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Ontario Trillium Section Newsletter

Summer 2017



Volume 41 No. 4

www.ontario.imsasafety.org

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President's Message

Welcome to summer everyone!! As I write this message we have just completed one of the

wettest springs that we have had in a long time. Most of the GTA has received record rainfall which has posed numerous problems for those of us that work in the transportation industry with roadway and rail flooding resulting in many delays and closures for the travelling public.

As we move forward our Section has just had our AGM on the 15th of June. Elections were held and the results can be found within the pages of this newsletter. Up next is the International Conference which will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona July 8-11, 2017. This year, we will be sending two representatives to the conference. This is an opportunity to meet with other folks from the other 22 IMSA Sections and to learn the plans and activities that the International has planned for the upcoming year.

This year in the IMSA Ontario Trillium Section will prove to be, as always, exciting and challenging.

Certification and Certification Renewal will continue to be an important part of our activities, as we continue to strive to help everyone understand the importance of Certification and the process of keep their Certifications current. This year, the International has been working hard to get the membership software up and running. Phase 1 has been completed and each member can now go online, pay their dues and update their profile. Phase 2 will be the online store which will enable Sections to order manuals for certification schools. and it should be ready this summer. The third and final phase will be the Certification Module where you will be able to view your certifications, submit training and track your Tarp points for Certification Renewal. This phase should be available before Christmas. Our Section has volunteered to assist with the testing of this final module to help work out the bugs.

As I move into my year as president, I intend to make a few changes to make it easier for you, our members to get the information you need. Our website has been around for a while and is somewhat antiquated. We intend to start the process of updating it so that it will work better. Secondly, I want to appoint a few more committee chairs to ... *Continued on page 10*

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Newsletter

Lambert Philadelphia

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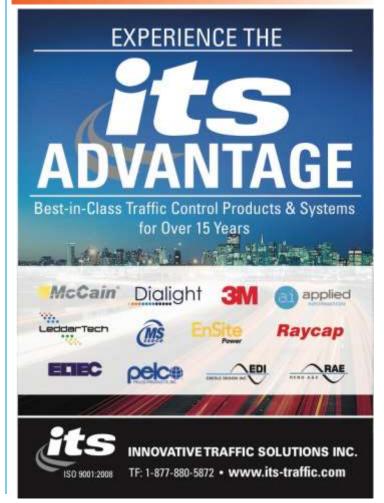
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Obituary Frank Hudson

On March 24, 2017, after a lengthy illness, Frank Hudson passed away in his 84th year.

Frank together with his partner and brother Bent purchased Stacey Electric from Jack Stacey. They opened the new doors to Stacey Electric on July 4, 1961 at 350 Greenwood Avenue, just south of the TTC rail yard in east end Toronto. They kept the Stacey Electric name since there was just no sense in forsaking over fifty years of tradition. Over the following years, Stacey Electric kept growing and many of those in the traffic signal industry were familiar with Stacey Electric, especially in the Toronto area.

Franks leaves behind his wife Sonia, children Wendy (Kira) and Kirk (Nathan, Adam), brother **Bent, 3 cats and a sailboat "Plum Danish". Frank** loved to travel and his passion was sailing. A remembrance celebration was held on June 11, 2017 at the Ashbridges Bay Yacht Club, Toronto.

He will be greatly missed.

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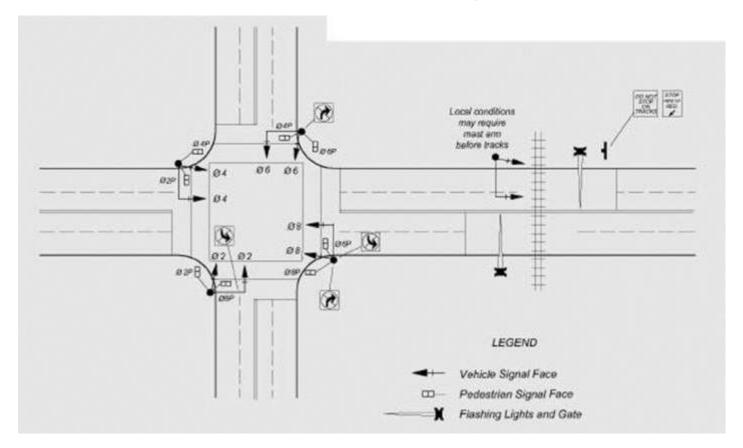


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Traffic Signal Railway Interconnection 2 Day Workshop

Tentative Date: October 17 – 18, 2017

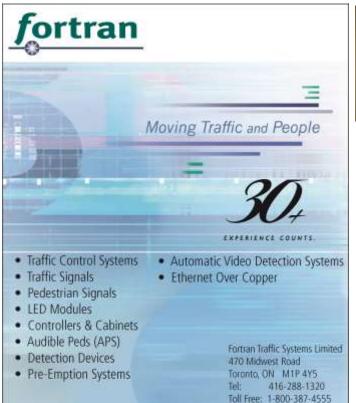
Details to follow in the next edition of the newsletter and check our website for updates





Pics from the AGM





President's Message continued ...

... take on some of the tasks that are

necessary for the smooth operation of our Section and to serve you better. As always, we will continue with our annual school in Burlington in the spring of 2018, and other on-site schools throughout the year. This fall we will be holding a small Trade show in Kingston, our Annual Traffic Expo on October 4th in Brampton and a two-day seminar on Railway Pre-emption in Burlington in October.

The summer is traditionally the time most of us vacation. I hope that you take the time to enjoy your much deserved time off. I look forward to another great year for IMSA Ontario.

Until the next time, be safe and enjoy your summer!!

Dave Edwards

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Session & Trade Show

Location: Kingston Date: September 2017

Details to follow in the next edition of the newsletter and check our website for updates.

In the mean time, please contact Paul Webster: paul.webster@ontario.ca if you have a technical topic that you would like to be considered.









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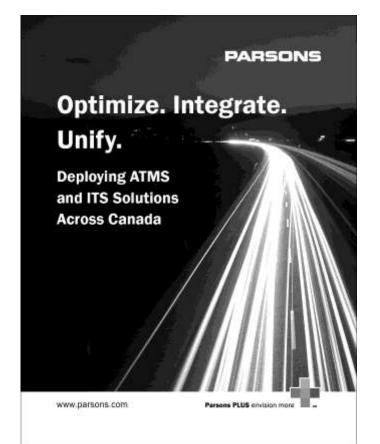
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Once every year, IMSA Ontario provide certification opportunities in every Certification Program that we offer. Many students usually attend our school, but we know for some it is sometimes difficult to secure the budget to send your employees. For these situations we are offering an alternative.

The alternative is what we call On-Site Certification This is where we will come to you and present the specific certifications you require. We have been doing this a few years and lately we have successfully completed more of these schools. These schools can be tailored to your needs and student numbers. We have presented these in hotel facilities, banquet facilities or in the contractor's boardroom - we even did one in the Contractors shop area / garage! We can tailor these courses to run consecutive days or if it makes sense for your operation, we can split up the days to run over several weeks. We are very flexible however, the costs for the program will vary depending on the number of students per certification program or renewals and who provides the meeting facility and refreshments.

Your best bet to keep costs down is to provide the meeting facility and refreshments. Alternately, students can provide their own refreshments and lunch. Generally we found that when the numbers of students is in the 10 student range, it can be very cost effective.

You could also combine training with other local municipalities or contractors in your area.

If you're interested in pursuing an on-site school please contact your IMSA Ontario Trillium Section Regional Director listed on page 3 in this newsletter for more details.

Robert Decleir



Cover Photo



A parade of golf carts symbolizing the start of the Annual IMSA Ontario AGM.

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ITE Discussion Topic on -Locating Ped Buttons for Visually & Hearing Impaired

Mr. Daniel M. Murphy Hi Everyone:

I have received a request from an individual who is hearing impaired and visually impaired. The intersection in question have APS buttons installed however, because the individual cannot hear they are having difficulty locating the button to cross the street. The individual thought painting the bottom of the poles with buttons black may help. I was thinking that wrapping the button of the poles with sheeting might be better for future maintenance and be more uniform. I am inclined to go with black as they probably know what colour will help them best.

Have others had a request like this? How was it handled?

Thank you, Dan

Responses:

Thanks for the response. To confirm the problem this individual is having; is locating the buttons. The individual has no hearing and has very low vision. There are the APS buttons with the vibrotactile walk, arrows pointing in the direction of crossing and the locator tone. The button locations are within 6 feet of the curb opening at the crosswalk and within 10 inches of a level surface as required but there is a mast arm pole that is further from the crosswalk on 2 corners which may be the confusion. Some of the buttons are not 10 feet apart due to utility conflicts and right-of-way issues but are still in line with their respective ramps, this was an alteration to assist the individual in determining when the walk light was on.

It the power is out the buttons won't work so I am not sure how much of a concern that is, but I also agree that the black isn't the best colour in mind, just the colour that has been requested.

Just looking to try to determine how best to help this person. I am attempting to get more information from them as well.

Thanks again,

Daniel Murphy, P.E. Milwaukee County DOT Wauwatosa WI daniel.murphy@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Assessible pedestrian signals provide a vibrotactile indication of the WALK (usually the arrow vibrates during WALK) so the person could get the information about when WALK is on. The tactile arrow should be aligned with the direction of travel on the crosswalk. The pole needs to be close to the crosswalk it controls in order for it to be usable by a person with vision and hearing disabilities.

Janet Barlow Mobil. Spec. & Research Assoc. Accessible Design For The Blind Asheville NC jmbarlow@accessforblind.org

Painting the bottom of the pole black would make it even more difficult to see at night or under other dark conditions, especially in cases of power outage.

If APS button for a desired crosswalk has been installed in accordance with the MUTCD Guidance and Standards in 4E.08 et seq., it should be easy to find it, even for a person with low or no vision, once they have found the pole. It would seem their main challenge is to find the desired pole at each intersection en route--or, perhaps, to identify which among two (or more??) visually similar poles in the immediate area at a given intersection corner is the one with the desired button? Is pole placement inconsistent at the intersection or are other complicating factors present?

If the person can tell, once they've reached it, where

the crosswalk is without the ability to hear traffic, presumably they recognize the white crosswalk markings, or can at least detect the pattern they present, and can tell (reasonably well) when it is appropriate to begin crossing. If so, they should be able to spot a high contrast pattern on the bottonmost portion of the pole, e.g., a horizontal white/ reflective stripe bordered above and below by dark sections; if the pole is already painted a dark colour, all that would need to be added would be a white / reflective stripe.

Continued on Page 18



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ITE Discussion Topic on -Locating Ped Buttons for Visually & Hearing Impaired continued ...

The pole with the button shouldn't be made more conspicuous than the crosswalk the button controls; that wouldn't be helpful. It still isn't clear to me how a person could (1) tell where a crosswalk was well enough to cross the street in it and (2) tell (i.e., without the ability to hear an audible message provided by the APS) when the WALK signal on the opposite side of the street had illuminated, yet have continuing difficulty finding the pole with the desired button in the first place.

Dwight Kingsbury Safety Analyst Tallahassee, FL dwightkingsbury@floridastate.com













Summer 2017



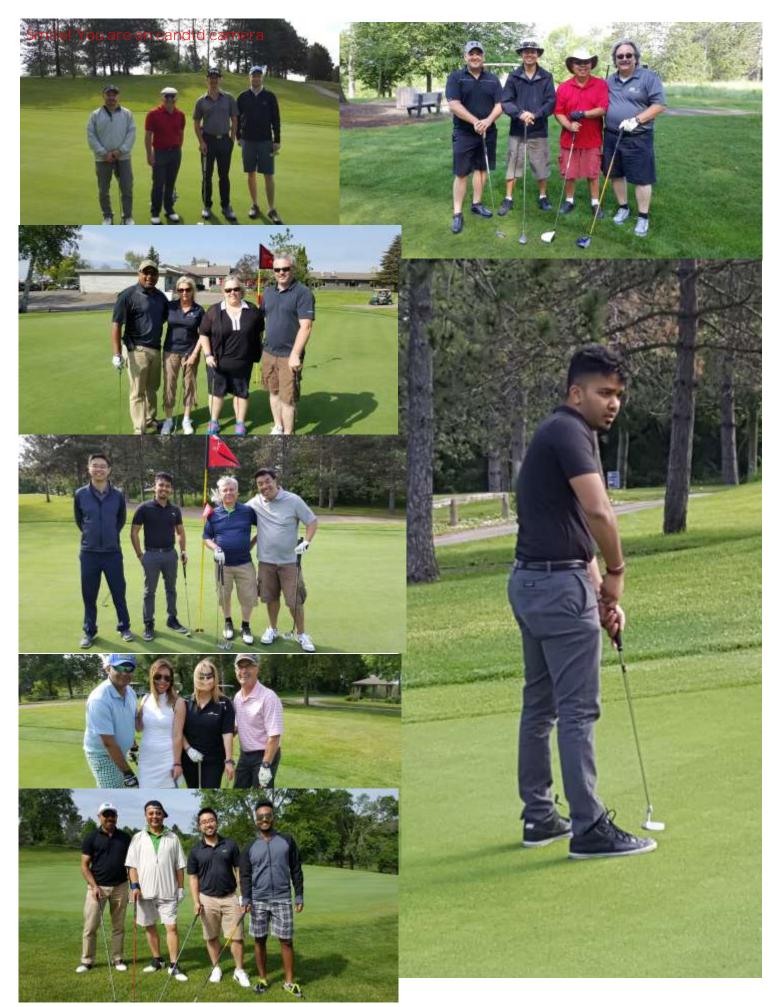


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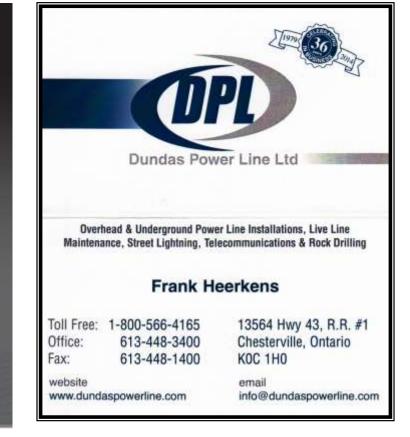
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Images from the AGM

STOP



Newly elected IMSA Ontario President Dave Edwards, giving his acceptance speech at the AGM



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Summer 2017



2017 Annual General Meeting of the Members.

Hi All:

On June 15, 2017, we held our Annual Meeting at Glen Eagle Golf Club in Bolton. Since we were in the neighbourhood, we had a little golf event

to start things off on the right foot.

The day began with a hot buffet breakfast which was sponsored by a number of our supporters. It needs to be said that the food was hot, plentiful and delicious. Just what is needed to start the day off, and with a round of golf immediately after, how does it get any better. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our breakfast sponsors in this great endeavour. We thank you, we thank you so very much.

All told, there were about 40 golfers, which is about the number that usually participates. From all reports, it was a great opportunity to network with peers and share the thrill of the perfect shot (not any of those in my foursome) and express the colourful language that is not often heard other than on the golf course.

For the last few years the weather that we had was perfect. Sun and heat prevailed. This year it was almost just as perfect. Not quite so hot, not quite so sunny and the rain held off until the golfing was done.

At the clubhouse, Members and friends gathered to enjoy a steak sandwich lunch. Once again we used our branding iron to make the IMSA mark on three steaks prepared in the kitchen and randomly distributed to the lunch participants, with a collapsible cooler bag being the reward. This is a nice way to start off the business meeting. Lunch was provided free to Members of IMSA, a thank you gesture from the Section.

Now down to business.

It is necessary for the Members of IMSA Ontario Trillium Section to replace the new Board of Directors. A while back we asked for nominations from the membership for available positions on the **Board. The next step was to arrange for an "advance poll." This was done through an online process and** all eligible Members were invited to vote. The actual election occurred at this meeting, with a number of Members present voting. Once elections were

closed, the tally from the elections and the advance pole were combined to establish the new Board. These results can be found on page 3 in this newsletter.

The business meeting was called to order by current President Shawna Boakes. Her term as President expired at the end of the meeting, her last official day on the job. Although she is not finished yet, she will be moving on into her new role as Past President.

She spoke of the accomplishments of IMSA over the past year and the direction of the Association. Other Officers were called upon to deliver the Financial Report, International Report and so on.

The new Board was sworn in by Richard Chaikoff and the Presidential gavel was passed on to Dave Edwards our new elected President.

Dave took the opportunity to address the Members present and speak to the good work of the Association and where he would like to see it evolves. Communications and building the Membership base were some of the topics that are on his agenda.

With the meeting adjourned, we moved along to the golf prizes. We have to thank all of our supporters / distributors for bringing along and donating a wonderful selection of prizes for winners to choose from. This and all of our events rely on the support of our contractors, distributors and suppliers to the traffic **industry. There has never been a "NO" said from** any of them when asked to participate in such an event. Many, many thanks.

During the meeting the rain poured very hard and by the time the meeting was over, the rain had slowed sufficiently to run to our cars without needing to swim or take a water taxi.

All in all a very successful day. As usual, everyone had the opportunity to catch up with one another and a chance to get away from the daily job for a day of business and fun.

We hope to see you all at upcoming Section events and next year especially at our Annual General Meeting of the Members.

N/ike