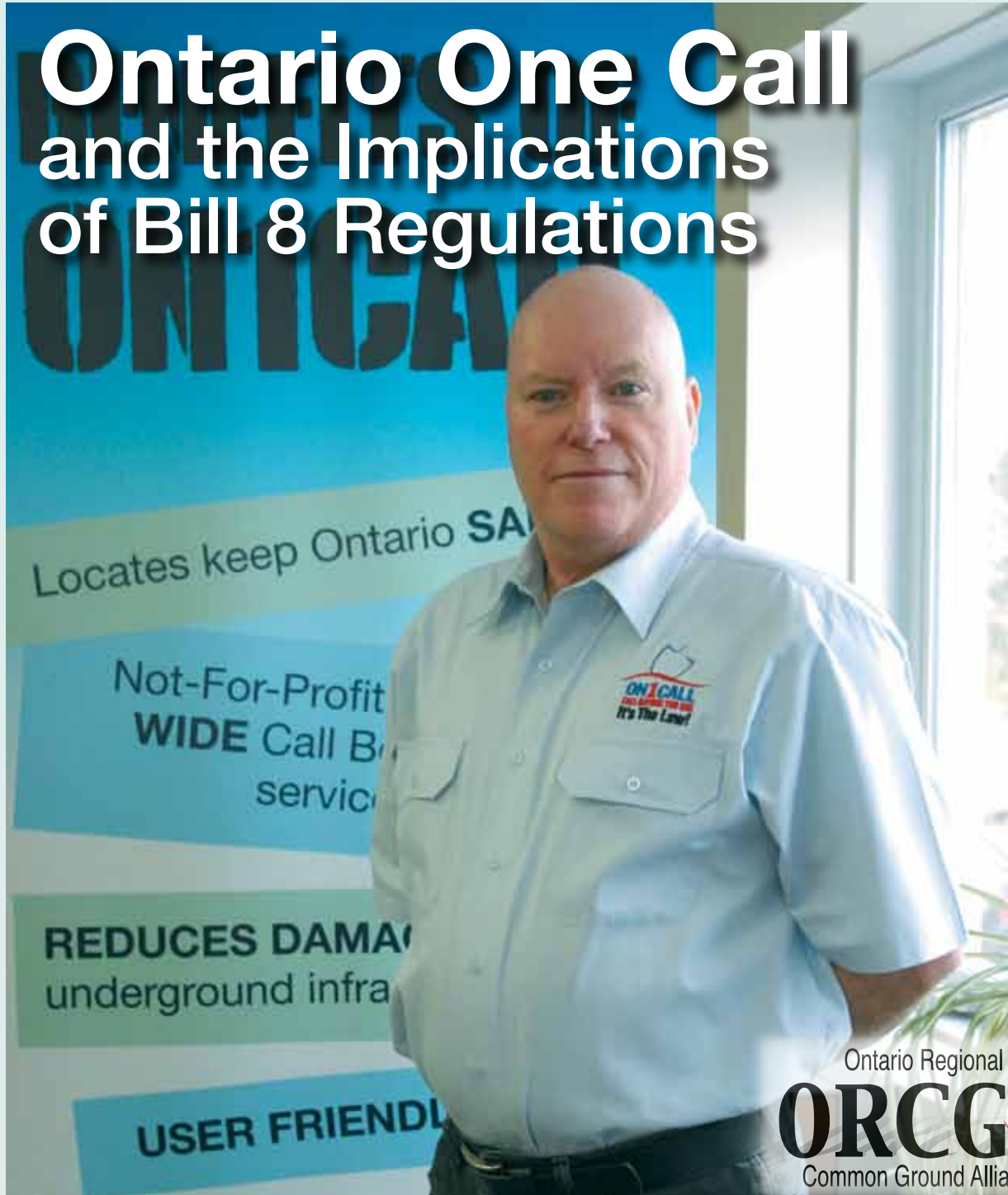


EAR TO THE ISSUE 16 | SPRING 2014
GROUND

Working Together to Build a Safer Ontario

Ontario One Call and the Implications of Bill 8 Regulations



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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, (ACTING) PRESIDENT & CEO



Bill 8 Regulations Passed

AS I AM preparing the President's message for this edition of our *Ear To The Ground* magazine, I'm delighted to have just received a letter from Ministry of Consumers Services' Deputy Minister announcing the Ontario Government's passing of regulations for the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012* (OUINSA/Bill 8).

This is a HUGE and extremely important announcement for every homeowner and the entire excavation industry in Ontario. As you're aware Bill 8 was passed, receiving Royal Assent on June 19, 2012. It mandated all facility owners, excluding municipalities, to be members of Ontario One Call by June 19, 2013. Ontario municipalities were given an additional year to comply, i.e., to become members by June 19, 2014. However, in the absence of regulations for Bill 8, some may not comply. With the introduction of the regulations, all facility owners in the Province of Ontario must be members of Ontario One Call by June 19, 2014 or face regulation enforcement penalties.

For the ORCGA staff, our members, industry partners and volunteers, this is indeed an amazing milestone and an event that will now lay the foundation for One Call Legislation across the country.

This all began in the fall of 2005. After a year of consultation with a 17-person stakeholder task team (One Call Committee), the committee members reached an agreement to provide the Ontario Government with a "One Call Proposal for the Government of Ontario." During this time, we also released and provided the Ontario Government with

a copy of the first of a kind societal cost report, titled: "Societal Costs of Damage to Buried Infrastructure Due to Excavation in Ontario."

From 2005 until 2012, the ORCGA worked with the Ontario Government through three elections, and seven different Ministers, to help them understand the need for mandatory participation in Ontario One Call by all facility owners.

Over the years, I recall the numerous meetings that took place and the frustration and at times the total exasperation due to the lack of any progress. However, in 2010 we were fortunate to have two Provincial MPP's willing to help champion our cause (Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton and Paul Miller, MPP Hamilton East-Stoney Creek). While it took two attempts, on June 19, 2012, Bill 8 became the Law in Ontario.

While it would be extremely difficult to remember all of the volunteers and other champions who worked tirelessly, especially through 2011-2012 period to see this quest to fruition, we pass on our sincere gratitude for your dedication. You have proved that the ORCGA motto of "Working Together for a Safer Ontario" is well in hand.

Now that the regulations are in place, I'm pleased that our feature article and front cover comes from our friends at Ontario One Call. The article is about Ontario One Call's role in the enforcement of the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012* (OUINSA).

Best Regards,
Jim





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BY JEFF HITCHCOCK, SENIOR MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT OFFICER, ONTARIO ONE CALL AND STEVE WAUGH, INVESTIGATIONS AND COMPLIANCE MANAGER, ONTARIO ONE CALL

Ontario One Call: Implications of Bill 8 Regulations

On any given day in Canada, there are an average of 35 digging-related incidents that cause damage to major utility lines. Over the course of a year, that adds up to nearly 13,000 incidents, or “strikes,” and the costs associated with these add up quickly.

These strikes can result in the disruption of essential services, environmental contamination, lawsuits, repairs, evacuations, injuries and even deaths. For our members and contractors, this can also mean unnecessary, expensive delays, fines and even a shutdown in operations.

Members of Ontario One Call and contractors understand how vital the critical network of underground infrastructure is to people living and working in the community and that it’s important to develop strategies to reduce the number of digging-related incidents.

The good news is the majority of these strikes can be prevented through improved notification and excavation practices.

That’s why Ontario One Call is committed to working with the stakeholders at the Ontario Common Ground Alliance to strengthen those processes and make it easier for them to get the answers they are looking for quickly and efficiently.

New regulations proposed under Bill 8, the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012*, will help make that a reality.

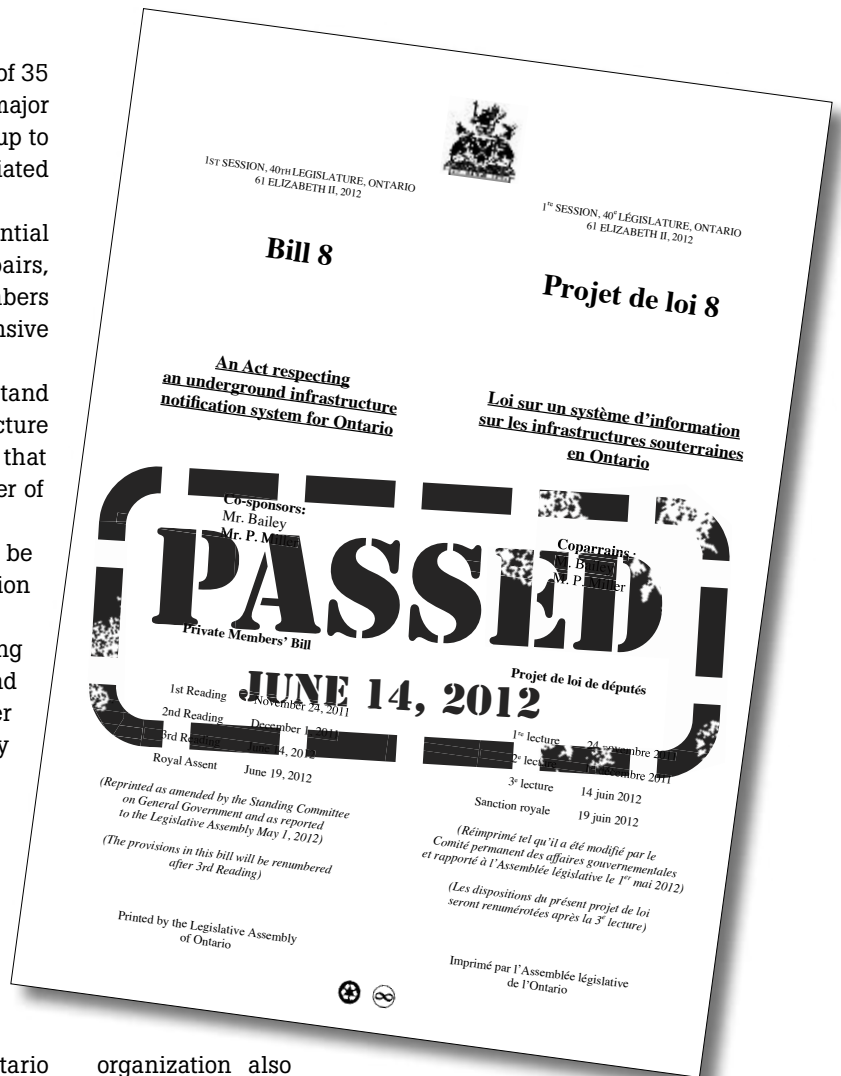
Ontario One Call’s Mandate

Ontario One Call was created in 1996 to provide a “one-call” system to reduce costs and create a more efficient process for companies to receive timely, accurate responses to their locate requests. In 2011, Ontario One Call became a not-for-profit organization with an open, transparent structure that encourages members to have a say on the organization’s major policies.

Ontario One Call operates a state-of-the-art call centre to handle incoming locate requests. When a request comes in, Ontario One Call is responsible for identifying the infrastructure and notifying the appropriate members about a dig. The

organization also plays an important role when it comes to educating members and the public at large about the critical importance of the need to ‘Call before you dig.’

The role of the organization is also expanding to take on responsibilities as regulator for Bill 8. Ontario One Call believes the proposed changes under this new legislation



will allow members and contractors to work more efficiently, and emphasizes the fact that damage prevention is a shared responsibility.

Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012

The proposed terms and conditions, which provide extensive detail about the legislative changes, have been published on our website. We will continue to keep members and other stakeholders apprised of developments as they occur.

The changes that impact members and contractors are straightforward and should alleviate some of the frustrations that have come up in the past.

One of the most important changes is the requirement for infrastructure owners to register their underground infrastructure by becoming members of Ontario One Call. In addition, members will be responsible for providing updated information for notification, paying for services rendered and

ensuring the confidentiality of sensitive materials.

Members are responsible for providing a locate within five business days of a request, which will include a clearance or markings on the ground with the appropriate paperwork, or renegotiating the excavation date between themselves and the excavator.

Ontario One Call is also refining its "emergency" locate request definition to ensure that incoming emergency requests are truly urgent in nature. This change should lead to more reliable and predictable completion times.

In addition, once a locate request has been completed by a member or a locator, that individual will be responsible for updating the Ontario One Call database within three to five business days to help ensure all parties are kept informed. This process is known as 360 Feedback.

These changes are critical to prevent unnecessary and costly delays to important projects and to help members and contractors operate more

efficiently and help eliminate damages and injuries.

Complaints

When Ontario One Call receives a complaint, it will be documented and an acknowledgement of receipt will be issued. Complaints can be submitted by phone, email, in person, through regular mail as well as on the Ontario One Call website.

The Investigation and Compliance Department at Ontario One Call will investigate all complaints that are received and ensure that members and complainants are kept informed of the clarity of the rules and process, as well as the investigation status. Members will be responsible for cooperating with the Inspection and Compliance Officer throughout the process.

There are a variety of situations or issues that could potentially result in someone lodging an official complaint with the Investigation and Compliance department. Examples would include complaints over a late locate, a party or

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organization abusing the “emergency” locate request option for a non-emergency, an infrastructure owner failing to properly register their buried infrastructure, etc.

Ontario One Call is committed to providing clear communication and quick responses with respect to questions around the complaint process. Questions may be directed to Steve Waugh, the Ontario One Call Investigations and Compliance Manager at 519-265-8006 (ext. 8808) or swaugh@on1call.com.

Enforcement

The Investigations and Compliance Department at Ontario One Call will undertake investigations where reasonable probable case of non-compliance with Bill 8 and, if necessary, provide further recommendations to the Compliance Committee.

A number of actions could be taken, depending on the outcome of the complaint. Ontario One Call’s Investigation and Compliance Department may issue a warning, written recommendations, require the member to appear before the Investigations and Compliance Manager, successfully complete an educational course, change the member’s internal process or recommend an Administrative Monetary Amount (AMA). AMAs could range from \$100 to \$10,000 per occurrence. Members will have the opportunity to appeal in certain situations.

The Investigation and Compliance Department’s approach to regulatory enforcement will support transparency, professionalism and focus on outcomes. Execution of regulatory enforcement will be independent from political or other influence.

Ontario One Call will work with other regulators to support safe excavation in Ontario.

Under the proposed changes, the outcomes of Investigations and Compliance Department will be posted online as a way of highlighting the commitment to accountability and transparency to members as well as the entire community.

Call to action

As the regulations proposed under *Ontario Underground Infrastructure*

Notification System Act, 2012 move closer to becoming reality, it’s vital for members to ensure that all buried infrastructure is registered with Ontario One Call by June 19, 2014.

Members are encouraged to contact Ontario One Call’s Member Services branch to have any outstanding questions or issues addressed and to ensure that you are ready for 360 Feedback.

Members should also ensure their corporate policies and procedures are

updated to ensure compliance with the *Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012* and the related terms and conditions.

Preventing damage to underground infrastructure is a shared responsibility and everyone has a role to play. The changes will help increase accountability and transparency across the industry and further reduce the incidence of underground damage to utilities and the associated financial, societal and human costs. ■



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11th Annual Symposium

The Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) held its 11th Annual Symposium February 4-6, 2014, at the Blue Mountain Conference Centre in Collingwood, Ontario. With more than 285 attendees, the symposium was a great success.

The symposium began on Tuesday afternoon with the Combined Committees meeting followed by a hospitality evening with a Mardi Gras theme and a Dixieland band. It was a great opportunity for the attendees to mingle and network while enjoying good food, music and conversation.

The next day and a half were filled with seminars and exceptional guest speakers. The delegates were also able to

enjoy a fun ball hockey tournament, photo rally challenge, downhill skiing or just a walk through the village.

The Awards Gala was the highlight of the symposium, again this year. The 2013 Excavators of the Year Awards were presented to the eight category winners and the ORCGA also honoured its five- and 10-year sponsors with plaques. We also recognized our 2013 Members of the Year and our 2014 Hall of Fame inductees. The evening ended with Tracey Bell entertaining the group.

We want to thank all of our sponsors, vendors and members for their continued support and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

2014 Excavator of the Year

The ORCGA recognized the following companies as recipients of the 2014's Excavator of the Year:

Gas: Link-Line Group of Companies

Home Builder: Jacques Bedard Excavation Ltd.

Electric: Safeline Utility Services Inc.

Landscaping/Fencing: Lomco Limited

Road Builder: A & F DiCarlo Construction Inc.

Sewer/Water: Utility Force Inc.

Telecommunications: Dyna-Co Construction

Most Improved: B-Line Trenching Inc.

See the sidebar on page 14 for the elite group of organizations that have also received this recognition.



& Awards Presentations

2014 Hall of Fame Inductees and the 2013 Members of the Year

Hall of Fame

The ORCGA welcomed two new members to the Hall of Fame. At our 11th Annual Symposium Awards Gala held on February 5th, Jack Kottelenberg and Terry Murphy were inducted into the ORCGA Hall of Fame.

This honour is awarded to an individual who has made a lasting contribution to the industry and association for their leadership, support, innovation and professionalism, etc., over the years.



Jack Kottelenberg

Jack Kottelenberg: Record of achievement

- Responsible for AVERTEX joining the alliance
- Responsible for AVERTEX becoming a GOLD sponsor (10 years)
- Responsible for AVERTEX's 10 year multiple event sponsor
- Responsible for AVERTEX's employee participation on ORCGA Committees
- Excavator stakeholder representative, ORCGA Board of Directors

- Member ORCGA Executive, AFRC & GNC Board Committees
- 2013 Chair, ORCGA Board of Directors



Terry Murphy

Terry Murphy Record of achievement

- One of the most respected professionals in the landscape industry
- Landscape industry representative on ORCGA Board of Directors since 2007
- Landscape industry Board Member since 2007
- Most responsible for arranging the first ever ORCGA Dig Safe day at Landscape Congress
- Member ORCGA AFRC & GNC Committees

Members of the Year

The ORCGA also congratulates Lynn Caput, Lyndsay McGrath and Brad Gowan, who were named as the 2013 ORCGA Members of the Year, at the ORCGA 11th Annual Symposium Awards Gala held on February 5th.

This honour recognizes individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the ORCGA and the damage prevention industry during the previous year. This recipient will

have gone "above and beyond" in supporting the association/industry in the previous twelve months.

Congratulations to all!



Members of the Year (L-R): Lynn Chaput, Brad Gowan and Lyndsay McGrath.

Lynn Chaput Accomplishments:

- Involved in the ORCGA since 2004 (orig. P & D committee)
- Event volunteer over many years
- Participated on 3 Provincial committees & 1 GC
- Member of the DPT Certification Board
- Led a number of task teams, including the 10th anniversary book

Lyndsay McGrath Accomplishments:

- Lead person for Annual DIRT Report
- Co-chair Reporting & Evaluation Committee
- Co-lead on Excavator of the Year awards
- Lead person for Fall Expo - R&E Best Practices Station
- Volunteer Dig Safe events

Brad Gowan Accomplishments:

- Original Co-chair London GC
- DPT instructor & technical advisor
- Locate Rodeo "Master Judge"
- ORCGA Ambassador @ 2013 U.S Locate Rodeo
- Member Locate Rodeo Technical Committee
- Dig Safe K.O. event lead for London 2013
- Dig Safe event volunteer

LOOKING BACK: PAST EXCAVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

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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.

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Unlocatable Water and Sewer Lines: A Municipal Perspective

With the growing use of directional drilling for infrastructure now installed into existing road networks, municipalities and contractors are encountering a larger number of problems making this new plant fit in with the existing infrastructure.

The areas that have accurate mapping along with proper road profiles are leaps and bounds ahead of the older, not-so-accurate infrastructure. Locates and mapping in the older areas of municipalities have become a great concern and expense for municipalities as they plan for the future.

The Municipality of Brockton is no exception to this problem. Brockton was formed from the amalgamation of the townships of Brant and Greenock and the town of Walkerton. The population is 10,000 with Walkerton being the largest ward with 5,000 people. Walkerton has 43 km of water mains, 41 km of sewer mains and 29 km of storm sewers.



A large number of the water mains were replaced in 2000 to 2002 and with that came accurate mapping. Locating the water mains and service lines can prove difficult at times, but is not as serious a concern as locating the sewer mains and particularly the laterals. Laterals can range in depth from three to 10 feet and are typically materials such as clay or PVC, which also present problems with locating.

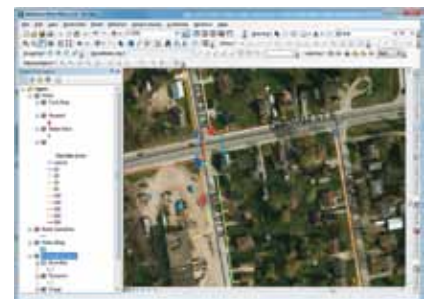
Directional drilling has been used as an infill method in Brockton for many years; and in 2012–2013, a large project was undertaken by a local telecom company to install black fibre in Walkerton. Attempting to locate the sewer laterals was proving to be next to impossible, which resulted in many laterals being damaged, needing very costly repair, not to mention the inconvenience to the owners. We worked with the telecom company installing the fibre to purchase a GPR (ground penetrating radar) hoping that would give us better results. It was not very successful as a primary locate device due to the high water table and the soil type. This project heightened our resolve to look to better locating equipment and stressed the importance of making sure any plant installed in the municipal road allowance is locatable.

The municipality currently uses a magnetic pin finder and an Electromagnetic Pipe and Cable locator with a camera and 150 ft. plumber's reel to locate sewer laterals on an individual house bases. When used as a locate method for a larger scale, this is very time consuming and not practical as the operators very often have to gain access to the lines from owners' basements.

In 2009 the municipality started a GIS program to eventually have an



accurate mapping set-up for the entire municipality. Our initial step was to work with the County of Bruce and their GIS department to make sure all of our equipment and software was compatible. Our reasoning behind this is a future where all of our mapping would be integrated with the County. We were allocated enough money to purchase the necessary equipment and software. For the first three years, we hired summer students to collect the data points and start the mapping. As of the spring of 2013, we were able to hire a GIS technician on a two-year contract, hopefully turning into a full time position. We are not rushing on





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mapping any questionable located plant. If it can't be verified, we are not mapping it. This will ensure the accuracy for future staff.

Moving forward, we are looking at technologies that will be able to locate our mains and laterals accurately and cost effectively. One option is to use a later and mainline probe. This option was priced, but found to be far too costly for the size of our system. Currently, we are able to utilize our GIS technician to accurately map any service work. Our operators

will also locate any sewer lateral repair work using the camera and send it to the GIS technician. This helps, but is not what is needed for the larger picture.

The municipality is caught between the need to accurately locate our plant and the cost of doing so.

I would like to leave you with one last thought: We as an industry are investing millions of dollars in buried infrastructure. Don't install things today that you can't go back and accurately locate in the future. ■

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Kingston Utilities: Multiple Utilities, One Point Contact

Utilities Kingston is unique in Ontario—combining water, wastewater, gas and electricity services and a broadband fibre optics provider in one company reporting to a single CEO. The company also maintains and operates street lights and traffic signals for the City of Kingston. This model provides clear advantages in operational efficiencies, cost savings and customer service, while helping to ensure the safety and reliability of infrastructure.

One of the most obvious benefits of having all utilities under one roof is that it enables the complex choreography of multiple work programs that ultimately leads to the timely and cost-effective completion of work. The reconstruction of a street will often include the combined replacement of water, sewer, gas, electricity and streetlights and

traffic signals infrastructure; saving time and money with one excavation and fewer disturbances to customers.

This cooperation and coordination is especially important in Central Kingston, due to the particular density of underground infrastructure. Local businesses were understandably concerned when they first learned, in 2008, of the municipality's plan to completely reconstruct a portion of the city's main thoroughfare in its historic downtown—all in the narrow window between the end of the Christmas holiday shopping rush and the July 1 kickoff of tourist season in the summer of 2010.

It was a complex public works project—a joint effort between City of Kingston and Utilities Kingston—that was three years in the making. The project involved relocating electricity infrastructure, natural gas and water mains, and a fibre optic network; as well as road reconstruction, including replacing everything from streetlights and traffic signals to sidewalks. The biggest challenge was the separation of the 100-year-old combined sanitary and storm sewer.

"A project like this could have taken more than nine months to complete, but we had it done in time for the Canada Day celebrations," says Jim Keech, CEO of Utilities Kingston. "A major factor in achieving this was having all of the participants in the project effectively reporting through the same chain of command."

Utilities Kingston's unique business model also has positive implications in terms of cost savings, resource sharing and customer service. Some examples of this include cost savings to print and mail one bill for all services received by the customer; one call to arrange for service changes when the customer moves (for example, service disconnections, final meter reads and bills, and service reconnection at the new address); one appointment for a customer to obtain locates for up to five utilities; and one contact for a number of new construction services, which assists the community in economic development.

Perhaps even more importantly, Utilities Kingston provides one touch point for the customer in an emergency situation. In a recent major fire in Central Kingston, some customers were evacuated from their homes. Staff recognized this was a very difficult time for them and were glad to provide one point of contact and accurate, complete information to address their combined utility needs. Having all the utilities under one roof also allows services to be restored in a safe, coordinated manner while preventing property damage. For



example, knowing a power outage was affecting electric heating in homes, staff shut off water to reduce the risk of bursting water pipes.

The company draws on its cross-functional team and shares knowledge to develop expertise and help ensure the reliability of infrastructure to its customers.

In-house locators locate five different underground utilities using global information system (GIS) mapping. Because all of these utilities are

found under one roof, staff are able to pull colour-coded maps that show the underground utilities on one drawing.

Additionally, locators draw on the team's multi-utility expertise to effectively troubleshoot issues across all the utilities, thereby completing locates more efficiently. They also assist with verifying and updating the GIS system.

To help reduce service disruptions, the company makes use of specialized equipment and expert staff that might not be available to any one utility, were

it to stand alone. Never are the benefits of the model more apparent than when coordinating emergency response.

If there's a motor vehicle accident involving a hydro pole, employees from other departments jump in to assist the electric utility. Activities across all the utilities are coordinated from one centralized operations control centre. Before any digging occurs, a Utilities Kingston locator ensures the safety of personnel and protection of underground utility infrastructure. To help get the power back on as quickly as possible, control room

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operators may call in resources from other departments, possibly including a Streetlights and Traffic Signals Technician to help with pole installation, underground water infrastructure operators to provide hydro-excavation for the pole hole, as well as resources to assist with restoring fibre optic communication.

In order to further reduce the impact of service disruptions on our customers and to ensure public safety, Utilities Kingston regularly communicates to the public a variety of multi-utility safety information campaigns.

The Technical Standards & Safety Authority mandates that gas utilities communicate to customers about the risk posed by sewer cross bores—when

natural gas lines intersect with sewer lines. In addition to communicating with gas customers about this issue, Utilities Kingston is also able to reach

sewer customers. For example when called into a home or neighbourhood to investigate a sewer line problem, staff inform customers of the potential gas issue.

Another example of this is the recent winter safety campaign that discussed the importance of keeping snow and ice from building up on outdoor gas, water and electricity infrastructure. Customers from all three utilities were informed through media including radio advertising, social media and one combined bill insert.

These are just some of the ways in which a multi-utility structure can help ensure the safety and reliability of critical infrastructure, all while delivering cost efficiencies and excellent customer service. ■



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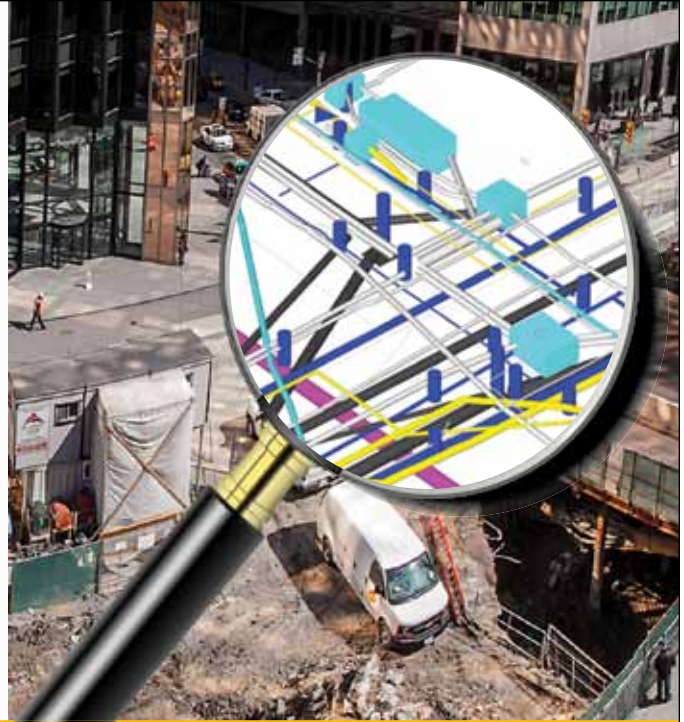
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Preventing Damages through Best Practices

The ORCGA developed its best practices through commitment and consensus of its members working together for a safer Ontario. In 2003, the first Best Practices for Ontario, Version 1.0 was published. Ten years later, we have Best Practices Version 7.0. Through a unified approach and stakeholder consensus, the best practices committee works hard to enhance current best practices and develop new practices to protect Ontario's vital infrastructure. The ORCGA believes these best practices provide optimum levels of diligence towards preventing damage to underground infrastructure.

The best way to prevent a damage is to know how to avoid creating a damage in the first place. The ORCGA Best Practices is comprised of 8 sections.

- 1-0 Planning and Design
- 2-0 One-Call Centre
- 3-0 Locating & Marking
- 4-0 Excavation
- 5-0 Mapping
- 6-0 Compliance
- 7-0 Public Education
- 8-0 Reporting & Evaluation

The *Ear to the Ground* will feature a best practice in each issue. It may be a long existing practice or a brand new one, but will highlight the practice and its benefits to the industry.

This issue emphasizes 4-0 Excavation and in particular section 4-18 Excavation Tolerance Zone and 4-19 Excavation within the Tolerance Zone. Each year, line strikes occur due to imprudent excavation; year after year, damages occur due to insufficient excavation practices and the failure to use hand tools where required. By following the excavation best practices these damages can be prevented.

4-18 Excavation Tolerance Zone

Practice Statement: The excavator observes a tolerance zone which is comprised of the width of 1 metre from the centerline of a located cable or conduit and 1 metre from either side of the outside edge of the underground facility on a horizontal plane. This practice is not intended to pre-empt any existing provincial or federal requirements.



4-19 Excavation within the Tolerance Zone

Practice Statement: When excavation is to take place within the specified tolerance zone, the excavator exercises such reasonable care as may be necessary for the protection of any underground facility in or near the excavation area. Methods to consider, based on certain climate or geographical conditions, include: hand digging when practical, vacuum excavation methods, pneumatic hand tools, other mechanical methods with the approval of the facility owner/operator, or other technical methods that may be developed. Hand digging and non-invasive methods are not required for pavement removal.

Practice Statement: Safe, prudent, non-invasive methods that manually expose a facility are considered "safe excavation practices." Some guides

for excavation in the vicinity of utilities specifically allow for the use of power excavating equipment for the removal of pavement and sidewalk but not curbs or base materials. Differing geologic conditions and weather-related factors must be taken into consideration when using types of excavation within the tolerance zone.

References: Existing excavation guidelines published by the TSSA and various utility owner/operators.

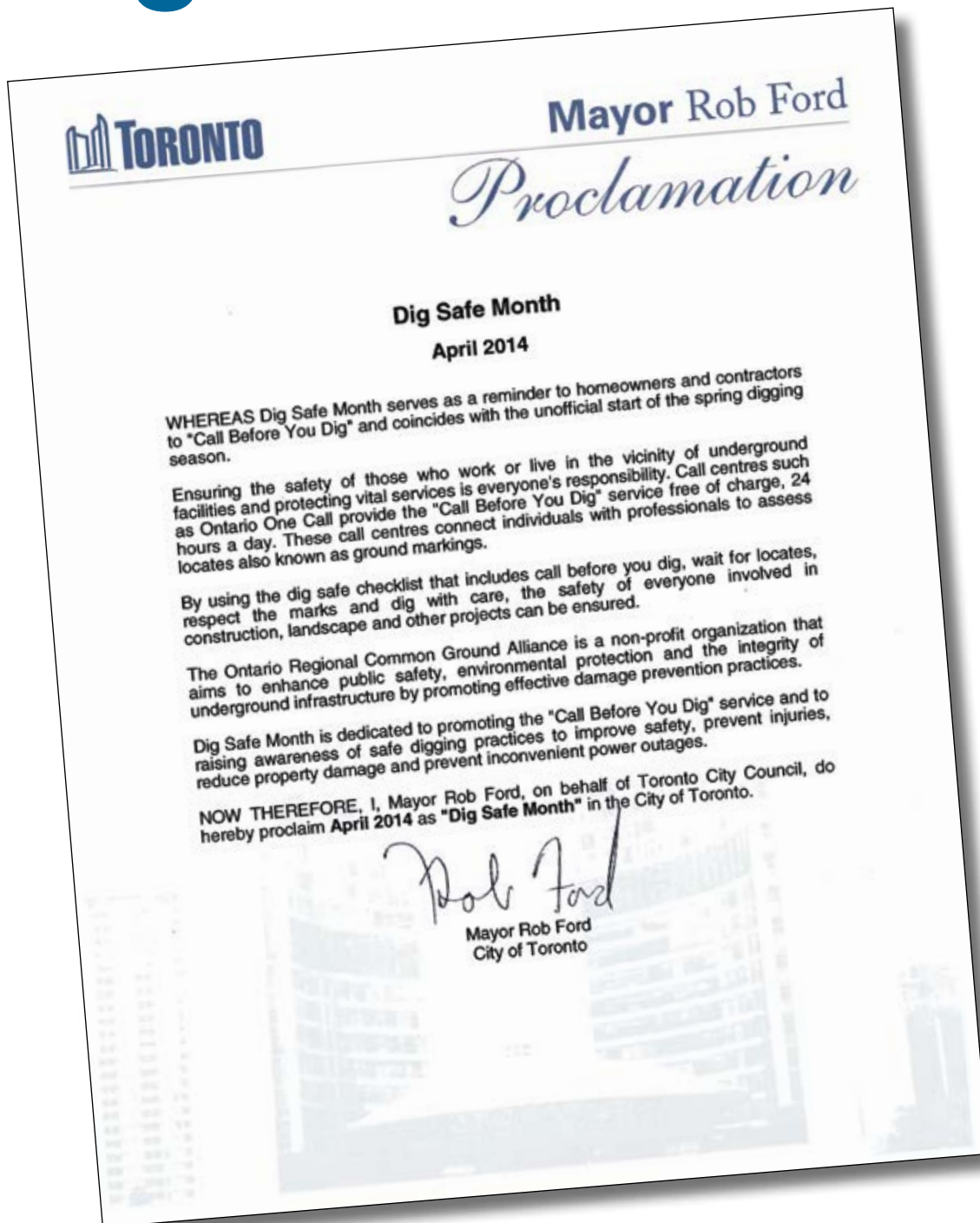
This best practice reinstates the significance of "know what's below" and the "dig safe" message (DIGSAFE.CA): Call Before You Dig; Wait for Locates; Understand the Locate; Respect the Marks and Dig with Care. If in doubt, contact the facility owner for clarification of plant location.

Best practices serve as an educational guide and reference tool for the prevention of damage to underground infrastructure. They contain the collective knowledge gained from validated experiences of a broad stakeholder group. These stakeholders from various industries bring different perspectives on relevant issues to help form the best practices. Best practices continue to evolve.

Ontario has thousands of kilometres of pipelines, electrical and communication lines and other underground facilities. Whether you are a ground disturber, contractor, facility owner/operator, or locator, everyone needs to be responsible for preventing the damage to these facilities. The best practices provide a tool to do just that. Best practices promote safety and prevent damage to underground infrastructure in Ontario by providing expertise to the industry. ■

BY JIM DOUGLAS, (ACTING) PRESIDENT & CEO

The ORCGA Celebrates Another Successful Annual “Dig Safe” Kick-Off





Toronto Councillor
Denzil Minnian-Wong



Glenn Beaumont, President,
Enbridge Gas



John Miller, TSSA (ORCGA Board Chair)



MPP Bob Bailey



MPP Paul Miller

The ORCGA kicked-off its annual April Dig Safe Month in Toronto on April 1, 2014, to coincide with “the unofficial start of the spring digging season,” as the Proclamation from the City of Toronto Mayor’s office read.

This year the event was held at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto. While the weather was dry, the cold wind blowing across the square was a challenge for the approximately 80 volunteers.

The event began at 10:30 a.m., with the volunteers handing out Dig Safe brochures and other promotional wares.

At 12:30 p.m., the official Kick-Off began with opening comments and thanks to the many volunteers and the general public from John Marshall, MC for the event and Chair, ORCGA Board of Directors.

Following John was Toronto Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong, representing Mayor Rob Ford who, due to other commitments, was unable to attend. Mr. Minnan-Wong spoke about the importance of having a Dig Safe environment in the City of Toronto for the safety of members of the public, city employees and all contractors who perform excavation work in Toronto. He then presented a Proclamation to John Marshall from Mayor Rob Ford declaring APRIL as Dig Safe Month in the City of Toronto.

Glenn Beaumont, President of Enbridge Gas Distribution, highlighted the success Enbridge has enjoyed in substantially reducing the number of damages to their infrastructure over the past few years. He attributed this success to working collectively with municipalities, utilities, contractors and excavators as part of the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance. He said Enbridge is proud to be a founding member and sponsor of the ORCGA.

The final presenters were MPP Bob Bailey (Sarnia-Lambton) and MPP Paul Miller (Hamilton West-Stoney Creek). Both Bob and Paul spoke about their

involvement in Bill 8 and how delighted they were to be a big part of wonderful success story which concluded with the passing of Bill 8 on June 19, 2012. They also are very pleased to see that

the Ministry of Consumer Services (MCS) had just implemented the regulations for Bill 8.

John Marshall closed out the official part of the 2014 ORCGA Dig Safe

Kick-Off by thanking all the volunteers, BELL as our official kick-off sponsor, Rogers as our media sponsor and Danatec, TSSA and TransCanada as our event sponsors. ■



ENBRIDGE ATTRIBUTES THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF DAMAGES TO THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE TO WORKING COLLECTIVELY WITH MUNICIPALITIES, UTILITIES, CONTRACTORS AND EXCAVATORS AS PART OF THE ORCGA





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