

We Remember Ken Ritchie a Locate Rodeo Enthusiast

Born and raised in London, ON, Ken began his career as a lineman with Bell Canada and progressed into Engineering. His time with Bell soon took him abroad to Saudi Arabia. It was there that he met his wife and life partner Kristin. Ken and Kristin have two daughters Kate and Mady.

He continued his travels for Bell to Australia, and, even spent two years in China.

Upon his return to London, Ken saw the need for a new entity in the construction industry. His passion for safe excavating practices prompted him to found G-Tel; growing G-Tel into one of the largest LSP's in Canada.

His goal was to provide a "locate service" that would expertly identify where utilities were buried, and aid excavators in completing their work safely.

His hard work, excellent negotiating skills, passion for safety and the desire to always create a "family atmosphere" allowed G-Tel to thrive.

As G-Tel grew, so did Ken's desire to make Ontario the safest province in Canada to work in. His ability to bring various stakeholders together with a shared vision is a testament to his negotiating skills. Ken was highly regarded in the industry for being down to earth and honorable.

A perennial advocate for Damage Prevention; he was front and centre when the Province of Ontario was considering "Bill 8". The Bill defines safe digging practices by mandating a central locating system that ensures finding the underground location of all buried utilities.

His testimony before the Standing Committee for Bill 8 was instrumental in its passing.

He was far from "all business" however, an avid player of sports, (hockey, golf and baseball), he brought that competitive spirit.



He was an enthusiastic part of ORCGA's Utility Locator Rodeo from its very beginning. He was a strong supporter of the Locate from Hell Challenge (LFHC) competition, dedicating his time and talent as a judge and then training others to follow in his footsteps. Even when his illness did not allow him to fully participate, his spirit continued to be present at every Rodeo.

In 2011, Ken's passion was recognized by his peers when he was inducted into the ORCGA Hall of Fame.

Sadly, on January 4, 2015, Ken left us far too early.

As a testament to his dedication and passion for this industry, Ken's contribution was memorialized. In 2018, ORCGA named the "Locate from Hell" competition to the Ken Ritchie Memorial Locate Challenge (KRMLC).



Today Ken is remembered and continues to live on in the lives he touched through family, business and Damage Prevention advocacy.

About the event

Utility Locate Rodeo & Excavators Challenge

This cornerstone event puts the spotlight on locators who are on the front lines of the damage prevention industry and helps to promote the significance of their role in the excavating industry.

Locators can come together and demonstrate their expertise and superior locating skills in a competitive and friendly environment.

The Excavator Challenge event compliments the Locate Rodeo with a skills competition from "the other side of the shovel". This year marks ORCGA's 3rd annual Excavator Challenge.

Register Today! and take part in the Ken Ritchie Memorial Locate Challenge
Limited Competitor and Volunteer Opportunities Available.

Locate Rodeo Competitors:

Register Now! www.surveymonkey.com/r/lrcompetitors

Locate Competitors must arrive Thursday afternoon and attend a mandatory meeting.
The Locate Rodeo competition will take place on Friday August 16, 2019.

Excavator Challenge Competitors:

Register Now! www.surveymonkey.com/r/eccompetitor

Excavator Competitors must arrive Friday morning and attend a mandatory meeting.
The Excavator Challenge will take place on Friday August 16, 2019.

Volunteers:

Register Now! www.surveymonkey.com/r/lrecvolunteers

Volunteers must arrive Thursday August 15, 2019 and attend a mandatory meeting.
The Locate Rodeo and Excavator Challenge will both take place on Friday August 16, 2019

Questions?

Contact Christina Jannetta, at 647-236-3545 or email at christina@orcga.com.