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CPA NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CPA Ontario
15303 Concession
Road 3-4
Finch, Ontario
K0C 1K0

Email: info@cpaontario.com

Phone: 1.866.853.0310

www.cpaontario.com

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**CPA President
Wade Pink**

As we begin a new year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our shared journey as members of the Concrete Precasters Association of Ontario. This past year has been filled with challenges, and the current political climate—both here in Canada and across the border in the United States—has added a layer of uncertainty to our industry. These times of change remind us of

the importance of unity and resilience as we navigate the road ahead.

I regret that I could not attend our convention this past November at the Deerhurst Resort. I've heard wonderful things about the gathering, and I know it was an excellent opportunity for engaging conversations and meaningful connections. Your commitment to the precast concrete industry shines through in moments like these, and I truly appreciate the passion and dedication each of you brings to our association.

Looking forward, I am excited about this year's convention in Thunder Bay, which promises to be an incredible event. We have an inspiring agenda lined up, featuring industry leaders and invaluable sessions designed to help us adapt

and thrive in an ever-changing market. I encourage each of you to take part in this gathering—share your thoughts, connect with your peers, and seize the chance to learn from one another.

Together, we can face the challenges that lie ahead and turn them into opportunities for growth and success. I hope we can continue to help, support, and inspire one another as we all work towards a brighter future for our industry.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to the CPA. I genuinely look forward to seeing all of you in Thunder Bay.

Sincerely,

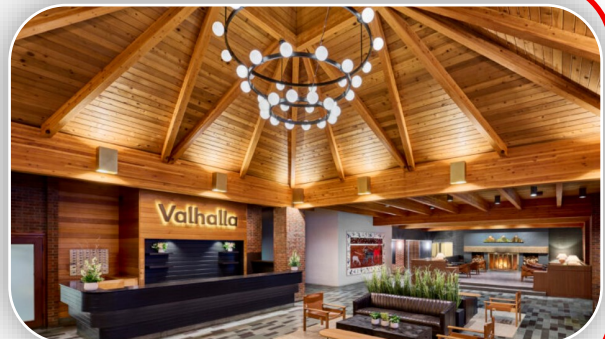
Wade Pink

SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 16, 17, 18, 2025.

**33RD ANNUAL
CPA CONVENTION**



Thank you to the Miller Family for their invitation to tour Miller Precast in Thunder Bay. We look forward to seeing you all at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay for our 33rd Annual Convention.



**A RESOUNDING SUCCESS:
REFLECTING ON OUR ANNUAL CONVENTION**



**Ontario Onsite
Wastewater Association
(OOWA) Exhibit**



**Rob Puddicombe of
Winona Concrete testing
out the VR Crane
Training Demo at the
Atlas Polar Booth**



**Brian Weddel of
Newmarket Precast
delivering the Safety
Committee Report**



**Daryl Murray of Euclid
and Jason Carson of
Carson's Custom
Moulding enjoying the
Banquet Dinner**

The convention kicked off Sunday evening with a bustling networking exhibit reception. Attendees made valuable connections, explored the latest industry offerings, and laid the groundwork for future collaborations. The energy in the room was palpable, setting a positive tone for the days to come.

Monday morning began with our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where members discussed important updates and charted the course for the year ahead. Following the AGM, attendees were treated to a dynamic speaker program. First, a representative from the Ministry of Labour provided invaluable insights into the various support programs available for small businesses, a topic of critical importance for many of our members. Then, CPA Associate Member John McCoy took the stage to deliver a highly informative presentation on form maintenance and silo vibration, offering practical advice and best practices.

Unexpectedly, our final scheduled speaker had to cancel at the last minute due to unforeseen circumstances. While disappointing, this presented a unique opportunity. Instead of leaving a gap in the program, we pivoted and organized a dynamic panel discussion, focusing on Self Consolidating Concrete, featuring several industry leaders.

The panel format allowed for a more interactive and in-depth exploration of current challenges and opportunities within the sector, sparking lively conversation and valuable takeaways for everyone present. We extend our sincere thanks to the panelists

for stepping up on short notice and delivering such an engaging and insightful discussion.



Panelists Greg Rae, John McCoy, Robert Richer, and John Vye, who together

Following a full day of learning and networking, members gathered for a celebratory banquet Monday evening. The delicious meal was accompanied by captivating entertainment from illusionist Aaron Paterson. His mesmerizing performance left the audience spellbound and added a touch of magic to the evening, providing a perfect opportunity to relax and connect with colleagues in a more informal setting.

The convention concluded Tuesday morning with a tour of Newmarket Precast. Attendees had the chance to see firsthand the inner workings of their operation.

Overall, this year's convention was a resounding success. Despite the last-minute change to the program, the event proved to be a valuable experience for all attendees. We look forward to building on this success at next year's convention!

THANK YOU TO OUR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

For Sponsoring Monday Breakfast

**Euclid Canada
EJ Canada ULC
Reid's Precast**

For Sponsoring Monday Lunch

**Liberty Pumps
BIK Hydraulics Ltd.
Form & Build Supply
J McCoy Equipment Ltd.**

For Sponsoring Monday Evening Cocktails

Mel C. Marshall Industrial Consultants

For Sponsoring Monday Evening Hors d'oeuvres

Polylok Inc.

For Sponsoring Wine with Banquet Dinner

Ashgrove a CRH Company

For Sponsoring Monday Evening Banquet Dinner

Infiltrator Water Technologies

For Sponsoring Monday Evening Entertainment

Polylok Inc.

iNFRA-Tech Steelworks

Laurel Steel

Sika Canada

For Sponsoring Tuesday Morning Breakfast

Carson's Custom Moulding

REGISTRATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Considerations for Cold Weather Production

In the past, precast plants suspended production during the coldest months, focusing time instead on equipment maintenance and form building. Today, however, year-round production has become the norm, even in sub-zero temperatures. While temperature-controlled environments mitigate many cold-weather challenges, the effects of winter temperatures on your products must still be considered.

Impact of Cold on Concrete: Freshly cast concrete exposed to low temperatures causes delayed strength gain, which can compromise structural integrity and durability. According to CSA, concrete should remain above 5°C until reaching 7 MPa. If exposed to repeated freeze-thaw cycles before adequate strength is achieved, concrete will deteriorate and fail to perform as intended.

Mix Design: Reviewing and adjusting mix designs for seasonal changes is essential. In colder conditions, accelerating strength gain is crucial. This can be achieved by:

- Reducing water content resulting in a lower water/cement ratio.
- Increasing cement content for faster strength development.
- Using High Early cement for quicker early strength and shorter stripping times.
- Incorporating non-chloride accelerators to speed up strength gain.
- Adding an air-entraining admixture to enhance freeze-thaw resistance.

Temperature Control Measures: Maintaining optimal concrete temperature during mixing and placement is critical. Methods include:

- Heating the mixed water. Do not exceed 60°C, otherwise cement clumping or flash setting may occur.
- If hotter water is needed, premix hot water with aggregates until the temperature falls below 38°C, after which, cement can be added.

- As aggregates constitute 70-80% of the mass of concrete, heating aggregates is an effective way to control mix temperature. These are the most common ways to achieve that:

1. Circulating hot water or steam through coils in weigh hoppers.
2. Storing aggregate on a heated pad outdoors.
3. Storing aggregate in heated silos.

Ensure ice and snow is removed from aggregates to prevent unwanted voids and excess water in the mix. Also, maintain a discharge temperature between 10°C and 30°C as per CSA recommendations.

Curing and Protection: Proper curing methods are essential to prevent thermal shock and ensure durability. Best practices include:

- Utilizing thermocouples to monitor curing temperatures.
- Maintaining ambient temperatures above 10°C inside your plants.
- Employing insulated blankets, insulated forms, or supplementary heaters where needed. Where kerosene heaters are used, properly vent combustion gases to prevent carbonation of the concrete.

Gradual Cooling and Yarding: The heat of hydration can leave products significantly warmer than outdoor temperatures, making them vulnerable to thermal shock and plastic shrinkage cracking when yarded too early. After demoulding, gradually cool concrete before placing outside. CSA A23 provides guidelines for optimal cooling rates to avoid these issues. By implementing best practices for cold-weather production, manufacturers can maintain high-quality concrete output year-round, ensuring durability and performance in all conditions.

Dominic Girotti P.Eng.
Program Registration
Administrator



Several Manufacturer Members at the tour of Newmarket Precasts' Orillia location



Matthew Stokkermans of Master Builders Solutions and Marian MacLellan of Moose Creek Precast on stage with Illusionist Aaron Paterson

33rd Annual CPA Convention—November 16, 17, 18:

Ready for an unforgettable experience in Thunder Bay? We'll be at the Valhalla Inn, and Miller Precast is opening their doors for a special tour! Extend your trip and discover the magic of the north—you won't regret it!

DDWA's 25th Annual Convention & Expo — March 30, 31, April 1: Don't miss us at the DDWA show! Find us at booth #39 where we'll be sharing information about our Product Registration Program and what our Associations' current initiatives are all about!

A LEGACY OF CONCRETE: CELEBRATING JOHN MACGREGOR'S RETIREMENT AND WELCOMING NEW BEGINNINGS

After an incredible 50-years in business, John (Jack) MacGregor has announced his retirement and the successful sale of MacGregor Concrete. This milestone marks the end of an era for a true industry pioneer and a valued member of the Concrete Precasters Association of Ontario (CPA).

Jack's contributions to the precast concrete industry are immeasurable. His dedication to quality and his collaborative spirit have earned him the respect and admiration of colleagues and competitors alike. The CPA extends its sincerest gratitude to Jack for his years of commitment and his invaluable contributions. His insights and wisdom will be greatly missed.

With Jack's departure, we also warmly welcome the new owners of MacGregor Concrete to the CPA. We are excited to have them join our community of industry professionals and look forward to a strong and productive relationship. We wish Jack all the best in his well-deserved retirement!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

SCHLUSSELBAUER NORTH AMERICA

SCHLUSSELBAUER'S company philosophy "Technology for People" is expressed by the way we think and work. We implement, together with our customers, worldwide state-of-the-art systems for the strategic supply of drinking water, as well as collectors for waste and storm water. We work closely with our customers and we consider them partners. The employees at Schlüsselbauer care daily and personally to ensure reliable workmanship that warrants the success of our partners. We embrace social, technological and economic changes as challenges and we actively strive to develop our own technology in order to meet and exceed our customer's requirements. All our efforts aim to ensure robust and reliable freshwater and wastewater infrastructures which are the basis of a pleasant and intact environment and a high quality of living.



EXACT TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION

At EXACT, our mission is to unlock the enormous potential of technology in construction, working with the world's leading construction companies to build the roads, bridges, tunnels, and buildings of the future. We work harder, learn faster, and think bigger, to help our clients stay ahead. Our culture is open, honest, collaborative, and creative, with no room for politics or ego. We're passionate about what we do, and we deliver concrete results that will stand for generations.



News In Brief

Annual Product Registration Deadline – June 30th: Just a friendly reminder that in order to keep your CPA product registration current the annual compliance reports must be received by the administrator each year by the deadline. See page 20 of the Product Registration Program guide for details. If you need a copy of this guide please contact Megan at the CPA office.

Septic Solution Guide: Copies of The Septic Solution can be obtained by logging on to the CPA website at www.cpaontario.com and clicking on the link to the free download of the electronic version of the guide. Hard copies of the guide are also available by contacting the CPA at info@cpaontario.com. The cost is \$1.00 each; tax and shipping fees apply.

Red Tag Awareness Initiative: Receiving questions about the red tag? We have materials available to help you clearly communicate the purpose and importance to both customers and installers. Reach out to our office to get yours.

Points To Ponder



EDITION

There is a right and a wrong in the universe, and the distinction is not hard to make.
- SUPERMAN

I think a hero is an individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.
- CHRISTOPHER REEVE

A hero is someone who is concerned about other people's well-being, and will go out of his way to help them—even if there is no chance of a reward.
- STAN LEE

The door is more than it appears. It separates who you are from who you can be. You do not have to walk through it... You can run.
- FRANKLIN RICHARDS (OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR)

I choose to run towards my problems, and not away from them, because that's what heroes do.
- THOR

You can't foresee all the consequences of your actions — but that's no excuse to do nothing.
- GREEN LANTERN