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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Winter has a way of slowing things down just enough to give us time to reflect. I often think back to the stories my father has shared about the beginnings of this association and what the industry looked like then. When you compare that time to where the CPA and its member companies are today, it really puts things into perspective. What started as a small group of precasters looking for consistency, credibility, and a shared voice has grown into a strong organization representing some of the best producers from across Ontario.

That progress isn't just about the association itself, although it does have two unbelievable staff members in Megan and Dominic, it's really about the growth, innovation, and professionalism of each member company. Over the years, our plants have changed, our processes have improved, and the expectations placed on our industry have increased. Through all of that, the CPA has remained a place where members can learn, adapt, and move forward together. That's something we should all be proud of.

One thing I've heard associate members comment on is how willing CPA members are to work together. In many industries, competitors stay at arm's length. In ours, it's not uncommon to call another precaster to talk through a problem, compare notes or processes, or even pass along a project to someone better suited to handle it. Whether it's collaborating

to complete a job, sharing lessons learned, or simply realizing others are dealing with the same challenges, that openness makes us stronger. It's a rare thing, and it's not something we should take for granted.

As we look ahead, I'm really looking forward to visiting Anchor Concrete / Lodestar in Kingston. Touring plants and seeing firsthand the innovation coming out of Ontario is always a reminder that even in uncertain times, our industry continues to evolve, finding better ways to build, improve quality, and adapt to changing demands. These visits often spark ideas that carry back into our own shops.

There's no question that many of us are navigating a different economic landscape right now. With a slower housing market and broader economic uncertainty, planning and decision making feel different than they did just a few years ago. But if there's one thing our industry has shown time and time again, it's resilience. Precasters are practical problem solvers. We adjust, we find efficiencies, and we keep moving forward.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the continued importance

of our registration program. The credibility it brings to our industry matters now more than ever. Dominic's dedication to strengthening and improving the program has been exceptional, and the work being done today is helping ensure that CPA registration is recognized, respected, and trusted across Ontario.

The real strength of this association comes from its members, its volunteers, and the steady leadership behind the scenes, particularly Megan, who keeps everything moving and organized.

I encourage everyone to make the effort to attend the annual convention this year in Kingston. Take the time to connect with fellow members over food or drinks and learn from the presentations. The value of the CPA isn't just in meetings or programs, it's in the conversations, relationships, and shared experiences that happen when we show up.

Sincerely,

Ryan Weddel,
CPA President



Brian Wood announcing the Mel C. Marshall Scholarship



Ryan Weddel of Newmarket Precast thanking outgoing President, Wade Pink, for his dedication and service to the Association



Boyd Brothers Concrete networking with new Associate Members from Plasti-Tom Inc.

33RD ANNUAL CPA CONVENTION — A LOOK BACK

Thunder Bay welcomed us with crisp northern air, warm hospitality, and a packed three-day program that delivered insight, connection, and inspiration.

Saturday: CPA Brew Tour — A New Tradition

The team at Miller Precast Ltd., in partnership with Ash Grove a CRH Company, kicked off the weekend by sponsoring a sold-out Brew Tour for delegates, and it was a hit. Members enjoyed an evening of local craft flavours, good company, and relaxed conversation as the group visited a selection of the city's favourite breweries.

The event was lively, well attended, and set the tone for a warm and welcoming convention weekend. Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback, the CPA hopes to make this social outing a regular feature of future conventions. If your company is interested in partnering with us to support this growing tradition, we'd be happy to connect.

Sunday: Welcome Reception & Exhibits

Delegates arrived at the Valhalla Hotel & Conference Centre and gathered in the Exhibitors' Forum for an energetic evening of networking. With a full slate of supplier exhibits, members explored new technologies, reconnected with colleagues, and kicked off the convention with enthusiasm.

Monday: AGM, Speakers & Industry Dialogue

The day began with breakfast among the exhibits, followed by our Annual General Meeting in the Viking Room. Members reviewed the year's accomplishments, committee updates, and ongoing

initiatives, followed by an Executive Election.

The Speaker Program featured Scott Robinson presenting NPCA's research on H₂S mitigation and MIC prevention in wastewater tanks, Autumn Wilson, offering practical, streamlined marketing strategies for small businesses, and Round Table Sessions where members tackled shared challenges, exchanged ideas, and identified opportunities for industry-wide improvement.

Throughout the day, delegates enjoyed dedicated networking breaks, a lively Appreciation Raffle, and meaningful conversations with suppliers.

The evening concluded with cocktails, a banquet dinner, and an unforgettable performance by international magician and circus artist Nathaniel Rankin, whose blend of illusion, comedy, and mind-bending skill left the room buzzing.

Tuesday: Plant Tour — Miller Precast Ltd.

A shuttle transported attendees to Miller Precast's Rosslyn facility for a guided tour showcasing their production processes, equipment, and innovations. Delegates appreciated the opportunity to see operations firsthand and ask questions directly of the Miller team. The tour wrapped with lunch and final goodbyes as members prepared for their journeys home.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this convention one of our most engaging and memorable yet.

Board Executive Election Results

Following the recent election, we are pleased to share the results for the upcoming term. **Past President:** Wade Pink, **President:** Ryan Weddel, **1st Vice:** Kevin MacLellan, **2nd Vice:** Jason Carson, **Secretary/Treasurer:** Jared Miller

We extend our sincere appreciation to Wade Pink for his dedicated service and steady leadership during his tenure as President. His commitment has helped guide the Association through meaningful progress and positioned us well for the future. We also extend heartfelt thanks to our Board of Directors, whose insight and governance continue to play a vital role in shaping the direction of the Association. Their support ensures we remain strong, forward-thinking, and aligned with the needs of our members.

REGISTRATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Winter Performance: Why Concrete Septic Tanks Set the Standard

Winter places some of the toughest demands on septic systems. Freezing temperatures, frost heave, saturated soils, and elevated groundwater levels expose weaknesses in materials and manufacturing quality. For concrete septic tank producers, winter conditions clearly demonstrate why concrete remains the industry standard.

Repeated freeze-thaw cycles place significant stress on buried structures as surrounding moisture expands and contracts. Properly manufactured concrete septic tanks are well suited to these conditions due to their mass, rigidity, and compressive strength. With appropriate mix design, air entrainment, and curing practices, concrete tanks maintain structural integrity through decades of seasonal cycling.

Winter and early spring often bring higher groundwater levels, increasing the risk of tank flotation. Lightweight tanks may require additional anchoring to counter buoyant forces. Concrete septic tanks naturally resist flotation due to their mass, reducing installation complexity and minimizing the risk of displacement, system failure, and environmental impact.

Frozen and uneven soils, combined with snow cover and winter vehicle traffic, can increase surface loads on septic systems. Concrete septic tanks are engineered to handle these stresses through proper

wall thickness, reinforcement placement, and lid design. Winter conditions highlight the importance of consistent manufacturing and adherence to design standards.

Cold temperatures can magnify weaknesses at joints and penetrations. Precision casting, reliable gasket systems, and proper sealing are critical to maintaining watertight performance. Concrete septic tanks that meet CPA's watertight standards prevent groundwater infiltration and protect surrounding soil and groundwater during wet winter months.

Winter performance often reflects manufacturing discipline. Inadequate curing or inconsistent materials may not show immediate failure, but harsh conditions quickly reveal deficiencies. Producers that consistently adhere to CSA B66 and best practices deliver tanks that perform reliably year-round.

Proven Winter Reliability

For engineers, installers, and regulators, winter performance builds confidence. A septic tank that performs well in winter will perform well for decades.

Dominic Girotti P.Eng.
Program Registration
Administrator



Newest Board Member
Jared Miller with
Alberta based
precasters and special
guests Amir Azizi &
Shawn Innes



Aaron Paterson in
motion during his
captivating performance
following the Monday
Evening Banquet Dinner

SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 22, 23, 24, 2026



34TH ANNUAL CPA CONVENTION

Thank you to Jeff Bradfield, Owner, and Darell Searles, President, for inviting us to tour Anchor Concrete Products as part of our next Convention. We look forward to seeing members at the Double Tree Hotel by Hilton in Kingston, ON for our 34th Annual Convention.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



EFCO Forms manufactures safe and efficient concrete forming and shoring equipment allowing your team to bring the project vision to life. They work to find a solution to fit the needs of any project. Their formwork, dedicated field service support, and highly engineered drawings are just a few reasons they

have become one of the leading choices for concrete formwork worldwide. You dream it, and they will provide solutions for you to form it and live it!

PLASTI-TOM[®]

Plasti-Tom Inc. manufactures plastic framework supports designed to save you time while ensuring stable and safe installation of your fittings. Manufactured in Quebec according to rigorous quality

criteria, these products can be adapted to your needs in residential, commercial, institutional sectors, or in the precast concrete plants. Easy installation, robustness and durability: everything is designed to optimize your work in the field and guarantee the conformity of your creations.

LANDCON LIFTING EQUIPMENT AND CONCRETE ACCESSORIES

Landcon/Starcon Lifting Anchors has been supplying concrete producers across North America since 1991, with high quality, reasonably priced accessory products. They have gone from working with a couple of local producers to supplying over 75 plants from coast to coast. They have earned an excellent reputation for doing whatever it takes to help keep their customers' production running as smoothly as possible. Whether you are around the corner, or across the country, they are there to work with you.

MSP | FORMS TUNNEL & PRECAST

Since 2016, MSP Structures has specialized in the design of custom steel formwork for heavy construction projects. They offer unmatched technical expertise, providing innovative solutions to their clients across North America.

ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician Certification

The CPA is proud to be partnering with J.T. Watson & Associates, the ACI Eastern Ontario Local Sponsoring Group, and hosts Boyd Brothers Concrete, to offer CSA-based ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician training and certification to our members on March 31 and April 1, 2026. ACI Field Testing Technician certification is required for anyone preparing or testing concrete cylinders, ensuring individuals meet the established qualifications and professional standards of our industry. This certification also supports compliance with CSA B66 and the CPA Registration Program. Additional details, including registration information will be shared shortly.

THANK YOU ASSOCIATE MEMBER SPONSORS OF THE 33RD ANNUAL CONVENTION

For Sponsoring Monday Breakfast

Carson's Custom Moulding
Infra-Tech Steel Works

J McCoy Equipment Ltd.

For Sponsoring Monday Lunch

Williams Form Hardware &
Rockbolt Canada

Liberty Pumps

Ash Grove a CRH Company

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

Schlusselbauer North America

Euclid Canada

Laurel Steel

News In Brief

Recent & Upcoming Events

- Oasis Annual Conference—*January 29-31 (Orillia)*
- Canadian Concrete Expo—*February 11-12 (Toronto)*
- DOWA Annual Conference—*March 8-10 (Niagara)*
- ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician Certification—*March 31-April 1 (Ottawa)*
- Product Registration Program Compliance Deadline—*June 30*
- CPA Convention & AGM—*November 22-24 (Kingston)*
**Registration Opens August 1st*

Mel C. Marshall Memorial Scholarship

Thank you to our dedicated members for your support in growing The Mel C. Marshall Memorial Scholarship. The Scholarship Committee is accepting applications until March 1. We strongly encourage you share it with all your industry contacts. More information can be found on the homepage of our website: cpaontario.com.

Public Safety Initiative Underway

Following the Association's involvement in a recent Chief Coroner's Office review, we are collaborating with industry partners to develop new public safety materials focused on the risks and safe management of septic tanks and systems in both private and public settings. This work aims to strengthen awareness, support best practices, and help prevent future incidents. Members are encouraged to continue to emphasize to customers, regardless of whether they are the end user, the importance of mandated safety screens within tank access risers.