

History of the Drainage Superintendents Association

BY RESOLUTION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ONTARIO, A SELECT COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED ON JUNE 30, 1972 TO EXAMINE, STUDY AND INQUIRE INTO MATTERS REGARDING LAND DRAINAGE IN ONTARIO.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED IN JUNE, 1974:

THAT EVERY MUNICIPALITY WHICH UNDERTAKES PROJECTS UNDER THE DRAINAGE ACT BE REQUIRED TO ENGAGE A DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT. TWO OR MORE MUNICIPALITIES MAY JOINTLY RETAIN A **DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT** OR ONE MUNICIPALITY MAY ENGAGE A PART-TIME SUPERINTENDENT PROVIDING HE IS QUALIFIED.

- THAT THE **DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT** BE REQUIRED TO REPORT PERIODICALLY ON THE CONDITION OF ALL THE DRAINS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY.
- THAT THE **DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT** BE REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A COURSE OF STUDY SATISFACTORY TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.
- THAT THE SALARY OF THE **DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT** BE BORNE BY THE GENERAL RATE OF THE MUNICIPALITY AND THAT THIS SALARY BE SUBJECT TO THE NORMAL GRANT STRUCTURE AVAILABLE FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD.

THE DRAINAGE ACT WAS REVISED AND PASSED INTO LEGISLATURE IN 1975 AND IN 1980, TILE ACT WAS AMENDED TO INCLUDE **DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENTS'** APPOINTMENTS AND GRANTS FOR MAINTENANCE.

THE FIRST COURSE TO QUALIFY AS A **DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENT** WAS HELD IN STRATFORD IN 1981. WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON DRAINAGE, A GROUP OF DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENTS ATTENDING THE SUPERINTENDENT COURSE IN MARCH 1983 IN KITCHENER AND OTTAWA, FOUND INTEREST IN FORMING AN ASSOCIATION FOR ONTARIO DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENTS.

SOME OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION COULD BE:

- 1 TO EDUCATE THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS.
- 2 TO PROVIDE UNIFORMITY OF INFORMATION FOR ALL SUPERINTENDENTS.
- 3 TO PROVIDE A STANDARD MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AGENCIES AND GROUPS SUCH AS:
 - a) MTO
 - b) ROAD SUPERINTENDENTS
 - c) OFDA
 - d) OMAF
 - e) DRAINAGE ENGINEERS

- 4 TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE BODY TO LOBBY FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.

QUESTIONNAIRES WERE SENT OUT TO ALL **DRAINAGE SUPERINTENDENTS** AND OTHERS INTERESTED, FOR COMMENTS ON THE USEFULNESS OF SUCH AN ORGANIZATION. MEETINGS WERE HELD ON JUNE 3 AND JULY 8, IN TORONTO, TO REVIEW THE RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE AND TO MAKE CHANGES TO A TENTATIVE CONSTITUTION.

THERE WERE 69 FORMS RETURNED AND ONLY 5 NOT COMPLETED. SOME OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED WERE:

- a) THAT THIS WOULD BE A WORTHWHILE ASSOCIATION.
- b) NEWSLETTER OR BULLETIN SENT OUT PERIODICALLY WOULD BE BENEFICIAL AND INFORMATIVE.