



# IRRIGATION e-news



**Landscape Ontario**  
HORTICULTURAL TRADES ASSOCIATION

volume 1, spring 2008

## Welcome!

Welcome to the first edition of the irrigation newsletter.

As the new chair of the Landscape Ontario Irrigation Commodity Group, I am excited by some of the recent developments at our meetings. This newsletter will serve as an excellent tool for you, the irrigation professional, to stay informed with what is happening in the Ontario Irrigation industry.

Our irrigation group consists of manufacturers, distributors, irrigation contractors and irrigation consultants. Through a collaborative approach, our mission is to enhance the position of the irrigation industry and keep you informed on trends, challenges and opportunities in our rapidly evolving marketplace. We hope you enjoy the first edition of the newsletter and invite your comments and suggestions for future editions.

*Sincerely, Chris Le Conte*

*Chair-Irrigation Commodity Group, CIC, CLIA* [cleconte@smartwateringsystems.ca](mailto:cleconte@smartwateringsystems.ca)



Keeping you informed on trends, challenges and opportunities in the irrigation industry.

## Education

*By Stephanie Pollard CIC CLIA,  
Pure Integrated Systems*

Placing value on education has become more and more important over the last few years. We have just finished two weeks of training classes at Landscape Ontario, and we would like to have some feedback from those who either attended or sent some of their staff. Were the classes what you expected? Would you like to see anything different? We would also like the opinions of those who haven't attended, in terms of what you are looking for in irrigation education. We are hoping to develop a two-day CIT class, including irrigation basics and field troubleshooting. We would like some opinions from members of the irrigation profession as to what we should include in the class and what classes we should include in the fall and winter sessions coming up.

Please send me your feedback by May 11 at [pureintegrated@gmail.com](mailto:pureintegrated@gmail.com).



## Trends in water

Unless you have been hiding out under a rock for a while, you are probably aware of the increasing focus on water. Our customers, municipalities and political leaders are starting to pay attention as to where our water is going — mainly, who is using it and how much is being used. We have witnessed many areas of the United States getting drier and water is becoming a flash point south of the border. Here in Ontario, municipalities are raising their water rates five to 11 percent a year. For some of us, this means that the cost of our water will double in as few as six years.

In response to water supply challenges and Peak Day Demand requirements, the Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA) Water Efficiency Committee (WEC) has commissioned an *Outdoor Water Efficiency Manual*. The purpose of the manual is to provide data on effective municipal water management strategies, and where significant water savings can be achieved. In several areas

of the manual, irrigation is recognized as a significant water consumer and the manual will provide suggestions on how to best control water use from irrigation systems. In other words, the “good old days” of irrigating, however we feel, are probably going to go away. So, what can we do?

The Irrigation Commodity Group is focusing on education, partnerships and communication as ways of helping our members and their companies gain a competitive advantage in the marketplace. In the coming months, the group will be looking at new opportunities in educational material and courses, new opportunities for industry partnerships and a format for collecting and sharing data on why the irrigation industry should be seen as a partner in water conservation. The irrigation commodity group is represented on the WEC and is providing feedback and comment to the first draft of the manual. We encourage you to share your water conservation

success stories with us so we can ensure that our political decision makers and local water authorities are aware of the efforts we are all making for the conservation and preservation of the world's most valuable resource....WATER.

The cost of water will double in as few as six years.



## Are you aware of Halton Region's Cross-Connection Control program?

Effective Jan 1, 2006 a new Cross-Connection by-law went into effect for Halton. It states the following:

All irrigation systems are classified as Moderate or Severe hazards and require the installation of a Double Check Valve Assembly (DCVA) or a Reduced Pressure Principle Assembly (RP) at the water meter to meet the by-law's requirement for Premise Isolation. Industrial/Commercial/Institutional, Multi-tenant or Residential irrigation system alike. It is also advisable to have Fixture/Zone Isolation to protect the Customer from the irrigation system by the installation of a backflow prevention device or assembly. Testers, installers and surveyors must be registered with Halton Region prior to installing, repairing, maintaining, testing or surveying any premise isolation assembly within Halton Region.

The Cross-Connection Control By-Law #157-05 and Tester Registration Application are available for viewing at [www.halton.ca/CrossConnection](http://www.halton.ca/CrossConnection).

For further information please see Halton's website or call (905)825-6000.

Submitted by  
Stephen Macartney CIC CLIA  
Raintree Irrigation &  
Outdoor Systems

## Poly Pipe Recycling

New this year: some distributors are participating in recycling poly pipe. You can bring all of your ends and scraps, making sure there are no fittings or clamps still attached. Simply place in the bins provided, to be recycled into other products. Please check with your distributor to see if this service is offered.



## Coming soon! Family Fun Day

Please stay tuned for the first annual “Family Fun Day” event, hosted by your local chapter of the Irrigation Commodity Group.

This will be a chance for all those related to the industry to come out, bring their families, bring their staff, unwind a little, get to know others in your industry and just have fun.

Events and activities to include challenges such as the “Best Irrigation Installer” contest, face painting and inflatable play area for children. Lots of food and refreshments will be served.

Event location and date will be announced in the near future.

*Steve Hernandez,  
Nutri Lawn Chair –  
Family Fun Day  
Committee*



Family Fun Day will provide a day of activities and a chance to get to know other members in the industry.

## Landscape Ontario Irrigation Commodity Group: You are invited

Chair: Chris Le Conte  
Board rep: Steve Macartney  
E-News editor: Stephanie Pollard

As an LO member, are you involved with irrigation in any way? Are you a contractor, consultant or supplier? If so, the Irrigation Commodity Group is the place for you! We are a friendly group, and you are welcome to attend any meeting. See for yourself how the rewards of participating in LO initiatives far outweigh the effort you invest.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 a.m., LO Home Office, Milton**