

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR JANUARY IN-PERSON PRESENTATION

Finding Workers in a Challenging Talent Market

Charlene Hofbauer, Executive Director of the Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin

Presenter Bio: Charlene has developed relationships with partners looking to try unique solutions to help the community address labour market concerns and even tackling some of the bigger ones that go beyond WWD. She enjoys sharing research and trends in easy to understand pieces and seeks to connect the dots for governments, schools, employers, students and jobseekers alike.



Presentation Description: This session will provide local employers in the construction, design and contracting space with information on the local workforce. Join Charlene Hofbauer who presents to different industries and stakeholders. Get a sense of who is out there and what challenges they may be having, where we need to attract more people and how we can move our talent forward so that we can be ready for all opportunities.

When: Wednesday, January 17th, 2024

Time: 11:45-12:00 Networking 12:00-1:00 Presentation & Lunch (Included)

Where: Grand Valley Construction Association Office

25 Sheldon Drive, Cambridge

Cost: \$25 Members / \$35 Non-members / \$10 Students

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](http://grandvalley.csc-dcc.ca/)

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Officer-at-large

Chair's Message:

As 2023 comes to a close and we embark on 2024, I am humbled to serve as the chair of our CSC Grand Valley Chapter. We have had an exciting and productive start to our 23/24 program year, and I am proud of the progress we have made. We have welcomed new members to our organization, created new partnerships with the Grand Valley construction community and have continued to strengthen our ties with existing members.

In July we pulled back out the sticks and hit the links with the Grand Valley Society of Architects. With new friends and lots of familiar faces, you and our generous sponsors helped us raise over \$1,700 for KidsAbility in Waterloo. Then in September we took to the skies on a first of a kind Fliteline experience, which will surely not be our last, for Connections Cafe. Incredible projects put together by even more talented students, the CSC Student Design Competition once again awarded \$2,500 to future leaders in our industry. These type of valuable, impactful events that benefit our community are truly at the core of CSC Grand Valley and it couldn't be possible without the dedication and support of our executive and members.

In 2024 we have a full line up of presentations catered to the design and construction community; from navigating a challenging workforce market, specifying sustainable wood interiors, and designing building envelopes to tame the elements, we hope you will join us to learn and build new friendships in 2024. To cap it off, mark Feb. 1st in your calendars and hit the slopes with us in Caledon. As reliable as a "done by others" drawing note, mother nature is sure to fulfill her contract & cooperate for our inaugural Chapter Ski Day.

With the dedication of you, our members, our Chapter has a bright future ahead and I am confident that we will continue to build on the success we have seen this past year. I am excited to be part of the journey, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the coming year to continue making a difference in our communities. Together, we can make a real and lasting impact.

-Matthew Schiedel Chapter Chair

SNOW PLAY DAY

Calling all skiers, snowboarders and snowshoers in the Design and Construction industry to come out and enjoy a wonderful day with your colleagues.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

**CALEDON PRIVATE SKI CLUB
WEST LODGE**

1 hour away from either Toronto, Kitchener and Hamilton;
35 mins from Guelph and Fergus; 1 ½ hrs from Stratford and St. Catharine's

<https://caledonskiclub.com/>

SKIERS/SNOWBOARDERS - \$145.00 + HST

SNOWSHOERS - \$90.00 + HST

Price includes lunch, fun race (match your own time), après ski & prizes

Register on Karelo:

<https://www.karelo.com/register.php?BID=611&BT=10&Ev=21629>



Ski, Snowboard, Snowshoe rentals available at the Caledon Pro Shop -West Lodge
We're talking skis, snowboards, snowshoes, boots, poles, helmets; whatever you need!

Call to pre-book 519-927-9371 (open Thurs – Sun)

Ski and Snowboard private lessons available. Pre-book 2 weeks in advance

Call Ski School 519-927-9975

CSC Grand Valley Chapter

2024 Events

Date	Event Description	Presenter	Location
Wednesday, January 17, 2024	Lunch Seminar: Finding Workers in a Challenging Talent Market	Charlene Hofbauer, Executive Director of the Workforce Planning Board of Waterloo Wellington Dufferin	Grand Valley Construction Association Office 25 Sheldon Drive, Cambridge
Thursday, February 01, 2024	Social: Snow Play Day Ski, Snowboard, or Snowshoe	CSC Grand Valley	Caledon Private Ski Club – West Lodge 17431 Mississauga Rd, Caledon
Wednesday, February 14, 2024	Lunch Seminar: Building Control Layers	Ian Miller, P.Eng, LEED AP, CCCA	Grand Valley Construction Association Office 25 Sheldon Drive, Cambridge
Wednesday, March 06, 2024	Social: Save the Date TBD	CSC Grand Valley	TBD
Wednesday, March 20, 2024	Lunch Seminar: Specifying Architectural Woodwork for Any Millwork Project	Nick Anastas & Laurie Suikki, Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada	Grand Valley Construction Association Office 25 Sheldon Drive, Cambridge
Wednesday, April 17, 2024	Lunch Seminar: Save the Date - TBD		Grand Valley Construction Association Office 25 Sheldon Drive, Cambridge
Wednesday, July 17, 2024	Social: Golf	CSC Grand Valley & Grand Valley Society of Architects	Dundee Country Club 1801 Queen St., New Dundee

Featured in

CONSTRUCTION CANADA

Connections Cafe reaches new heights at CSC Grand Valley Chapter event

On Sept. 14, 2023, the CSC Grand Valley Chapter soared to new heights with Connections Cafe, a spectacular event held at Hangar 33 of the Waterloo International Airport. The venue, featuring three World War II (WWII) planes courtesy of the Waterloo Warbirds, created a unique ambience for the long-awaited reunion of the local construction industry.



One highlight of the event was the announcement of the top four entries in the 10th Annual CSC “Tapping the Future” Student Design Challenge. The 3,716 m² (40,000 sf) hangar provided a stunning backdrop as attendees celebrated the creativity of post-secondary students in Southern Ontario.

The event showcased entries reimagining a historic building in the heart of Cambridge, part of The Gaslight District by Hip Developments. The building, founded in 1859 by the Goldie & McCulloch Company, offered a rich historical context for the competition. Planitar, the creator of iGuide, facilitated a virtual tour of the building, complete with mapping and drawings, accessible on a dedicated website.



Entries for the Student Design Challenge adhered to straightforward criteria: The theme of hospitality; up to four post-secondary Southern Ontario architecture and design students per entry; incorporation of five specified product categories; and the creation of a specification based on one chosen category. With no budget constraints, students were encouraged to explore diverse design and product options, fostering creativity.

Judging criteria encompassed completion of competition requirements, use of the site and existing building, quality of graphic and written material, the specification’s quality, utilization of requested materials, and innovation. The esteemed panel of judges included David Thompson Architect, Susan Tienhaara, quality manager at Govan Brown; and Don Shortreed, specification writer at DGS Consulting.

Professor Sarah Turner and students of bachelor of interior design at Conestoga

The winners of the 2023 CSC “Tapping the Future” Student Design Challenge are:

- 1st Place and People’s Choice Award (\$2,000): The District – Ethan Lett, Megan Baxter, Juliana Escobar, Sabrina Schuit – Conestoga College, Bachelor of Interior Design
- 2nd Place (\$1,000): The Engine House – Chloe Wilhelm, Erica Buehler, Gabby Lisac, Karina Popa – Conestoga College, Bachelor of Interior Design
- 3rd Place (\$500): Azzuro Spa & Wellness – Lauren Maul, Katie Reimer, Sydney Lanaus – Conestoga College, Bachelor of Interior Design



Connections Café 2023 – The rest of the story....

Picture a beautiful sunny, warm day, and a 40,000 sf Hangar with its door open wide to the fresh air and fall colours. What an amazing experience! Thanks to Flite Line Services, Connections Café 2023 was held at the Waterloo International Airport, Hangar 33. With the participation of the Waterloo Warbirds, the hangar featured 3 splendid WWII planes. <https://waterloowarbirds.com/>. In fact, 3 fortunate individuals each had the incredible experience of flying like “Maverick” for 20 minutes in a WWII Harvard including the grand prize winner of our CSC/GVSA Golf tournament; Wali Majd. Check out Wali’s videos shot and edited by his employer. Part 1 is the lead up to the flight and Part 2 is the Go Pro flight footage including a barrel roll, then taxiing right up to the open hangar door and walking into the party.

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cedJ13wLWI> Lead up to the flight

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyAHAXBCers>. Time in the air and taxiing to party



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The Three Fellows of Grand Valley; David Boyle and Chris Johnson welcome Russ Snow into the prestigious CSC College of Fellows

CSC Grand Valley Chapter enjoyed a tour of RWDI back in October; which included the Guelph wind testing facility as well as the model shop.



RWDI is a wind and environmental engineering consulting firm founded in Guelph, Ontario. The firm's facilities include offices around the globe; they operate five boundary-layer wind tunnels, and other testing facilities that have been involved in some of the world's tallest skyscrapers and landmark structures.



SPECIFICATIONS ARE A TEAM SPORT [Tina Montone](#) : June, 2023

On the field, on the pitch, on the court or on the ice....take your pick....the players rely on one another to execute plays and create a successful outcome – to win the game. Without strategic contributions, correctly timed, by the correct position, the outcome may result in an error or fumble. Setbacks can happen in reaching the goal, which we can describe as VE (value engineering) in the AEC industry, resulting in cost and scope cutting. Because specifications play such a critical role in every project, having a team mentality in the approach to this documentation is essential for the development.

In baseball: the Pitcher is the Architect, the Catcher is the Specifier and the Estimator (yes, they are one position to provide the most value to the team), the Owner is the Umpire. The Architect pitches the idea, the Specifier/Estimator receives the idea and can frame the pitch to help the Umpire make a call. The Owner (Umpire) decides whether the pitch was good (strike) or bad (ball).

Let's look at a breakdown of key points that build strong specs through the contributions of the team, and will win the game, and how each point was validated in our travels.

1. **Collaboration:** Specifications are not the responsibility of a single individual but a team effort. Different stakeholders, such as project managers, engineers, designers, and clients, need to work together to define the project requirements and objectives of the Owner. Each team member brings expertise and perspective to ensure a comprehensive and well-rounded specification.
2. **Early Involvement:** It is important to involve the entire project team from the beginning stages of the specification development. By including all relevant parties early on, you can tap into their knowledge and insights, address potential conflicts or challenges, and ensure a shared understanding of the project's goals.
3. **Decision Making:** Specifications serve as a foundation by recording decisions made throughout the project lifecycle. They provide a clear framework for evaluating design choices, selecting technologies and materials, and making informed decisions that align with the project's objectives. By basing decisions on the agreed-upon specifications, the team can maintain consistency and avoid diverging from the Owners Project Requirements.
4. **Timing:** The timing of decision-making is crucial to the success of a project. Delays or rushed decisions can lead to rework, increased costs, missed deadlines and added cost. Specifications should be established and refined in a timely manner to ensure that the decision-making process remains on track. Regular checkpoints and reviews can help maintain momentum and allow for adjustments as needed.
5. **Decision Management:** Specifications and estimating go hand in hand in the decision management process. Estimating involves assessing the resources, time, and costs required to fulfill the specifications. It helps in making informed decisions about project feasibility, resource allocation, and budgeting. Accurate estimation relies on well-defined specifications, and the two processes work together to support making effective decisions throughout the entire project.

In summary, specifications are indeed a team sport, requiring collaboration, early involvement, and a well-managed decision-making process. By following these principles, the project team can establish clear goals, and make informed choices, resulting in better project outcomes.



From all of us at the CSC Grand Valley Chapter:

*Merry
Christmas*
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

