



LONDON CHAPTER

Specifier

NEWSLETTER

September/October 2025

Editor: Patricia Aurjo

SAVE THE DATE

September 18, 2025

Talk & Tour

October 23, 2025

SPECconnect

November 6, 2025

Connections **Café**

January 22, 2026

Chapter Meeting

March 19, 2026

BEconnect

April 23, 2026

Chapter Meeting

June 18, 2026

Golf Tournament

NEXT EVENT:

Brewery Tour & Networking Event

Date/Time: September 18th, 2025 | 3:30pm to 7pm

Location: Powerhouse Brewery | 100 Kellogg Lane

Registration Fee: \$40 Members | \$60 Non-Members

Registration: https://www.karelo.com/enter_res.php?&BID=531&Ev=22871

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPTER CHAIR

As Chapter Chair for the CSC London Chapter, it's been both a privilege and a pleasure to witness another outstanding year of growth, collaboration, and professional development within our local construction community.

This past year has been marked by continued momentum as we strengthened our network, enhanced our educational offerings, and deepened member engagement across the region. One of the most significant highlights was being honoured—*once again*—with the **Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year Award**, a testament to the dedication and hard work of our executive, volunteers, and membership. This prestigious recognition was formally presented at our flagship event, the **CSC London Golf Tournament**—with a fantastic turnout and overwhelming support from sponsors, players, and industry partners.

Looking ahead, we're just getting started. The London Chapter is gearing up for another impactful year, with exciting **educational sessions, technical meetings, and networking events** on the horizon. Whether you're new to CSC or a seasoned contributor, we encourage you to stay connected and take part in what promises to be another dynamic year.

Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements—you won't want to miss what's ahead.

Here's to another year of building connections, sharing knowledge, and shaping the future of our industry.

Brad Beharrell

Chapter Chair, CSC London Chapter
Cornerstone Architecture

2025—2026 London Executive

Chapter Chair	Brad Beharrell, CCCA, MAATO Cornerston Architecture
Chapter Vice-Chair	Mark Zettler CCCA, CSP Westinghouse Electric Company Can-
Chapter Administrator & Newsletter Editor	Patricia Aurjo CTR Construction Specialties Group
Chapter Treasurer	Kees Govers LiveRoof Ontario
Programs and Events Co-Director	Dustin Hoogstra RoofMart
Programs and Events Co-Director	Josh Bowman CTR, REWO Soprema
Professional Development Officer	Matthew Miller RIMKUS
Officer, Specifications Writer	Jeff Halashewski RSW DIALOG
Officer, Contract Administrator	Phil Lebel Cornerstone Architecture
Officer, Architectural Technologist	Daniel Ritchie CCCA, MAATO Cornerstone Architecture
Officer Engineer	Matthew VanGilst P.Eng. Callidus Engineering
Officer Manufacturer/Supplier	Josh Bowman CTR, REWO Soprema
Officer, At-Large	Meagan Kikuta Tremco
Chapter Director	Paul Gerber Archispectural

WHY BECOME A MEMBER?

CSC provides educational meetings, Specifier Newsletter and much more in the local chapters. A CSC Memberships give you access to the document store which has documents such as Master Specs, CCDC literature, educational manuals and much more.

Also, CSC is partnered with Construction Canada magazine and BSD spec link as part of your membership privileges.

Additionally, CSC provides a source for, links to publications, and awards for persons achieving excellence. No matter what your field is, staying on top of all of these issues is important.

So, whether you are looking to learn about job postings in your field, network in your professional community, gain access to current events in your

career area, or just have some fun while meeting new people, joining a professional association is a step in the right direction!



“CEDENTIALS MATTER...”

WHY DO CREDENTIALS STILL MATTER IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

Why RSW Still Holds Weight.

In a world where *anyone* can post a project on social media, list “building expert” on LinkedIn, or offer “design advice” with little more than a smartphone and a Canva subscription, the question naturally arises: **Do credentials still matter?**

The answer is a resounding **yes**—and perhaps now more than ever.

Take the **Registered Specification Writer (RSW)** designation from CSC. This isn’t just a few extra letters on a business card. It’s a **recognized benchmark of professionalism**, a signal to clients, consultants, contractors, and the industry at large that you’ve invested the time, experience, and expertise to *do it right*.

Here’s why credentials like RSW still matter:

1. **Trust and Accountability:** Credentials build confidence. In an industry where risk, liability, and life-safety are daily realities—not buzzwords—RSW signifies a trusted professional who understands contract documentation inside and out.
2. **Rising Above the Noise:** In a marketplace flooded with voices, designations cut through the chatter. They identify those who’ve met rigorous standards and remain committed to ongoing development.
3. **Guardians of Quality:** Specifications drive performance. The RSW stands for more than writing—it stands for coordination, clarity, and constructability. In short, it helps get buildings built *right*.
4. **Future-Proofing Your Career:** As AI and automation redefine roles, credentials remain a human differentiator. They show you’ve mastered not just tools—but judgement, nuance, and real-world experience.
5. **Industry Respect:** Whether it’s peers, clients, or collaborators—credentials earn you a seat at the table. RSW means you’re not just talking specs. You *know* them.

Bottom line?

Credentials aren’t just about prestige. They’re about *professionalism*. They tell the industry: “You can trust me with the details that matter.”

So yes, RSW still matters. And for those who hold it—or are working toward it—know this: You’re helping raise the bar, one spec at a time.

AD SPACE...

“Put your product where it matters most: in front of Canada’s specifiers, architects, and builders through the CSC London Newsletter.”

Contact: london@csc-dcc.ca; Subject: **Newsletter Ad**

Newsletter Advertising

Size	1 Issue	All issues
1/4 page (3.6"x4.75" no bleed or 4.3"x 5.37" bleed)	\$50	\$100
1/4 page (3.6"x4.75" no bleed or 4.3"x 5.37" bleed)	\$75	\$300
1/2 Page (7.5"x4.75" no bleed or 8.5"x 5.5" bleed)	\$100	\$350
Full page (7.75"x10" no bleed or 8.5"x 11.125" bleed)	\$150	\$500
Business Cards	N/A	\$50



GIVING BACK, ONE SWING AT A TIME

CSC London Golf Tournament – Community Impact

Over the past three years, the **CSC London Golf Tournament** has become more than just a great day on the course—it's become a platform for giving back to the communities we serve.

Since the beginning, we've proudly donated the **proceeds from Mulligan sales** to the **Best First Day program**, supporting students and families across **London, East Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford counties** with essential back-to-school supplies. It's our way of ensuring every child starts the school year with confidence and the tools they need to succeed.

This year, thanks to the generosity of our golfers and sponsors—and in a show of continued commitment—the **CSC London Chapter matched the amount raised**, doubling the impact of your contributions.

To everyone who purchased a mulligan, sponsored a hole, donated, or simply showed up to support: **thank you**. Your involvement makes a real difference in the lives of local families, and we couldn't be more grateful.

We're proud of what this tournament has become—a day of fun, connection, and community impact. And we're already looking forward to doing it all over again next year.

Until then, thank you—and we'll see you on the links!

CSC London Golf Committee

Thank you to all our Sponsors and individuals

Who made this years Golf Tournament one to remember



WHAT ARE THE OTHER ASSOCIATIONS DOING AROUND LONDON

OACETT London Chapter

Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians & Technologists – London Chapter

- **September 13, 2025** – General Meeting with possible CPD session at Fanshawe College
- **October 25–27, 2025** – Suggested chapter tour of Paradigm Distillery

Note: This chapter also offers ongoing CPD webinars and virtual events at the provincial level, such as:

- **September 9–10, 2025** – *Construction Contract Documents*
- **September 16–25, 2025** – *Mastering Specification and Statement-of-Work Writing Skills*

London & District Construction Association (LDCA).

- Typically, LDCA holds monthly or quarterly networking, advocacy, and educational breakfasts or dinners. Reach out directly for their fall schedule.

London District Heavy Construction Association (LDHCA)

Key upcoming events:

- **Friday, August 8, 2025** – Annual Golf Tournament at Pine Knot Golf & Country Club (just weeks away)
- **Tuesday, November 25, 2025** – Member meeting (likely hosted at City of London/St. Thomas)

Association of Architectural Technologists of Ontario (AATO)

- No London-specific events currently listed. Check their website or contact their provincial office for regional meet ups or webinars.

Architects (OAA / LSA) & Others

- **The London Society of Architects / OAA Chapter** and **AATO** currently appear to have no publicly announced local events i

ARIDO – Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario

- **2025 ARIDO Awards Gala**
- **When: September 17, 2025**
- **Target Audience:** ARIDO members, registered designers, and guests

IIDA – International Interior Design Association (Ontario/Canada)

- **NCIDQ Prep Course – Session 5: Practicum (PRAC)**
- **When: September 20, 2025**
- **Location:** Offered through IIDA's regional channels (likely in Toronto or hybrid; confirm via IIDA membership)

IDC (Interior Designers of Canada): Usually active through ARIDO+IDC collaborations, but no dedicated local events in London announced for the next few months

DDA Canada & Local Decorators' Groups: No upcoming London area events found in public listings—recommend checking their networks or individual firm websites directly.

LINKS TO ARTICLE, POD CASTS AND OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Tornado-Resistant Glazing, Glass Magazine July/August 2025; [Link Click Here](#)

Job Satisfaction start with Culture, On-Site Magazine, August 5, 2025; [Link click Here](#)

Making Concrete Construction More Climate Friendly, On-Site Magazine, August 7, 2025; [Link Click Here](#)

The Quiet Cost of Clarity: Mental Wellness in Specification Writing

In construction, specification writers are the quiet architects of clarity. Architects sketch vision, engineers model systems, but spec writers translate design into enforceable contract language. We define performance, mitigate risk, and carry project intent across procurement, construction, and turnover.

But behind the redlines and clauses lies a silent cost: our own mental wellness.

Living in the Margins

Specification writing is often solitary work. We review drawings late in the game, balancing clarity and liability with surgical precision. And when something's missing onsite, the question isn't always *"Who didn't draw it?"* but *"Why wasn't it in the spec?"*

That weight doesn't crash in with drama. It seeps in quietly:

- Late nights because "it's easier when nobody's emailing."
- Skipped lunches to meet a last-minute deadline.
- Rewriting the same paragraph five times, unsure if the wording is just right.
- Carrying the clarity of an entire project—alone.

Quiet Accountability, Loud Advocacy

Spec writers may sit silent in meetings, but don't mistake that for passivity. Many of us are meticulous Type A personalities—driven, assertive, and unwilling to let vague language slip through.

Our silence can flip in an instant. When timelines threaten quality, when a code ruling doesn't align, when someone says *"just tweak this note"*—that's when our advocacy sharpens. To outsiders, it can sound inflexible. Within our world, it's passion. Because we know that if we don't speak up, the cost isn't semantic. It's contractual, legal, and practical. That's the paradox of our role: we fight hardest for clarity, but often do it alone.



The Subtle Signs of Burnout

Burnout in this profession doesn't always look like collapse. It looks like:

- Over-researching instead of trusting your expertise.
- Feeling a pit in your stomach when asked, *"Can you review this quickly?"*
- Saying yes to everything to avoid being seen as a bottleneck.

Questioning your value because your work is invisible—until it fails.

If this resonates, you're not alone.

What Wellness Could Look Like

Wellness for specification writers isn't about slowing down; it's about making the load sustainable:



**"Reimagining wellness for specification writers isn't about slowing down....
it's about making the load sustainable"**

- Respect your own time as much as you protect project deadlines.
- Accept imperfection—specs evolve, and clarity is a process.
- Connect with peers who understand the pressure.
- Make space for joy beyond formatting tools—music, hiking, baking, anything.
- Say *"I don't know"*—because learning is part of relevance.

Building a Culture of Support

The stress placed on spec writers can't be shouldered in silence anymore. Projects are more complex, timelines tighter, expectations higher. We don't need late-stage coordination—we need early collaboration. Not just re-viewing at 95%, but contributing from the start.

Organizations can help by:

- Normalizing conversations about workload and stress.
- Encouraging peer mentorship.
- Respecting off-hours boundaries.
- Acknowledging the value of specs—not just when something goes wrong.

Final Thoughts

Specification writers are the last to touch the documents and the first to catch the risks. We protect projects—but not at the cost of our well-being.

We've spent years safeguarding clarity on paper. Now it's time to safeguard the people writing it. Because clarity matters more when those behind it are well.

"Behind every successful CSC event is the quiet strength of our Sponsors. You keep our chapters thriving, our programs accessible, and our community connected."



NOW is the time to book your space in the CSC
2025/2026 Directory of Members and get noticed 365
days a year.

Space is on a first come first served basis, so book today!

Advertising in the CSC 2025/2026 Directory of Members gives your company national exposure to AEC professionals representing all segments of the construction industry year round.

The directory offers immediate access to CSC members' contact information in this user-friendly digest-size publication and also includes upcoming CSC events such as the annual conference.

There has never been a better cost-effective opportunity to reach construction experts from coast-to-coast than with an advertisement in the CSC 2025/2026 Directory of Members.

**Act now! To book your advertisement today go to
www.CSC MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

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