

## **CONTENTS**

Chapter Chair Message .....	2
Director's Report .....	3-4
2021 Christmas Luncheon .....	5
2021 in review.....	6
RFI—Bane or Pride by David Stutzman.....	7-8
2022 CSC National Conference in Niagara Falls.....	9
CSC Student Design Competition Update.....	10-11
Comics & Chapter Sponsors.....	12

---

**Have an IDEA for the Specifier?**

**We would love to hear from you!**

Announcements, upcoming events, or technical articles are welcome and encouraged!

Any submissions for the Specifier can be emailed for review to: [ryan.foster@rockwool.com](mailto:ryan.foster@rockwool.com)

Ryan Foster Newsletter Editor

[ryan.foster@rockwool.com](mailto:ryan.foster@rockwool.com)

## Grand Valley Executive

**Carlos Alegre**  
*Quinn Dressel Associates.*  
**Chapter Chair**

**Stefanie Hargest**  
*Boehmers by Brampton Brick*  
**Vice Chair**

**Cathie Schneider, CTR**  
*Stonequest*  
**Chapter Director**

**Josh Bowman**  
*IKO Industries Ltd.*  
**Secretary & Communications Officer**

**Douglas Pinnell**  
*Informed Insurance Inc.*  
**Treasurer**

**Joanna Wcislo**  
*GHD Limited*  
**Program Officer**

**Ryan Foster**  
*Rockwool*  
**eNewsletter Officer**

**Danielle Mahn**  
*Weatherproofing Technologies  
Canada*  
**Membership Officer**

**Scott Ruffett**  
*SWD Urethane*  
**Marketing & Membership Officer**

**David Boyle, CTR**  
*W.R. Meadows*  
**Manufacturing Officer**

**Matthew Schiedel**  
*Owens Corning*  
**Social Events Officer**

**Sheri Thompson**  
*WalterFedy*  
**Specifications Officer**

**Russ Snow**  
*W.R. Meadows*  
**Officer-at-Large**

## Chairs Message

December 2021



We are finally back!! It has been quite the hiatus for us here in the Grand Valley Chapter Executive, as we have taken some much needed time to re-energize ourselves and figure out new ways to serve our members and our local construction community. The climb back to our regular and consistent programming will take some time but we are certainly committed to organizing interesting and valuable seminars online and in person as well as other social events with the networking opportunities we have missed so much over the last while.

We kicked off this program year in September with a fun and intimate round of golf at Rebel Creek Golf Club. We followed that up with a valuable and informative online seminar with Lucinda Wallace of Waterloo Economic Development Corporation who offered some incredible insight into the business development trends and opportunities in the Region of Waterloo. Next, we look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Christmas Luncheon at the Puslinch Marina Restaurant on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 (look for the flyer in this eSpecifier).

We are working diligently to fill our program for the months following the new year. And it would be remiss of me not to mention the 2022 Conference in Niagara Falls – Re-Energizing the Future!! Make sure to visit <https://csc-dcc.ca/Conferences/> for more information and Save the Date!

As we continue to look for opportunities to provide value to you, our members, your feedback and suggestions will allow us to better serve you. So, we strongly encourage you to reach out to us with any comments, suggestions, recommendations, and feedback by emailing us at [grandvalley@csc-dcc.ca](mailto:grandvalley@csc-dcc.ca)

Keep in touch,

Carlos Alegre  
Chapter Chair  
CSC Grand Valley Chapter Executive

## Directors Report

December 2021

It was my honour and privilege to represent the Grand Valley Chapter at our Fall Director's meeting. What a treat to reconnect and, in some cases meet for the first time in person, fellow CSC Directors from Chapters across the country. Please allow me to list the highlights of our meeting.

### **Technical:**

Endorsed the updates to CCDC 24

Looking to host a ½ day seminar on documents

### **Education:**

4 different routes that provide a designation:

CCCA – Certified Construction Contract Administrator

CTR – Certified Technical Representative

Subcommittee has been established to create a presentation panel to adjudicate students

CSP – Certified Specification Practitioner

RSW – Registered Specification Writer – (Congratulations to Stan Bury - Hamilton Chapter)

Currently have 4 colleges offering our PCD course in their curriculum: Red River College, George Brown, Humber College and Saskatchewan Polytechnic. Looking for other post-secondary schools to approach. Conestoga would be a good candidate.

### **Membership/Chapter Communication and Development**

Chapter "Specifier" to be shared with the Board, Association Office and posted on chapter website.

Promote chapter events and news on Construction Canada 'Online News". Email Blair Adams at Kenilworth: [badams@kenilworth.com](mailto:badams@kenilworth.com)

New members; chapters to reach out individually to welcome new members

Membership directory mailed out Oct 25<sup>th</sup>.

No increase in membership dues this year and renewal will be electronic

Maternity/Paternity leave is available without disruption in membership

### **Conference Update**

2022 – May 25 to 29 - Niagara Falls – Sheraton on the Falls – Theme: Re-Energizing the Future

2023 – Calgary – Calgary Westin Hotel

2024 – Montreal – Hotel Bonavista

### **College of Fellows Officers:**

Chancellor: George Heath

Dean: Mike Galinski

Registrar: John Lape

*-Continued Next Page*

## Directors Report continued

December 2021

### Marketing

#### Website

Chapters encouraged to continue to maintain content on their respective website

Currently working on creation of Chapter specific event pages, creation of online membership application form and creating an online document store.

Make sure all chapters are using the @csc-dcc.ca email address

Update Chapter documents to Google Drive

Each chapter to provide a marketing Liaison contact to the Association

Encourage members to use the CSC logo with their signatures

#### Social Media

Have hired a social media management firm (Clavis) to manage our Twitter and Instagram accounts in consultation and coordination with the Association Office. Our lead contact at Clavis is an Engineer fluent in both English and French so is familiar with the construction industry and can address all chapters across the country. They will draw content from chapter websites

Twitter – Each chapter to have their own Twitter accounts active.

Facebook page has been refreshed. No action required at the chapter level

#### Marketing Materials

Working on updating graphics for marketing materials

Swag shop – Chapters now have the ability to place orders for CSC swag suitable for golf tournaments and giveaways at Chapter events. Directors will be receiving available options. Orders to be sent to [socialmmedia@csc-dcc.ca](mailto:socialmmedia@csc-dcc.ca)

### Strategic Plan

This is where 'the rubber meets the road' where we define what the association commits to accomplish in the long term. The action plan focuses on future results in key areas and guiding the organization toward achieving its vision.

Increase participation in CSC education programs and professional networking opportunities

Increase membership and member engagement

Increase industry awareness and profile of CSC

Have a strong online presence on social media platforms

Host a virtual educational event each year

Continue to approach post-secondary schools so that they may consider adopting the PCD course into their curriculum

Expand the availability of one-line resources for continuing education

Development of a succession plan for chapter and board executive

Submitted by:

Cathie Schneider, CTR

Director, Grand Valley

November 18, 2021

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL  
**CHAPTER CHRISTMAS  
LUNCHEON**



at  
**The Old Marina Restaurant**  
1947 McClintock Drive  
Cambridge, ON N3C 2V4



**DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS WOULD BE  
GREATLY APPRECIATED AND THE  
DONOR WILL BE RECOGNIZED  
DURING THE LUNCHEON.**

**When:** Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
**Time:** 11:30-12:00 Networking  
12:00-2:00 Lunch  
**Where:** The Old Marina Restaurant in Puslinch  
\*\*Proof of vaccine and ID Required  
(see map and address above)  
**Cost:** \$40 per person to all attendees (CASH BAR)

**REGISTER NOW THROUGH KARELO**

<https://www.karelo.com/register.php?BID=611&BT=10&Ev=20105>

Please register and make your payment through Karelo no later than December 13, 2021

## Looking Back on 2021

December 2021

You've probably seen lots of construction cranes dotting the skyline in Waterloo Region and wondered what is going on! We at Construction Specifications Canada Grand Valley (CSC) wondered the same thing. After all, where there is construction, there is opportunity.

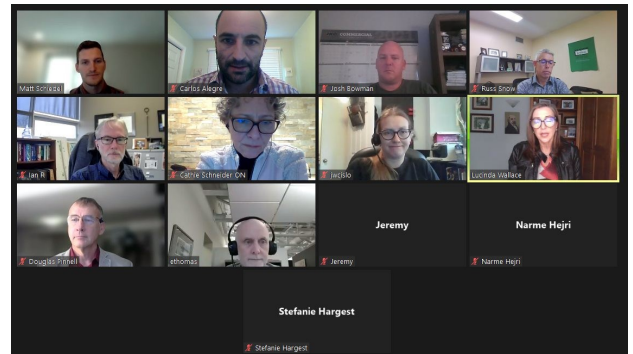
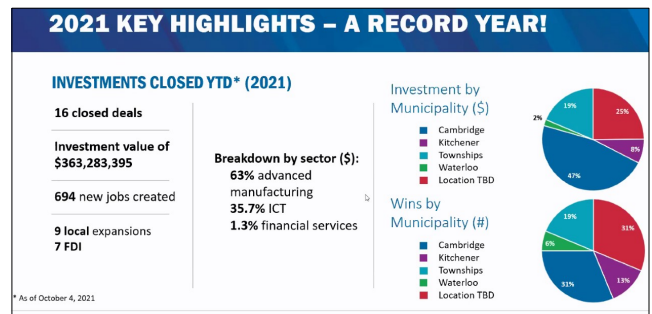
To that end, we invited Lucinda Wallace, VP Marketing and Corporate Development with Waterloo Economic Development Corporation, to be our Key Note Speaker for a virtual presentation on Wednesday, November 17.

Waterloo EDC is a non-profit organization and is the first point of contact for companies looking to locate, relocate or expand in Waterloo region.

Lucinda shared with us their efforts to promote and attract companies from Canada and around the globe to Waterloo Region ensuring that we are at the top of the list of potential cities being considered.

Her very informative presentation highlighted the work of WEDC over the past few years as well as their focus going forward. Clearly, the future looks very bright in Waterloo Region with potential opportunities in sectors such as manufacturing, technology, financial services and manufacturing support businesses.

Thanks to Lucinda for sharing her insights with the group.



## September Golf Social

An afternoon on the links was enjoyed September 20th at Rebel Creek Golf Club



## RFI - Bane or Pride

by [David Stutzman](#) | Dec 1, 2021 | [Request for Information](#)

RFIs - Requests for Information are common in the construction industry. They are the means by which contractors ask designers to clarify the construction documents. RFIs may question the drawings, or specifications, or both.

RFIs are the designer's bane. A schedule disruptor, RFIs usurp precious time needed for other planned activities during construction administration.

Contractors count RFIs, sometimes proudly. Many RFIs can help the contractor build a case for a claim against the owner for delay or increased costs, or both.



The RFI exchange is between the contractor and designer. However the process may start with any tier subcontractor or even a material supplier. The designer may need help from engineers or specialty consultants to answer.

The point is the process takes time. While the time to process a single RFI may not be significant, the time to process all the RFIs on a project can be substantial.

In 2013, Navigant Construction Forum™ published a report titled "[Impact & Control of RFIs on Construction Projects](#)." The report presented findings from 1,362 projects around the world that were started between 2001 and 2012 using a data set from ACONEX, a global provider of online document management. The projects ranged from \$5 million to \$5 billion construction cost. Each project in the data set had a minimum of 100 RFIs. These projects resulted in 1.1 million RFIs, an average of 796 per project or 9.9 RFIs per \$1 million construction cost.

That was nearly 10 years ago. What is the status today? Recently, Conspectus was asked to help answer RFI number 805 for a project that is less than 50% through the 19 month construction schedule. Fortunately, we were asked to help with only a few of these.

Navigant discussed the time required to receive, log, review, and respond to RFIs with design professionals. It was agreed that designers spend on average eight hours or \$1,080 (2013 dollars) to process each RFI.

*Article continues next page*

*'continued from previous page*

## RFI - Bane or Pride

by [David Stutzman](#) | Dec 1, 2021 | [Request for Information](#)



Let's do the math. 796 RFIs per project. 8 hours per RFI design processing time. That is 6,368 hours (more than 3 man-years) or \$859,680 expended during construction administration just on RFIs.

So here's the question. What do RFIs cost the contractor, and ultimately, the owner? Is the owner paying nearly \$2 million per project to have the designer and contractor communicate to clarify the owner's construction documents?

Navigant focused on managing the process to improve performance. The report suggested a three-pronged framework: setting RFI related definitions, electronic tracking and monitoring, and implementing best management practices. This framework may help, but it does not address the root problem.

What if there was an opportunity for contractors to ask questions during design? What if the construction documentation process was transparent and collaborative? What if all the questions were answered before starting construction?

Conspectus Cloud provides that opportunity. It is a web-based, open specification authoring tool. The designer, contractor, and even the owner can participate. Questions can be asked, explored, and resolved transparently and collaboratively. Leverage everyone's experience and expertise to produce a better project. Call to learn more and to schedule a demo. 609.628.2390.

[RFI - Bane or Pride \(conspectusinc.com\)](http://grandvalley.csc-dcc.ca/)



## 2022 National Conference

[CSC Conferences \(csc-dcc.ca\)](http://csc-dcc.ca)

**JOIN US IN 2022**

**CSC** | Re-Energizing the Future

**2022 CONFERENCE**  
**NIAGARA FALLS • ON**

May 25 – 29, 2022

**NIAGARA FALLS CANADA**

[www.csc-dcc.ca](http://www.csc-dcc.ca)

[CSC Conferences \(csc-dcc.ca\)](http://csc-dcc.ca)

## CSC Student Design Competition

December 2021



## CSC Student Design Competition

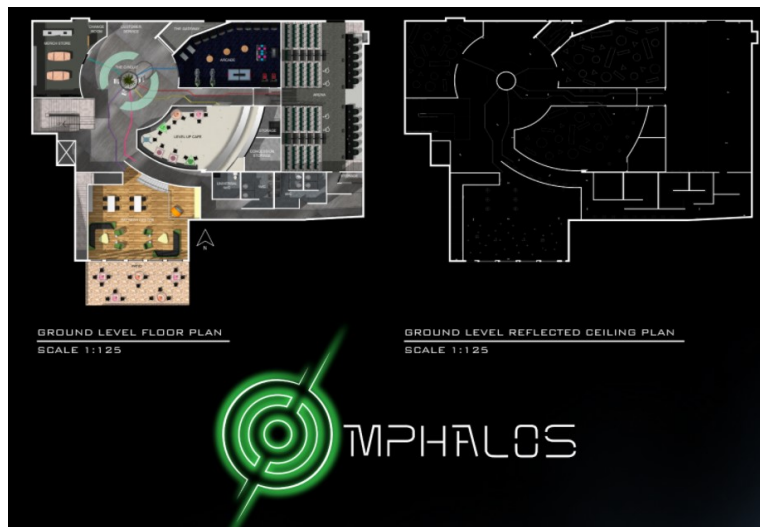
The in person CSC Student Design Competition was put on hold for 2022 due to the ramifications of COVID. The 2021 winners are shown below and will be showcased, along with the winning teams for the past 8 years, at the National conference next May in Niagara Falls.

### 2021 Winners

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Notion Art Gallery – Sarah Wilson, Begum Alis, Janessa Brouwer and Britney Gomes  
 Conestoga College – Bachelor of Interior Design Program



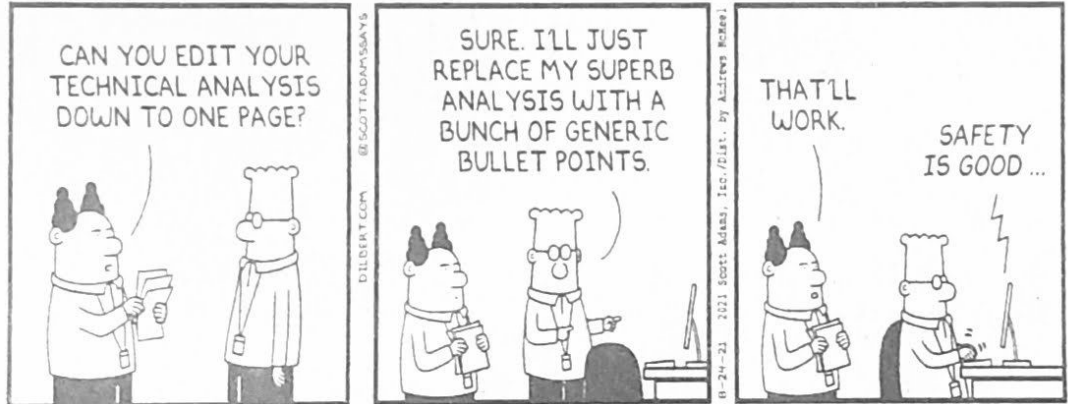
2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Omphalos – Daniela Gil, Heather Bradd, Apphia Brown  
 Conestoga College – Bachelor of Interior Design Program



[www.cscdesignchallenge.ca/](http://www.cscdesignchallenge.ca/)

## Funnies

### Dilbert



## CSC Grand Valley Chapter Sponsors

**DAVID BOYLE, CTR**

**W. R. MEADOWS OF CANADA**  
70 HANNANT COURT, MILTON, ONTARIO L9T 5C1

BUS: (905) 878-4122  
FAX: (905) 878-4125  
CELL: (416) 419-0144  
TOLL FREE: (800) 563-3618  
dboyle@wrmeadows.com  
[www.wrmeadows.com](http://www.wrmeadows.com)



**ROXUL Rockfon®**

**Isabelle Champagne, CTR**  
Architectural Sales Manager

Mob. 647 269 8580  
isabelle.champagne@rockfon.com

**ROCKFON, LLC**  
8024 Esquesing Lane  
Milton, Ontario L9T 6W3  
Canada

Tel. 800 323 7164  
[www.rockfon.com](http://www.rockfon.com)

**CREATE AND PROTECT®**