

# The Digital Pipe Digest



Canadian Concrete Pipe Association  
Association Canadienne Des Fabricants De Tuyaux De Béton

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## ***Lafarge and Inland Intend to merge***

### **Concrete Pipe Business**

Lafarge Canada Inc. and Inland Pipe Limited have signed a letter of intent to merge their respective concrete pipe businesses in the Prairie Provinces (Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Thunder Bay).

This proposed Joint Venture is in response to increasing competition from substitute products. This is believed to be a proactive move that will allow both organizations to make a long-term commitment to the industry, and to their employees. The Joint Venture will bring a sharper focus to the pipe business and will be responsible for developing strategic plans to sustain the existing business.

The proposed Joint Venture is subject to a number of conditions, including regulatory compliance, and is currently expected to close in the Spring of 2000.

*(Source: letter released by Lafarge Canada Inc., April 10, 2000)*

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## ***Con Cast Pipe project wins award***

### **Innovative Project Award**

CON/SPAN Bridge Systems of Dayton, Ohio awarded its Innovative Project Award to Con Cast Pipe for the St. Thomas combined sewer overflow structure. The award recognizes the most innovative project produced by a CON/SPAN network community.

Criteria for this award includes the use of innovation to meet challenges to service a client's need. The innovation may relate to any phase of the project design, use, installation, manufacturing process and/or application.

The winning project is determined by conference attendees' vote.

Look for details of the project published in *The Concrete Pipe Journal*, *Canadian Consulting Engineer* and later this year, *Environmental Science & Engineering*.

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## ***Research***

**Let the CCPA know of any new research in your geographic or market area that would affect the concrete pipe industry in Canada and the USA.**

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## ***Concrete Pipe Industry Billboard***

### **Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference and Exhibit**

The FCM's Millennium conference is being held in London, Ontario, June 2 to 3 at the London Convention Centre. The OCPA is an exhibitor at the show. The CCPA has offered staffing support.

### **Concrete Pipe University - CPU 101**

Plan to attend CPU 101 at The Harvey Hotel – DFW in Irving, Texas June 15 to 16 to learn the basics of hydraulics, soil properties and the direct design method for determining pipe class.

This program was created by the American Concrete Pipe Association to provide continuing education to technical personnel within the concrete pipe industry.

Contact the ACPA at 972-506-7216 for more details or contact the Association through its web site at [www.concrete-pipe.org](http://www.concrete-pipe.org).

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### **ACPA Committee Week**

Hyatt Regency, Dallas, Texas  
July 30 to August 2, 2000

### **2000 Super Conference and Trade Show**

The Western Canada Water and Wastewater Association has joined with the Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Public Works Association and the Prairie Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America to host the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Western Canada Water and Wastewater Conference at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, November 5 to 8, 2000.

### **ACPA Marketing Short Course School**

The Riviera, Las Vegas  
November 8 to 10, 2000

### **ACPA 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting**

The Grove Park Inn Resort, Asheville, NC  
March 27 to 30, 2001

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## **CCPA Media Campaign Update**

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A CCPA media campaign has been launched to complement the media programs of the ACPA, OCPA and Tubécon.

*Environmental Science & Engineering* magazine published the article by Ryan Finley of Lafarge Canada Inc. titled "Precast concrete box culvers save large animals and costs to motorists" in its March 2000 issue. The article has also been selected by the Portland Cement Association to be included in an insert for an upcoming issue of *Engineering News Record* in the USA.

*Toronto Construction News* has requested articles from the CCPA for its May/June issue on concrete. An article by staff at Centennial Concrete describing the use of precast concrete drainage products in a high profile development in Georgetown, Ontario was submitted. The same article, "Precast concrete drainage products used for high profile development" has been picked up by *Environmental Science & Engineering* for publication.

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## **CCPA Web site to be refreshed**

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The CCPA has retained the services of Interad Media Design Corp to refresh the Web site and manage its contents. Interad is a new technology business that focuses entirely on Web site design, management and e-commerce.

The CCPA Web site will first be checked for errors and updated. The next phase will be enhancement of the architecture and graphics, followed by development and introduction of new features.

The Web site of Interad is [www.interadcorp.com](http://www.interadcorp.com).

The Web site will have a greater role in the delivery of services, promotion, education and leads to member firms.

Contact G. Lee at [lee@aztec-net](mailto:lee@aztec-net) with comments and suggestions.

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## **Inverts & Obverts**

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- **Need Articles.** The OCPA and ACPA produce the best industry magazines/newsletters for the concrete pipe industry in North America. Both organizations are looking for technical articles and case studies for year 2000 publications. Please respond to Mel Marshall's call to share the technology of your projects with colleagues in the industry as well as specifiers, contractors and owners of precast concrete drainage products.

Contact Grant Lee at [lee@aztec-net.com](mailto:lee@aztec-net.com) with suggestions or project outlines.

- **A Thought on Price:** by John Ruskin, English Philosopher, 1819-1900

"It is unwise to pay too much, but it's also unwise to pay too little. When you pay too much, all you lose is a little money. But when you pay too little, you stand a chance of losing everything, because the thing you bought is incapable of doing what you bought it to do.

The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot - it just cannot be done. So, when you deal with the lowest bidder, it is wise to put a little something aside to take care of the risk you run. And, if you do that, you can afford something better."

- **Stormwater Management Ponds Under Scrutiny:** Environment Canada has published a fact sheet summarizing the results of a study of 15 stormwater management ponds in Southern Ontario that had not been enhanced to attract wildlife.

The study found that wildlife used all of the sites as habitat. Contamination in the pond sediments exceeded the provincial 'lowest effect levels' on aquatic biota. In some ponds, toxic effects of water and/or sediments were found on invertebrates and frog tadpoles. It concludes that the stormwater ponds had not developed into high quality wetland habitats and that wildlife habitat enhancement is more ecologically viable in natural wetlands than in stormwater ponds. The fact sheet recommends that monitoring of water and sediment quality is necessary in stormwater ponds so that appropriate management of contamination in the ponds and upstream of the ponds can be implemented. It also notes that natural wetlands should not be used for stormwater treatment due to inevitable contaminant accumulation that will occur.

This study may have indirect opportunities for the application of precast concrete structures and conveyance systems used to mitigate the apparent ecological problems associated with stormwater management ponds.

The fact sheet is posted on [www.cciw.ca/green-lane/wildlife/gl-factsheet/fs\\_stormwater.html](http://www.cciw.ca/green-lane/wildlife/gl-factsheet/fs_stormwater.html).

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## Out and about

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G. Lee will be out of the country from May 7 to May 21, but he will still be in touch with members of the CCPA through a temporary Hotmail e-mail address.

If you need to contact him, his Hotmail address is [grantlee47@hotmail.com](mailto:grantlee47@hotmail.com).



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