



eSpecifier

A p r i l 2 0 2 0

Welcome Members!

In this Issue:

- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Annual Chapter Meeting](#)
- [Chair's Message](#)
- [Vice Chair's Message](#)
- [Director's Report](#)
- [Treasurer's Report](#)
- [Interior Design Officer's Report](#)
- [Specification Officer's Message](#)
- [Our Sponsors, 2019-2020](#)
- [Program Committee Officers](#)
- [Engineering Officer's Report](#)
- [Past-Chair's Report](#)
- [Chapter Executive Committee: names, faces and contact info](#)

This is the fourth issue of the eSpecifier, and the last one for the 2019-2020 season. Look for the Late Summer edition towards the end of August 2020.

Please send feedback, suggestions, complaints, requests, and content and formatting ideas, to the editor at: wayne@buildingstories.com



This format is intended to be viewable on any size screen and contain the entire newsletter in one page/file. If you prefer a PDF copy, it's available at:

<http://buildingstories.com/CSC/eSpecifier.PDF>

The location / URL may change in future editions, but we're aiming to create an archive. Notification will come in future email blasts. Cheers!

Upcoming Events

In order to do our part to help contain the pandemic and safeguard the health and safety of our members, guests, volunteers and visitors, we have put an immediate moratorium on all CSC events until further notice.

Please continue to visit our website as we will provide updates as frequently as possible: <https://toronto.csc-dcc.ca/>



Annual Chapter Meeting

The CSC Toronto Chapter Annual Chapter Meeting was originally scheduled in the dinner-meeting format, to be held on May 5, 2020.

As that's no longer the case, please stay tuned for further details on the format for this year's Annual Chapter Meeting

Chair's Message – Michelle Wood



As the last few weeks seem to blend into each other and the situation of COVID-19 changing day by day, we are faced with the uncertainty of our jobs, health, education and even our daily routines. Not being able to run out to grab one item at the grocery store to finish making your favourite recipe, having your kids play at the park or even a nice game of road hockey with neighbourhood kids. We have been forced to self-isolate, practice social distancing from our peers, neighbours, elders and the toughest part family.

The government is doing its best to make sure we all stay safe and it is up to us, as individuals to listen. If you are not considered to be an essential service, **STAY HOME**.

However, like most of us in the construction industry we are considered an essential service and need to take it upon ourselves to work with our company and understand our responsibilities as to what is needed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 on the job sites.

These updates were posted on the Construction Canada News on March 31, 2020, as follows:

- providing better on-site sanitation, including a focus on high-touch areas like site trailers, door handles, and hoists;
- communicating roles, responsibilities, and health and safety policies, by, for example, posting site sanitation schedules and work schedules;
- enabling greater distances between workers by staggering shifts, restricting site numbers, and limiting elevator usage; and
- protecting public health by tracking and monitoring workers.

If we all work together, we will get through this as the true Canadians we all are! On behalf of the CSC Toronto Chapter Executive, I would like to send my sincere appreciation and heart felt thank you to ALL essential services from the front-line Healthcare, Grocery Store employees, Truck Drivers, Boom operators, Inspectors, and Construction workers. Thank you for your dedication and hard work during this difficult time.

I AM CSC!

Michelle Wood

Vice Chair's Message - Russel Ibbotson

Video Conferencing?!?



I began writing this article about a week after the Ontario school closure was announced. For me, that was when the outbreak of COVID-19 became real. I say "I began" as I've come back to write a bit on this article off-and-on for about 3 weeks. I'm sure everyone has read enough to write their own thesis paper on the pandemic, so I'll to focus on one part of the experience that has impressed me professionally. Most of us have been forced to catch up on communication technology as we retreated to our home offices to effect social distancing. No more in-person meetings, no more team meetings, no more lunches out. So, what did I find impressive? The quality, ease of use and level of uptake on video conferencing platforms is what has impressed me.

Our industry is collaboration-rich, and much of this relies on in-person meetings to build relationships and trust. Based on my previous exposure to video chats, I had found them awkward, low quality and less than effective. In my mind, they were reserved for the kids to see their grandparents. So, when I was told we would be doing training and that as managers, we were expected to encourage our teams to use these tools, I was less than optimistic. Going in with low expectations but being open to being impressed has its benefits sometimes, and I was pleasantly surprised by the experience. The quality has improved a lot, the tools and screen sharing capacity is leaps better and the ability to have multiple people sharing video is a game changer.

Within a short few weeks, my team has a daily virtual coffee together, my management team has more regular meetings and there are a lot more spontaneous meetings popping up both internally and with customers. This video conference calling seems to be working on a psychological level too. I am getting to know a couple more introverted people in my network better, and I have had feedback that the meetings are helping people feel connected in this time of isolation.

Video conference calls are, of course, extending beyond work-related conversations. I understand the CSC courses are being moved to online. My kids are having virtual playdates. I heard someone mention they had wine with friends the other night and some of my friends from school are organizing a virtual beer. My friends are so spread out that we usually only get together once or twice a year. Don't get me wrong, I think in-person is king, but I can see the benefits of this new communication tool in my box. Working on remote projects, connecting quickly with someone on a question, or just connecting to chat: this is great. Seeing the screenshots on social media, there are many people and teams that have gone through this learning and adapting of new communication tools during this crisis too. I expect many of us will be using video conferencing much more. Communication is important and communication is a core value for CSC. Let's watch together and see how this impacts our industry. Perhaps we can grab a beer and connect for a video chat to discuss it. I wish you and your families good health. Please stay diligent in your social distancing and hand washing. Thank you.

We are CSC!

Russell Ibbotson

Director's Corner - Steve Gusterson



If you have ever read any of the Specifier articles, reports or rants that I have composed over the years you will know that I've always be intrigued by what drives people to volunteer ... to volunteer for anything. Truth be told, I was never really motivated to volunteer until I was in my late thirties or so (a couple of years ago, yes) but I have come to have the utmost respect for those that found this reward early in life and continued to do so. One of the most important questions I ask in an interview is "tell me about any volunteer experience you have or had ..."

You already know that CSC is made up primarily of volunteers, and the Toronto Chapter is no different. Other than our Administrator, Phuong, the entire Chapter Executive Committee and sub-committees are staffed by volunteers. An interesting make up of people as well; some who have served the Chapter for many, many years; sometimes in the same role, sometimes trying different roles. Some that served, took a sabbatical and subsequently returned and the occasional instance where some decided that after a brief term, this was not for them.

As it happens, my term as Director of the Toronto Chapter shortly comes to an end and at the time of this writing I'm quite certain that my successor is to be a person that I know will help the Executive Committee reach the lofty goals they have set for themselves.

I would like to share with you just a little of what I learned about CSC whilst serving as a Chapter Director.

- It became immediately clear to me that the passion for this association does not differ from coast to coast, we all believe in the value of CSC.
- The dedication it takes to serve on the Executive Council is extraordinary.
- The unsung hero volunteers of national sub-committees deserve our highest esteem.
- The ability of Nick Franjic to keep this ever-changing group focused and on track is incredible.
The respect and professionalism that is displayed at the Board of Directors meetings would shame many a corporation.
- The exceptional talents of Nick, Clifton, and Brad make running the association office look easier than it really is.

If you've ever thought of volunteering for CSC at either the Chapter or National level, you will never regret it. If you ever have the opportunity to serve as a Chapter Chair, take it! If you ever consider serving as your Chapter's Director, you will meet people many of whom will become friends for life ... and if you think of serving on the Executive Council, be prepared to make a very strong commitment. Now go wash your hands.

Je suis CSC

Steve Gusterson, CTR

Treasurer's Report - Ashley McKay



After several years as the CSC Toronto Chapter's Specification Officer, I was pleased to accept a move over to the Treasurer position. At the October executive meeting, I presented a schedule of anticipated expenses for the 2019-2020 program year upon which there are annual items that must be voted upon. In general, the executive voted to maintain the status quo keeping the amounts the same as the previous year. A few exceptions - increases were requested and approved for the Student Design Competition

and the Student Awards Program, and a raise for our Chapter Administrator Administrator to a more appropriate wage for the level of skill and quality our Chapter requires was also tabled and agreed upon. Since then, I have been reviewing the monthly bookkeeping reports and generally learning the details of the numbers in relation to each event and program.

Having just finished writing my Treasurer's Report for the Annual Chapter Meeting, I can report that the

2019-2020 committees and sub-committees have once again done well keeping to their spending estimates. While there have been some mild disappointments such as the One Day Seminar not being attended as much as we'd hoped and therefore operating at a breakeven, there have also been highlights such as the success of the Building Expo. Therefore, the overall balance of accounts successfully continues keeping the Chapter in good financial standing.

In March a couple of the Chapter's short-term GIC investments matured. Admittedly, I was too busy at the time to get on top of organizing their reinvestment, however given the rise of the current covid-19 situation having this extra cash on hand rather than tied up may a good thing and the Chapter Executive has now agreed to hold off on the reinvesting until we have a better idea what will happen with the 2020-2021 program year. This, along with the Chapter's general positive financial position and another three short-term GIC's of savings ensures that the Chapter is well prepared for the unknown of our new coronavirus world.

Interior Design Officer's Report - Lee-Ann Herriott



As a newer member of the CSC and as the Interior Design Officer for the Toronto Chapter it's been a really positive year. CSC has provided me with a great learning opportunity where I have met a lot of wonderful people and valuable business contacts.

My goal has been and will continue to be to recruit more Interior Designers into the organization. And to also act as a spokesperson for the CSC and bridge the gap between various professions in our industry.

I feel it's important as an industry that we all do our best to understand how each profession operates so together we can improve.

The goal is to continue to build a strong profession that is valued and empowered to serve the public interest through excellence in design and professional practice. Bringing more Interior Designers to CSC events is one way of doing this. Seeing first-hand what the CSC has to offer, like meeting a broad variety of industry professionals through our great networking channels, will most definitely open minds and doors.

Collaboration, idea exchanges and just listening to each other has great value for each individual and our collective industry.

Interior Designers create a vision. It's always the dream of a design team to have what they create come to life. With there being so many ways for their designs to get compromised, by others, its seems crucial that all parties involved unite and work towards the projects vision. The more interior designers learn about the technical details of products and the specification process, the more they can defend their design later on in the project should some of their choices they made come into question.

Specification Writers benefit from understanding the design concept and working closely with Interior Designers to collaborate for a united front.

My goal is to continue to encourage Interior Designers to participate in the CSC, get to know the Specification Writers in the industry, learn as much as they can and expand their professional circles.

I have yet to meet a Specification Writer who has not been kind, intelligent and open to sharing their knowledge.

Recently we had the opportunity to hear Roberta Diachok speak at the Building Expo. Roberta has a large network of professional contacts and through her participation in this year's event, Interior Designers are more aware of the CSC. Roberta was a Past President of ARIDO and belongs to IDC, NCIDQ, and is a Well AP candidate. Roberta's talk was promoted, multiple times, on the ARIDO website as well as on their twitter account before the event. This brought more exposure to the show and was responsible for a higher presence of Interior Designers attending.

I'd like to thank Roberta for her time and her great discussion at the Building Expo and to all of the Toronto Chapter for a great year. I look forward to the 2020/2021 term.

Lee-Ann Herriot

Specification Officer's Message - Kenny Tam



As I am writing this while being in self isolation and looking out the window at the lack of traffic on the road. It dawned on me, how much of a new world we are trying to adapt to. Digital transition, physical distancing and economical changes, these may be changes we are already used to in some ways. Most of us are in front of the computer for much of the workday, issuing construction documents, reviewing drawing and responding to emails. To minimize physical interaction, the major change really is working anywhere you please to anywhere you can concentrate at home in isolation. As much as these changes implemented at the moment are beneficial and for all the right reasons, it is just as important for us to reflect back on our mental health and find a way to stay connected to the rest of the world in a healthy manner.

Take some time to support yourself:

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch, or meditate.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling. Pick up the phone, strike a conversation.

Don't let the situation isolate us more than it has to. As we all adapt to these changing times, while the event unfolds. Let us all at the CSC community stay safe, stay healthy and stay connected. Please reach out and connect, let's make our community stronger.

Kenny Tam

Thank you to our CSC Toronto Chapter Sponsors, 2019-2020!

Pinnacle Sponsors



Sponsorship Available

For more information on becoming a CSC Toronto Chapter Sponsor, please contact the Chapter Administrator at admin@csctoronto.ca.

Program Committee Officers - Connor James and Kiyoshi Kuroiwa



Program Committee Report

First and foremost, we hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy in this unprecedented time. So much has changed since the last e-Specifier, both from a business and personal perspective.

We would never have imagined that we would go from having 45 attendees listen to Jeremy Wright discuss engineered green roof systems for stormwater management on February 4, 2020 to having to cancel the April 7th dinner meeting. For people that were looking forward to David Moses discuss wood construction, we have postponed his presentation to next season.

Unfortunately, the May 5th dinner meeting has also been cancelled. The original plan was to have our very own Ted Katsoris and Rajiv Rattan discuss the new Construction Act and its implications. We will postpone the presentation as well. Please keep an eye on your emails for updates.

We all look forward to the dinner meetings as a way to connect. We would encourage all of you to keep up the dialogue and encouragement through other means in this uncertain time. We will get through this together. We are CSC!

Connor & Kiyoshi

Engineering Officer's Report - Rajiv Rattan



Construction Delays caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19) - a Perspective

The whole world is in a state of turmoil due to the spread of the new COVID-19. So far, no drug has been invented to treat it clinically. Unabated spread of this virus has gripped a large number of people worldwide with thousands of deaths globally. The whole world is shaken up and fear among people is increasing day by day.

Besides various other sectors, the Supply Chain sector for products made in China is seriously impacted. Manufacturing factories in China have been shut down now for months, while the work force is either not allowed to go out due to the lockdown or made to follow quarantine protocol. Shipping is suspended.

For many years, Construction Projects have been using materials and equipment that are either made in China or made with components that are produced in China, due to price competitiveness. Now due to COVID-19 there is a sudden stoppage to the production and in turn distribution of these Chinese products, resulting in delays to the progress of Construction Projects.

This type of unforeseen delay or delay due to reasons beyond control, generally is addressed under the 'Force Majeure' Clause. However, the stipulations under this clause need to be examined very closely as modified version of this clause may limit the amount of relief available. Standard wordings of this clause is often amended by the Owners shifting the risk to the Contractor.

Standard CCDC Contract's Force Majeure clause covers delay in the performance of the Work by delay by common carriers, any cause beyond the Contractor's reasonable control. This delay is excusable but rarely compensable. That means the Contractor may get relief from the enforcement of Liquidated Damages only but no reimbursement of additional prolongation costs.

The Contractor may also examine the Clause dealing with "Substitution/Alternatives". Usually substitution or alternatives are allowed, provided there is either savings in cost or time or life cycle maintenance cost; provided general performance remains unchanged or upgraded. The non-availability of products in a timely fashion due to COVID-19 may open consideration to substitute products that were linked to China with the products that are not linked to China. The question would be who bears the extra cost? Ordinary Owner may be reluctant to pay this extra cost with the argument that this belongs to the Contractor. The Contractor would argue that there is a clear-cut entitlement for an extension of time that would allow the Project to be completed late. However, a smart and forward-looking Owner may be willing to pay or pay in part, this extra cost, so long as the Project is completed on time and put to its intended commercial use.

Some Contract have a language ... 'Contractor shall take all commercially reasonable measures to achieve substantial completion by ...'. Under this provision the Contractor can get some relief.

In order to deal with such unforeseen challenging situation, both the Contractor and the Owner have to be flexible and try to find an outside of the box solution so that the Project is completed on time and put to its commercial use without suffering delays even in this adverse circumstances.

Rajiv Rattan, P.Eng, CCEA

Past-Chair's Report - Iain Stuart



I joined CSC in September 2012 at the recommendation of my manager at the time, Paraic Lally. I had just moved from an inside Technical role to an outside Architectural Sales role and it seemed like a good idea for networking.

I took a “go getter” attitude and met a great number of people in my first year as a member. Quickly thereafter, I took the Principles of Construction Documentation (PCD) course to increase my knowledge of the arena in which I was selling my products. I found that between my mentor, Paraic, the networking, and the courses really helped to advance my position in the market as a Technical Representative.

Soon thereafter in 2014, I was appointed as Treasurer of the Toronto Chapter, a position I held for 3 years. I completed my Technical Representative (TR) course and became a Certified Technical Representative (CTR) as well as the Chair of the Toronto Chapter in 2018/19.

This is a journey I never saw coming, back in 2012 when I first joined CSC. I cannot stress the importance of the CSC Education to make for a stronger industry when the reps become more aware of themselves and their audience. Furthermore, you will get back in dividends what you put in. I encourage you to volunteer on one of the many sub-committees of the Toronto Chapter. If there isn't something available that suits your strengths, continue to attend the dinner meetings for the networking opportunities. I have never left an industry event saying to myself, “well, that was a waste of my time.” I usually walk away with 2 or 3 business cards, great conversations, and often an eye-opening experience into an area where I'm not an expert.

My direct involvement with the Executive Committee may be coming to a close, for now, and I want to thank many people along the way, both Specification Writers and manufacturer's Technical Reps who have helped me in my roles.

Thank you.

Iain Stuart

Thank-you for reading!

Your Chapter Executive Committee:



Chapter Chair
Michelle Wood
Johns Manville
(905) 580-2256
michelle.wood@jm.com



Chapter Vice Chair
Russell Ibbotson, CTR
Velux Canada Inc.
(416) 712-2864
russell.ibbotson@velux.com



Chapter Director
Steve Gusterson, CTR
Alumicor Limited
(416) 456-1321
s.gusterson@alumicor.com



Past-Chair
Iain Stuart, B. Sc., CTR
Carlisle Spray Foam Insulation
(289) 937-6609
istuart@carlislesfi.com



Treasurer
Ashley McKay, CSP WZMH
ARCHITECTS (416)
961-4111 ext.243
AMcKay@wzmf.com



Professional Development Officer
Isabelle Champagne, CTR
Rockfon Acoustical Ceilings
(647) 269-8580
isabelle.champagne@rockfon.com



Specifications Officer
Kenny Tam
HOK Architects Corporation
(416) 342-7168
kenny.tam@hok.com



Architectural Officer
Brian Abbey, BSSO, A.Sc.T
Adtek Building Consultants
(416) 571-5322
brian.abbey@adtekbldg.com



Interior Design Officer
Lee-Ann Herriott
Custom Building Products
(289) 962-4688
Lee.AnnHerriott@cbpmail.net



Engineering Officer Rajiv
Rattan, P.Eng, CCCA First
Gulf
(416) 773-7143
rrattan@firstgulf.com



Manufacturer/Supplier Officer
Terry Klingspohn
Meridian Brick
(416) 801-1638
terry.klingspohn@meridianbrick.ca



Contractor/Trade Officer
Bob Hartogsveld, CCCA
CertainTEED Corporation
(905) 330-0753
robert.hartogsveld@saint-gobain.com



Administrative Officer
Stacey Bogdanow, CTR
W.R. Meadows of Canada
(416) 419-8436
sbogdanow@wrmeadows.com



Program Committee Officer
Connor James
DuPont Performance Building Solutions
(289) 337-0582
connor.james@dupont.com



Program Committee Officer
Kiyoshi Kuroiwa
Aercoustics Engineering Limited
(416) 249-3361 ext. 2330
KiyoshiK@aercoustics.com



Chapter Administrator
Phuong Huynh
CSC Toronto Chapter
844 4 CSC TOR (272 867)
admin@csctoronto.ca

CSC Toronto, April 2020

