

ISSUE 35 | Fall/Winter 2023

Ear to the

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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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ORCGA: Celebrating 20 years!

Doug Lapp, President & CEO, ORCGA

The **ORCGA** has been very successful in galvanizing the damage prevention industry by helping the stakeholders understand that damage prevention is a shared responsibility.

In this edition we will highlight some of our success and our continued growth between 2013 and 2023. We would be remiss not to acknowledge that this incredible success is the result of the hard work, commitment, passion and many hours volunteers have donated to damage prevention. They have played an instrumental

role in every facet of the alliance's success.

ORCGA is greatly appreciative of the financial support graciously provided by our Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors.

We have achieved a great deal since our inception in 2003, and this is only the beginning! We need to spread our success to all parts of the province, including all our stakeholders and continue to build on our 20-year foundation.

This issue of Ear to the Ground highlights our achievements, changes and

movements within the development of the ORCGA.

The article from Adam Mordaunt, Ontario One Call, covers where we are going in damage prevention in Ontario with an overview of the Dedicated Locator initiative.

Get involved, whether it is by joining one of our Provincial Committees or joining a Geographic Council committee or meeting.

You make a difference, and we hope to connect with you in 2023.

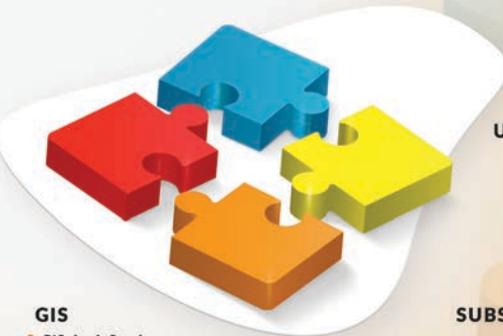
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A Closer Look at the ORCGA – 2013-2023

Doug Lapp, President & CEO, ORCGA

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The second decade of the ORCGA saw transformations within the Board of Directors, ORCGA leadership, staff, sponsors and membership growth.

The one thing that has remained constant is the commitment of all stakeholders in preventing underground infrastructure damage and ensuring public, workers and infrastructure safety remains the number one priority.

The ORCGA and its programs continue to evolve with the changes in the construction industry; however, none of these would have been possible without your involvement and your companies' support.

ORCGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The ORCGA Board of Directors representing stakeholders continues to focus on industry trends and needs, evolving in damage prevention efforts. In 2020, the Board revised the Vision and Mission statement.

Vision: Every Dig; A Safe Dig
Mission: Driving Safe Excavation for workers, the public and underground infrastructure through Advocacy, Education and Engagement.

WORKING COMMITTEES

In 2006, the ORCGA created four working committees: Best Practices, Reporting & Evaluation, Events and Education. In

2018, the latter two evolved into Events & Communication and Education & Training Committees to provide improved focus.

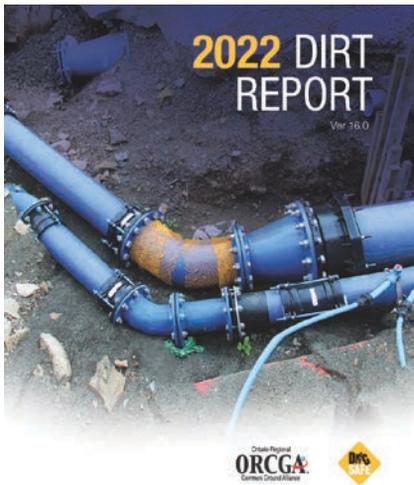
BEST PRACTICES PUBLICATION

The first Best Practices Book was released in 2004 and continues to evolve with the construction industry. It eventually became a national document now known as the CCGA Best Practices (Canadian Common Ground Alliance). CCGA Best Practices Version 4.0 was released in 2022.

DIRT REPORT

2007 saw the first publication of The DIRT Report, which is prepared and published

annually by the Reporting & Evaluation Committee. The goal of this committee is to complete and distribute it to all ORCGA members by April 1, the onset of the dig season and Dig Safe month.



DIG SAFE PROGRAM

The Dig Safe Program began in 2010 and continues across Ontario with events in the Geographic Council areas and on social media. This program is a reminder to “Dig Safe” at each and every dig. The Dig Safe program continues to gain exposure year after year.

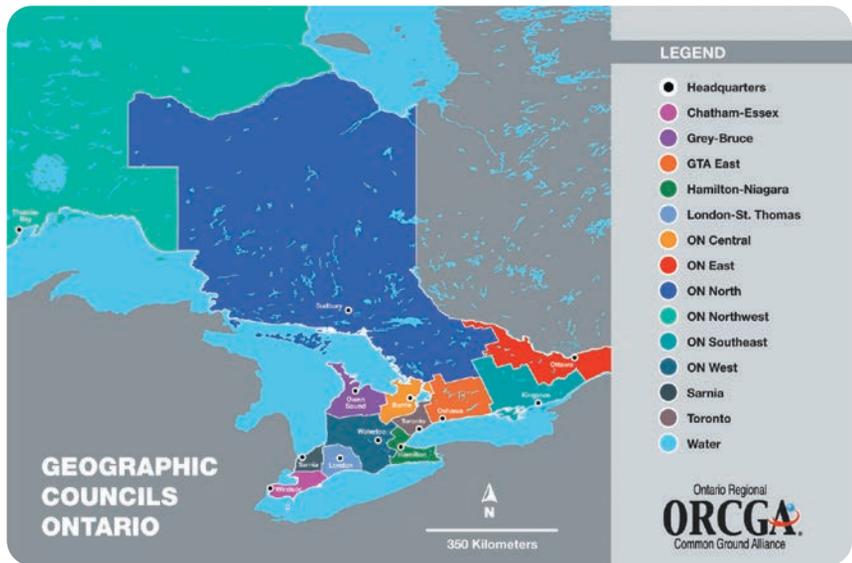


GEOGRAPHIC COUNCILS

The Geographic Council meetings began in 2008 and continue to meet in the spring and fall. The pandemic opened new ways to connect virtually, and these online meeting tools enabled the Geographic Council meetings to expand their outreach. In 2022 these meetings attracted over 1,700 participants not only in Ontario, but across North America and overseas. The online version also enabled additional administration-oriented individuals to attend. To continue to engage all these groups, the Geographic Councils will run an online and in-person session annually moving forward.

DAMAGE PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM

The Damage Prevention Symposium began in 2004, and remains the hallmark



event held in February. The Symposium is held in venues spanning east and west in southern Ontario.

ORCGA AWARDS

Since 2008, The ORCGA presents its recognition awards at the annual Symposium.

JIM DOUGLAS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN DAMAGE PREVENTION

In 2018, on the 15th Anniversary of the ORCGA, the Hall of Fame Award was rebranded as the “Jim Douglas Award of Excellence in Damage Prevention,” and was presented to Tom Kydd of Hydro One and Barry Shoppoff of Union Gas.



CHAIR'S HONOUR AWARD

The Chair's Honour Award was created in 2019, and is awarded to a member who has dedicated their career to the industry and supported the ORCGA in delivering on its Vision and Mission. The 2019 recipient was Dave Wulff of Vivax-Metrotech.



EXCAVATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Each year, the ORCGA proudly recognizes excavators with the Best-In-Class safe digging practices and congratulates the winners with the Excavator of the Year Award. Excavators are divided into eight categories: Electric, Gas, Homebuilder, Landscape, Roadbuilder, Sewer/Water, Telecommunications and Most Improved.

DAMAGE PREVENTION TECHNICIAN PROGRAM

The Damage prevention Technician Program (DPT) has been delivered to over 2,700 technicians since 2007. In 2022, due to the infrastructure expansion initiatives in Ontario, there was a huge demand for qualified and trained locators. The ORCGA collaborated with representatives from the primary infrastructure groups and several locate service providers to develop a more

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Pipeline strike incidents are one of the most common types of incidents reported to TSSA annually, with about 2,300 reported incidents per year on average.

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority wishes to acknowledge its valuable partnership with the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance (ORCGA) to enhance public safety on all matters related to excavation safety and pipeline infrastructure damage prevention in Ontario.

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comprehensive DPT program. The program will integrate classroom and in-field components when it launches at the end of 2023.

TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

In an effort to focus more on the educational aspect of the ORCGA Mission, the Board of Directors encouraged the organization to expand its industry training capabilities, raising awareness and competency in safe digging practices.



SAFE EXCAVATION TRAINING

During 2019, the Board of Directors acknowledged a gap in available industry training for safe excavation around underground utilities, and the ORCGA was positioned well to develop a training program. The development proceeded with input from all stakeholders, and with the assistance of a training development firm, the Safe Excavation Training Program was completed in late 2020.

The program has been developed using the CCGA Best Practices for content, and is delivered either in classroom or online formats. Targeted for front line workers and machine operators, the program is a half-day with quizzes throughout and a final open-book exam. The program is offered to both members and non-members of the ORCGA.



TAILBOARD TALKS

In 2019, on-the-job safety meetings would enable excavators to provide daily safety messages to the field crews before starting work. From this, using formats and structures from similar organizations, the ORCGA developed a series of Tailboard Talks (TbT). The TbT were based on the CCGA Best Practices, with topics proposed by the Board and other stakeholders. The TbT provide the best practice associated with the work at hand, the risks, the controls to mitigate the risks, and include a practical

component. They are made available to members on the ORCGA website.

BILL 93/DEDICATED LOCATOR

Ontario's commitment to expand its transportation and broadband infrastructure was authorized through transit and broadband legislation. For the construction industry to fulfill the requirements of this legislation, changes were required and were addressed through Bill 93 (Getting Ontario Connected Act). This bill changed

some of the parameters of Bill 8 (OUINS) and enabled Ontario One Call to regulate timely locates in Ontario through compliance with the new updated act. One means to do so was to mandate the use of a Dedicated Locator on these projects.

This is further explained in the accompanying article by Ontario One Call. As we approach our 21st year, we look forward to your involvement. Join us at the upcoming Geographic Council meetings and our 2024 Symposium. Working together, for a safer Ontario.



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Dedicated Locator



Adam Mordaunt, Director of Member Services Operations

WHAT IS DEDICATED LOCATOR?

In April 2022, Dedicated Locator was introduced to the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 (OUINSA) to give the excavating community an option to control the locate delivery for their projects. Since that time, thousands of projects have used the service to gain more control over their projects and reduce downtime.

HOW DOES DEDICATED LOCATOR WORK?

A Dedicated Locator is a single resource who will locate all underground infrastructure* in the project area. The Dedicated Locator works directly for the Project Owner and therefore works on their timelines to complete the locates.

Dedicated Locator gives control of the locate delivery to the Project Owners and removes time consuming and complex locates from the public stream. This allows for a more efficient use of locators for all other locate

requests, helping the industry achieve compliance with the legislation.

WHAT CAN DEDICATED LOCATOR BE USED FOR?

Dedicated Locator can be used for any project, but it is best suited for longer

term projects, large scale projects and those projects that have complex requirements.

WHAT ARE WE SEEING IN THE INDUSTRY

Since the introduction of Dedicated Locator into OUINSA, it has received a lot of positive feedback, which has been matched by the desire of Project Owners to use it. However, accessing the option has come with some challenges as the industry learns and adapts.

The main challenge is for the Project Owners to find availability of locators who can complete locates on behalf of the Owners of Underground Infrastructure. This is because locators that have not already been approved are struggling to receive the approval of the Owners of Underground Infrastructure to complete the locates.

To help with locator resources, the Dedicated Locator team is working with our stakeholders to understand how we



BENEFITS OF A DEDICATED LOCATOR MODEL:

- ✓ Gain control and enhance efficiency to allow Project Owners to get locates when, where and as often as their project requires
- ✓ Reduce downtime as locates are completed under the direction of one Project Owner
- ✓ Prevent damage and promote safer excavation practices
- ✓ Improve flexibility when unanticipated conflicts require project changes
- ✓ Decrease reliance on regular pool of public locate service providers

can welcome more resources into the industry so that Dedicated Locator is more widely available.

Despite the challenges, we continue to see an increase in the number of requests placed with Ontario One Call for Dedicated Locator projects. Below is a summary of the number of requests placed since Dedicated Locator was introduced into OUINSA.

THE FUTURE OF DEDICATED LOCATOR

Since its introduction, usage of Dedicated Locator has been on a steady incline, and we will continue to support the industry with this progression.

Recently the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery held an industry consultation, which included discussions about Dedicated Locator. At the time of writing this article, the findings of this consultation have not been released, but there was strong support for the continued and increased use of Dedicated Locator across the industry.

The Dedicated Locator team at Ontario One Call is a great resource for anyone that is considering using or being part of Dedicated Locator. If you have any questions or you would like to learn more about Dedicated Locator, please visit www.OntarioOneCall.ca/DL or email the team at DL@OntarioOneCall.ca.



*Excludes transmission infrastructure as defined in the OUINSA.



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