were torn down due to falling branches. Gas utilities were concerned about the effects on their system caused by a sudden drop





in gas consumption during the mass power outage. Municipalities knew this could have a serious impact on water and sewage systems.

With so many customers without electricity in the freezing cold, restorations needed to start immediately. They also needed to be completed in a fast, systematic way that would restore power for as many people as quickly as possible. Many factors had to be considered, and unforeseen challenges were expected.

To ensure that power was restored in an effective manner, a general procedure was followed:

1. Restore power to high priority areas: hospitals, retirement residences,



water and sewage treatment plants, pumping stations, and municipal warming stations.

2. Restore power to large feeders (power source) that supply power to various local substations.
3. Restore feeders from the substations that power specific streets and subdivisions.
4. Restore power to individual homes and businesses.

Police, medical emergency responders and municipal employees worked alongside the utilities for over a week. Employees worked relentlessly to restore the power. Despite the storm hitting during the holidays and the dangerous working conditions, it brought the community together. After days of restoration efforts, everyone across Southern Ontario who was affected by the ice storm had their power restored.

Although power was restored, telecommunication companies, municipalities and homeowners still had a big mess to clean up. Damaged telecommunication services had to be reinstalled, municipalities had trees to remove, and some homeowners had to have their service masts repaired by a licensed electrician and inspected by the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) before their power could be restored. (For more information read: "Storm

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Damage Repairs – Who’s Responsible?” at www.powerstream.ca/app/pages/DemarcationInfo.jsp

This event may solidify other nations’ beliefs that Canada is a freezing cold country in the north, but I believe it demonstrates two very common characteristics of Canadians: we are strong and resilient. The numerous people who contributed to the process of restoring services demonstrated these traits. I am proud to be employed in the Canadian utility industry and working with such



highly skilled and professional people who take pride in their work, no matter what the season. ■

Be Prepared

Events such as the 2013 Ice Storm remind us of the importance of emergency preparedness and electrical safety. Here are a few important safety reminders everyone should keep in mind:

- **Be prepared for emergencies** – create a family emergency plan and build an emergency preparedness (see <https://blog.powerstream.ca/2014/12/powerstream-encouraging-customers-always-be-ready>) kit that will allow self-sufficiency for at least 72 hours.
- **Look up, look out and locate power lines** – when cleaning eavestroughs and windows, working on the roof, painting the house or pruning trees. If you require tree trimming on your property near power lines, contact a professional arborist (more information at www.powerstream.ca/app/pages/TreeManagement.jsp).
- **Call before you dig** – every digging job requires a call, even small projects like planting shrubs or replacing a damaged tree. Call Ontario One Call (www.on1call.com) before digging at 1-800-400-2255.
- **Repairs by a qualified electrician** – Keep a list of electrician phone numbers in your emergency contacts. Licensed electrical contractors can be found on the ESA website: www.esasafe.com/consumers/electrical-safety-tips/find-a-licensed-contractor.

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BY SHANE HART, DIRECTOR OF SALES, COMPETERS

Our Industry is Constantly

Our industry is constantly changing. For example, the world's data doubles approximately every two years. However, a single strand of fiber can replace hundreds of copper wires underground to carry the growing data. One causes a higher demand and the other changes the type of infrastructure being put underground. There are two pieces of information that paint an ever-changing image of Underground Damage Prevention. Last year, ON1Call reported 6,181,611 notifications. An industry with many stakeholders and a large amount of data is a breeding ground for technology.

Technology is driven by finding solutions to a variety of problems or difficulties. It's not just for programmers and tech junkies, it's a daily approach to all the challenges you face on any given day. During the "Emerging Technology: How, Now and Beyond" presentation at the ORCGA Symposium 2015, we gave some advice on how to become more adept with technology:

Do not be afraid to make a mistake. And when you do, finding all the positives from discovering something didn't work. In my career at our software firm, we apply for research funding by documenting all the trials and errors we come across and why they didn't work. Don't underestimate the value of learning through mistakes.

Get a Different Perspective. Analytics and Data are important for drilling down to find the root cause of a problem. Numbers can help us identify things we may not see or confirm what we already know. There are also a lot of different perspectives when considering all the different Damage Prevention stakeholders from the locator, to the utility owner, to the excavator. An

industry change affects more than just a single company/stakeholder.

Invest in People. Time, energy and training are ingredients for creating a successful Damage Prevention environment. In the presentation, we highlighted how beneficial it is being able to receive constructive criticism. In our industry, we have one goal and that's preventing damage to our underground infrastructure. Anytime you have some advice to share with a fellow co-worker, stakeholder or friend on how to dig safe, do not refrain.

The Next Big Thing is Already Here. Our changing world isn't new news, it's always been changing. It's now a matter of how we adapt to change and ensuring our technologies can always work together in our industry. However, technology is not just computers and software. It can be a product, a process improvement, or an idea. In *Ear to the Ground*, Fall 2014, there is an article titled "One Call, One Locate: The PVS Story." It describes how one man locating five utilities is more efficient than five men locating five utilities and how they used it to build a successful company. In addition, the LAC was created to help utilities become involved in the One Call, One Locate idea. Both of these technologies have helped produce beneficial change to our Damage Prevention Industry.

During this presentation at the ORCGA Symposium 2015, we discussed a few current technologies and innovations.

1. We looked at Locate Management Systems such as UtiLocate2 and TelDig. The locate process is extremely labour intensive and can be very difficult to manage without automated processes.
2. We looked at the difficulties in locating fiber optic and a product Rogers has created. It stays fixated to the

casing and allows direct connection when locating fiber compared to the current less preferred method.

3. We discussed Bluetooth in locating devices, which allows them to



Changing



connect with GPS devices in the field. From there, you can export map files to Android Devices or Windows PC's through Bluetooth or a USB connection.

4. We presented a theory on map quality that looked at overloading a map layer with all of the locators' findings from the field. Overlapped locates that have different sketches would

highlight poorly mapped areas. For instance, maybe the last three locators who located that area all found something different.

All of these technologies can or are being used in the industry by stakeholders.

The ORCGA plays massive part in driving change in our industry. They provide the industry with the DIRT tool (Damage Information and Reporting Tool). The tool allows utilities to report damages anonymously and helps the ORCGA create our damage records as a province. Without this technology, we wouldn't have a way of measuring how we are meeting our goals as an industry. This demonstrates the power of technology when stakeholders of an industry can work together to improve Damage Prevention. Ending the presentation, we polled the audience to ask if they liked the idea of a Technology Committee within the ORCGA. This committee would discuss technologies and how they would affect the industry. As well, be a source of information to stakeholders and work to improve communication throughout the industry on technological topics.

Being technological is a work style. This work style consists of a few technological habits and a thirst for improvement. There are limitations to technology and it constantly needs re-assessment. Different technologies can affect you in a variety of ways. It's important for companies to forecast what lies ahead and have a strategy for adaptation ready. With smart use and a collective approach to zero damages, technology is the solution to a majority of the challenges facing our industry today and beyond. ■



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