

PROUD PAST • PROMINENT PRESENT • PROMISING FUTURE



Fifty years of serving the construction industry

Construction Specifications Canada — Fifty Years of Serving the Construction Industry

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Dedication

This history of Construction Specifications Canada has been published to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Association. This book is dedicated to those pioneers whose vision and determination 50 years ago led them to discuss the development of better specifications and to pursue the establishment of an association to further this objective.

Dédicace

La publication de l'histoire de Devis de construction Canada vise à commémorer le 50^e anniversaire de l'association. Cet ouvrage est dédié à tous les pionniers dont la vision et la détermination, il y a 50 ans, les ont amenés à parler de l'élaboration de meilleurs devis, et à s'engager dans la création d'une association pour atteindre cet objectif.

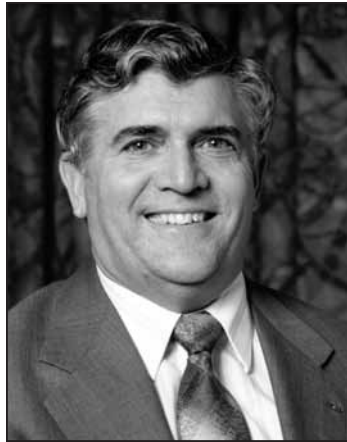
Mission Statement

Construction Specifications Canada is a multi-disciplinary, non-profit association committed to the ongoing development and delivery of quality education programs, publications and services for the betterment of the construction community.

Énoncé de mission

Devis de Construction Canada est une association multidisciplinaire sans but lucratif vouée à l'élaboration continue et à l'offre de programmes de formation, de publications et de services de qualité pour le mieux-être de la communauté de la construction.

Acknowledgments



*John M. Jensen, FCSC
Chair, CSC History
Committee*

"It has been a labour of love to prepare this book. We hope it will stir up happy memories for our long-time members as well as our more recent members. We trust that our new and future members will be impressed with the many accomplishments that have brought CSC high regard from the Canadian and international construction industries. May you be stimulated to achieve even greater accomplishment during the next 50 years."

At the May 2000 annual meeting of the CSC College of Fellows, the College undertook a commitment to author a book commemorating the 50th anniversary of Construction Specifications Canada in 2004. Ian Bartlett, FCSC, RSW, volunteered to co-ordinate this task.

This history has been derived in large part from SWAC and CSC Board meeting minutes and from articles found in the Association magazine, *Specification Associate*, and its successor, *Construction Canada*. Information was also gleaned from various issues of the *NIB* that in the early days was bound into the Association magazine and that, more recently, has been mailed out as a newsletter to convey Association news to the membership. We owe much to the authors of articles concerning the years 1953 to 1958, which appeared in the 25th anniversary issue of *Construction Canada*, May/June 1979.



Ottawa Chapter's Tom Dunbar and John Cooke present cheque to First Vice-President Peter Semchuk. \$10,000 was donated by the chapter to be used in the production of the CSC's 50th Anniversary publication.

We are indebted to those chapter directors and members who researched and submitted text and photographs relating to significant events in the life of their chapters. We are similarly indebted to many past presidents and other significant members of SWAC/CSC who submitted to interviews or otherwise provided memories and photographs of their involvement with the Association. To those members who provided us with narratives, we extend our thanks as well as apologies where, in some instances, we took the liberty of editing your text to best suit the format of this publication.

The members of the CSC History Committee are to be commended for their dedication and countless hours of volunteer time devoted to researching, writing, proofreading and discussing text in order to bring about the publication of this book. The Committee consisted of Ian Bartlett, FCSC, RSW, Fred Clarke, FCSC, Dinshaw Kanga, FCSC, Sandro Ubaldino, RSW, Lori Brooks, Stephanie Grant, Nick Franjic, CAE and me, John Jensen, FCSC. Ian Bartlett chaired the Committee until September 2003, at which time I assumed the position. The Committee has met monthly since March 2003. We are grateful to Reed Construction Data for providing us with a boardroom for our meetings and for contributing staff resources (Lori and Stephanie) for research and editing.

The Committee was ably assisted by two contracted research writers, Randy Threndyle and Janice Walls. Final editing service was provided by Katherine Coy of WORDworks Communications. Thanks to a generous donation from the Ottawa chapter, we were able to engage these experienced journalists and editors to assist us in our task.

We also acknowledge the contributions of Contact Graphics who designed the book cover and David Groskind who set up the content management service on the project's Web site.



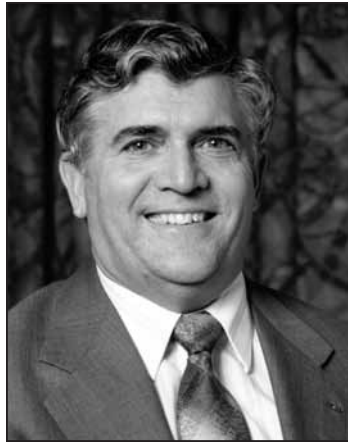
CSC History Committee Members and contributors (from left): Dinshaw Kanga, FCSC, Stephanie Grant, Sandro Ubaldino, RSW, Randy Threndyle, Lori Brooks, Nick Franjic, CAE, John Jensen, FCSC and Janice Walls, with portrait of King Edward, at King Edward Hotel in Toronto. The “King Eddie” was site of the first general meeting of Specification Writers Association in 1958 and the first annual convention in 1959.

Although the Committee, with its limited time and resources, attempted to provide an accurate accounting of important events in the life of the Association and recognize those members who made significant contributions to furthering the goals and objectives of SWAC/CSC, we realize that readers may discover errors and omissions and for this we sincerely apologize.

It has been a labour of love to prepare this book. We hope it will stir up happy memories for our long-time members as well as our more recent members. We trust that our new and future members will be impressed with the many accomplishments that have brought CSC high regard from the Canadian and international construction industries. May you be stimulated to achieve even greater accomplishment during the next 50 years.

John M. Jensen, FCSC
Chair, CSC History Committee

Remerciements



*John M. Jensen, FDCC
Président, Comité
historique de DCC*

“Ce livre a été préparé avec amour. Nous espérons qu’il éveillera d’agréables souvenirs pour nos membres de longue, et pour nos membres plus récents. Nous sommes confiants que nos membres récents et futurs seront impressionnés par les nombreuses réalisations qui ont valu à DCC une grande reconnaissance de la part des industries de la construction, tant sur le plan national qu’international. Que cet ouvrage soit pour vous une source d’inspiration pour les 50 prochaines années.”

Lors de la réunion annuelle du Collège des Fellows de DCC en mai 2000, le Collège a pris l’engagement de rédiger un livre pour commémorer le 50^e anniversaire de Devis de construction Canada en 2004. Ian Bartlett, FDCC, RDA, s’est porté volontaire pour coordonner cette tâche.

L’historique a été puisée en grande partie dans les procès-verbaux des réunions de l’ACRD et de DCC, des articles du magazine de l’association, «Specification Associate», puis de son successeur, «Construction Canada». De l’information a également été glanée dans divers numéros des «Nouvelles en bref», qui étaient à l’origine insérées dans le magazine de l’association et qui sont depuis peu postées à titre de bulletin afin de transmettre aux membres des nouvelles de l’association. Nous devons beaucoup aux auteurs d’articles concernant les



Tom Dunbar et John Cooke de la section d’Ottawa remettent un chèque au premier vice-président Peter Semchuk. Un montant de 10 000 \$ a été donné par la section afin de servir à la production de la publication marquant le 50^e anniversaire de DCC.

années 1953 à 1958, qui ont paru dans le numéro du 25^e anniversaire de «Construction Canada», en mai-juin 1979.

Nous sommes reconnaissants envers les directeurs et membres des sections qui ont fait des recherches et soumis des textes et des photos en rapport avec des événements importants de l'histoire de leurs sections. Nous sommes également reconnaissants envers les nombreux présidents et autres membres importants de l'ACRD/DCC qui se sont prêtés à des entrevues, ou qui ont partagé leurs souvenirs et photographies de leur implication au sein de l'association. Nous remercions les membres qui ont si volontiers partagé leurs souvenirs avec nous, et nous tenons à nous excuser si, dans certains cas, nous avons pris la liberté d'éditer leurs textes afin de les adapter au format de cette publication.

Il nous faut aussi féliciter les membres du Comité historique de DCC pour leur dévouement et les nombreuses heures consacrées à la recherche, la rédaction, la révision et la discussion des textes ayant permis la publication de cet ouvrage. Le Comité était formé de Ian Bartlett, FDCC, RDA, Fred Clarke, FDCC, Dinshaw Kanga, FDCC, Sandro Ubaldino, RDA, Lori Brooks, Stephanie Grant, Nick Franjic, c.a.é. et moi-même, John Jensen, FDCC. Ian Bartlett a présidé le Comité jusqu'en septembre 2003, et j'ai ensuite pris la relève. Le Comité s'est réuni chaque mois depuis mars 2003. Nous remercions Reed Construction Data qui nous a fourni une salle de réunion ainsi que les ressources de son personnel (Lori et Stephanie) en ce qui concerne la recherche et l'édition.

Le Comité a été bien épaulé par deux recherchistes à contrat, Randy Threndyle et Janice Walls. Les services d'édition finale ont été assurés par Katherine Coy de WORDworks Communications. Grâce à un généreux don de la section d'Ottawa, nous



Les membres du Comité historique de DCC et autres contributeurs (de gauche à droite): Dinshaw Kanga, FDCC, Stephanie Grant, Sandro Ubaldino, RDA, Randy Threndyle, Lori Brooks, Nick Franjic, c.a.é., John Jensen, FDCC et Janice Walls, avec un portrait du Roi Édouard, à l'Hôtel King Edward de Toronto. Cet hôtel a été le cadre de la première réunion générale de l'Association canadienne des rédacteurs de devis en 1958 et du premier congrès annuel en 1959.

avons été en mesure d'embaucher ces journalistes et rédacteurs expérimentés pour nous aider dans notre tâche.

Nous soulignons également le travail de Contact Graphics qui a conçu la jaquette du livre et de David Groskind qui a mis sur pied le service de gestion du contenu sur le site web du projet.

Même si le Comité, avec son temps et ses ressources limités, a tenté de fournir un compte rendu précis des événements importants dans la vie de l'association et de reconnaître les membres qui ont beaucoup contribué à l'atteinte des buts et objectifs de l'ACRD/DCC, nous sommes conscients que des lecteurs pourraient découvrir certaines erreurs et oublis. Nous en sommes sincèrement désolés.

Ce livre a été préparé avec amour. Nous espérons qu'il éveillera d'agréables souvenirs pour nos membres de longue, et pour nos membres plus récents. Nous sommes confiants que nos membres récents et futurs seront impressionnés par les nombreuses réalisations qui ont valu à DCC une grande reconnaissance de la part des industries de la construction, tant sur le plan national qu'international. Que cet ouvrage soit pour vous une source d'inspiration pour les 50 prochaines années.

John M. Jensen, FDCC
Président, Comité historique de DCC

Foreword



*Sandro Ubaldino, RSW
President, Construction
Specifications Canada,
2003-2004*

"This book is dedicated to those pioneers whose vision and determination 50 years ago led them to discuss the development of better specifications and to pursue the establishment of an association to further this objective."

"The value of a few for the betterment of many."

I believe this quote is appropriate in describing the value of CSC and the work of its volunteers. Indeed it was the will of a few individuals whose desire to improve their contract documents led to a vision to improve a whole industry.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Construction Specifications Canada, we reflect on what has been achieved with a great amount of pride and accomplishment. The vision and commitment of those few individuals who formed our association in 1954 and whose leadership set the new Specification Writers Association of Canada on a course, still defines us today. That course was a commitment to improve contract documentation for the betterment of the whole construction industry.

They also recognized that accomplishing this required involvement by the many diverse groups within the construction industry. Whether specifiers, architects or engineers, manufacturers or suppliers, contractors or owners, these varied groups of diverse interests had a common goal and vision. It is precisely that diversity within our membership that makes CSC strong.

It is our people who bring the values of quality, professionalism, integrity, teamwork, openness and innovation, which has enabled CSC to succeed in its vision to be the construction community's first choice for quality documentation. Our leaders in the early days set the path and those that followed in the ensuing decades continued to work and built on it to make CSC a leader in our industry.

Through leadership, vision and the great spirit of volunteerism of our members, we stand proud of our past, the prominent

presence CSC holds in today's industry, and our promising future.

Many thanks are due to the CSC College of Fellows for initiating the task of preparing this book, and to the History Committee for the many hours of research and dedicated resolve in authoring this account of the first 50 years of the Specification Writers Association of Canada and Construction Specifications Canada.

It is an honour to preside over the Association and Conference 2004, as we mark this momentous event in the life of Construction Specifications Canada. My sincere thanks are also extended to the members of the 50th Anniversary Conference Committee who worked very hard to make this occasion memorable for all of us.

Sandro Ubaldino, RSW
President, Construction Specifications Canada
Toronto, Ontario
May 2004

Avant-propos



*Sandro Ubaldino, RDA
Président, Devis de
construction Canada,
2003-2004*

“Cet ouvrage est dédié à tous les pionniers dont la vision et la détermination, il y a 50 ans, les ont amenés à parler de l’élaboration de meilleurs devis, et à s’engager dans la création d’une association pour atteindre cet objectif.”

“La valeur de quelques-uns pour le mieux-être d’un grand nombre.”

Je crois que cette citation est tout à fait appropriée pour décrire la valeur de DCC et le travail de ses bénévoles. La volonté de quelques individus désireux d’améliorer leurs documents contractuels a sans conteste mené à la vision d’améliorer toute une industrie.

La célébration du 50^e anniversaire de Devis de construction Canada est l’occasion de réfléchir aux réalisations de l’association avec une grande fierté et un sentiment d’accomplissement. La vision et l’engagement de ces quelques individus qui ont constitué notre association en 1954 et dont le leadership a mis sur la voie la nouvelle Association canadienne des rédacteurs de devis nous définissent encore aujourd’hui. La voie suivie était alors un engagement à améliorer la documentation contractuelle pour le mieux-être de toute l’industrie de la construction.

Ces pionniers ont par ailleurs reconnu que pour concrétiser leur vision, il fallait la participation de nombreux groupes diversifiés au sein de l’industrie de la construction. Qu’il s’agisse de rédacteurs de devis, d’architectes ou d’ingénieurs, de fabricants ou de fournisseurs, d’entrepreneurs ou de propriétaires, ces groupes variés aux intérêts diversifiés avaient un objectif et une vision en commun. C’est en fait cette diversité parmi nos membres qui fait la solidité de DCC.

Ce sont nos gens et leurs valeurs axées sur la qualité, le professionnalisme, l’intégrité, le travail d’équipe, l’ouverture et l’innovation qui ont permis à DCC de connaître du succès dans sa vision et de devenir le premier choix de la communauté de la

construction en matière de documentation de qualité. Nos chefs de file des premiers jours ont ouvert la voie et ceux qui ont suivi pendant les décennies subséquentes ont continué de travailler et de bâtir en suivant le même chemin pour faire de DCC un leader de notre industrie.

Grâce au leadership, à la vision et au grand esprit de bénévolat de nos membres, nous pouvons être fiers de notre passé, de la présence prédominante que DCC occupe aujourd'hui au sein de l'industrie, et de notre avenir prometteur.

Il convient de remercier sincèrement le Collège des Fellows de DCC pour avoir entrepris la tâche de préparer cet ouvrage, ainsi que le Comité historique pour les nombreuses heures de recherche et d'assiduité à rédiger ce compte rendu des 50 premières années de l'Association canadienne des rédacteurs de devis et de Devis de construction Canada.

C'est pour moi un honneur d'avoir présidé l'Association et le Congrès 2004, alors que nous soulignons cet événement marquant dans la vie de Devis de construction Canada. J'exprime également mes remerciements aux membres du Comité du congrès marquant notre 50^e anniversaire, qui n'ont négligé aucun effort pour faire de cette occasion un événement mémorable pour nous tous.

Sandro Ubaldino, RDA
Président, Devis de construction Canada
Toronto, Ontario
mai 2004

Genesis: 1954-1963



A.W. Harper
SWA President, 1954-1955

"The forming of the Association was primarily to provide a liaison group between general contractors, sub-contractors, specification writers and their employers, for the better understanding and co-ordination of effort, to produce the utmost in fulfillment of most satisfactory construction... In my opinion, a day in a conscientious specification writer's life is lost, unless during that day has learned something to further the betterment of building construction."

Governance

In 1951 an aspiring specification writer by the name of Denis Brough, FCSC, RSW, discovered a publication, *Construction Specifier*, which concerned itself with specification writing. Being impressed with its publisher, the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), he joined the U.S.-based association. It occurred to Denis that if there were a common interest in Toronto on the subject of specification writing, a group could be formed without becoming a chapter of CSI. He explored this avenue in January 1953 by sending a letter to 20 architects and engineers to gauge interest.

An informal meeting at the old John B. Parkin office on Church Street in Toronto, on March 10, 1953 drew 10 architects, engineers and specification writers. The idea of an association similar to CSI met with general approval. A committee consisting of Denis Brough, FCSC, Art Harper and Max Bennet, FCSC was struck to discuss the development of better specifications and to pursue the establishment of an association. *Daily Commercial News*, a Toronto-based construction trade newspaper, published a brief report on the Committee's first meeting held April 20, 1953. A second meeting on September 20 set the ground work for an organizing meeting November 12 at the King Edward Hotel. With 50 interested persons in attendance, the association was conceived and an organizing committee was formed. The first Board of Directors was elected on April 12, 1954 with Art W. Harper as president. The Board met during the summer to mount a membership campaign. By August there were 101 paid-up members (at \$10 per annum) showing that there was indeed a need for an association dedicated to the

improvement of specifications and drawings, with members drawn from all disciplines associated with construction.

A members' meeting was held October 20, 1954 at the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) headquarters in Toronto. There, the Specification Writers Association of Canada (SWAC) was born. The Association's first annual meeting was held April 27, 1955. Denis Brough assumed the presidency for a one-year term. He was followed by Orton Letherland, FCSC, and Stuart Frost, FCSC, RSW, in 1956 and 1957 respectively.

During these years the Association gathered momentum and on June 30, 1958, a Federal Charter, or Coat of Arms, was granted to the Specifications Writers Association of Canada. There was also growing interest throughout the country and the granting of the Federal Charter was followed by the birth of long discussed chapters in Montréal and Ottawa. The Technical Committee was also formed in 1958, its prime function was to be the "scheduling, co-ordination and processing of all standard basic specifications within the association."

Coat of Arms

Below are excerpts from the original charter, or coat of arms as it was known, incorporating the Specification Writers Association of Canada on June 30, 1958.

Coat of Arms Canada
By the Honourable Henri Courtemanche
Secretary of State of Canada

To all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in anywise concern,

Greeting:

Whereas Robert Edward Briggs, Claude Stephan Jarrett, and Eric Braithwaite, Architects, Lionel Stuart Frost and Thomas Stanley

Wallis, Specification Writers, Lorne Maxwell Bennett and John Knight McBride, Professional Engineers, Bertie Alexander, Estimator, and Russell William Cornell, Waterproofing Contractor, all of the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario, and Robert Victor Fernandez, of the Township of Scarborough in the said Province of Ontario, Specification Writer, have made application for a charter under the said Act, constituting them and such others as may become members in the corporation thereby created a body corporate and politic under the name of

Specification Writers Association of Canada

With all the rights and powers conferred by the said Act, and for the following purposes and objectives, namely:

- (a) To promote improved specification writing practices by means of standardization and uniformity throughout the building industry;*
- (b) To foster and promote the interests of those who are engaged in or who are directly or indirectly affected by the preparation, compilation or utilization of specifications for building construction;*
- (c) For the objects aforesaid to carry on printing and publishing and to sell and distribute literature pertaining to specifications for building construction.*

The operations of the Corporation may be carried on throughout Canada and elsewhere.

The head office of the Corporation will be situated at the City of Toronto, in the Province of Ontario. Given under my seal of office at Ottawa this thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight.

Alex Cattanach
For the Secretary of State

Magazine

The *Specification Associate*, the official publication of the Specification Writers Association of Canada, was launched in the spring of 1959 by its founding editor, Russell Cornell, aided by Bob Fernandez and Stuart Frost. The magazine was created to meet the needs of specification writers, architects, engineers and others involved in the design and construction of commercial, industrial and residential buildings. The magazine offered in-depth coverage of topics related to design and construction. The articles were written by industry experts and provided readers with up-to-date information and tailor-made solutions to complex problems. The magazine would later become known as *Construction Canada*.

At an executive meeting held on December 10, 1958, it was announced that the first issue of the *Specification Associate* would be published in May 1959. The issue went to press May 13. It was said at the time that the magazine would be the national voice of the Association. A mock-up of a front page for the proposed magazine was presented. The advertising rates were set: full page \$200; two-thirds page \$160 and half page \$110. By the autumn of 1959 it was estimated that the magazine would soon be selling 40 pages of advertising.

Also in December 1958, the secretary was instructed to proceed with the publication of the membership roster for the current fiscal year and to include a cross-reference section listing names of firms alphabetically. This section was further divided into two lists: active and associate, leaving out the firms addresses.

At an executive meeting held on November 11, 1959, it was announced that profit from the Fall 1959 issue of the



D.H. Brough
SWA President, 1955-1956

"The specification writer is a man essentially of contradictions, a man of understanding, but a very diverse person. He is very experienced but he is a jack of all trades. He is knowledgeable and studious. He is versatile. He is inquisitive. He is aggressive and yet stubborn. He is determined but nevertheless patient. He is forward looking but at the same time conservative with a small 'c'. He is both stubborn and considerate. The specification writer has a lot of research work to do and he has been asked how he does it. Well, frankly, I'm sure my fellow spec writers will agree with me that most of this is done in so-called spare time. This is the way of life at present."

Specification Associate was estimated at \$1,500. A membership application blank was included in the issue.

The *Specification Associate*, published quarterly since its inception in 1959, was published six times per year beginning in 1962. The advertising department sold 167 and 3/4 pages in 1961. Circulation in 1961 stood at 2,500, verified by the Canadian Circulations Audit Bureau. By 1961, income from the *Specification Associate* had become “[a] most necessary supplement to membership fees if we intend to continue expansion of the aims and objectives of specification writing.”

In 1962, six issues of the *Specification Associate* were published with 220 pages of advertising. The expansion from four to six issues was deemed very successful. In 1963 it was planned to publish six issues and in 1964 possibly 12.

First Employee

In June 1959, SWAC hired its first paid employee, Moya Walsh. Walsh was actually an employee of the firm of Frost-Fernandez Associates, which at that time, supplied the office space for the Association. For the sum of \$50 per week Walsh provided all the secretarial services required by the SWAC on a part-time basis. Frost-Fernandez also installed a business telephone under the listing of Specification Writers Association of Canada. In March 1960, it was agreed that Walsh would become a full-time stenographer for SWAC and would attend executive meetings.

New Offices

In February 1960, Russ Cornell submitted that as the association needed more space than could be provided at the offices of Frost-Fernandez, the time had come for the SWAC to have its own office space. A committee was formed to study the cost of renting and equipping suitable office space.

A special meeting of the Board of Directors was held on March 30, 1960 to discuss the rental of office space at 57 Bloor St. West. Cornell informed the meeting that 400 square feet of space, with an eastern exposure, was available. It had one common room, large enough to accommodate a meeting of 10 to 12 people and two smaller offices. The space was available on April 1, 1960 on a one-year lease. If a three-year lease was taken, partitions would be moved to suit and the area would be redecorated.

In June 1960, with membership now at 575, the association took a step forward and signed a three-year lease on its first permanent office. The owner agreed to spend \$300 to redecorate the premises and the Furniture Committee was empowered to spend up to \$2,200 on furnishings. Rent on the space was \$125 per month, plus \$10 for air conditioning, for a total cost of \$135. In 1963, an additional 360 square feet of office space, next door to the existing office, was rented for an additional \$100 per month.

In September 1960, it was agreed that the association would buy a Chubb #9206, two-drawer, legal-size safe file at a cost of \$365, which, to this day, is still in the association office.

By February 1961, the volume of work passing through the office made it necessary to bring in extra personnel to handle the overflow of typing. The Board agreed to spend \$700 to acquire a new typewriter, adding machine, filing cabinet, stenographer’s chair and typing table. The final cost was \$590.51. The services of a temporary typist were available at a rate of \$1.87 per hour. A wall stand and coat stand, as well as rugs and draperies were considered to complete the office furnishings.

Board of Directors

With the formation of the national Association, it was considered necessary in November 1958, that the chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee be a member of the Board of Directors. J.K. McBride was appointed to this position.

In March 1959, the Nominating Committee recommended that a minimum of 10 directors be nominated. Robert Briggs pointed out that Henri S. Labelle of Montréal had been nominated as vice-president, which would indicate that meetings would not always be held in Toronto. The SWAC dues for 1959 were set at \$15. The chapters received \$5 of that total.

In May 1960, Claude Jarrett asked the Board to consider the matter of representation on the Board by a member of the Montréal chapter. After much consideration it was agreed that Henri S. Labelle or D.G. McKinstry (both Montréal members) be invited to act as secretary of the association and attend meetings of the Board of Directors in Toronto.

Membership

In the early days of SWAC, the question of membership was often discussed but debate centred on the quality, rather than the quantity of members. In June 1960, after considerable discussion, it was agreed that in the interest of maintaining high quality membership in the Association, new members would be very thoroughly screened as to their qualifications for membership in either active or associate groups.

In 1959, the question of membership cards was discussed. Victor Fernandez presented two mock-ups of a membership card. By 1962, membership cards were being printed in two colours: primrose for active members and green for

associate members. They were endorsed through the speed-o-mat system and forwarded through the national office.

It was recommended by Claude Jarrett that chapters end their fiscal year on March 31 in order to coincide with the year-end of the national association.

In early 1961, with membership in the Association at 618, the question was raised as to whether an SWAC member who left a firm that had paid his annual dues, would still be considered a member. The Board's decision was that a firm could not join the Association and that SWAC should not be concerned about where the fee originated. It was also agreed that membership could not be transferred.



O.E. Letherland
SWA President, 1956-1957

Executive Director

By September 1960, the Association saw a need to recognize the work and time that Russell Cornell was spending as an unpaid editor of the *Specification Associate*. To compensate Cornell for his time, it was agreed he would be given a three-year contract to edit the magazine and paid 20 percent of the net revenue on a

In the event of a discrepancy between the drawings and specifications,
“the specification shall govern.”

per issue basis — but only after all the outstanding accounts had been paid in full.

Cornell, who had been acting as a volunteer executive director since 1957, was also asked to continue in that position as his knowledge of the Association made him the best person available when it came to interpreting of the wishes of the Board. There was no compensation for this position and Cornell would attend all Board meetings in an advisory capacity but with no voting powers.

Executive Committee Formed

At a special Board of Directors meeting in June 1961, Russell Cornell proposed that, due to the geographical spread of the Board of Directors, an Executive Committee should be appointed by the Board to conduct the day-to-day business of the Association. It was agreed that the Executive Committee would be made up of seven people. Three members, two of which must be active members, would form a quorum. By August 1961, membership was 741.

By 1961, the Board of Directors had expanded to include the president, vice-president, past president, secretary, treasurer and five directors representing the construction industry disciplines of architects, engineers, general contractors, trade contractors and manufacturers/suppliers.

Amendments to the bylaws passed at the annual general meeting in April 1962 included one to formally create the post of executive director. The executive director would be elected by the membership and be a member of the Board of Directors. In 1962, the Board was expanded to include a first vice-president and a second vice-president with one elected per year for a two-year term. The executive director became a non-voting member of the Board along with the addition of a registrar, a

director representing specification writers and two directors from each of the Toronto and Montréal chapters. Also, representation for the industrial members was increased to two directors for each discipline. Membership in April 1962 was 779, of which 38.6 percent were specification members, 59.9 percent industrial members and 1.5 percent associate members.

Chapter Formation

It was moved and carried, in March 1963, that a change should be made to the bylaw governing the minimum membership in chapters as it was restrictive and also that the term “provisional chapters” be eliminated. The bylaw was revised to read that eight or more specification members and 12 or more industrial members were needed to form a chapter.

In March 1963, it was brought to the attention of the board by Executive Director Russ Cornell that the membership ratio was now disproportionate. He asked if the Board felt it should institute a drive to bring in more specification members and if a slow-down on the acceptance of industrial members should begin. It was suggested that the Association should be more selective in accepting new members and that industrial applicants should be required to have a reference from a specification member.

At the Annual Business Meeting, held at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montréal on April 26, 1963, it was reported that membership stood at 910, which included 336 specification and 507 industrial members.

Profiles

Art Harper, SWAC President, 1954-55. The Summer 1960 issue of the *Specification Associate* published this profile of Art W.

Harper, the first president of SWAC:

One of the outstanding memories of my long career is the founding of the Specification Writers Association. During the progress of my effort I had the valued assistance of Max Bennet, an associate engineer with John H. Ross and Associates and Denis Brough with John B. Parkin and Associates.

I will always remember the co-operation received from those representing general contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers and specification writers to whom I feel indebted for their advice during the founding of this organization.

The forming of the Association was primarily to provide a liaison group between general contractors, subcontractors, specification writers and their employers. The goal: The better understanding and co-ordination of effort, to produce the utmost in fulfillment of the most satisfactory construction - this being the ultimate desire of the members of the Specification Writers Association.

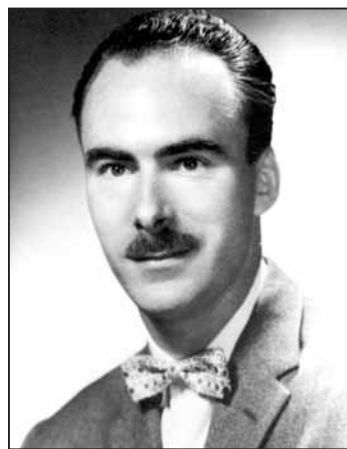
Upon graduation from the Central Technical School in Toronto, Harper went on to a construction career that included work with the Materials and Testing Laboratories of the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario and Noranda Mines Ltd., where he was the supervisor in charge of outside construction and the company's specification writer. After the war he was employed by Govan, Ferguson, Lindsay, Kaminker, Langley, Keenleyside Architects where his work included writing architectural trade specifications for the superstructure of Sick Children's Hospital, New Mount Sinai Hospital, Moncton General Hospital and many other similar buildings.

I suggest to those, who contemplate specification writing, as a source of income, that they obtain, "on the job," all practical experience possible — such experience to be used in conjunction with architectural and engineering theory. I have found that my wide experience in the field has been a major help in writing and

co-ordinating specifications. Insofar as the setting up and writing of specifications is concerned, I have found that various principals have various opinions as to procedure. Personally I favour all subsection and subdivision titles and numbers be on the right-hand side of the page. In my opinion, a day in any conscientious specification writer's life is lost, unless during that day he has learned something to further the betterment of building construction."

Mr. Harper passed away on December 14, 1967.

Denis Brough, FSWA, RSW, SWAC president, 1955-56, was thrust into specification writing in 1949 when working as a draftsman for John B. Parkin, Architects, in Toronto. He joined the Construction Specifications Institute in the United States a couple of years later and in 1954 was one of a few spec writers who organized a meeting at the King Edward Hotel in downtown Toronto to see what could be started in Canada. About 40 people attended and SWAC was born. A committee was formed and Brough was elected first past president, with Art Harper as president. The next year, Brough was elected president, led many smoke-filled meetings at the OAA headquarters building on Park Road, and visited London and Montréal trying to spark interest in the Association. In 1968, when Russ Cornell left for Italy, Brough was asked to take over the editorship of the SWAC correspondence course and he did. Many RSWs look back on the course as their bible in specification writing practice. In 1970, Brough was elected to the College of Fellows and later became dean of the college and chair of the Registration Board. He received a Life Membership in 1994. He was also an associate at Neish Owen Rowland and Roy, and was responsible for the specifications for Toronto City Hall and the Four Seasons Hotel, among many projects. He developed his firm's computerized specs when many people



L.S. Frost
SWA President, 1957-1958

"I have observed some architectural firms that protect their hard-earned specification experiences as if they were a classified secret. We are in an age where independence spells obsolescence. I am positive every member of the SWAC, with its representatives from all phases of the construction industry, can, with a little effort, extract far more knowledge than he, or any one firm, can ever contribute."

said it wouldn't work, and was co-ordinator for the development of the product forms by NORR for the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce's computerized information retrieval system. Denis Brough passed away on November 9, 2001.

Stuart Frost, FCSC, RSW, SWAC president 1957-58. In the Winter 1960 issue of the *Specification Associate*, Frost provided this "specification" about himself: an overview of his career and time with SWAC.

Offhand it should be easy as the construction is substantially complete, except that it might require some probing to establish what's behind the plaster.

[General Conditions:] To tell the truth; the facts, figures experiences and viewpoints.

Scope includes work as a freelance specification writer; technical literature consultant; member of three SWAC committees and art director of the Specification Associate.

[Workmanship:] "Worked for Earle L. Sheppard, Architect and later for Shore and Moffat, Architects. In 1957 established a freelance specification writing service for architects, in partnership with R.V. Fernandez, a lifelong friend.

[Under Installation he wrote:] Helped erect the SWA banner plumb and true. Attended the original meeting of the specification writers assembled by Denis Brough, to discuss organizing an association. Have served on the board as president and many committees during the early stages of our association.

[Under Protection he wrote:] I have observed some architectural firms that protect their hard-earned specification experiences as if they were a classified secret. We are in an age where independence spells obsolescence. I am positive every member of the SWAC, with its representatives from all phases of the construction industry, can, with a little effort, extract far more

knowledge than he, or any one firm, can ever contribute.

[Testing:] I have never been analyzed by an approved testing agency, so I cannot confirm whether I conform to CSA, CGSB, ASTM or ASA standards, however, at times I am sure I conform to Beatnik Standards.

[Adjusting:] It is every specification writer's duty to keep abreast of the rapidly advancing methods, products and techniques of this complex industry. This is the lifeblood of specifications and, also, one of the most interesting phases of the work.

[Clean-Up:] Specifications require clean-up regularly. They should be kept up-to-date, practical, and free from ambiguous double-talk. In order to maintain respect for specifications, nothing should be written into them which cannot be enforced.

[Guarantee:] Many problems lie ahead of us. They must be solved if we are to prosper and grow. I am confident the potentials in Canada are limitless for the conscientious workers and that the SWAC will contribute a very useful and influential part towards our guarantee for the future.

Frost served as the editor of the *Specification Associate*, later *Construction Canada*, on four different occasions, which totalled 16 of the magazine's first 34 years of existence.

Over the years Frost was recognized for his many contributions to SWAC and CSC, receiving the Toronto Chapter Award of Merit on more than one occasion. He was inducted into the CSC College of Fellows in 1972. In 1996, he was honoured with CSC's Life Membership Award. Stuart Frost passed away on November 19, 2000.

Robert E. Briggs, SWAC president 1958-59. In the Spring 1959 issue of the *Specification Associate*, Robert E. Briggs of Bregman and Hamann, Architects wrote on the need for standards:

Once we approach the business of specification writing objectively, we immediately recognize the need to establish standards



R.E. Briggs
SWA President, 1958-1959

"I have observed some architectural firms that protect their hard-earned specification experiences as if they were a classified secret. We are in an age where independence spells obsolescence. I am positive every member of the SWAC, with its representatives from all phases of the construction industry, can, with a little effort, extract far more knowledge than he, or any one firm, can ever contribute."

of materials and workmanship. Each standard can only be established through the joint efforts of the architect, manufacturer and contractor.

Recognizing the problems facing my profession, I joined with a group of fellow professionals to help found SWAC in 1954. It was the founders' belief that improved standards of specification practices could only be achieved through the collective action of an association comprised of all segments of the construction industry.

I have continued to be a member of the SWAC because in the short space of four years this association has proven by its activities, its growth and its recognition in the industry that it is the organization uniquely qualified to achieve its objective — the betterment of specification writing and practices. Its success is assured by the devoted efforts of its membership.

I know that by working with the SWAC I have the best opportunity possible to find better ways to write specifications. Above all, I can effectively participate in the national development of good standards for workmanship and materials and the establishment of better testing methods.

Through the work of the SWAC I look forward to taking part in the development of improvements in materials and construction that heretofore I would not have dreamed possible. Remember, as professionals we have no divine right to leadership — rather leadership is naturally assumed by earning it. By belonging to and actively working with the SWAC we have such an opportunity to give professional leadership.

Briggs was elected to the College of Fellows in 1972, and was awarded a Life Membership in 1998. Mr. Briggs was a founding member of the Association in 1954, served as a director in the early years and as treasurer from 1955 to 1958. He was the president in 1958-59 and was among the group that developed the BCI, the forerunner of today's MasterFormat.

Claude Jarrett, SWAC president, 1959-60. This profile of Jarrett was published in the Fall 1959 issue of the *Specification Associate*.

Following in the footsteps of his father, Claude Jarrett began the study of architecture in 1938 at the regent Polytechnic School of Architecture in London, England. With the declaration of war the drafting pen became less mighty than the sword and for the next six years Jarrett served with the British Army in both England and the Far East. He resumed his studies in 1946.

“The impenetrable maze of rules and regulations hampering rebuilding and development in England after the war were largely responsible for the passage of a least one new architectural graduate to Canada,” he wrote. After a tour of Canada, Jarrett began his career as a job captain with the firm of Govan Ferguson Lindsay and Keenleyside Architects.

Two years later he joined the staff of Rounthwaite and Fairfield, Architects, where he was asked to assist with specifications, a subject that had always attracted him. “Many specifications have passed under my writing bridge since 1952 and it is indeed gratifying, from time to time, to learn that some have been copied by other offices. This is certainly not an undesirable situation because I believe that specification writing should not be a profession of carefully guarded secrets, but a continuous process always being brought up-to-date.

“It is impossible for any one person to keep abreast of technological developments throughout the whole gamut of the building industry. That is why it is essential that a central source of knowledge be made available to everyone concerned with the writing of construction specifications.

“In 1954, I sat down with a group of architects, engineers, general contractors, trade contractors and material suppliers, brought together for the purpose of organizing an association dedicated to the task of improving construction specifications.

From this group there has grown a national association of more than 425 members. I'm glad that I was there at the beginning, for the same reason that I am proud to hold the office of president today, because from my desk at the offices of Page and Steele, Architects, where I am responsible for the work of the specification department, I can see that supporting the Specification Writers Association of Canada is the likeliest key to better value for the construction dollar."

Claude S. Jarrett was the recipient of a Life Membership Award in 1995, the highest honour bestowed on a member of the Association. A founding member of the Association, Jarrett served on the board of directors in the early years and as president in 1959. As chair of the Chapter Formation Committee he travelled across the country to help form new chapters. Jarrett was elected to the College of Fellows in 1971.

T.S. (Stan) Wallis, SWAC president, 1960-61. The Fall 1960 issue of the *Specification Associate* contained this article by T.S. (Stan) Wallis.

"As a member, looking back almost seven short years, I am amazed at the ground that has been covered; as President, I want to know why it took so long. Actually, the record of accomplishment is most impressive, and this seems to be the opinion in both Canada and the United States."

A graduate of Central Technical School, Wallis chose drafting over Latin. However, "[w]hile looking for a job I discovered it was almost necessary to pay the employer for the privilege of working due to the fact that there was so little demand for new construction (during the Great Depression).

"In the midst of my scramble to exist, the leaders of the great powers began rattling their sabers in preparation for war games. I was invited to take part in the games on a steady-salary basis.



C.S. Jarrett
SWA President, 1959-1960

*"I*n 1954 I sat down with a group of architects, engineers, general contractors, trade contractors and material suppliers, brought together for the purpose of organizing an association dedicated to the task of improving construction specifications. From this group there has grown a national association of more than 425 members. I'm glad that I was there at the beginning, for the same reason that I am proud to hold the office of president today, because from my desk at the offices of Page and Steel, Architects, where I am responsible for the work of the specification department, I can see that supporting the Specification Writers Association of Canada is the likeliest key to better value for the construction dollar."



T.S. Wallis
SWA President, 1960-1961

"In the quest to improve my knowledge for the work which I was doing, I attended as many of the [Specification Writers Association of Canada] meetings as I could possibly manage, realizing that this was a wonderful opportunity to obtain answers to the everyday questions of a specification writer.

"Easily obtainable verbal and written sales pitches are not always the reliable solutions required. Wider comparisons must be made. The cross-section of the construction industry, represented by the Specification Writers Association of Canada, is a central reservoir of knowledge from which all its members can draw. Within its ranks research is the watchword."

This, as it turned out, was my indoctrination into a part of the construction field — demolition without specification."

After the war Wallis once again took up drafting and later specification writing with Barnett and Reider Architects where he worked on churches, schools and penal institutions.

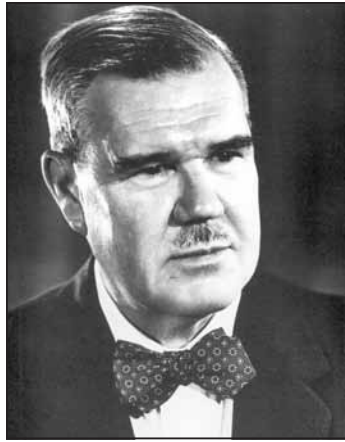
"It was while working on a specification for a kitchen to serve 3,000 meals a day that the company's head spec writer was taken to the hospital and my opportunity to write specifications fulltime was realized.

"About that time, SWAC held its first meeting at the King Edward Sheraton Hotel, Toronto. In the quest to improve my knowledge for the work which I was doing, I attended as many of the meetings as I could possibly manage, realizing that this was a wonderful opportunity to obtain answers to the everyday questions of a specification writer."

After five years he moved on to Foundation of Canada Engineering Corp. "Easily obtainable verbal and written sales pitches are not always the reliable solutions required. Wider comparisons must be made. The cross-section of the construction industry, represented by the Specification Writers Association of Canada, is a central reservoir of knowledge from which all its members can draw. Within its ranks research is the watchword.

"In my opinion a specification writer should be familiar with three books: his local building bylaws, the National Building Code, and the SWAC roster. Knowledge of the first two is mandatory and the last is an assurance that there are a lot of other people interested in producing, as he is, better construction specifications."

Henri S. Labelle, FRAIC, SWAC president, 1961-62. Henri S. Labelle was the first person from outside Toronto to serve as a vice-president of SWAC (1959-61). In 1961, he became the first person from Montréal, and the first person from outside



*H.S. Labelle
SWA President, 1961-1962*

Toronto, to serve as SWAC president. He was a founding member of the Montréal chapter.

Labelle was born in Montréal in 1896 and graduated from McGill University in architecture in 1917. Immediately after obtaining his degree he took a job in New York City where he was involved in wartime housing projects. Back to Montréal, and after working for a few local architects, he opened

his own office in 1925. He directed the practice alone for some 40 years, until taking partners in 1965.

During his career, he built no less than 30 churches and four cathedrals, most of them in the gothic style to which he was particularly attached. The churches he was most proud of were Loyola College Chapel, on what is now the Loyola Campus of the University of Concordia, Notre-Dame des Neiges and Saint-Louis de France churches, all in Montréal. But his overall favourite was the Cathedral of Valleyfield, which, to this day, is one of the better examples of contemporary (1933) gothic. He was also responsible for building the Edmonton Cathedral in Alberta, and the Cathedral of Hearst in Ontario. He was involved in the construction of various types of buildings, the most famous of which was the Sainte-Justine Childrens Hospital (some 850 beds), built in Montréal in the early 1950s.

In the early days of his profession, one of his hobbies was the building of model sail boats (no kits in those days) as sailing was one of his passions. It was only in 1948, at age 52, and after

raising his eight children, that he was finally able to afford his first sailboat. It was followed by two others which he sailed for some 20 years on the lower Saint Lawrence River. The last one was a 44-foot sloop. He was a pioneer in experimenting with fibreglass reinforced resin for boats and covered the wooden hulls of his last two boats with this substance, both to reinforce them and to reduce maintenance. He also rebuilt the cabins and the masts of these two boats. He was a man of great energy, much involved in various professional and community organizations, successively president of the local Kiwanis Club, the Canadian National Association for the Blind and the Specification Writers Association of Canada, in addition to various other architectural and construction associations.

An avid collector of stamps, jewellery, old furniture, clocks and antiques, he undertook the making of jewellery and beaten sheet metal, copper and silver crafts at age 55. He had learned the craft as a young man in New York, during his spare time at his first job. At the age of 77, his last full-time employment in the practice of architecture was as a construction supervisor in the restoration of historic houses in the Place Royale sector of Old Québec. Indefatigable, throughout his long career, he built for himself four houses, the last of which he undertook the construction of at the age of 80. He was married to Ida Mackay in 1920, a union that lasted until her death 61 years later. Henri Labelle passed away in 1989, at the age of 93.

Ivan Lavender, FCSC, RSW, SWAC president, 1962-63. Ivan joined CSC in 1957. An active member of the Ottawa chapter, he served as chapter director and chair and helped to author SWAC's first Home Study Program. Further, he positioned SWAC as a leading provider of private sector input into NMS, which ultimately lead to its transformation from the Government Master Specification to today's highly regarded National



I.H. Lavender
SWA President, 1962-1963

"I believe the SWAC will become a powerful organization in the construction industry of tomorrow, holding similar status to the United Nations in world politics. It will be an association looked upon to provide solutions to problems, and set honourable standards for the course of the construction industry.

"To all those who would aspire to specification writing, a word of warning – don't ever be complacent. Think and write clearly, and as concisely as possible, and, by all means, factually. If these simple, but all important points are borne in mind, the task will be a little easier."

Master Specification. He was among the first members elected to the College of Fellows in 1967. He was received a Life Membership Award in 2000.

The Spring 1960 issue of the *Specification Associate* carried the following profile of Lavender.

After studying at the Ryerson Institute of Technology, Lavender joined the firm of Shore and Moffat Architects as an architectural draftsman. In 1955, he became a member of Shore and Moffat's specification department, where he worked under L. Stuart Frost. When Frost left Shore and Moffat, he became head of the specification department.

He says: "Under Mr. Frost I received a thorough training in the art of specification writing. I was very fortunate to have had such a fine teacher during my training."

Soon after joining the specification department, he joined SWAC, serving on several committees and as chairman of the Toronto District chapter.

"My original reason for joining SWAC was that I felt I could personally benefit by being a member of such an association. I am sure I have. However, after a very short time as a member, my outlook took an entirely different course. I suddenly realized that I, in my own small way, could raise the standards and integrity of the construction industry. The specification writer can do this by writing clear, concise, honest specifications. This, as we all know, is one of the aims of the SWAC.

"The SWAC, as I see it, is an association where all individuals engaged in the construction industry have an equal voice, a common meeting ground where problems can be discussed openly and, we hope, solved to the liking of all concerned.

"I believe the SWAC will become a powerful organization in the construction industry of tomorrow, holding similar status to the United Nations in world politics. It will be an association

looked upon to provide solutions to problems, and set honourable standards for the course of the construction industry.

“To all those who would aspire to specification writing, a word of warning — don’t ever be complacent. Think and write clearly, and as concisely as possible, and, by all means, factually. If these simple, but all important points are borne in mind, the task will be a little easier.”

Peter Temple Murray Barott, FRAIC, SWAC president, 1963-64. On December 16, 1964, SWAC members were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Peter Temple Murray Barott, past president of the Specification Writers Association of Canada. Peter was the vice-president of the Council of the Province of Québec Architects and the chair of two committees.

Founder of the firm David, Barott, Boulva, Architects, he served as architect commissioner for Westmount, Québec. As past chair of the Montréal chapter of SWAC and the Association’s president, 1963-64, members remembered Barott’s immeasurable contribution toward improvement of building specifications in Canada. In 1965 the SWAC Awards of Excellence were renamed in honour of Barott, the originator of the program.

Russell Cornell, FSWA, FCSC, first SWAC executive director and first editor of the *Specification Associate*. Russell W. Cornell was a key figure in the early years of SWAC and added many innovative dimensions to association activities. He was at the first organizational meeting of SWAC in 1954 and in 1957, he was appointed SWAC’s first executive director. During his term, which ended in 1967, he founded and edited *Specification Associate* magazine (1959-67), founded and administered SWAC’s correspondence course in architectural/engineering specification writing, assembled the Building Construction Index (forerunner to the Uniform Construction Index), co-ordinated the



*P.T.M. Barott
SWA President, 1963-1964*

“A good specification writer today, and even more so tomorrow, occupies a very important position in an architect’s office. He must know how, and where, to get the best information possible, since he acts as a sort of small research centre within his own office. He is frequently called upon to solve problems of detail and use of materials during the design and working-drawings phase.

“The pattern has already been set for the future and it is evident that, as time goes on, more and more information will become available to the specification writer who will have had proper university training and therefore, a fundamental knowledge of the science of building materials.”

national technical program and chaired the Canadian section of the SWAC/CSI International Committee. He received six Merit Awards from SWAC and the President's Plaque from CSI in recognition of his contribution to improved construction specifications. He was also elected to the SWAC College of Fellows in 1967. He was raised on a farm in Scarborough and joined the family construction business. His career took him from the Naval Shipbuilding Division of the Department of Munitions and Supply in World War II to the Semet-Solvay Engineering Division of Allied Chemical and Dye, in New York, as construction superintendent of illuminating gas plants in the United States and Canada. In 1949, he came back to Canada, to the Western Waterproofing Co. of Canada, where he was president and general manager, and later chair of the Board. In semi-retirement, he reactivated his interest in writing, painting and agricultural practices. He authored many articles for Canadian and American periodicals and also had some success in the novel and playwriting fields. Cornell passed away on June 11, 1977.

Maxwell Bennett, P. Eng., one of the original founders of the Association in 1954, was treasurer of the Association for a number of years, contributed articles to *Specification Associate* magazine and supported many projects such as the correspondence course for specification writers. In 1979, when he was honoured as a Fellow, he was a member of CSC's Registration Board.

Harry Eve was also one of the original founding members of SWAC in 1954. An industrial member, Harry represented his employer, Dominion Sound Equipment, later Donn Products (Canada) Ltd. He was a director of SWAC for the years 1954-56, representing the trade contractors. This was in the embryo years when the spade work of the organization was both a task and a challenge. Harry's company, Dominion Sound was

also a great supporter of the Association. Dominion Sound paid the \$50 cost of renting the room at the King Edward Hotel where the original organization meeting of SWAC was held. Harry, who passed away on October 31, 1969, was remembered as one of the most regular and punctual members at chapter, regional and national meetings. He contributed further through written articles on ceiling suspension systems and acoustical treatments. His quiet manner and dignified personality were sorely missed by his many friends and associates.

Bob G. Liptrap. During 1959-60, Bob Liptrap was a director on the National Board and chair of the Chapter Operations Committee and the Membership Committee. He was also the administrator of the National Technical Committee from 1960 to 1963 and a member of the triumvirate directing the technical program at the time. He was also a past president of the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors and was associated with the construction industry for more than half a century. He was elected an Honourary Life Member of SWAC in 1975 by the Board of Directors.

Spec Innovations

Liaison

Liaison with other associations was an important topic in the early days of SWAC. One of the first groups to recognize the need for closer ties was the Ontario Association of Architects. At a meeting of the OAA, held in 1959, a motion was adopted to set up a committee to work with SWAC in the development of a complete set of material standards. In February 1960, the OAA was advised that Robert Briggs and Russ Cornell would

represent SWAC on the Joint Committee on Building Standards and Research.

A letter received by the Board in June 1961, announced the appointment of D. Molesworth as OAA representative to SWAC. The Board noted that it was the first time the OAA had appointed an architect to sit on the SWAC Board.

Liaison with the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) of the United States was on the minds of the executive from the very earliest days of the association. Many of the original founders of SWAC were also members of CSI. Discussions on the subject of liaison began in Cleveland in the spring of 1958. In April 1959, the Board authorized the SWAC president to attend the CSI convention as the official representative of SWAC. A report submitted by Claude Jarrett and Victor Fernandez in November 1959 dealt with liaison with CSI. A motion was adopted by the SWAC Board for an exchange of publications and correspondence with CSI.

Standard Format and Index

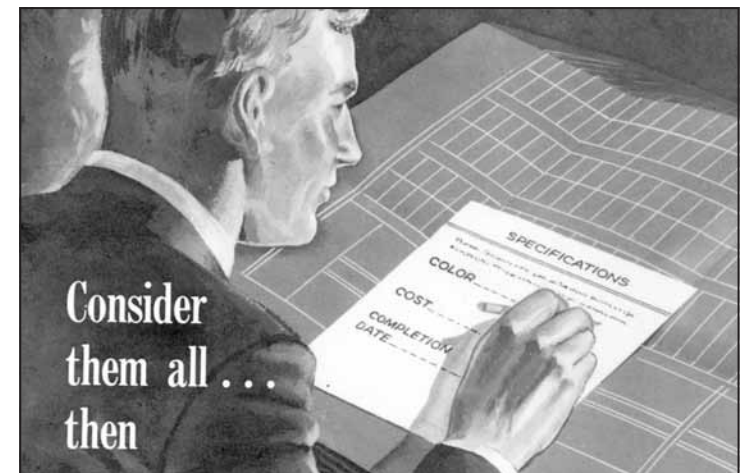
In the fall of 1960, CSI and SWAC formed what became known as the International Joint Committee. Its purpose was to develop a liaison between the two bodies. A delegation, including Professor Gerry Raymore, Gordon Liptrap and Russ Cornell attended the first meeting held in Niagara Falls. By March 1961, the Committee was discussing the adoption of an International Standard Specification Format. Further discussions took place at the annual CSI convention in New York in 1961. The format was published in the *Specification Associate*, in the Winter 1961 issue, for comment and criticism.

In July 1961, Russ Cornell wrote the CSI to propose a plan for the international study of the format and index. It was suggested that two chapters of SWAC, Ottawa and Toronto, study

the CSI Format and two chapters of CSI, New York and Atlanta, study the SWAC Format. It was then proposed that the participants form an international committee to put the project into effect. It was hoped the final results would lead to an international format and index, if possible.

Reporting on the relationship with CSI, in the spring of 1962, R. Gordon Liptrap, the administrator of the National Technical Committee said: "A liaison between CSI and SWAC will allow both bodies to review the system each is using to prepare standard specifications. It is hoped that the new system will give more direction to the trade committees preparing specifications as each specification will follow a standard format."

A report by the joint SWAC/CSI committee engaged in reviewing the SWAC Interim Standard Format for Construction Specifications was made in April 1962. Comment was made that the SWAC format did not fully cover or adequately describe the various subdivisions that were necessary for a number of trade specifications. The Committee gave careful consideration to the



Specifications simplified, circa 1959.

format used by CSI with a view to combining the best of both the SWAC and CSI formats. Upon completion of the analysis, a report was to be submitted to the National Technical Committee for comment and study. In the interim, the trade committees were asked to prepare specifications using the format that had been in use since 1959.

The Standard Index, as published in the *Specification Associate* in 1962, generated a great deal of interest among the membership. They were, however, split on whether or not to adopt it. Russell Cornell reported that CSI had already developed a standard index and hoped that SWAC would produce one as soon as possible. He suggested this be made a national project.

Published in August 1962, the proposed Standard Index — which is the beginnings of the MasterFormat — had 40 suggested divisions, 28 of which were completed. It was eventually abandoned in favour of the 16-division Format, however, it was an early step in creating the final format.

A major project of SWAC, the standard system of indexing divisions and subdivisions of construction specifications was published for comment. “The basic principle in a standard index,” it was noted at the time, “is to allot a permanent number to each division and subdivision. The system provides a comprehensive checklist on all projects and enables suppliers and contractors to more quickly establish the materials and trades specified. This should speed the estimating process and reduce overhead costs.”

It was also noted that a standard index would enable the subcontractors to quickly ascertain whether there was any work of interest to them, available on the project.

Discussion on a standard method of indexing moved to the international level. The Joint Committee of SWAC and CSI considered the possibility of developing a standard index common

to both Canada and the United States. Meanwhile, SWAC had the task of completing its own.

By June 1963, CSI had introduced a radically new format for building specifications, the 16-division Format. While not immediately accepted, the format eventually won out over all other competing formats and indexes. The issue was discussed in the *Specification Associate*:

Several organizations, including the SWAC, have been working toward the development of an improved standard index for construction specifications. The Construction Specifications Institute of the United States has produced one. On reviewing the new format Henry Wright, president of the American Institute of Architects sent the following telegram to CSI President Edwin Pairo: “AIA Board approved CSI 16 Spec Division Titles recommendations as basis for future AIA spec checklist, filing system, spec work sheets and BPR.”

Copies of the new format were to be made available for written comment by SWAC.

Explaining the need for the standard format, Robert E. Briggs, SWAC president, 1958-59, said: “In those early days each office wrote their own specifications and grouped their specification book in their own way, using what they called chapters or sections. Some of them would call masonry number one, some number two and some would call it 13. It was all over the map. It was completely individual and they were jealous of their own system. But the poor tradespeople, the contractors, or anybody who had to use the thing, had to find their way around in the system. Unless they did a lot of work for that particular architect or engineer, they would have to learn the system. So that was one objective, to get some common ground.

“We were convinced a standard format was essential to overcome the difficulties of each individual office having their own

system. We didn't invent the 16-division Format, but saw it as a major step forward.

"The CSI published the 16-division Format in 1963, but they couldn't sell it to their members. Sweets, the big publisher in the United States, had 39 divisions and they wanted to keep 39, but other people didn't find that convenient. Fortunately the Canadian division of Sweets, under Frank Spandenberg, saw the value of a national standard. He said: 'You guys want to go 16 divisions, I'll go with you.' So we did. We launched it in Canada several years before the Americans. Of course we also had the support of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC). I phoned (RAIC) and I said I was recommending it. In those days things were simpler. They said: 'If you say that's the way to go Bob, then that's the way it is.' Don Cameron was a spec writer in my firm and along with Russ Cornell, the three of us put it together. That's the way it was done in those days. It was amazing, you got things done. It was a lot of work, but you got a lot of satisfaction out of being able to do things without a lot of red tape.

"The 16-division Format was a completely new approach. We had to sell it to people in the city. Fortunately a lot of people agreed that it was for the good of the cause overall. I didn't agree with the way everything was set up in the 16-Division Format, but I could see the value of having something as a common base. That was an exciting thing, because it was a breakthrough from the individual system.

"The Americans just couldn't sell it to their members so it was used in Canada first. We just took the bull by the horns and said 'Okay, let's go ahead,' because we had no objections here. But they [the Americans] were nervous because Sweets was so powerful down there. They were stumbling over it for a long time."

In May 1963, the SWAC Board agreed to accept and print the Standard Index and Standard Format. Plans for processing specifications were also approved. A specification officer was assigned to each division of a specification to revise it to the SWAC Standard Format. The division would then be reviewed by an advisory committee and presented as a green specification.

It was moved and carried that the Standard Format be approved subject to changing the numbering system to a decimal system. The sections were as follows:

- 1) General Conditions
- 2) Shop Drawings
- 3) Guarantee or Bond
- 4) Cash Allowance
- 5) Inspection and Testing
- 6) Work Under Other Division
- 7) Separate, Unit or Alternate Prices
- 8) Fabrication
- 9) Workmanship
- 10) Erections and Application
- 11) Materials
- 12) Scope

In November 1963, Peter T.M. Barott reported on the CSI meeting held in Washington DC on the Standard Index. Barott and Russell Cornell were elected to represent Canada on this committee. A further meeting was planned for January, where delegates would be asked to bring forward the views of their respective associations.

In August 1963, the *Specification Associate* tackled the issue of sections and divisions: What they were and how to use them. The problem was, many specification writers had used the words "division" and "section" interchangeably, which had led

to some misunderstandings. In the CSI Format these two words did not have the same meaning. The word “division” was used to denote a group of sections. Under the new format, divisions were the permanent, unchanging framework of the format. They were now fixed in number and name. The section became the unit of work that was currently used in a specification.

Supplementary General Conditions

In 1962, SWAC formed a committee to study supplementary general conditions. Objections were received almost immediately and a meeting was arranged between SWAC, CCA and RAIC to discuss the committee’s work. The task of reviewing this controversial document proved difficult as approval of the RAIC and CCA was required before any changes could be made.

In January 1963, discussions began with CCA and OAA on the proposed supplementary general conditions. It was agreed they would not be distributed without study and modification by CCA. A letter from the National Joint Committee on Standard Documents and Procedures and the CCA stated that the Standard General Conditions were copyrighted by CCA and any amendments should be made by CCA. By publishing a report for its members, SWAC could infringe on the copyright. In order to explain its position, SWAC asked for a meeting with the National Joint Committee on Standard Documents and Procedures. SWAC also began efforts to seek official representation on the joint committee.

Eventually, SWAC did get recognition from RAIC and CCA. As Robert Briggs, SWAC president in 1958-59 recalled in a 2003 interview, “I was on the Ontario Association of Architects’ legal committee for about 16 years. We were members of a national association of architects, engineers and contractors that

became the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC). We produced all of the standard construction documents. I remember convincing the committee, although it wasn’t very hard, to add SWAC as a member. I felt profoundly that the most valuable committees to be involved in were joint committees that brought all the disciplines together. To this day we are still members of CCDC. As SWAC was a multi-disciplined organization, it did a very much-needed thing — that was improving and unifying our industry and professional skills.

Spec Methods

Writing Specifications

The everyday work of the specification writer was examined by Russell Cornell, editor of the *Specification Associate* in a series of articles. In Volume 1, Issue 1 Cornell wrote that the rapid and ever-accelerating pace of construction since World War II has left less time for the construction specification writer to examine new building products and methods. He proposed that a solution to the problem would be the development of a system of standards governing the manufacture of construction materials.

Cornell reported that a number of organizations had been working on the promotion of material standards but there was still much work to be done. Where no standards existed, the specification writer was forced to write long word descriptions of materials. “The Specification Writers Association of Canada, in collaboration with the Ontario Association of Architects,” he wrote, “is organizing a survey to expand the use of material standards and, where no standards exist, promote the development of new standards.”

In the summer of 1959, Cornell wrote:

Specification writers should be constantly aware that a less costly material specified in one division may increase costs in

another division. Now, as never before, is the time for the construction industry to pool its knowledge in all matters relative to lowering the cost of buildings. It's time to vacate those little islands upon which many of us have continued to operate under the false premise of self sufficiency. The Specification Writers Association of Canada offers a common meeting ground for all sections of the industry. Its object is to create better building specifications.

Standardization of Specifications

Writing in support of standardized construction specifications in 1961, Cornell stated:

Support for standardization in the writing of construction specifications as proposed by CSI and SWAC, has attracted the attention of architectural and engineering offices from coast to coast.

Both the RAIC and the CCA are developing plans to overcome the usually irrelevant and often confusing coat of sales' varnish commonly applied by advertising departments to what might be otherwise, a useful piece of information.

In support of this trend the Specification Associate is supporting a standard format, which will be the pattern for all specifications published by SWAC.

In a report made in April 1962, Robert Briggs wrote: "The 1961-62 year has seen some encouraging moves to promote the use of standards in specification writing. However, a tremendous job is still ahead for those who recognize standards as the keystone to efficient mass production and distribution, both nationally and internationally. In this regard support of the ISO (International Standards Organization) is key."

A Call for Improved Communications

In 1961, Cornell wrote:

Improved communications between manufacturers and specification writers has been needed for some time. Although the RAIC, the CCA and SWAC have supplied acceptable guide patterns for advertising literature, many advertisers still cling to consumer-like presentations.

It is commonly felt by specification writers that a great deal more useful technical data could be included in the mountain of mail addressed to their offices each year. Many manufacturers can well afford to seek improvement in the quality of product advertising and many specification writers can well afford to co-operate in such improvements through constructive criticism directed to manufacturing principals.

Enforcing Technical Conditions

In the April 1962 issue of the *Specification Associate*, Editor Russell Cornell wrote on a common issue of the day facing those whose job it was to enforce the technical conditions.

In a country where favourable weather conditions for construction are relatively limited, greater consideration must be given to specifying materials that are sensitive to temperature and moisture changes. When products are applied in poor conditions, special measures must be taken by the contractor. Unfortunately, most contracts are tendered with little or no margin for special measures and applicators are commonly forced to jeopardize the success of the specified product by applying it under poor conditions.

If the interests of the owner are to be protected, proper conditions must be provided. If the temperature and moisture limits

written into the specification are not enforced in the field, there is no point in writing them.

Early Documents

The following story outlines work done to develop many of the format documents that are used in North America by CSI and CSC and first appeared in Principles of Construction Documentation: Student's Handbook in Module 11, Chapter 1.

The problem of ever expanding specifications and the lack of standards and conventions meant that, by the 1950s, there was an ever-increasing number of topics to be organized. Not only were specifications dealing with more detail, but new materials and methods were being introduced to construction at an increasingly more rapid pace. Contractors were getting headaches in the confusion. Specification writers were scratching their heads over how to locate their requirements in some orderly way. Each specification writer was dividing the immense writing task into work topics called sections (also often called "divisions" or "chapters" or "articles") in highly original ways, in the hope that all the topics would fit together in the end.

Many specification writers planned their writing on a table of contents from a successful earlier job. Suggestions that everybody in a locality arrange specifications in more or less the same order, was not a popular subject for discussion. As an example of the reluctance to "impose" order on chaos, this question was asked of a CSI officer by inquiring Baltimore specification writers in 1959. "Will CSI be advocating a uniform way of arranging sections in the book of specifications?" The answer was essentially negative. As late as 1962, two specification writers walked out of a Baltimore CSI committee meeting and were quoted as saying, "If you think I'm going to share what I have learned over the years, you are sadly mistaken."

WAR ON NOISE DECLARED

Britain Finds Screaming Jets To Be Most Nerve-Wracking

Noise is on the increase, inside and out, finds the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research of Great Britain. According to their recently published Annual Report, jet aircraft are the worst offenders with machinery of all types in next place.

Doctors and scientists of many countries have learned that noise not only injures many people every year, but used as a weapon, can kill. As the chilling list of victims grows longer, many nations prepare for a knock-down war on noise.

The Chairman of Britain's Noise Abatement Society claims that should the world continue to become noisier, we will have to shout at one another to carry on normal conversation—"become a race of shouting maniacs."

While continuing research produces acoustical materials which reduce noise within buildings, the nerve-wracking din increases on the outside.

A noise survey in Britain finds jet aircraft a leading noise-maker while Americans consider pneumatic drills the most obnoxious of noises. Both countries put motorcycle exhausts at the top of the noise list.

The anti-noise war will become stronger as industry tallies up the hundreds of millions of dollars paid annually in compensation to deafened or neurotic workers around the world.

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Dire predictions from 1960's Specification Associate.

In early 1961, one of CSI's standing committees, T-3 Specification Methods, was given the job of studying several proposed systems and making a recommendation. In October 1961, the CSI committee published "A Tentative Proposal for A Manual of Practice for Specification Writing Methods," in five parts, the last of which was titled "Arrangement of Specifications for Building Projects." This 20-part arrangement was actually used in the April 1962 issue of the Construction Specifier (CSI's flagship magazine) to classify the articles that had been published during 1961. However, it was never actually known to ever have been used for specification writing.

In 1962, a standing committee was appointed to co-ordinate efforts in the specification methods area to attack the problem of how specification writers, coast-to-coast, could arrange items of work. A call had been issued for typical tables of contents from all over the country, and the response was heartening if not overwhelming for the small committee of three. In addition to helping specification writers to plan, the idea was to help bidders and builders find information in some consistent manner without being on the phone to the specification writers all the time. Specifically, when the committee looked at the long lists of work sections that had been submitted by many specification writers, they realized that an alphabetical list of titles, from Abandonment of Structures to Zinc Roofing work, would be unmanageable. They realized that to make a usable system, they would have to collect the huge number of work items under a few major categories.

Remarkably they did this over a weekend early in 1963, at the DuPont Hotel in Washington, D.C. At this time it's worth mentioning that this CSI Ad Hoc Committee consisted of Rolf Retz, Francis Freyberg, and Bernard Rothschild, with the addition of Donald McFarlan. Elliot Howes Gage, PE, was also present at the meeting, but had no vote: His account describes him as a

"mechanical/electrical observer." Incidentally, Retz and Freyberg were civil and chemical engineers by education but were deeply involved in architecture and the site and building engineering that goes with it. This was truly a national group originating in Sacramento, New York, Atlanta and Chicago respectively.

It was necessary to find a few pigeonholes, which they called "divisions," which would accommodate the many items of work ("sections"). The committee was able to agree that general requirements and sitework were special, one by its overall application and the other in dealing with location of the work. They could also see that architectural specialties, building equipment, and special construction had no internal logic and were best handled by making lists arranged alphabetically. Except for mechanical and electrical, it then appeared that all other work items could be distributed among nine divisions that would very roughly follow the chronology of construction. Thus we got nine divisions that started with concrete work and ended with elevators and the furnishing of each space.

What to do then with plumbing, special piping and fixtures, fire protection, ventilating, heating, air conditioning, electric power and distribution, communications work, and controls, each of which are executed through several phases of construction, and with much interrelation? Although the majority of the Ad Hoc Committee agreed that five divisions for mechanical and electrical would be preferable, only two were allowed. The Ad Hoc Committee voted unanimously in favour of a 16-Division format.

We know that the CSI Format for Construction Specifications was published in April 1963, but no copies are known to exist. There is at least one copy of a later edition, with the same title, copyrighted in 1964, which is believed to be practically identical.

Technology

Technical Innovations

In April 1959, a National Technical Committee was formed for the purpose of analyzing and checking specifications that had been drafted by trade committees. Many specifications of the day did not follow any format and required a great deal of rewriting. It was felt a more complete standard format would be of great assistance to the trade committees and would expedite processing.

In March 1960, Gordon Liptrap was appointed the administrator of the National Technical Committee. One of the Committee's first tasks was work on the Standard Index, which was carried out by the Toronto chapter. At a meeting of the Board of Directors in September 1960, it was agreed that a provincial technical committee should be set up in both Ontario and Québec to supplement the National Technical Committee. This was deemed necessary as SWAC had plans to eventually publish as many as 400 guide specifications.

In March 1963, the production of specifications was such that it was necessary for the National Technical Committee to hire paid part-time help. The firm of Frost-Fernandez Associates was hired to assist the Committee and to make a survey as to the most efficient way of processing specifications through the Committee.

In remarks made at the annual convention in April 1963, SWAC President Ivan Lavender stated: "We have accepted the five-part study produced by the Construction Specifications Institute in the United States. Our contribution to the final six-part study is the Standard Format. The use of a common Standard Format will mean that all specifications produced in North America will follow the same format."

Education

On a trip to Pittsburg in 1958, Robert Briggs met with members of CSI who informed him that the Chicago chapter of CSI had started night classes in specification writing, which included insurance, general conditions, law and business aspects. It was felt this information might be of interest to the larger chapters that might want to start a course or form education committees to guide them in such matters. SWAC established a committee on education in 1960.

In March 1961, Briggs, chair of the Education Committee spoke to the Board regarding a request from Charles Worsley, director of the Department of Architectural Technology at the Ryerson Institute of Technology, that SWAC sponsor a 20-week course in specification writing. The Board indicated that it would support the effort and it was expected the Association would help in supplying lecturers and in other matters.

By August 1961, work on the lineup for the new education course which was to begin in September, was progressing under the guidance of Robert Briggs, Professor Gerry Raymore and Russ Cornell. It was agreed that Briggs would conduct the lectures, supplemented by industrial technicians and some qualified specification writers, who might substitute for him in the case of illness. Professor Raymore agreed to support Briggs, but he could not make a promise concerning active participation. Cornell arranged for promotion of the course through the Toronto chapter.

The 20-lecture course was meant to be an introduction to specification writing and was aimed at unveiling some of the mysteries of specification writing and supplying refresher material for those already in the field. The hoped-for enrollment of 15 was quickly surpassed with 47 students registering for the initial course. The class included a number of graduate architects,

19 specification writers, 13 draftsmen and job captains, 11 estimators, and several manufacturers' representatives. One was a lady specification writer/draftswoman. The registration fee was \$25. At the completion of the 20th lecture, 35 students received certificates of attendance, well in excess of the 50 percent average for night school classes. The course was the largest night school class in the Architectural Technology Division at Ryerson.

The excellent response meant the course was offered again in the fall of 1962.

In his report of 1961-62, Briggs wrote, "Lecturing to the class at Ryerson gave me a great deal of pleasure and I feel that SWAC has taken a further step forward in its endless search for knowledge."

In late 2003, Briggs recalled the events leading up to that first-ever course in specification writing:

"It was with Russ Cornell's urging and support that I originated the course. Russ attended the first year lectures, I remember, because we had supper at Bassells before each lecture. When we started the course there was nothing like it in Canada. Nobody taught specifications and there were no textbooks as such. There was one called Specifications, by Ramsay Sleeper, but it was an American-based text and it was getting dated.

"I continued this course for four years, when one of the Ryerson teachers took it over. Ryerson could see the value in the course, but it was too time consuming for a volunteer. I spent up to 18 hours a week preparing the next week's lesson. It was very tiring, that's all I can say."

In April 1962, the Education Committee reported on its progress. Established to study means of promoting education with respect to improved specification practices its accomplishments included:

- ◆ The planning and preparation of what they believed was the first night course on specification writing and contracts in Canada, held at Ryerson.
- ◆ The national headquarters library was growing quickly, with a number of excellent books on specification writing for architects and engineers and a greater number on building construction.
- ◆ Professor Gerry Raymore and Robert Briggs sponsored a unanimously approved motion at the recent OAA annual meeting calling for the establishment of courses of study in specification writing for architects.

The Committee's plans included:

- ◆ A repeat of the Ryerson course.
- ◆ Consideration of giving an advanced course on specifications of building technology as a follow-up to the original course.
- ◆ Investigation of the possibility of publishing an outline of the Ryerson lectures and preparing a correspondence course.

In April 1963, the Education Committee reported that 36 men registered for that year's Ryerson course and 22 attended more than 75 percent of the classes, making it one of the most popular courses in the architectural division. Students attended from London and Hamilton.

In June 1963, the Ontario Association of Architects inaugurated a two-week summer course. Included in the course were five lectures and seminars on specifications and two on supervision.

The issue of student memberships in SWAC was first discussed in February 1961, when a letter was received from a Mr. Dempsey, a Ryerson student, who enquired about the possibility of obtaining a student membership in SWAC. The Board agreed

that as soon as the revised bylaws were passed, both Mr. Dempsey and Ryerson Institute would be contacted to discuss the need for student memberships.

Chapter News

Development

The reorganization of SWAC in 1958 and the granting of a National Charter necessitated the formation of chapters. In an interview in 2003, Robert Briggs, SWAC president 1958-59, recalled the events leading up to the formation of the Toronto and Montréal Chapters.

“We started off as the Specification Writers Association of Canada in 1954, but we were really only a Toronto group. In the meantime, SWAC membership was growing rapidly across Canada so there was a need for action and change. We looked at it and said, ‘Okay, we’re going to divorce ourselves from Toronto and become a national organization, headquartered in Toronto, with chapters across the country.’ The Coat of Arms, which made us a national organization, was granted in June of 1958.”

The first chapters were in Toronto and Montréal. Other chapters were formed through the work of Claude Jarrett and Russ Cornell, who made many trips across the country to help form new chapters.

Jarrett, the 1959-60 SWAC president, eventually became chair of the Chapter Development Committee. He and Russ Cornell, the SWAC executive director, travelled from Victoria to Halifax promoting the need for a local SWAC chapter in each area.

In a 2003 interview, Jarrett said that Russ Cornell was able to make the time to travel to the various parts of the country.

Jarrett had permission from his boss at the time, Mr. Page of Page and Steele Architects, to take the time off work to go on the chapter formation trips. “He encouraged me to do this. He thought it was a very good idea,” said Jarrett. “The Association paid the expenses, and my firm gave me the time off to go on these trips. I went to Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, you name it . . . Montréal, Québec, Halifax. It worked well and we had some success.”

Describing a typical trip, Jarrett said he and Cornell would make arrangements ahead of time by contacting the local builders’ exchange, architects’ association and engineering association. They would travel to a city during the day for an evening meeting and leave again the next morning. If possible, they would make an announcement in the local trade press. “They were all notified, anybody who had anything to do with construction was notified in writing through Russ or through the association — ‘Cornell and Jarrett are coming to town on such and such a date. There will be a meeting at such and such a time and such a location, and you’re invited.’

“We invited people to come to hear what we had to say, and we did this carefully managed presentation. It became well rehearsed over these many trips and it worked extremely well. We got chapters going in many places in Canada.

“Russ and I did very well as a sort of pair. We had worked it up after one or two of these presentations to a fine art: how to start it, what to do when each partner was doing his part of the presentation — and it was exactly the same way in each location. We found what worked, what interested people, what didn’t and cut it down, adjusted it, and at the end of it all, we had it really well balanced.”

For the most part, the presentation consisted of what the Association wanted to do, why it was formed and who the members were. Also included was what the Association hoped to

achieve. “Even then,” Jarrett recalls, “Russ was anticipating that computers would arise to deal with a lot of things that subsequently happened. He had a very good sense that the development of computers could help the construction industry. They weren’t available then, but that’s ultimately how he saw the long-term development; there would be standard sections that would be annotated to develop an individual project, and that would cover the basics and that errors would be reduced to the minimum and problems would be reduced to the minimum.”

The First Chapters

The first chapter to form was the Toronto chapter. The first chapter meeting was held in September 1958, with chair R.G. Cripps.

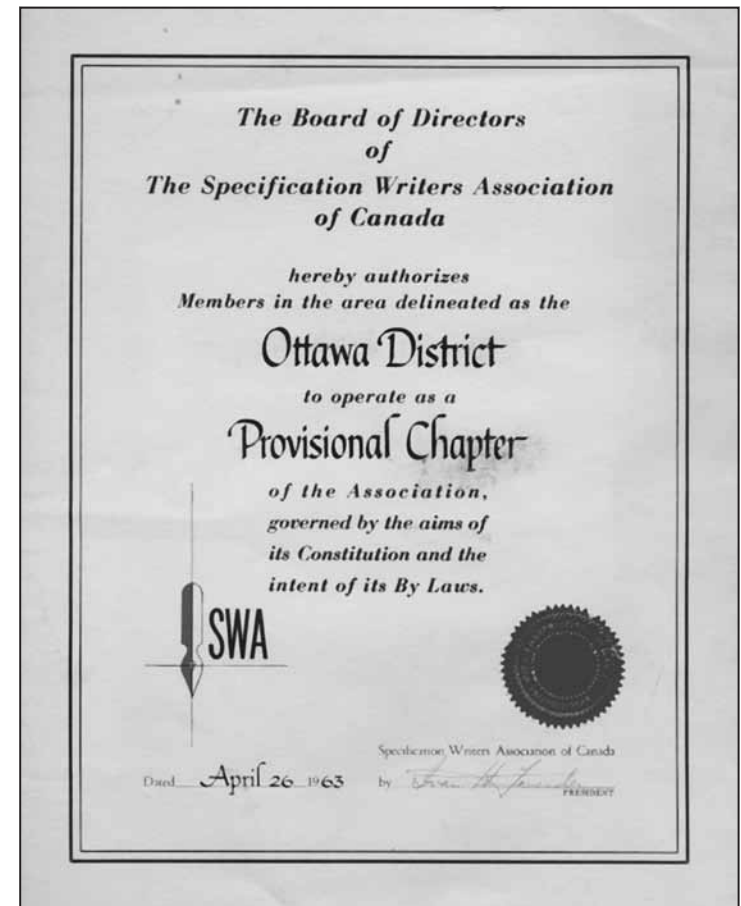
The inaugural meeting of the Montréal chapter was held in December 1958 and the chapter was formed in early 1959. D.G. McKinstry was the chapter’s first chairman. Other members included Henri S. Labelle, P.O. Trépanier, Peter T.M. Barott and Lloyd Boddy. A membership committee was formed and three committees were formed to study specifications.

An Ottawa chapter was also formed in early 1959. Its first chair was I.E. Orton.

At an executive meeting in October 1958, it was moved and carried that the national president make arrangement to attend the initial meetings of both the Ottawa and Montréal chapters and that the board authorize such unavoidable expenses as were necessary to make possible such attendance.

Boundaries

The following rules for chapter boundaries formed the basis of the operations in September 1959. The territory of a chapter



Ottawa District Provisional Charter, signed April 26, 1963.

was delimited by the board of directors at the time of chartering and could be altered at any time.

- ◆ The principle business address would decide a member’s location.
- ◆ A member located in the territory of a chapter would be assigned to that chapter.

- ◆ A member located outside the territory of any chapter would be a member-at-large.
- ◆ A member-at-large could ask to be assigned to a chapter.

The Toronto chapter included the area bounded by Metropolitan Toronto, Clarkson, Streetsville, Georgetown, Owen Sound, Midland, Huntsville, Bancroft and Coburg.

Ottawa included the area bounded by the City of Ottawa, Hull, Montebello, Alexandria, Prescott, Smiths Falls, Perth, Renfrew, Pembroke, Deep River and Fort Coulonge.

The Montréal chapter included Cornwall, Vankleek Hill, Hawkesbury, Lachute, St. Jerome, Joliette, Berthierville, Sorel, Drummondville, Sherbrooke and Valley Field.

The three chapters were advised of the boundaries in October 1959, and were sent cheques to cover paid-up dues from members in each chapter. Membership totals were: Toronto 250; Montréal 24; and Ottawa 8. The total number of members was 428. By April 1960, membership had reached 538, comprising 216 active (specification) and 322 associate members.

By June 1959, Claude Jarrett, chair of the Chapter Development Committee, was suggesting that the London-Windsor area and Winnipeg would be likely locations for new chapters. He stated that it would not be too difficult to get a nucleus of 10 members to form a chapter in those areas.

In December 1959, Denis Brough spoke with C. MacIver, regarding the formation of a Hamilton chapter. It was suggested that the Hamilton chapter of OAA be approached to see if they would be interested in having a speaker from SWAC attend their January or February meeting.

In the spring of 1960, Russ Cornell went to Fredericton to address a meeting of 40 members of the builders' exchange and engineering and architectural associations. The meeting

appointed two architects, two engineers and three people from the building exchange to form the nucleus of a committee. Cornell felt that the chapter, when formed, could write addenda to existing specifications which would take into account regional differences, especially regarding labour.

It was hoped an inaugural meeting could be organized for June 1960 and that the chapter would include all the Maritime provinces, with headquarters in Fredericton, however, a report in the fall of 1960 stated that no further correspondence had been received from New Brunswick.

Later in 1960, Claude Jarrett reported on a trip to Calgary where he met with 12 people at the offices of Haddin, Davis and Brown. He spoke on the SWAC and answered questions from those present. On his return to Toronto he wrote to those in attendance, enclosing an application form and further information about the Association. A similar letter was sent to architects listed in the telephone directory. He reported that the response did not warrant a chapter. He said at a later date it might be necessary to send one or two board members to Winnipeg to promote interest in forming a chapter.

In September 1960, the following suggestions were made by Bailey regarding SWAC chapters. The National Board would call for quarterly reports from the chapters containing the following information:

- ◆ Number of meetings held, attendance, topics
- ◆ Number of executive meetings held
- ◆ Progress on assignments, re: specifications
- ◆ Future plans and ideas involving the chapter
- ◆ Problems where the National Board could offer advice
- ◆ Illness, deaths etc.
- ◆ Items of interest for the *NIB*

◆ Minutes of all meetings held

The suggestions were referred to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for consideration.

In July 1961, the Board requested that chapter chairs appoint a chapter membership chair as soon as possible.

A report submitted by the Ottawa chapter in February 1960 indicated that the new chapter would need assistance from the board. Several board members expressed a willingness to go to Ottawa for a “second inaugural meeting.” Full publicity would be given to the meeting through OAA, OGCA, CCA and the Ottawa Builders’ Exchange. In December 1960, Claude Jarrett, President Wallis and Russ Cornell travelled to Ottawa to promote interest in the chapter.

A letter was received from T.R. White in December 1961 outlining his efforts to form a chapter in Regina.

In January 1962, Paul Trepanier, of the Montréal chapter, reported that he had found a person willing to undertake the formation of a chapter in Québec City, Eugene Corriveau. He expected that a meeting would be held in February to complete plans.

In his 1962 report on chapter development, Claude Jarrett said he had gone to Edmonton, Regina and Winnipeg to generate interest in SWAC. Numerous follow-up letters were sent, but no chapters had been formed, however, great interest had been shown in London. As to further expansion he said: “The Association cannot afford several organizing trips in any one year. Therefore no further attempt has been made on the east coast.”

New bylaws prepared in 1962, saw two directors appointed from each chapter. It was felt that if chapters had two

representatives on the national Board, the members would be kept better informed of the actions of the Board.

At the annual meeting in April 1963, Jarrett reported that an Edmonton chapter had been formed in May 1962. It was SWAC’s fourth chapter and had 12 specification and nine industrial members. The formation of the chapter was the result of an organizing attempt made in June 1961 by Jarrett and Russ Cornell. Jarrett also reported that a group in London planned to hold an inaugural chapter meeting in April 1963.

Toronto

At the first fall meeting in September 1961, Chair Milt Seddon had the pleasure of welcoming a full house. An international joint subcommittee was set to study the Standard Format of the CSI. The ultimate aim was that joint constructive criticism between CSI and SWAC would result in a uniform standard format for the entire continent.

The featured speakers at the December meeting were the New Toronto City Hall architects Viljo Revell and J.B. Mar.

At the April 1962 meeting, the group passed a motion made by Gregory Williams, chair of the Scholarship Committee, to make the sum of \$750 available annually to deserving students. The money was to be divided three ways between the University of Toronto’s school of architecture, the U of T department of engineering and Ryerson’s school of architectural technology.

The Toronto chapter held a joint meeting with the Buffalo chapter of the CSI in Toronto in April 1963. The two groups toured the new O’Keefe Centre and the recently completed University Avenue subway. A seminar on long- and short-form specifications was conducted, along with talks on overcoming

differences in specification procedures in the United States and Canada.

Montréal

Speaking at the chapter's first general meeting of 1961-62, Chair Paul Trepanier said, "This must be a working year to turn out live specifications." Although the chapter is still suffering from growing pains, it is working hard to meet the main objectives of the Association."

Trepanier added, "Our translation committee, under the direction of Maurice LaBelle, has proved itself invaluable. Our bilingual readers will appreciate the absurdities evident so often, when an English specification is translated literally, into French. All our specifications are being translated by technical personnel to maintain standards."

At the March 1962 general meeting, Peter Barott, chair of the Canadian Joint Committee on Construction Materials Annual Competition, reviewed the aims of the competition. He stressed the very serious responsibility the architect has in recommending and advising his client on what product is best for him; "The sales representative must know his product well and furnish all information necessary to the architect. Both the literature and the salesman must make the architect or engineer aware of the product's limitations. Unfortunately most product literature today is not designed for the people who receive it."

Edmonton

On May 17, 1962, a new chapter of SWAC was formed in Edmonton. A group of 27 people attended the inaugural meeting, held at the Edmonton Construction Office. Jack Keating was elected chair; Casey Skakun, secretary-treasurer; E. King, specification representative; and W. Morran, industrial

representative. Claude Jarrett, SWAC chair of chapter development and Russell Cornell, SWAC executive director were in attendance as were George Oakley and A.M. Holland, who had helped to organize the new chapter.

London

On April 2, 1963, a new chapter was formed in London, Ontario. Val Stengels was elected chair of the group. G. DeJager was elected specification member representative on the executive panel and K.L. Hudson, industrial member representative. The meeting attracted 50 members and guests.

Ivan Lavender, SWAC president, and C.S. Jarrett, chair of chapter development, outlined the purpose of the national body and the responsibilities of a district chapter.

Influences

Survival in Nuclear Warfare

In a three-part series of stories published in the *Specification Associate* in 1960, Dr. Z. Przygoda outlined ways to survive a nuclear attack. Dr. Przygoda, a consulting structural engineer with a practice in Toronto was born in Poland and received a doctorate in engineering from the University of Munich on the basis of a thesis on prefabricated structures and town planning. Przygoda took an active part in the work of Canadian Civil Defence and was a radiological staff officer, a volunteer position.

Dr. Przygoda suggested two lines of defence against a nuclear attack: stronger buildings and a dispersal of the population. To disperse the urban population he suggested the systematic creation of new population centres, in place of the three large

metropolitan areas, which at the time contained two-thirds of the Canadian population. Dispersal and control over the size of cities would afford many benefits to the urban way of life in Canada as the principles of dispersal did not differ from principles of modern town planning based on satellite towns.

As to improving building structure, Przygoda said the building frame was the basic factor in providing blast resistance. The structure and the cost of a reinforced concrete frame would be comparatively reasonable. He suggested building blast-resistant schools both to protect the children in the schools and to allow the schools to act as emergency shelters and hospitals. The blast-resistant concrete schools need not be stereotyped or unattractive. Dr. Przygoda stated that the architect would still have freedom of design.

Contrary to popular opinion, design for protection against atomic warfare was not a futile or hopeless undertaking, he continued. He stated that civil defence officials had knowledge of types of construction and materials that could be used to provide life-saving protection against atomic blasts. The degree of protection would, of course, depend on the distance of the structure from the blast and the size of the blast.

At the time, protection from gamma radiation required one of: three inches of lead, eight inches of steel, two feet of concrete, three feet of earth or five feet of water. Przygoda went on to suggest possible standards for the construction of nuclear fallout shelters.

In part two, Dr. Przygoda outlined technical and design formulas for the construction of buildings that could withstand a nuclear attack.

Przygoda reminded readers that the problem of survival in nuclear war was of utmost importance; therefore, engineering practices, sound for peacetime purposes, might be somewhat unrealistic in designing fallout protection. Building and zoning

bylaws might require that shelters be over designed and where they did not, he suggested that designers seek exceptions to local bylaws.

He went on to explain the principles of attenuation or absorption of radiation and initial, residual and thermal radiation. He expanded further on his plan to use schools as fallout shelters, hospitals and radiological monitoring centres. One such proposed design was an addition to the Queen Victoria Public School in Toronto.

In his third and final article, Dr. Przygoda described construction techniques that could be used to construct buildings that would be nuclear-blast resistant.

He wrote: “The problem is not included in the federal program of civil defence, however, it seems to me that thought should be given to this in conjunction with public shelters, government shelters and operational headquarters.”

Przygoda felt that one of the main problems builders would need to deal with were the fires that would result from a nuclear blast. “Disastrous fires are most likely to occur in congested slum areas. The obvious first step is to clean out these areas; to substitute less congested and less flammable construction; to provide adequate fire-breaks for prevention of fire spread and to provide ready access in and out of the stricken areas. These overall steps are desirable, and needed, in most cities, regardless of peace or war.”

Time Capsule

Executive meeting, September 3, 1958: The President, Robert Briggs, returned the amount of \$89.48 of the \$150 expenses provided for the trip to Cleveland.

Executive meeting, October 22, 1958: The typewriter was in need of repairs and an amount of \$25 was been quoted. It was moved and carried that the typewriter be repaired in an amount not exceeding \$25.

The following expenses for the 1959 convention were approved:

Typing programs: \$2.28

Taxi: \$3.40

Flowers at the head table: \$12.00

Liquor, vice-regal suite: \$57.50

(\$9.85 in liquor was returned)

March 31, 1962, auditors report by Kenneth W. Ball and Company: membership fees for the year totalled \$11,325, with \$3,157 of that amount remitted to the chapters.

Office salaries totalled \$5,381.66; office rent was \$1,660; telephone and telegraph charges amounted to \$1,019.

Gross income from the *Specification Associate* totalled \$34,263, less expenses of \$24,890, for a net income of \$9,373.

Bulletin

Executive meeting, May 20, 1959: The *NIB*, the bulletin to be mailed to members only, was to be sent out at least bi-monthly. After much discussion, it was decided there would be no advertising in the bulletin.

October 12, 1960: A permanent column in the *Daily Commercial News* was arranged. Correspondence was established with the Montréal, Toronto and Ottawa chapters for new items. It was hoped that 500 words per month of national, general and chapter news would be offered.

Spec Writer Earnings

The receipt of a letter from the chief engineer of the City of Hamilton, in July 1961, asked the question: “How much a specification writer should be paid?” As no statistics on salary levels were available, the Association passed a motion asking the Dominion Bureau of Statistics to recognize specification writers as a category of employment, for which salary statistics would be published.

It was also recommended that an attempt be made to gather information on wage scales through a survey as the Association should have this information available. Russ Cornell commented that it would be the future job of the Association to set up examination papers and predicted that specification writing would eventually become a licensed position.

Logo

Executive meeting, May 20, 1959: It was moved that a pen nib be set in the centre of the SWAC seal. A sketch was to be prepared.

September 30, 1959: In the matter of a letterhead for the Association it was the suggestion of the Board that a set of rules be drawn up by the secretary and that a competition for the design of such letterhead be sent to the chapters.

In January 1961, the Board reviewed the final drawings of an SWAC portable display. It was recommended that:

- ◆ the colour should conform to that used on the cover of the Summer 1959 issue of the *Specification Associate*;
- ◆ the hole in the nib illustrated be lowered for a more realistic presentation;

- the word “of” in the title Specification Writers Association of Canada be left in place;
- the apostrophe in “Writers” be deleted; and
- the display be used at the OAA convention in February 1961.

Membership Certificate

A letter from the Toronto chapter, received by the Board of Directors in November 1963, asks for approval to design a membership certificate to be issued to all members. It was suggested that the certificate should be issued at the national level and that it should be kept up-to-date through the use of yearly stickers to indicate a member in good standing. The subject was to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting.

Cost of Living

An 1960 editorial by Russ Cornell commented on prices: “It is difficult to understand why a peak income period should become the bench mark from which all grades are expected to continue upward. With the present philosophy, it would seem that the much discussed standard of living will have improved 10-fold when the national average weekly income is in the neighborhood of \$770 and bread is \$2.50 a loaf. With no increase in accomplishment, we are actually subscribing to a national economic suicide pact.”

An article by M.A. Seddon, published in 1961, contains this piece of timely advice to the specification writer: “Learn from others’ mistakes — you haven’t time to make them yourself.”

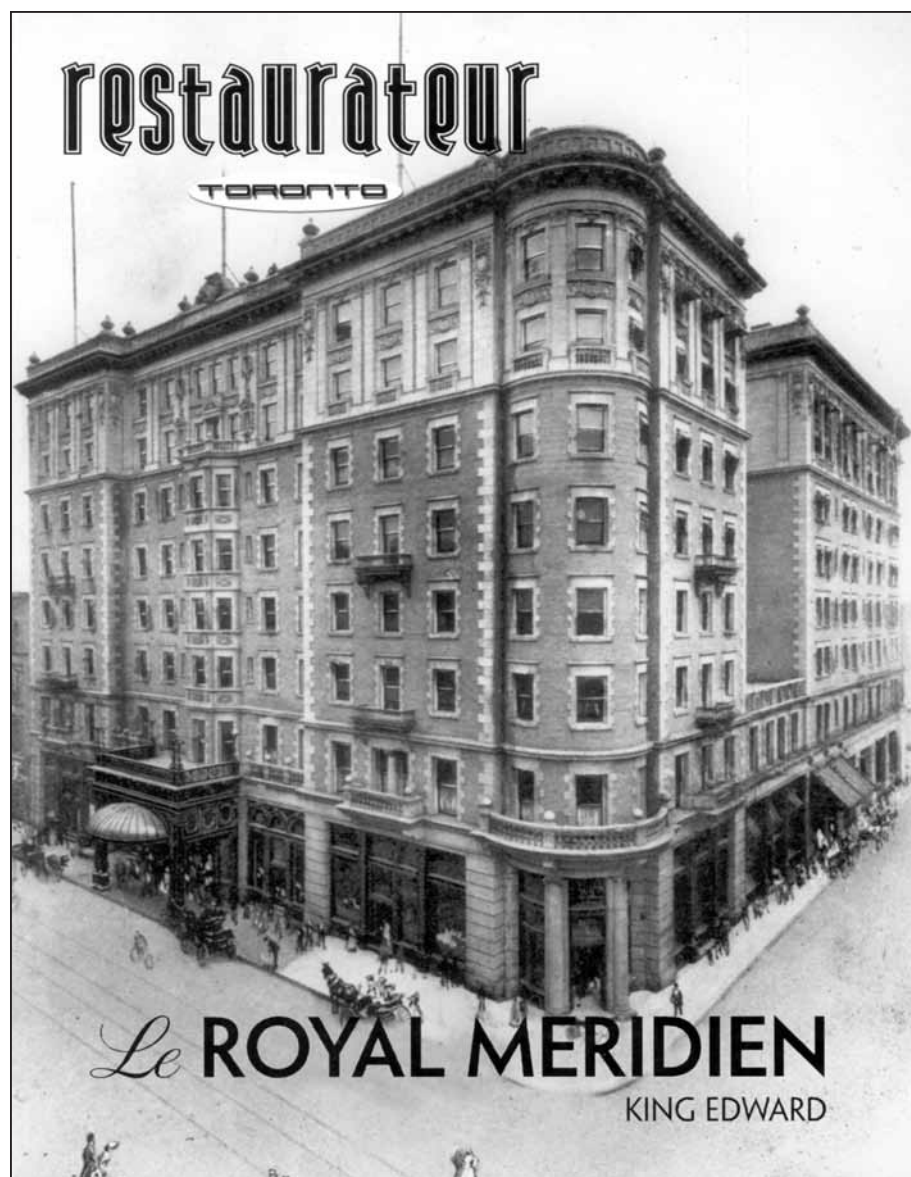
Convention Highlights

History

Annual conferences have always played an important part in the life of SWAC and CSC members and their chapters. It is an annual event that is looked forward to with great anticipation by many members and its success can be attributed to careful planning and enthusiasm rendered by the host chapters, Executive Committee and Association staff.

SWAC/CSC is an association that was formed to bring together people in construction. Annual conferences provide an ideal opportunity for people involved in the various disciplines of the construction industry to meet and discuss matters of mutual interest. Education is an important activity of the Association and conference technical programs draw upon the expertise of specialists in fields related to the construction industry to make conferences a learning experience. Although we pride ourselves on the educational aspects of conferences, the social programs are a necessary ingredient to foster goodwill and fellowship among attendees and provide a pleasurable diversion from the technical and business activities of the day. Also, the CSC Annual General Meeting of members must be convened each year in accordance with the association bylaws to receive reports and transact business of the Association. It is logical to have it coincide with the annual conference in order to accommodate a representative number of members from across the country and to meet the requirements for a quorum.

In the early days when membership was centred in the founding city of Toronto, the association convened an annual meeting of members each year starting in April 1955. By including a dinner with this event, a social aspect was added. As membership and interest grew, an educational component was added to the



King Edward Hotel, site of the first annual general meeting of SWAC in 1958 and of the first annual general convention in 1959.

annual meeting and by 1959 the concept of a multi-day convention had sprouted. Although a Federal Charter was granted in 1958, opening the way for the creation of chapters in other cities, the 1959 and 1960 conventions were held in Toronto at the King Edward Hotel.

At an Executive Committee meeting in November 1958, the first Convention Committee was formed. It was made up of the members of the association presently on the board of directors.

Robert Briggs, the 1958-59 SWAC president, recalled that first convention in an interview in 2003. “We held the first SWAC National Convention at the King Edward Hotel in Toronto in 1959. It was the first one where we met in the evening. I remember when we had our President’s dinner I introduced my wife as my better one and one-half because she was pregnant. We also began a very well attended ladies convention program, thanks mainly to the superb effort of Bob Law and his lovely wife Lynn. At that first convention we invited Ramsey Sleeper, the author of a well-known book on specification writing, to be our guest speaker.”

Toronto 1960

The 1960 convention was held at the King Edward Hotel, April 22–23, 1960. A booth price of \$150, including backdrop and sign, was charged for an 8’ x 8’ booth, with smaller booths \$100. Accommodation was available for 34 booths.

The registration price was \$15 and included the luncheon on Friday and Saturday, as well as dinner on Saturday evening. The entire 17th floor of the King Edward Hotel, together with the Mayfair Room and the Crystal Ballroom, were booked for the 1962 convention. The Regal Suite was reserved for the use of the Executive and Committees. A ladies entertainment committee was also formed.

Montréal 1961

By 1960, a chapter had been formed in Montréal. This led to Montréal Chapter hosting the 1961 convention at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel on April 28 and 29 (Friday–Saturday). This convention introduced a trade show component with 54 exhibitors on hand to display their construction industry products and meet with delegates. Time was provided between meetings and seminars for delegates to tour the exhibits.

Topics for the 1961 included:

- ◆ The Viewpoint of Professional Specification Writing Bodies
- ◆ The Viewpoint of the Manufacturers
- ◆ The Viewpoint of Public Authorities

Luncheon speaker A.F. Telfer's speech was entitled, "What Price Standardization."

In July 1961, the national office received a cheque in the amount of \$1,783.86 from the Montréal chapter, representing the surplus from the 1961 convention.

Toronto 1962

In 1962, the annual convention returned to Toronto on April 13 and 14 at the King Edward Hotel, with 450 delegates and guests in attendance. This convention also featured an exhibit area.

Convention Chair, Milt Seddon, suggested that the chair from each previous year's convention be co-chair for the succeeding convention in order to create continuity, and ensure that the host chapter profits from past experience.

Guest speakers included Professor Griffith Edwards, school of architecture, Georgia Tech, Dr. Thomas Howarth, director of the school of architecture, University of Toronto and John H. Ross, John H. Ross Consulting Engineers, Toronto.

Exhibits were housed in the Crystal Ballroom on the 17th floor of the hotel. This room was once one of the most popular ballrooms in Toronto. The registration fee for the 1962 convention was set at \$18 and included a free binder. The pre-registration fee was \$16.

An interim report issued in May 1962, made the following suggestions on the 1962 convention:

- ◆ More time should be given to the exhibitors. Meetings, seminars and meals ran too long, thus reducing attendance at the exhibits.
- ◆ The King Edward Hotel is too small to hold a convention. The Royal York should be sought for the next convention in Toronto.
- ◆ Exhibits, seminars and meetings should be on the same floor and adjacent to one another.
- ◆ Open the convention one-half day earlier in order that exhibitors may have a full half-day and evening for the public and members to attend.
- ◆ All speakers should speak for a maximum of 20 to 30 minutes and shall use microphones.
- ◆ Move the annual dinner from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. to allow more time for dancing and entertainment.

An early estimate of surplus was \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Montréal 1963

The 1963 convention was hosted by the Montréal chapter at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel on April 25, 26 and 27. This marked the start of three-day programs for SWAC conventions. This time, there were 80 building material and construction service displays to attract specification writers from coast to coast. The theme of the convention was The Specification Writer Tomorrow and this marked the first time that a convention and its technical program were developed around a central theme that responded to the current interests of the industry.

The convention drew an attendance of 194. Speakers included John Davies, president of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, and Tomas Somerville, president of the Canadian Construction Association.

Edwin Pairo, president of CSI and Ronald Ryner, CSI's executive director were on hand to assist with plans for continued communication between the two groups.

Registration fee was set at \$20 for members and \$12 for their spouses.

President Ivan Lavender's message, 1963 Convention:

My message, for 1963, consists of two things: What has the SWAC accomplished and what can the SWAC accomplish.

To accomplish the objectives set out in the constitution the SWAC was founded in such a manner that all segments of the building construction industry would have equal representation and an equal voice in the Association. To my knowledge the SWAC is the only association where such participation is actually encouraged.

SWAC now has five chapters, Toronto, Montréal, Ottawa, London and Edmonton with a total membership of just under 1,000. Since its founding, a number of standard guide specifications have been published as the result of teamwork by architects,

engineers, specification writers, general contractors, trade contractors and material suppliers. Our published specifications have enjoyed virtually unanimous acceptance across Canada. We are working with CSI to create a format for all trade specifications produced in North America.

We have assisted in establishing a successful educational course at Ryerson Institute of Technology, which has aroused educators' interests in providing more specialized education for specification writers.

What can we accomplish in the future? Without hesitation, I would say that the first advancement we can make is in the quantity of published specifications.

The future of the Specification Writers Association of Canada offers unlimited possibilities toward achievement of long-required standard specifications for all building construction in Canada.

Spec Notes

The rapid growth of CSI and SWA attests to the fact that construction specifications are important to the construction industry. They need to be improved constantly.

Professor Griffith H. Edwards,
speech given at the Toronto Convention, June 1962.

It is recommended that members of the Specification Writers Association of Canada consider the adoption of the CSI Format for Building Specifications for use by their own firms.

Russell Cornell,
Specification Associate, August 1963.

The trend today, to more complex construction, increasing numbers of materials, multiplying onsite conditions and very

competitive bidding is fattening our specifications and overflowing our catalog files.

It is not practical to expect that we can keep adding; eventually saturation point will be reached. In the meantime larger reference files increase the possibility of error and misunderstanding.

Standards will play a large part in the development of simplified communications. They will govern such things as products, applications or installation terminology, building codes, specification formats, product literature and testing procedures. National standards will be replaced, eventually, with international standards, as the world shrinks in size and freer trade develops. This may sound ideological, but why should codes governing Class A fire construction be different in Bombay, India, than in Burlington, Ontario?

The challenge ahead lies in making our existing standards more complete and practical. This will necessitate closer liaison between architects, engineers, specification writers, contractors, manufacturers and authoritative bodies. Of course the great challenge will be the unification of world standards. This, I believe, will come eventually.

Specification writing methods in the near future will see some needed improvements, from the use of electronic sorters, copiers and semi-automatic typing and reproduction equipment. This will relieve the over-rushed writers and typists from the mass bull work involved in preparation of a specification, freeing up time to tailor the specification to the job and keep up with product development and construction methods.

It is conceivable that recording tapes and punched tabulating cards may replace the written word. Electronic machines could quickly read the tapes or cards to establish the requirements for each trade division, without error or misinterpretation.

The gradual tendency towards prefabrication of building components will continue, resulting in more work being done in the factory and less onsite. This will affect our present ideas of the division of specifications into trades.

Prefabrication will place more responsibility on the specification writer to co-ordinate the work of different manufacturers. It will also result in more complex divisions of work in a specification, and more complex ordering for the contractor. The punched tabulating cards would be a real asset here.

When the electronic sorter becomes commonplace, the literature will be punched for automatic filing, and quicker recovery. A punched tabulating card will be included with the literature, containing all pertinent data on the product.

In our lifetime we have seen world distances shortened; in the future they will become insignificant. Tomorrow's individual countries will become communities, sharing a common world, its problems and its produce.

Stuart Frost, *Specification Associate*, December 1962.

The Specification Writer — Tomorrow

The specification writer today, as we can see, is having a very difficult time indeed keeping up with the rapid growth in the industry. What can be done to help this poor floundering character? Well, there are several things.

Firstly, give him the proper education at the university level. The great emphasis in most schools of architecture is quite naturally based on design, followed closely by engineering subjects.

I believe that even if it has to be at the expense of the major subjects, a course should be given in each of the five years in the science of building materials and how to specify them. Because of this lack of training the architect is usually not interested and

tends to consider specification writing as hardly worthy of his talents.

Secondly, introduce him to the standards available in the industry and teach him how to use them. The number of standards is still inadequate but much work is being done by the government in this field.

A good specification writer today, and even more so tomorrow, occupies a very important position in an architect's office. He must know how, and where, to get the best information possible, since he acts as a sort of small research centre within his own office. He is frequently called upon to solve problems of detail and use of materials during the design and working-drawings phase.

The pattern has already been set for the future and it is evident that, as time goes on, more and more information will become available to the specification writer who will have had proper university training and therefore, a fundamental knowledge of the science of building materials.

Peter Barott, *Specification Associate*, February 1963.

Peter Barott, a partner in the firm David, Barott & Boulva, has been elected chairman of the Montréal Chapter. He stated that

his primary aim for the 1962-63 season was "To write specifications, and make every effort to have everyone interested, to be active in specifications."

G.W. Snider, *Specification Associate*, June 1962.

Giant steps have been taken toward meeting the challenge of better specification writing practices. Our Charter has been obtained; active and associate members added; liaison established with the American counterpart of our association, the Construction Specifications Institute; the National Technical Committee was founded, three promising chapters established, as well as a national magazine.

R.E. Briggs, Annual General Meeting, 1959.

"What did I get out of being a member of CSC?"

A great deal of knowledge about specifications and construction and its administration; many wonderful friends whom I could call on for help and information, both in the architectural and engineering professions and equally important in the contracting, manufacturing and supply and service sectors of the construction industry."

R.E. Briggs, interview, 2003.

The Birth of Modern Specifications: 1964-1973



*D.G. Helmer
SWA President, 1964-1966*

"The paramount objective of SWA is better specifications through improved specification writing practices, used by ever more competent writers.

The association draws its strength from the collaboration, not only of those presently most competent in specification writing, but, as well, from skilled individuals from every discipline in the construction industry – manufacturers, tradesmen, contractors, design architects, engineers, technologists and technicians, focusing their broad experience on problems."

Governance

Directors

In 1964, directors were added to represent the newly formed London and Ottawa chapters. Although the Edmonton chapter was formed in 1962, it did not achieve board representation until 1965, along with the newly formed Winnipeg chapter. In 1966, directors from the new Saskatchewan and Vancouver chapters joined the Board.

In 1967, the Board voted that the term of office for members of the incoming Board of Directors be one year for industrial chapter representatives and two years for specification chapter representatives. The term of office for both the president and first vice-president was to become two years and the term for second vice-president and executive director was to be one year. In July 1967, the Executive Committee once again took on the question of levels of membership, asking the Membership Committee to consider amending the constitution to include levels of membership; issues included continuation of memberships after retirement, life memberships and honorary memberships. A medallion and certificate were in the process of being designed for use by the newly created College of Fellows.

By November 1967, the Executive Committee had proposed bylaw changes that would see the chapters represented by one representative, either the chair or past chair. These representatives would serve for a period of two years. There would be three industrial representatives, one from the east, one from the west and one from the central region. The registrar would now be a voting Board member. When a chapter attained a

membership of 200, it would have two votes; with 400 members, three votes; and with over 600 members, four votes.

With the addition of new chapters every year, the size of the Board was increasing dramatically and it was decided in 1967 to eliminate the director positions representing the five construction disciplines. This did not disenfranchise these disciplines as the remaining directors came from all sectors of the industry. Directors were added for the new Calgary chapter in 1967, followed by directors from the new Atlantic and Windsor chapters in 1968. In 1969, the Saskatchewan chapter was replaced by the newly formed chapters in Regina and Saskatoon, each with two directors. The new Hamilton–Niagara and Grand Valley chapters were granted two directors each while the new Victoria chapter sent one director to the board.

Once again, the size of the Board became unwieldy and the cost of holding meetings became prohibitive, so chapter representation was reduced to one director per chapter following the Annual General Meeting in 1970. At the same time, directors were added to represent the education, membership, publications and technical portfolios.

In May 1971, the Board agreed to reduce the number of Board meetings from four to three and to hold two-day meetings in order to complete discussion of national business. A Board meeting would now be held immediately after the convention, a second meeting before the end of September and third meeting prior to the end of February.

The Board of Directors meeting, held in February 1973, dealt with bylaw amendments related to the classification of membership, the executive secretary, a proposal for four new vice-presidents (without classification), and the bonding of Association officers and staff. The amendments were approved by the Board and would be submitted to the membership for a vote. Also, in

1970, the name “Executive Committee” was changed to “Executive Council.”

A summary of the results of voting on amendments to the bylaws was presented to the Board in March 1973. The 29 amendments to the bylaws were approved by a majority of 348 to 93 for all of the changes. Only two votes were cast opposing any change. On the specific amendment to eliminate the distinction between specification and industrial membership, the vote was 379 in favour to 64 against.

In 1973, the number of vice-presidents was increased to four with two elected each year for two-year terms. At the spring Board of Directors meeting, one of the two vice-presidents completing his or her second year would be elected by the Board to the president elect position to assume the presidency at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting. The four portfolio director positions were eliminated as the vice-presidents assumed responsibility for the various portfolios. The secretary and treasurer positions were combined as Association staff assumed the tasks of recording meeting minutes and bookkeeping. At this time, the Association office was relocated from 57 Bloor St. West to 1250 Bay St. The move was completed at a cost of \$332 for the movers and \$70 for carpentry work.

The bylaw changes also moved the date of the Annual General Meeting. It was no longer mandatory to hold the meeting in April. It could now be held between the dates of April 20 and June 30. At the Annual General Meeting the principle of holding the convention in late May or June each year was passed unanimously.

Awards

CSC College of Fellows

On November 30, 1966, the Board of Directors proposed the establishment of a College of Fellows. The first four members to be elected to the Fellowship were D'Arcy Helmer, Ivan Laverder, Lloyd Boddy and Russell Cornell. They were presented to the Association at the 1967 convention in Montréal on April 28 and their names were recorded in the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held May 19, 1967.

The College met to refine its aims and objectives, which were as follows:

- ◆ act as an advisory group on problems as requested by the Association,
- ◆ initiate projects to further the objectives of the Association,
- ◆ act as a network for information exchange.

These objectives were approved by the Board of Directors of the Association on February 21, 1969. At the same time, interim terms of reference were presented to the Board and approved.

Election to the College was a means of recognition of exceptional efforts and achievements of members of the Association. A candidate for Fellowship must have been a member of the Association for a continuous period of five years and must have made an outstanding contribution to the enhancement of the Association beyond that required for a Chapter Award of Merit. Nominations for Fellowship had to be made by seven or more members of the Association, and had to represent at least three chapters. At least three of the nominators had to be Fellows. Voting was by Fellows only and nominees had to receive a majority of votes to be elected. The investiture ceremony was a formal function of the College, presided upon by the Chancellor

of the College, who presented a certificate and medal to each inductee. The ceremony was to take place during the Association's annual meeting.

Members of the Association elected to the College of Fellows between 1967 and 1972:

- 1968 Clarence Freek; R.P.G. (Peter) Pennington
- 1969 Orton E. Letherland; A.I.R. Lindsay;
Valdis Stengels, RSW
- 1970 Denis H. Brough, RSW; Adrian P. Wedding;
J.I. Weir, RSW
- 1971 Claude S. Jarrett; George S. Oakley, RSW
- 1972 Robert E. Briggs; Donald W. Cameron;
L. Stuart Frost, RSW
- 1973 A. William Cluff; Yvan Hardy; J.M.T. Phillips

The college was given an initial grant of \$200 and each member was assessed \$10 per year. The college was scheduled to meet three times per year.

Terms of Reference

In May 1966, the Board formed the first standing committee to judge nominations for merit awards. In May 1968, the Board agreed to ask the College of Fellows to form the terms of reference for merit awards. The terms would be circulated to all members.

In February 1969, the Board accepted the terms of reference from the College of Fellows and sent a letter to all chapters asking for nominations.

President's Medal

At the suggestion of the College of Fellows, the Executive Council agreed in February 1970 to create a President's Medal, which would be presented to all past presidents.

The Golden Nib Award

The Golden Nib, a new award instituted in March 1973, was to be given to the chapter membership officer showing the greatest percentage of new members signed between January 1 and April 30, 1973. This membership drive attracted 112 new members nationally, an increase of 7.7 percent. Winnipeg topped the list, and garnered the first Golden Nib, with 22 new members, an increase of 20.9 percent. Toronto attracted 26 new members for an increase of 6 percent, while Montréal gained 16 members, an 8 percent increase. By comparison, the four new members who joined the Victoria chapter increased membership by 20 percent and 11 new members in Edmonton boosted that chapter's total by 11.4 percent.

Membership

In May 1964, the Board voted to issue a membership certificate and recommended that a monthly news bulletin, similar to the *NIB*, be circulated, from the national office, to all members. A sample of the membership certificate was presented and accepted in October 1964. It was sent out with each membership renewal card.

Total membership, as reported by the registrar at the 1964 annual meeting was 1,095, including 421 specification members and 528 industrial members.

Membership was on a steady increase throughout 1965 and totalled 1,230 by the year's end. Industrial members made up 55.8 percent of the total and specification members 39.1. Students and associate members made up the balance. The Membership Committee's goal was to increase membership by general contractors. By 1965, the circulation of the *Specification Associate* was 2,700.

By 1966, Clarence Freek, registrar, reported that total membership had increased to a total of 1,465. At the annual meeting in April 1966, Freek reported that membership had increased since the printing of his report and now stood at 1,555. A motion passed at the 1966 annual meeting raised membership dues to \$20 per year with membership beginning on April 1 each year.

With the addition of new chapters, SWA membership rose to a total of 1,844 in April 1967. At a Board of Directors meeting in March 1967, it was agreed that the \$5 increase in membership fees, agreed to at the 1966 annual meeting, be no longer specifically directed into convention funds, but be allocated to general funds and used at the Board's discretion.

A set of guidelines for membership drives was produced and distributed to the chapters in early 1968. Reports indicated that chapters were concentrating on attracting more specification members, especially engineers, and more industrial members (general contractors). The new membership application form was printed in both French and English.

It was announced at the 1968 convention that membership had reached 2,020, but that 192 of those members had failed to pay their dues. An increase of 188 members in 1968 brought the membership back up to 2016. All chapters increased membership in 1968 except Toronto, which had lost 70 members to the new Hamilton-Niagara chapter.

In April 1970, it was reported that membership, down slightly from one year previous, was now on the ascendance and had maintained its strength in the face of tight money and — in many parts of Canada — economic tragedy. The Membership Committee hoped to have 2,000 members at convention time. While slightly less than one year prior, the figure compared favourably to other construction associations which had lost up to 10

percent of their members.

In April 1970, Treasurer J.M.T. Phillips gave a tentative outline of the budget, saying it would be necessary to increase membership by 10 to 12 percent. Total income from membership, publications and bank interest was budgeted at \$54,750. Anticipated expenses were expected to be higher than the previous year at \$74,600, leaving a possible deficit of \$19,850. Phillips stressed the absolute need to increase membership.

In August 1970, it was agreed that members-at-large would henceforth be assigned to the nearest chapter. They would then have closer ties with grassroots activities, even if it was only by being on the chapter's mailing list.

In September 1972, a report to the Board noted that a serious drop in membership had occurred. Some 324 members had not paid their dues, but were still being treated as members. This compared to an enrollment of 88 new members.

In early 1972, the Board agreed to the twice-a-year billing plan for the \$40 annual dues to make it easier for renewing members. Members could pay \$21 on April 1 and \$21 on September 30. There would be only one billing; members were asked to include two cheques if they were using the installment method of paying.

In June 1972, the Legislative Committee requested reduced fees for retired and honorary members who were no longer active in their professional or business categories.

It was agreed that year that representatives of organized labour would be acceptable as industrial members.

At a meeting in May 1973, Garth Miller, secretary-treasurer, reported that income for the year ending March 31, 1973 would likely be \$2,000 less than forecast. He felt the \$77,500 figure

was the bare minimum needed to meet the Association's requirements for the coming year. Members of the Executive Council felt that obtaining government grants for certain publications would be a more attractive alternative to dipping into the reserve account.

At the 1966 annual meeting, a proposed amendment to the bylaws was moved by W. Perry of Toronto, who asked that a yearly corporate membership fee of \$35 be charged to all companies with industrial members enrolled. The corporate membership would have no voting rights and would have to be paid before any representative of the company could apply for individual membership.

The monies collected would be used as the manufacturers and suppliers contribution to the annual convention. The motion was defeated by a show of hands.

The 1966 annual meeting also saw the membership pass a motion adopting the format for the specification data sheet — as published in the *Specification Associate* in April 1963 — as the SWAC standard.

Staff

In April 1968, the Board of Directors appointed Isabel Purious as secretary of SWAC, with a suitable adjustment of salary to \$7,000 per year. In January 1972, it was announced that Isabel Nixon, a long-time SWAC employee had resigned for personal reasons. A gift of a Rosenthal vase was made to her on behalf of the Association, along with sincere thanks for her many years of service. Joan Smith joined the staff January 24, 1972.

Executive Director

In May 1967, it was announced that Russ Cornell would be attending the President's Dinner at the upcoming CSI convention, where he would receive a CSI award. Cornell resigned as executive director, effective August 31, 1967. Val Stengels succeeded Russell Cornell as executive director from 1967 to 1969.

It was unanimously agreed in November 1968, that a paid executive director was required to carry out the work of the Association. Val Stengels prepared the terms of reference for the position. It was agreed that consideration would be given to raising membership dues to provide the additional funds necessary for a salary and that the membership would be informed of the need for a paid director. This was done at the 1969 annual meeting, where Val Stengels outlined the need for an increase in membership dues to help pay the salary of the new executive director. Specification, industrial and associate members saw dues increase from \$20 to \$30. It was also agreed that retired members would be assessed the same amount as specification and industrial members.

A joint Finance/Executive Committee meeting in January 1969, voted in favour of hiring a full-time, salaried executive director for the association. The additional costs would be partially absorbed by an increase in dues. Discussion with employment agencies indicated that the salary for an executive director would be in the \$12,000 to \$15,000 range. The motion to employ a full-time executive director was passed by the Board on January 24, 1969.

In April 1969, the Board reviewed the applications received for the position of executive director and agreed that A. Lloyd Boddy was the most suitable candidate. It was agreed that the job would be offered to Boddy and in May 1969, he accepted

the job, signing a one-year contract. During Boddy's tenure as executive director, he sought to bring SWAC into closer working relationships with quantity surveyors and architectural and engineering technologists.

Bilingualism

Formed in 1967, the Bilingualism Committee was charged with the task of studying and reporting on bilingualism problems in the association. The committee's recommendation that all important SWAC forms and publications be translated was adopted by the National Board in February 1968.

A revision to the bylaws in 1969 saw the addition of the French translation of the name of the Association: L'Association des Rédacteurs de Devis du Canada.

In September 1971, Yvan Hardy said that an attempt would be made to provide French translation of the *NIB*. He felt a full translation was unnecessary but if some articles were presented in French, it would be satisfactory to the French-speaking members of SWAC. In June 1973, Hardy reported that the Bilingualism Committee will continue to translate documents at no cost to the Association.



Yvan Hardy, Montréal Chapter, strong proponent of French translation.

Specification Associate

Russell Cornell, editor of the *Specification Associate*, announced his resignation from that position in 1967. He hoped to move on to study and report on the advanced techniques being developed in European construction. To look for his replacement, a seven-man editorial committee was established in August 1967. The committee was authorized to spend up to \$4,000 annually to engage a qualified proofreader for grammar and a person to prepare the dummy. The proofreader and dummy maker were not to be members of the Association. The committee also placed advertisements for a new managing editor for the *Specification Associate*.

The year had been a difficult one with respect to advertising, with two well-known building periodicals in grave financial difficulty. However, the *Specification Associate* had been able to maintain the previous year's advertising quota and its net income was very close to the average of the past three years. In October 1967, F.E. Davis of the Publications Committee reported that it had received two proposals to continue publication of the *Specification Associate*. The first was from the magazine's printer, Fullerton Weston Publishing Co. Fullerton Weston proposed to offer a full service operation, but did not have an editor available to run the magazine and asked for a three-year contract.

At a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee it was revealed that a much better management and financial arrangement was possible, by retaining the current management and hiring a new editor. Consequently Stuart Frost, a former SWAC president and long-time member of the Association, agreed to become the editor and Stan Beda, the advertising manager, signed a new contract. Under that arrangement, SWAC retained complete control of the *Specification Associate*. An Editorial

Committee was formed to administer the affairs and establish policies for the publication. Frost was appointed chair of the Committee.

In December 1967, Stuart Frost officially took over as editor of the *Specification Associate*. Frost wrote: "Russell Cornell is missed already and we at the *Associate* take our hats off to wish him much success and personal satisfaction."

With the October 1968 issue, the *Specification Associate* took on a new look. It included articles from chapter correspondents, who would keep members informed about chapter activities and the needs of the industry in their area. A new column, where readers were encouraged to send in comments, opinions, problems, and solutions, was added as were more articles of interest to manufacturers, tradespeople and general contractors. In addition, specification studies were published as a separate entity within the publication, isolated from all advertisement.

To help in the redesign, Bill Hart was engaged as graphic designer for six issues and, in order to institute a more rigid cost-control program, the editor was given total control of the magazine, including advertising programs.

The editorial changes saw a switch away from an emphasis on internal SWAC concerns to a wider, more general interest publication of interest to specification writers in architectural and engineering disciplines. Consequently, the *NIB* assumed responsibility for much of the chapter and internal communication material previously published in the *Specification Associate*. The *NIB* was to be published in months alternating with the *Specification Associate*. It was decided in September 1971 that no ads should be allowed in the *NIB* as it might compete with the *Specification Associate*.

In February 1970, Stuart Frost reported that the advertising potential for the *Specification Associate* had been poor. That, combined with a postal rate increase, meant that net income

would be about \$3,000 less than forecast. By April 1970, a net income of \$8,766 from the *Specification Associate* was down almost \$10,000 from the previous year. Unlike previous years, profit from the magazine was unable to cover the association's operating deficit.

In October 1970, the Board opted to turn over publication of the magazine to Quick Publications. Don Quick replaced Stuart Frost as editor of the *Specification Associate*.

Communist Affiliation

Bob Ashby, a CSC member and a friend of Stuart Frost supplied this recollection of Frost's work as editor of the *Specification Associate*. "I worked closely with Stu in the 1970s when he was producing the *Specification Associate*. In 1970, CSC's convention was planned for Vancouver and, as Vancouver had a large Chinese population, Stu felt the cover of the convention issue should have a Chinese theme. He found a tiny Chinese glyph somewhere and had it enlarged and printed on the magazine cover. It looked great. However, soon thereafter the RCMP arrived at the Association office asking if SWAC had communist affiliations. Apparently Stu had chosen Chairman Mao's signature.

Eligibility for Presidency

A proposed change of the bylaws that would have made industrial members eligible to serve as president of the Association, met with immediate and vigorous opposition from the floor when it was presented by Legislative Committee Chair Clarence Freek at the 1969 annual meeting.

Freek explained the proposed change, saying a great deal of the hard work of the Association was, in fact, being done by the

industrial members, and that they had contributed a great deal to the formation and prestige of the Association.

R.P.G. (Peter) Pennington, a former SWAC president, said the prestige of the Association could better be maintained and enhanced if only specification members were eligible for the top job. The viewpoint was proffered because the Association was seeking professional status. Pennington proposed that if that was unattainable, then consideration could be given to changing the bylaws at that time. Pennington proposed an amendment to Clause 4.2.1, which read as follows: "The President shall be a Specification Member and shall be elected by vote of the Specification, Industrial, Retired and Honorary Members. He shall have a minimum total of two year's service on the Board of Directors or Executive Committee, plus a minimum of one year as a chapter officer."

In the discussion following, it became apparent that, by and large, it was the specification members who favoured the change, while the industrial members supported the amendment to restrict the presidency to specification members. In support of the amendment, Leo Tremblay, an industrial member from Montréal, claimed there was difficulty in persuading specifiers to join the Association due to the plethora of industrial members and that an industrial member as president would hurt the Association still more. Further, he expressed the opinion that many industrials were members because it was a spec writer's organization. "Let's keep it specification," he concluded.

Don Cameron, a Toronto specification member, felt no rationalization was needed to make an industrial member eligible for the presidency, saying the only rationalization needed was why they had not been eligible in the past.

Al Lindsay, a specification member and technical director of the Association complimented the industrials for their energy in preparing draft guide specifications and went so far as to say the

Association could not exist without the industrials. Yet, he said, he must still vote in favour of the amendment because: "We must have professional status."

The amendment to restrict the presidency to specification members was passed by a 74 to 48 vote.

However, in 1972, legislative changes were initiated to allow industrial members to serve as Association president. This change heralded the election of Ross Browne as Association president in 1974.

Name Change

This decade saw initial murmurs regarding changing the name of the Association, but it was not to come quickly or easily. In January 1966, the Board voted to form a committee to consider the problems inherent in changing the name of the Association and to report to the Board before the annual meeting. A. Leman was appointed chair of the committee. At the annual business meeting held at the Inn on the Park, Toronto, April 28, 1966, Leman, told the members that the committee had been formed because it was felt the present name did not reflect the present membership content of the Association and did not clearly identify the Association with the construction industry. The committee recommended a change to The Construction Specifications Institute of Canada (CSIC), with a correct French translation to be decided by the Montréal chapter.

At a Board meeting in January 1967, it was pointed out by Val Stengles, executive director, that the matter of the name change for SWAC had never been finalized in the board minutes. It was moved and carried that the question of changing the name of SWAC be dropped. However, in October 1969, SWAC Executive Director Lloyd Boddy, reported that a number of suggestions were coming from the chapters and individual members



*R.P.G. Pennington
SWA President, 1966-1967*

"We are presently preparing a basic format which will reduce the number of and perhaps finally eliminate drawings altogether. I believe that, in the future, all tender documents will be a little pile of punched cards which will include specs, product selections and alternatives, quantities and the equivalent of all drawings. However, this is still some time away.

Our problem is in 'communication', and communication is the business of SWA. It is amazing that the technology of construction has advanced so far with us all sitting in our tight little cubicles."

asking that consideration be given to changing the name of the Association.

Discussion on changing the name of the Association took place again in September 1971, when the Board passed a motion asking that each chapter prepare a brief on the proposed name change and submit it to the Executive Council. The briefs would enable the Board to prepare a motion for presentation at the 1972 Annual General Meeting. In April 1972, the results of a survey of the chapters on changing the name of the Association were presented to the board. However, they showed insufficient interest to warrant further action.

National Advisory Committee

In 1969, a National Advisory Committee was formed to offer recommendations to the National Board. Each chapter could have representation on this Committee. Representation was held to one member for every 50 existing chapter members. Smaller chapters were guaranteed at least one representative. The purpose of the National Advisory Committee was to promote and maintain the flow of information between the chapters and the members and act as a platform for discussing items of interest in an informal setting. The Committee could make formal recommendations to the Executive.

Presidents' Consultative Committee

In 1968, the Presidents' Consultative Committee, which was made up of the presidents of various construction and professional associations, held two meetings to discuss the programs of each group to avoid duplication. Position papers were prepared with an eye to creating an all-encompassing construction association, a position advocated by SWAC in 1968.

National Manual of Procedures

Through the late 1960s, work was being done on the National Manual of Procedures. The book's purpose was to act as a set of directives, approved by the Board and supplementing the bylaws of the Association. Amendments could be made, approved by the Board and issued to supercede the original directive. The National Manual of Procedures was completed by B.H. Rondot in 1968. Rondot also edited the Chapter Operations Manual, written by Wayne Watson. The book was distributed to all chapters in 1969. It was expected that the manual would be updated as bylaws were revised.

In October 1970, copies of the National Manual of Procedures were distributed to the Board and the handbook was formally adopted. The handbook was to be sent to chapter directors who could use it to keep the chapter members informed of any changes.

Bylaw revisions

Several bylaw revisions were presented at the 1969 Annual General Meeting. These included a motion to amend the aims and objectives of the Association, as stated in the bylaws. The new clauses were:

- ◆ to foster and promote the interests of those who are engaged in, or who are directly or indirectly affected by the preparation, compilation or utilization of any form of specifications to be used in the construction industry;
- ◆ to print and publish literature pertaining to the construction industry;
- ◆ to engage in any program or activity which will foster and promote improvement in construction methods and techniques.

Long-range Plan

In January and February 1970, SWAC President A.W. Cluff convened a special meeting of the Executive Council and Board of Directors to discuss the activities of the Association and to develop a long-range program that would govern future activities.

It was agreed that SWAC's growth had always been in direct ratio to the Association's contribution to the industry and that in order to maintain growth, a program needed to be developed that would maintain and increase SWAC's industry contribution. The program centred on an increase in SWAC publications and an intensification of the technical content of chapter meetings. Industrial membership was seen as an area of weakness.

Continuing in February 1970, the Board of Directors considered the future of the Association and made several recommendations. In answer to the long-discussed topic of the recognition of specification writers and the need to establish standards of competence, the Board voted unanimously to proceed with the development of a program to promote recognition by the industry of the function of the trained specification writer.

In other business, the College of Fellows was asked to consider ways and means of promoting stronger ties with other construction associations. It was also agreed that there was a need for a national master specification. The Board voted to direct technical activities toward this goal. The Board also agreed to actively support all action by government departments that were in line with the aims and objects of SWAC.

In April 1970, the incoming board agreed to set a long-range action plan based on the recommendations by the previous board at the February 22, 1970 board meeting. In February

1972, Russ Cornell, now chancellor of the College of Fellows, presented the requested long-range planning report. He explained suggestions for the establishment of a regional administration that would group cities by regions, rather than by provincial boundaries. He said the College felt that SWAC should be doing more things to attract attention to the Association and that SWAC had been inclined in the past to join into the activities of other organizations and to allow others to place SWAC into programs.

Also in April 1972, the Board voted to hold at least two of the four national board meetings in locations other than Toronto. It was hoped the plan would develop closer contacts, encourage dialogue and provide direct involvement.

The Board dealt with the efficient use of time in September 1972. It was suggested that many meetings of the board were devoted to details that could be dealt with by the Executive Council or, if necessary, a mail-in vote by the directors. The consensus was that not enough advance information was available to board members prior to meetings. It was moved and carried that the Board had confidence that the Executive Council and executive director were capable of handling details in the best interests of the Association.

Questions that might require directors' reaction were to be submitted to the directors by mail for a write-in vote within two weeks rather than delay decisions to the following board meeting.

At the September meeting, J.M.T. Phillips announced his resignation as SWAC's treasurer, effective at the end of the 1972 fiscal year. The Board expressed sincere thanks to Phillips for his devotion and enthusiasm over the previous five years.



C.E. Freek
SWA President, 1967-1968

The highlight of my term was the conference in Montréal during Expo. The other, perhaps more interesting highlight, was the opportunity to visit other chapters in Canada and see the enthusiasm for the objectives of our association and to meet the people involved. The same applied to getting to know the delegates at board meetings.

“One of the highlights of my term of office as President was the way specification writers and trades people came together from across Canada to prepare new documents for the various aspects of the organization. This has continued. My very best wishes for the fiftieth anniversary and my hope that the work will continue.”

Profiles

Clarence E. Freek, FCSC, RSW, SWAC president, 1967-68, received a Life Membership Award in 2001. A specification writer, Clarence devoted much of his life to improving specifications and the association. He became a member of SWAC in 1958 and served as Toronto chapter chair in 1965-66, registrar from 1965-67 and president in 1967-68. He was elected to the College of Fellows in 1968. He authored parts of the SWAC correspondence course and was a member of the steering committee for the registration of specification writers. He represented CSC on the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) and was involved in the first edition of CCDC-2. In 2003, he recalled his early days with the Association:

“My time as president in 1967-68 was not spectacular, but it was challenging. Many chapters had been developed across Canada and with two representatives from each on the Board of Directors, board meetings were busy. Considerable diplomacy was required to keep everyone happy. The extra delegates put a strain on our travel budget and eventually the Board decided to reduce this to one delegate per chapter. This required changes to the bylaws to accommodate this, as well as other changes to meet our growing needs. As past-president the following year it was my responsibility to monitor these changes and others that were made in the following years to meet the needs of a growing organization.

“The highlight of my term was the conference in Montréal during Expo '67. The other, perhaps more interesting, was the opportunity to visit other chapters in Canada and see the enthusiasm for the objectives of our Association and to meet the people involved. The same applied to getting to know the delegates at board meetings. Following my time as president, I continued

to be active with various national and local committees.

“From 1970 to 1974, I represented CSC [then SWAC] on the Canadian Joint Committee on Construction Committee. This name was changed to Canadian Construction Documents Committee [CCDC]. Their current project was a review of the general conditions of a stipulated price contract. The number of supplementary conditions issued by various offices was of considerable concern. My earlier contacts allowed me to contact several specification writers across Canada and they graciously sent me copies of the supplementary conditions they used. It was amazing to see the similarity in clauses. These I assembled in relation to the original document clauses. The information in the supplement, if appropriate, was then incorporated into the original document. The revised document was issued as CCDC-2.

“In 1979, it was exciting to be part of a group of specification writers for a two-day seminar to discuss the duties and responsibilities of specification writers. This resulted in a document called INDECORE [Industry Developed Core Curriculum]. It became very useful in setting up educational courses and setting out qualifications for RSWs.

“In 1990, I retired from my employment and my wife and I moved to Fenelon Falls. While I retained my CSC membership, the distance to Toronto did not allow me to participate in chapter activities. In 2001, I was surprised, but honoured, to be awarded a Life Membership. To sum it all up, the greatest enjoyment was seeing and being part of the development of our association over the years. We owe so much to our founding members.”

Clarence Freek died May 29, 2004 at the age of 84.

William A. Cluff, CSC president, 1969-70, trained as an architect in London, England. He and his wife Pamela, also an



*F.E. Davis
SWA President, 1968-1969*

“As the years pass and our corporate wisdom and experience grows, the forward thinking which can be done by such a group as ours, will tend to develop still greater leadership characteristics recognizable by the industry. The authority of ideas is now, and hopefully always will be, our chief asset. The existing and future problem is communication of the ideas to those who can put them into practice. The best possible medium is membership.

“A chapter that is expanding its membership, not only to those in the industry, but to teachers, entrepreneurs, bankers, credit managers and government people is widening our ability to communicate. There is no point in talking if we have no listeners.”



*A.W. Cluff
SWA President, 1969-1970*

The '60s has been a decade of progress and achievement for our association and substantial improvements in the construction industry have been made. We now enter 1970 with the full recognition of the importance of our association to all those vitally concerned with the building process and united in our objectives for the future.

"There has been a great deal of talk regarding changes which will take place and I believe the time for change is now. The construction industry must provide, by the end of the century, as much construction as has been built in the entire history of Canada to date, at a cost which our economy can afford. Increased efficiency is urgently required to satisfy demand."

architect, became principals in their own architectural firm in 1958. In addition to designing many innovative buildings, Cluff was nationally known for his special research and design work in the field of large institutional facilities and consulting on accessibility and special user needs for seniors and persons with disabilities. He was inducted into the College of Fellows in 1973. By that time Pamela was already a fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Commenting on that, Bill remarked that he would be "sharing his bed with another fellow." Bill died unexpectedly in St John's, Newfoundland in November 1994.

Wayne Watson, FCSC, RSW, CCS, CSC president, 1972-73, wanted to become a specifier in the 1960s, when no school offered formal training in specification writing. Years later, he took a leading role in development of a curriculum to teach spec writing in Alberta. He went from freelance specification writing in Edmonton in 1971, to developing numerous master specification systems. He was one of the first to use electronic word processing for specification writing and to commit organized master specifications to the equipment so he could produce specifications more efficiently. Along the way, he supercharged and expanded his own micro-computer to the point where he was able to cross-pollinate a number of master specification systems on-line. In 1992, the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) in the United States bestowed one of its highest honours on Watson, awarding him a Fellowship for improving construction specifications and advancing construction technology by developing numerous master specification programs. The Fellowship was also awarded for his research and development in the fields of information management systems and building science technology. Watson is the only member of CSC to be so honoured by CSI. He is a specifications and construction technology consultant with W2 Consultants Ltd., in Camrose, Alberta. He has been active in CSC since 1967.

In an interview, Wayne Watson remembered:

“I was encouraged to run for president by Bill Cluff, a past president, Jim Findlay, a former president, and Lloyd Boddy, SWAC executive director. Also, members of the Windsor CSC chapter, specifically Bernard and John Bobaljik. At a very eager age of 31, I did not know enough to say ‘No.’

“My objective, for openers, was to get other construction organizations to chat with each other. That was eventually achieved a few years later by Chris MacPhail and others. They went on to guide and develop, as a group with SWAC involved, the CCDC-2 document.

“The early 1970s seemed to be a real change in direction and attitude for SWAC. A name change occurred in 1975 (although that did not happen easily), an active technical committee was formed, and a move to education and to certify members under the RSW program was inaugurated.

“Just prior to my term of office as president, I was SWAC vice-president responsible for ‘education.’ It was during this term that SWAC arranged a deal with Mervyn Jones (author of a book on educating specifiers). That book became the basis for our education programs in SWAC/CSC. Later in the 1970s, CSC got better organized and began work on formally educating specifiers and still later, on educating product representatives and contract administrators.

“The collective CCDC work began a very strong effort to standardize our industry’s formal documents. It was under the leadership of some very influential people, of which I was only one part.

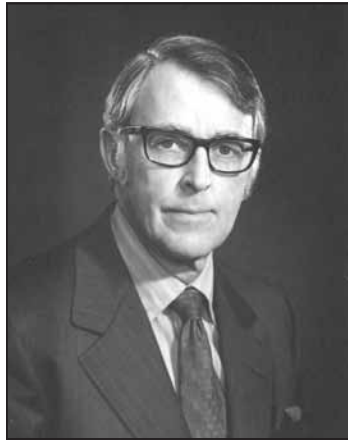
“I have always credited Mr. Lloyd Boddy as being the motivator for SWAC/CSC to move seriously into the education of members. Lloyd died in 1980. His attitude and his legacy still motivates me today to continue his attitude and his objectives in the area of education. My interest sagged for a while, but was



*J. Findlay
SWA President, 1970-1971*

“In making investigations and carrying out research, the specifier should never lose sight of the end result, achieved when the many combinations of materials of components of an assembly have been brought together, installed and successfully fulfill their role as parts of the total building. The term which best expresses this result is performance.

“The Specification Writers Association has done much since its inception to improve communications within our industry and continues to do so. But, at the same time we, along with others, may have tended to ignore the actualities of the tendering process. If you, who write, are not aware of such shortcomings, then some of those who read surely are.”



*G.W. Lord
SWA President, 1971-1972*

“Specifiers throughout the association have promoted a high degree of uniformity of documents in use by the Canadian construction industry. They have laid down standards for the preparation of meaningful product literature and for its filing. For these and many other things they can be justly proud.”

rejuvenated by Gino Ferri — who motivates and pushes me to this day — to further education in the ranks. It is a way of returning all the favours I have been given and to direct our knowledge to the younger folks in our midst.

“At our annual meeting in June 1973, SWAC changed the name of our annual event from ‘convention’ to ‘conference.’ That change was prompted by our beloved Revenue Canada who changed the tax rules. That change permitted attendees to claim their expense costs to attend the ‘conference’ and claim a tax-deductible benefit. Also, at that conference, McGraw-Hill Sweets agreed to sponsor their first Welcome Reception, which included the President’s Dinner. That tradition has continued to this day, but is now limited to the President’s Reception.

“Shortly after my move to Edmonton in June 1971, the almost defunct Edmonton chapter was in the process of rejuvenating with a fund raiser that actually ended all fund raisers in this chapter. The chapter sponsored a steak dinner in Edmonton’s newest classy hotel. Included with the \$100 ticket was the evening’s entertainment. Nobody knew what that was until about 9:00 p.m. when on stage paraded an entourage of eight or nine fine ladies, fresh from the Miss Nude Edmonton contest that was held the weekend prior. Quite an evening! The hotel management tried to shut us down — but couldn’t. There were 300 men in that ballroom who demanded that the show must go on. Master of ceremonies for the evening was our recent past-president Ross Browne (rest his soul) of Winnipeg fame — with lots of good jokes, consistent with the evening theme. We were forever banned from having any events in that hotel again. Most of the organizers of that event are still CSC members.

“There were several years of discussions before the RSW registration process began in 1972. I applied for certification while president through the grandfather clause, under a fake name. It was administered on my behalf by the executive director of the

time. I was accepted. Nobody knew who I was then — and perhaps still don't — and I don't remember the name that was used.

“The SWAC Education Committee under the chairmanship of Ross Browne, also moved SWAC forward in the goal of educating our members, all our members. The RSW Board was formed as a continuing effort to help and advise newcomers to consider RSW registration.

“The SWAC Technical Committee really started to take shape during my time as president. The Committee was chaired by Chris MacPhail, who followed me as president. Chris moved that Committee forward to initiatives and activities that we had not been involved with before.

“Much of these advancements were not of my doing, these efforts were started by Bill Cluff and Jim Findlay, both presidents who preceded me.

“The most significant mentor for me was Lloyd Boddy, our executive director. Then there was Chris MacPhail. Both were very supportive of me and helped me grow up and mature somewhat — as I was 31 years old when I assumed the presidency. I was the second youngest to assume that lofty position — Bill Cluff was the youngest.

“Looking back, I can say that SWAC/CSC helped me form my professional life as a specifier, taught me ethics, gave me contacts that were and still are incalculable to me, and gave me a perspective on my work that is to me, beyond measure. I have become fairly well known in my field, across Canada, the United States, and now Europe, Asia and Australasia because of the programs, events and people I have met in SWAC and now CSC. CSC is very important to me, and always will be, for the host of reasons and incidents mention above.

“SWAC, and later CSC, became, and still is, a huge part of my professional and business life. I met and truly enjoyed the company of Al Lindsay (Toronto), Juan Corkan (Calgary), John



*W.N. Watson
SWA President, 1972-1973*

“The specifier is the individual who provides the communication medium between the drawings and the contract documents. To do his job effectively, he must have the confidence and support not only of the architectural and engineering discipline, but also of contractors, lawyers, labour and trade specialists who prepare descriptive literature for the industry. The Specification Writers Association opens the door of participating membership to all of these vocations.

“We sincerely feel that all contributors to the construction process must communicate with each other if the vision of the designer is going to be carried into the contract documents and then erected properly, within budget, free from jurisdictional or other labour problems.”

Chomiak (Edmonton), Gino Ferri (Edmonton), and Don Thomas (Vancouver) who demonstrated to me that there was real life outside Ontario. And then there is John Clinckett (Grand Valley — inside Ontario) and Willem DeLint (Regina) whose company and friendship I always enjoy. And of course Terry Johnson (now of Hamilton) who inspired me to never forget that there are others who may need a support group like CSC.”

Chris MacPhail, P. Eng., FCSC, SWAC president, 1973-74, received the CSC National Award of Merit at the 1983 Conference in Banff. He was considered the “Father of Masterformat,” for his many hours of work on the document during the 1980-83 review period. MacPhail was a partner in Arnott, MacPhail, Johnstone Associates and E.P.M. Consultants Ltd. of Regina, Saskatchewan at the time of his presidency. McPhail writes:

Some 20 years after the founding of the Specification Writers Association of Canada, when I became Association president, there were many achievements to be proud of. The organization had grown from a few chapters in central Canada to some 16 chapters from coast to coast. It had established working relationships with other industry organizations, with counterparts in the United States, and with government. And its membership was growing, particularly among the industrial sectors.

However, there was a growing sense that it was time for change within the organization. Some of the issues that were debated at annual general meetings, as well as meetings of boards and committees, included:

Membership status: The professional and specification writer members had been afforded full privileges from the inception, including holding the office of president; members from industry (contractors and suppliers) were considered “associate mem-

bers,” and denied that privilege, but their contributions of both time and money were gladly accepted. However, the feeling was growing that the membership distinction, together with the accompanying restrictions, was archaic and should be eliminated.

Name: This mood manifested itself in another way. The name of the organization was felt to be too restrictive, and not reflective of the broad industry representation in the membership.

Publications: The more democratic approach was reflected in initiatives toward promoting standards for manufacturers’ literature, as well as the more traditional guide studies.

National Master Specification: Liaison continued with the federal government for the development and marketing of the NMS, including its adaptation to the private sector.

Construction Specifications Foundation: Discussion took place at several levels regarding the perceived need for ongoing stable financing with appropriate tax benefits.

Not all of these issues were limited to, or resolved during my term of office in 1973-74. However, if they were not on the active agenda, they were always in the background.

One major change that was implemented at that time was the change in membership status. As a result, Ross Browne succeeded me to become the first industrial member to serve as president. This meant that he was my first vice-president, something that I think both he and I faced with some nervousness at the beginning of the year. Our concerns were groundless, and I enjoyed a warm and productive working relationship with Ross, extending well beyond the terms of office.

Special mention must be made of Lloyd Boddy, the executive director from 1969 to 1978. He was a mentor in the ways of SWAC, a professional in dealing with governmental and peer organizations, and a gentleman. Lloyd was a member of an Exec-

utive Directors' Association, and, when travelling to visit the chapters, he preferred the better hotels and was always afforded the best in accommodation. Those of us who travelled with him came to refer to the "Lloyd Boddy" hotels, and to realize that the office of president had no special privilege — our rooms could never compare to Lloyd's.

Liaison with the Construction Specifications Institute in the U.S. was and is an important part of the president's duties. Joint executive meetings were held in Toronto and Washington during my term, including the annual conventions of each organization. Joint industry committees were actively developing and promoting the Uniform Construction Index (UCI), which would soon evolve into MasterFormat.

In October 1973, I had the opportunity to visit Kenya, mixing business and pleasure, and provided copies of the UCI to practising architects; while en route, I met with representatives of the Royal Institute of British Architects in England and presented them with copies of the UCI. Since our systems were and are somewhat different, little came of the exchange. However, I did carry the presidential gavel with me, to add to its travel log.

SWAC was an active member of the Canadian Construction Documents Committee, which has, over the years, developed standard forms of contracts and other industry documents. SWAC was also a member of the Presidents' Consultative Committee; at that time, the PCC was an ad hoc committee of the presidents of several industry organizations brought together for liaison and communication. I had the honour of serving as chair during my term. However, and I'm sure this is just coincidental, the PCC members agreed that, with the success of the CCDC and other joint efforts, the Committee had out-lived its usefulness, and I therefore had the added distinction of presiding over its demise.



*C.R.W. MacPhail
SWA President, 1973-1974*

*"S*ince construction is a team effort requiring the contribution of many specialists, communication becomes a key factor in the building process. The lack of effective communication may be the real culprit in the process. One advantage of the evolving construction management technique is the very attitude of the decision-maker who selects it in the first place. He wants his project on time and within budget and demands positive results from the specialist that he employs. At the same time, he is prepared to cooperate in doing his part by making decisions and giving direction as required by the schedule. In other words, the process selected demands effective communication."

Casey Skakun, B.Arch, FRAIC, RSW, FCSC, retired in 1999 from the position of Assistant Deputy Minister, Property Development, Alberta Infrastructure. A founding member of the Edmonton chapter, he was a member of the RSW Registration Board from 1984-90. In 1981, he was inducted into the CSC College of Fellows and in 1997 was made a Fellow, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. He received a CSC Life Membership Award in 2003.

Recalling his early days in the Association, Skakun said:

“I joined CSC (SWAC in those days) in 1963 to learn more about specification writing and to, hopefully, improve my skills in specification writing. Shortly after that I became involved in the formation of the Edmonton chapter. I remember when Claude Jarrett and Russ Cornell, both from Toronto came to



President Mary Friesen presents CSC Life Membership award to Casey Skakun at Regina Conference 2003.

Edmonton for an introductory meeting, with a small group of a dozen and a half or so interested people. We met at the Edmonton Construction Club. It was the beginning of my long-term involvement and commitment to an organization which grew to be more than just for specification writers. As an association whose membership was comprised of the design and construction industry in its broadest sense, it provided an excellent forum for learning not only from other specification writers but also from contractors, subtrades, architects, engineers, suppliers, manufacturers, insurers and more... and it certainly did not hurt business.

“When you think about it, the growth and stature of CSC has been mainly as a result of the work of many, many volunteers... truly amazing!... and today, 50 years later, it continues to strengthen and grow.”

Valdis (Val) Stengels, FCSC, RSW. Stengels became a member in 1957 and was one of the pioneers of the Association. Through active participation, dedication and extensive contributions, he was instrumental in designing, shaping, and implementing the foundations and principles of SWAC.

Stengels participated in the restructuring of the organization, in the development of the RSW program and in the creation of the SWAC correspondence course. He authored numerous articles for *Construction Canada* and *The Construction Specifier*, thereby enlightening and educating professionals on both sides of the border. His involvement with CSI greatly assisted in the development of joint CSC and CSI documents, such as the MasterFormat. He was elected to the College of Fellows in 1969.

In 2003, Stengels recalled some of the events of his long association with SWAC and CSC.

“As I had begun working on project specifications, I was urged to join the Specification Writers Association. I contacted the then president of the association Stu Frost and the secretary Bob Fernandez. They encouraged me to work for development of better specifications. The Association produced a number of standard specification sections (then called ‘divisions’) and established a quarterly magazine *Specification Associate*. The SWAC also staged its first convention, which took place in the King Edward Hotel in Toronto in 1959. I was able to attend that convention. It was a full day of meetings and seminars and I learned a lot.

“As I was writing specifications, I noticed the poor quality of building materials manufacturers’ literature and catalogues. Finally, I decided to do something about the sad situation of our information sources and I wrote an article for the *Specification Associate*. I was not sure about my English, which at that time was much worse than this, but I submitted the article. I soon received a phone call from the Association office requesting my photo and a short biography. The article appeared in the 1963 February issue and thus began my activities in SWAC. Even before the publication of my article, I was toying with the idea of helping to form an SWAC chapter in London. At the time the SWAC had chapters in Toronto, Montréal and a new one was established in Edmonton. On my own I conducted a

membership drive and by the time I had signed up over 60, I was approached by Claude Jarrett, a Toronto architect and SWAC director of chapter development. He suggested that I call a meeting so that a chapter could be launched. I think it was around the middle of March 1963 when a crowd of London construction people gathered in a London hotel meeting room for the purpose of founding the SWAC London district chapter. The meeting was attended by the SWAC ‘brass’ — President Ivan H. Lavender, Claude Jarrett, Executive Director Russ Cornell and Toronto Chapter Chair Al Lindsay. Prompted by Russ Cornell, the meeting elected me as the chair of the chapter and C.W. DeJager, Ken Hudson and Ray Downey as members of the Executive. We were a very active group, having chapter meetings practically every month and working on some technical studies. By the second anniversary the chapter membership was well over 100, and I was delegated to the SWAC Board of Directors to represent London chapter and later as director representing specification writers. The Association as a whole was also expanding; new chapters were formed in Ottawa, Edmonton, Vancouver, etc. The London chapter ‘spawned’ three new chapters — Windsor, Grand Valley and Hamilton–Niagara.

“I attended all SWAC conventions at that time, always accompanied by my wife Zenta. We also attended several conventions of the United States-based Construction Specifications

“Language consists of sounds which, in various combination, form words. Words form sentences, sentences form paragraphs and paragraphs form stories. The whole body of words and methods of combination of words used by a nation, form language. ...Our specifications may be defined along the same lines. Specification paragraphs form clauses, a number of clauses form sections, several sections make up a Division and sixteen Divisions constitute a specification.”

Val Stengels, C.E.T.

Institute (CSI). As I was getting more and more involved in the Association business, I was spending a lot of my time on the road going to and attending meetings. Robbie encouraged me to be active and whenever there was an affair, which cost a lot of money, he was very forthcoming with the necessary funds so that Zenta and I could attend. Through these activities I developed a good rapport with the CSI people, which helped as we were striving for close co-operation between our two associations. Soon I became a contributing editor to the CSI magazine *The Construction Specifier*, later I was their metric consultant. At that time the *Specifier* printed many of my articles and book reviews.

“On the Canadian side, I was actively promoting the registration and certification program for qualified specification writers — that program was finally installed in 1972. I became the second vice-president 1967-68 and when our first Executive Director Russ Cornell retired and left for Italy in late 1967, I became the second executive director from 1968 to 1969. The affairs of the Association had grown to such an extent that it was not possible to operate with a voluntary executive director, as I was, and volunteer elected officials. We determined that we needed a full-time executive director. The job could have been mine but I did not want to move to Toronto and the pay was not that great either, so I decided to continue my work for the Association in some other capacity.

“I continued to write for the Association magazine now called *Construction Canada*. Perhaps my greatest contribution was my work to make the Government Master Specifications into the National Master Specifications. I was awarded the Metric Commission Canada Metric Service award in 1985, in recognition of my work with the Commission’s working groups and committees dealing with the investigation, planning, scheduling and

implementation of metric conversion in the Canadian construction industry.

“My efforts were rewarded in 2002 with a Life Membership that was more than 30 years after my diligent work for the good of the Association.”

Adrian Wedding’s career in architecture spanned more than four decades, starting in 1941 when he became a member of the New Zealand Institute of Architects. He came to live in Canada permanently in 1951 and worked at a large architectural firm in Winnipeg, where he soon took over all of the specification and contract administration work. He joined the Specification Writers Association of Canada early on, contributed to a number of “standard” specs, was elected a fellow of SWAC in Vancouver in 1970 and became a life member at the Banff conference in 1983. He spent more than 20 years on the Joint Committee of the Manitoba Association of Architects and the Winnipeg Construction Association, a body that was created to promote understanding between design professionals, contractors and the trades. He retired in 1985, but did not really stop working, helping to guide a senior citizens’ housing project to completion.

Robert (Bob) Law, FCSC, was an active industrial member of CSC, almost since the Association’s inception. He joined SWAC in 1957. Over the years Bob received various awards and was elected to the College of Fellows in 1980. He was an active contributor to the construction industry and a great ambassador for CSC. In 1999, the CSC Board of Directors presented a Life Membership award to Law.

Law was a member of many conference committees over the years, starting with the first annual conference of SWAC in 1959. For many years, he and his wife Lynn, were responsible for organizing the CSC conference companions’ program. In an interview in 2003, Bob, who was 86 at the time, recalled some of

the early conventions.

“As a manufacturer’s representative, the architects and the spec writers were the people I had to get to know. I served on the Membership Committee and, whenever I could, I encouraged other manufacturers and suppliers to join SWAC. In the early days the manufacturer-supplier group took a very active role. When it came to organizing conventions the manufacturers would help out wherever they could and in return we would set up display booths.

“In the early days of the Association, almost all the members were men. When they went to the convention, they wanted to bring their wives along, so we had to organize some activities for the ladies. My wife Lynn and I were the chairman and chairwoman of the convention activities program. During the conventions we took all the ladies out to different places in the area. The conventions were held in large cities and resorts so to entertain them, Lynn and I started organizing fashion shows.

“One of the highlights, I remember, was the year we put on a fashion show, a bathing suit show, for the ladies at the Woodbridge Golf and Country Club. We made a deal with one of the manufacturers to supply the bathing suits and we hired about six professional models. The reaction to that show was just amazing.

“Of course, now there are many professional women who are official members of CSC, architects, interior designers, spec writers and so on. When I look back 20 years, we had maybe three or four women members, but advances were made. First to join was the interior design and decorating side of the industry. That naturally has brought in a good number of other professional women who are making a great contribution to our organization.

“I can say that I do not know of any organization that has developed and continues to develop the professionalism of the

spec writer’s organization. There’s no question about it. The Board today has some fine capable people that are running this as indicated by the manuals and literature they send out. Every year they have done an excellent job.

“It’s an organization that pays dividends to an active person that takes an active part.

“One of the things I remember most is the spec writer members would come to me and say, ‘Bob, without you people [the industrial members] helping us, it just wouldn’t be the same Association.’ When I think back, that’s one of the things I remember, the appreciation that all of the people involved would show.”



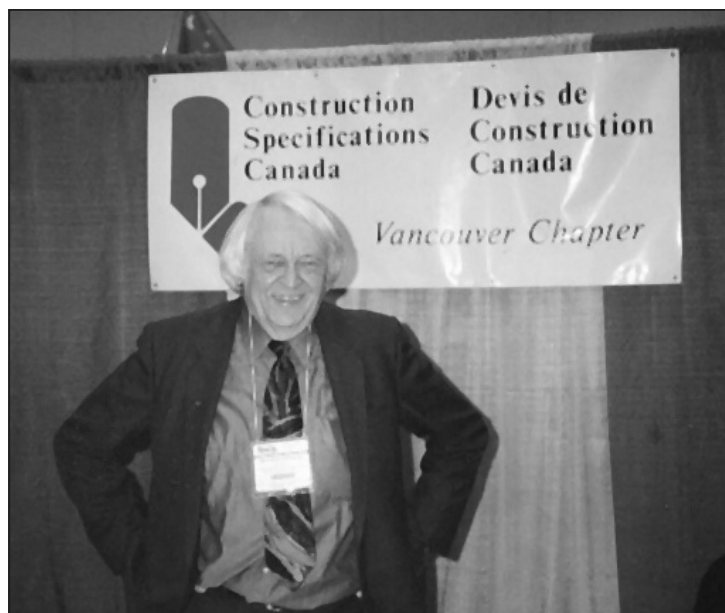
Bob Law, ambassador for CSC.

Yvan Hardy, Ing., FDCC, MOIQ, LMASCE, PMCSI joined SWAC in 1965. He was and continues to be one of the pillars of the Association at both the chapter and association levels and has been a success in everything on which he embarked. His contributions were instrumental in getting Montréal on the map and he fought for bilingualism in the Association and other construction-related organizations.

Yvan graduated from École Polytechnique de Montréal in 1951 and was employed by Hydro-Québec as Director of Contracts. He is a member of the Corporation of Engineers of Québec and served as Chair of the Qualifications Committee for Québec-American Society of Civil Engineers.

Hardy held many positions on the chapter Executive and was also active at the national level. He served as Chapter Chair and Chapter Director from 1969 to 1971. In 1966, he assumed responsibility for translation of the *Building Construction Index*. He chaired the Bilingualism Committee of SWAC, which was formed in 1967; the Committee translated documents at no cost to the Association. Translation of the *Uniform Construction Index* commenced in 1973 with the cost being shared by the federal and provincial governments.

Hardy was active in the restructuring of SWAC, much of which was reflected in the way the modern association operated. He served as an Association vice-president between 1973-75, at which time the number of vice-presidents increased from two to four, the discriminatory classifications of “industrial” and



Vancouver Chapter's Don Thomas attends Conference 2000 in Montréal.

“specification” members were eliminated and the Association changed its name. He was a founding member of the Construction Specification Foundation and has been a trustee of the Foundation since its creation in 1974. Hardy took an active role in College of Fellows of which he has been a member since 1973. He held the position of Registrar eight times, Dean six times and was Chancellor on three occasions.

Hardy's relentless and unselfish contributions to the Montréal chapter are clearly the definition of a true volunteer. With his strong belief in the Association, he continued to pay full membership dues after he retired, even though he was being invoiced at the retired rate. He has also been a member of the Construction Specifications Institute since 1959, and in 1964 he received the CSI Engineering Specification Award for his bilingual tendering document. He has led by example and showed what dedication, humility and pride in membership can achieve. The paths taken have been hard at times, but when it came to the crossroads, he stood his ground because it was the right thing to do. In appreciation for his efforts and dedication to CSC and the industry, Hardy was presented with CSC's highest honour, the Life Membership Award, in 2004.

Donald Thomas, Dip. Arch. (Wales), RIBA, FCSC, RSW, SWAC vice-president, 1973-74. Thomas was elected to the College of Fellows in 1984 and received a Life Membership in 2002. The following are his memories about his affiliation with SWAC:

“It was mid-afternoon here in Vancouver on the 17th of September 1965, when I got a phone call from a colleague who informed me of a free dinner and presentation that evening downtown at the Bayshore Inn, put on by some organization called Specification Writers Association of Canada, of whom I had never heard, despite the fact that I had been writing

construction specifications for over a year at the time. That was not as unusual as it may seem, because this was SWAC's first expansion to the west coast. What a difference SWAC/CSC made to my life, I attended that inaugural meeting, and I am still involved despite now being retired.

“Within a short while I was involved with the chapter Executive, becoming chapter chair during 1969-70, followed by director in 1970-71, and then worked on National Technical Committees being involved with the Uniform Construction Index (UCI) in 1972-73 in conjunction with CSI and attended joint meetings with them. The Canadian team included Chris McPhail, “Corky” Cochran, Wayne Watson and me. Often, before flying to Toronto, I would phone up Corky in Calgary, and arrange a flight that stopped in Calgary, so the two of us would have a two to three hour pre-meeting on the plane, agree on just about everything, and then bend the other members' minds at the Toronto meetings.

“In the period 1973-74, I was a vice president. This was the time of the name change in our organization to Construction Specifications Canada, also the occasion of the appointment of the first industrial president, our beloved Ross Browne from Winnipeg.

“In those days, monies seemed to go further in our organization, air fares were very much cheaper, and meetings in Toronto were much more frequent.

“Like many aspects of life, the more you put into something, the more you get out of it, and this was certainly applicable to doing voluntary work with SWAC/CSC.

“At the national level, there was liaison work with other organizations, like the Mechanical and the Electrical Contractors Associations of Canada, review and comments on draft documents presented by our representatives on the CCDC, and many other aspects relating to provincial trade associations.”

Specification Innovation

Talks on the new Construction Specifications Institute Format, which had begun in the early 1960s, continued at an industry conference held in Washington in February 1964. After attending the Washington meeting with SWAC, CSI and AIA, SWAC President Peter T.M. Barott reported that the Standard Index and Standard Filing System would likely receive final approval at a second meeting planned for July 1964.

Discussion at a CSI/SWAC International Joint Committee meeting held in November 1964 centred on development of a North American format within which both organizations could prepare standard guide specifications studies for use in the United States and Canada interchangeably.

In 1964, the SWAC Board of Directors voted to accept the revised CSI format as SWAC's format. Copies were sent out to all members for comment. Over 750 replies gave it almost unanimous approval. It was suggested by members of the Board that if the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) would formally endorse the CSI Format, it would become more acceptable.

In December 1964 the RAIC and the Canadian Joint Committee on Construction Materials recommended the use of the Format. As well, the Department of Public Works and the Construction Engineering Branch of the Department of National Defence would arrange their specifications in the new form.

The engineering associations were also approached for endorsement and in March 1965, the APEO Executive recommended the use of the CSI Format to its members.

Revised CSI Format

The Revised CSI Format for Construction Specifications was published in the *Specification Associate* in October 1964. Many in the construction industry questioned the need for the new format, which had been accepted by SWAC earlier in the year. Their questions were addressed in the following article from October 1964:

There is a pressing need for a national format for construction specifications as a consistent national format will be benefit to the specification writer, the contractor and the material supplier. Estimating will be made easier and bids will be more accurate and competitive. Architects and engineers will have greater assurance that they are properly describing all they should specify, and owners should save money.

Of special interest to specification writers would be the ability to relate all files, specifications, technical data, references and product literature to one unified system.

Many individuals do not see why they should revise their present systems. They argue that buildings are bid and constructed under their present methods and they ask: Why change? Could not each specification writer solve the problem on his own? The answer is that he cannot do an effective job alone. The real benefits come only from obtaining widespread usage of a single format.

Would it not be better for those of us who work with specifications to agree on a common arrangement? With our changing technology and the need to convey information rapidly and accurately, can we afford the luxury of 5,000 different systems?

The result: CSI members have actively worked toward a solution. Proposed formats were printed and circulated in 1961 and 1962. More comments, suggestions and criticisms were submitted on this subject than any other CSI work.

Each member has had two opportunities to comment on the work. Insofar as possible, this latest work reflects the wishes of the membership.

The CSI Format for Construction Specifications may not be the ultimate, but everyone across the nation can use it easily and profitably.

The format is designed for maximum flexibility. There are no fixed designations for technical sections. There is nothing that requires bids to be taken in particular fashion.

The format is also designed for maximum utility. It provides a simple method for last minute changes and insertions.

Now is the time to put into practice that which has for so long been the object of intensive study. If we do not begin to use it fully, we will study it to death. It deserves the benefit of practical testing.

The CSI Format can be listed in 20 lines of type. It is split into sections and divisions, two words which many specification writers have used interchangeably. This has lead to some misunderstanding of the concept. In the CSI Format these two words do not have the same meaning. The CSI Format is based on the principle of placing sections together in related groups. The word division is used to denote a group of sections.

The concept of grouping related sections into divisions was conceived as a practical means of providing national uniformity without disrupting current practices.

The section is the same unit of work that you currently use in specifications. That is, it can be the same if you desire. Or you can make a section all-inclusive; or you can write it as several shorter sections and be assured that they will be together in the finished specification.

Divisions are the permanent, unchanging framework of the CSI Format. They are fixed in number and name. Divisions are

the alphabet of the CSI Format. They indicate the location of sections in the Format just as letters outline the location of words in a dictionary. Most of the divisions in the Format are based on more than one relationship. If divisions were established solely on the basis of one relationship, there would have to be a separate division for each existing material.

Much of the usefulness of the CSI Format is derived from its flexible numbering system which permits sections to be arranged in any order within their respective divisions. The fixed division designations create the national uniformity that has been so long sought. The non-fixed section designations permit the flexibility that is so essential to practical use.

In an editorial in the same issue, Russell Cornell described why the new CSI Format should be adopted by Canadian Specification writers:

The Specification Associate has introduced the CSI Format for Building Specifications to Canadian Specification writers, with a recommendation that it be adopted by design offices in this country. Although work on a standard method of indexing construction specifications was in progress by the Specification Writers Association of Canada at the time, it became obvious, upon studying the work of the United States organization, that a reasonable solution had been reached and a separate document would serve no useful purpose.

In order to further advance the use of the new format, a meeting was planned for June 1965 with the RAIC, Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC), SWAC, Canadian Construction Association (CCA), Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (AIQS) and Sweets Catalogue Services participating. The Department of Building Research, National Research Council Canada attended as an observer. The purpose of the

meeting was to establish how the new format, as presently arranged, could be used in Canada.

The new format was being discussed across the country. In 1964, the Edmonton SWAC chapter organized two panel discussions, the first of which included three Toronto representatives, to discuss the CSI Format for Building Specifications and other issues. Audience reaction indicated little resistance to the adoption of this newest form of index.

The second panel discussed education in construction. It was evident from the discussion there that the building industry, while quick to criticize the results of school courses, showed little interest in collaborating on changes. In some cases, it was said that courses would be considerably longer if they included everything the industry deemed necessary.

Co-operation was also under way on other fronts. In November 1964, Peter Barott reported that the RAIC had approved the motion requesting RAIC assist SWAC in compilation of specifications. A letter was prepared, which urged all members of RAIC to contribute to SWAC studies. Earlier in the year, the Toronto chapter had compiled a master list of approximately 300 potential guide studies.

Throughout the decade many initiatives like the 16-Division Format were created through SWAC's ability to work with other associations and governments in developing programs that would benefit the construction industry in North America. For example, at a meeting of the CSI/SWAC J-3 Committee (J-3 was made up of CSI, SWAC and the American Institute of Architects) held in Buffalo in January 1966, SWAC presented the Standard Section Format, the Building Construction Index and the Correspondence Course on Specification Writing. The CSI provided a copy of their Manual of Practice to SWAC and indicated interest in SWAC's investigations into prescription versus performance

specifications and the division between drawings and specifications.

CSI

After taking on the job of executive director, Val Stengels recommended that SWAC write and sign a mutual co-operation agreement with CSI and suggested a direct liaison between the two executive directors and visits to each others' annual conventions be instituted. A permanent line of communications was established between the two groups at a meeting in Washington in January 1969. The ultimate goal of the SWAC/CSI liaison was the hope of eliminating duplication and fragmentation of effort. Stengels said the future would show that a close relationship between the two organizations would be beneficial to the construction industry in both countries.

At a July 1969 SWAC/CSI joint meeting held in Toronto, the two groups discussed uniform documentation. They agreed to the exchange of preliminary studies for comment and the publication of lists of guide studies. They also agreed that the Canadian Building Construction Index (CBCI) would submit comments on proposed revisions to the CSI Format and produce a revised BCI, which would be submitted to CSI for technical review. In addition, CSI would encourage the appointment of a SWAC representative to the Uniform System Committee.

SWAC also agreed to appoint a member to study the CSI Spec Data program and arrange a meeting between CSI and the Canadian Department of Industry. In addition, the two groups agreed to consider undertaking a study on an open-end spec, as well as attempting to standardize Section Formats since both those of CSI and SWAC were currently under review.

In a report Stengels wrote: "One of the main endeavours of the executive director in 1969 was liaison with the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) through reciprocal visits over the past two years. Points of co-operation between the two organizations included the SWAC correspondence course, BCI/Uniform System, Technical Program, Specification-Data Sheets, Section Format and Research Foundation."

Joint Committee on Construction Materials

In July 1966, an invitation to become an associate member of the Canadian Joint Committee on Construction Materials was received. The matter was brought before the SWAC Board, where it was decided that the Committee would be advised that only a full membership would be considered. In November 1966, SWAC declined an invitation to sit as associate member, but offered the Committee any other assistance required.

To ensure continued SWAC participation in the Canadian Joint Committee on Contract Documents and Procedures (later known as the Canadian Construction Documents Committee or "CCDC") the Board reappointed Al Lindsay to the Committee in October 1967. The continued use of the SWAC name on the cover of the revised Guide to Bidding Procedures was also endorsed.

In 1973, SWAC once again expanded its role within the construction industry with the appointment of Wayne Watson, RSW, to the Canadian Government Specification Board (CGSB). Watson attended the inaugural meeting of the CGSB in Ottawa in July 1973. The Board's purpose was to monitor and comment on all standards and activities within the CGSB, including approval or rejection of a standard prior to publishing.

Watson said: "The composition of the [CGSB] is heavy on government representation, yet with sufficient voice from

private industry to temper policies and alter non-governmental objectives. The CGBS is involved in many standards. The one which is important to SWAC is Subcommittee 2, Building Construction.

“Except for an annual two-day meeting, all activities of the CGSB were handled by correspondence.” He said: “Our representation on the Board is an excellent opportunity to be involved in monitoring standards being developed in Canada and may give the opportunity to become involved with other agencies that produce standards.”

Section Format

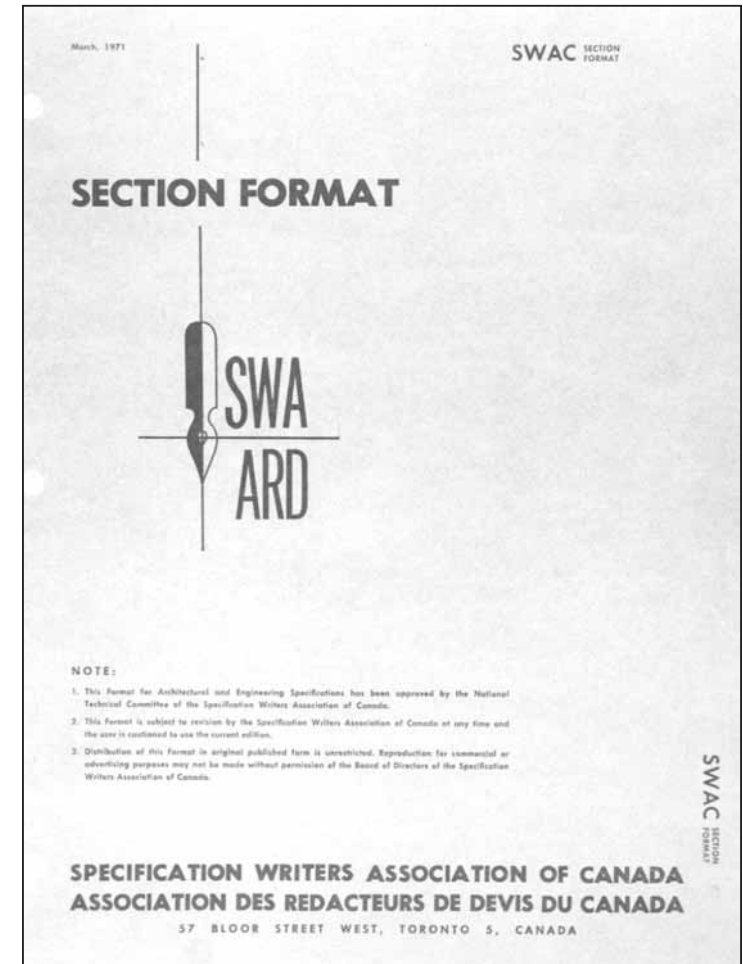
With the adoption and acceptance of the 16-Division Format by Canadian specifiers and design offices, the need for a new section format became apparent. In December 1965, SWAC answered the challenge by publishing a new Standard Section Format in the *Specification Associate*. An article accompanying the new section format explained that the existing section format, published in May 1963, was a fixed format that was incompatible with the recently adopted CSI 16-Division Format, whose main feature was built-in flexibility.

The Standard Section Format adopted at the November 1965 SWAC Board of Directors meeting was a format that followed the concepts of the CSI 16-Division Format. It was designed for maximum flexibility and utilized the latest approaches to the production of construction specifications.

The Standard Section Format consisted of three headings: General Paragraphs, Materials and Assembly Paragraphs, and Guide Paragraphs.

Under the main titles were subtitles that were some of the paragraph titles used in a project specification. Subtitles could be added or deleted to suit the project specifications.

The SWAC Section Format was discussed at a Board meeting in November 1965, with Ivan Lavender reporting that a majority of the members voting on the issue favoured the revised Section Format, which was adopted. With the acceptance of the



First issue of Section Format released, April 21, 1971.

revised Section Format, all specifications published to date would have to be changed to conform to the new format and be reissued.

In October 1969, Technical Director, Wayne Watson recommended that SWAC accept the CSI Section Format for Specifications as the format to be used in all SWAC documents. The Board agreed to accept the CSI format in principle, and asked for the format to be published in the *Specification Associate* for comment by the membership. The Board also voted to delay revisions to the BCI until work on the CSI Section Format was completed and a more definite direction established.

In October 1970, Watson advised the Board that the three-part Section Format had been approved by the National Technical Committee as the official SWAC format and would be used in all SWAC documents.

Building Construction Index

In November 1965, Russ Cornell presented a first draft of a Building Construction Index (BCI) as a guide for specification and coding of product literature. It was viewed as a Canadian method of indexing specifications. By February 1966, the new BCI was published in the *Specification Associate*. In an editorial in the same issue, Cornell explained the benefits of the BCI.

The Specification Writers Association of Canada, in committee with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada; the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada; the Canadian Joint Committee on Construction Materials; and the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors has produced the Building Construction Index. Based upon the original 16-Division Format for Building Specifications, conceived by the Construction Specifications Institute of the United States, the BCI provides a standard framework for building specifications, and an index for quicker

filing and retrieval of product and technical literature. The BCI should represent a valuable timesaver to the industry. Try it and see.

An article published in the *Specification Associate* in February 1966, offered this introduction to the Building Construction Index.

The development of a standard Building Construction Index has been a matter of concern by construction people in Canada for some time. In 1963, the Specification Writers Association of Canada introduced the CSI Format for Building Specifications, devised by the CSI. This 16-Division Format has been adopted by many Canadian Design offices.

With Canadian use of the CSI Format, there was a need for an associated filing system for storage and retrieval of administrative correspondence, technical information and building products literature. The BCI is intended for these purposes.

Under each Division the BCI Format shows the separate sections of work. The BCI specification section headings need not be adhered to in practice, but the subjects should be maintained within the designated divisions.

A Division is a collection of applicable, related sections, while sections are distinct parts of construction. For example, painting is separate from resilient flooring, although both sections are included in Division 9. The system is flexible, only the Divisions are fixed.

By 1966, the Education Committee was actively promoting the use of the 16-Division Format and the new Building Construction Index. Robert Briggs, education chair reported in 1966 that “As an RAIC voting member, I was pleased to seek and receive an endorsement of the BCI from the RAIC.” By March 1966, sales of the published BCI totalled \$1,175 against a cost of \$1,650. Board members were asked to promote the sale of the index at their chapter meetings. Ivan Lavender suggested

the index be stamped with the SWAC logo, to indicate SWAC distribution.

By May 26, 1966, it was reported that a net profit of \$500 had been made from the sale of copies of the Building Construction Index and there were still 1,600 on hand. Translation was being handled by Yvan Hardy and was expected to be ready for printing in September 1966.

In August 1966, Russell Cornell wrote: “With the introduction of the Building Construction Index (BCI) in February of 1966, it was only a matter of time until the system of cataloging building materials could be arranged for computer selection. The computerized BCI will be demonstrated to a group of senior building construction officials in September.”

In April 1968, the chairmanship of the BCI Committee transferred to Ivan Lavender. The Committee changed its official name to the Canadian Building Construction Index Committee. The terms of reference agreed on were: “The CBCI Committee will be a national committee to guide, ratify and develop the Building Construction Index.” The committee would meet at least once a year and the BCI would be reprinted by the SWAC only upon ratification by the CBCI Committee.

The Committee reaffirmed the concept of the original steering committee: that SWAC act as the secretariat for the BCI. The SWAC Board of Directors directed the Committee to give consideration to all existing systems with the intention of working toward the production of a unified North American document prior to any further revision to the existing BCI.

Also in 1968, the Board authorized the CBCI to form a working committee to handle any comments received. The Committee was also authorized to give further consideration to other systems in an effort to produce a unified North American document, and to report back to the Board.

In September 1968, CSI agreed to send five copies of their Uniform System of Indexing for use in revising the CBCI. CSI had adopted a new section format that was to be published later that year.

Uniform Construction Index

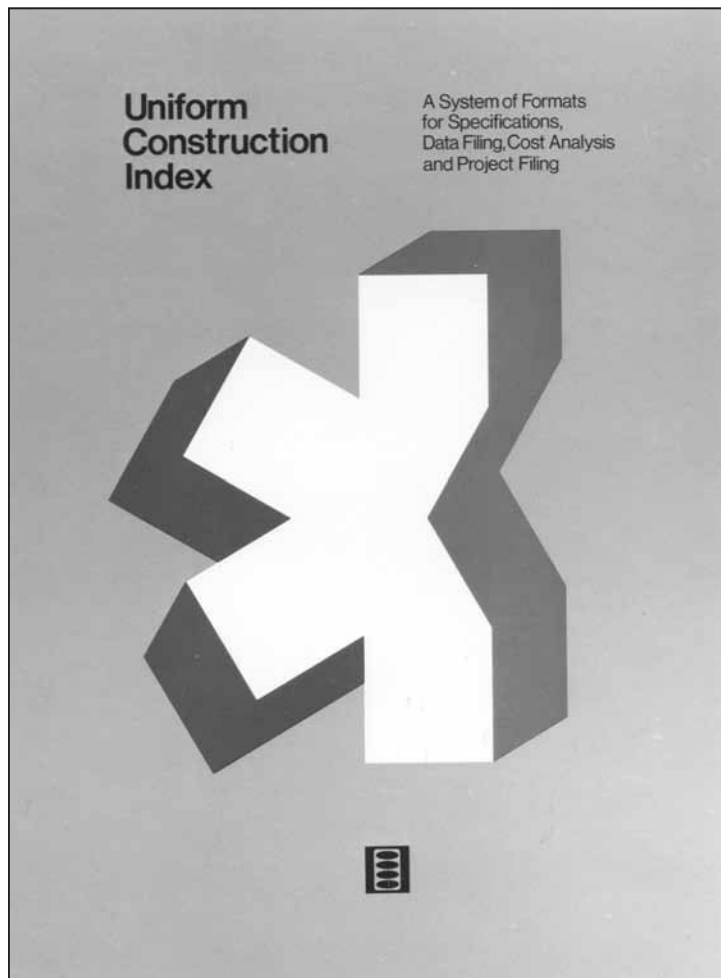
In 1966, CSI published the forerunner to the Uniform Construction Index, known as the Uniform System, Title One – Buildings. It was divided in three parts: Construction Specifications, Data Filing and Cost Accounting. The headings in the last part of Uniform System had 4-digit numbers prefixed, which soon became popular with specification writers, who started working out of Part Three as well as Part One. Uniform System, Title Two, which was supposed to cover heavy construction, was never issued.

In March 1966, SWAC published its own Building Construction Index that adapted principles in CSI’s document to Canadian practice.

In December 1970, Wayne Watson, director of the SWAC Technical Committee, reported that members had been working overtime to complete revisions to the BCI and publish a SWAC specification format. It would provide the specifier with broad scope and narrow scope breakdown of the 16 divisions, another step in bringing uniformity to construction specifications. Revisions to the BCI would include an updated and more versatile office filing system and a comprehensive index for filing product literature.

A directive of the Executive Council in early 1972 to bring the revision of the BCI to completion, required co-ordination with many organizations in Canada and the Joint Industry Conference in the United States. In addition, the Technical Committee made a start on a contract with the Department of Industry,

Trade and Commerce in reviewing portions of the BEAM (Building Equipment, Accessories and Materials) information retrieval program.



The Uniform Construction Index, forerunner to MasterFormat.

The Committee completed the writing of the data filing system known as Part 5 of the BCI. Recognizing that the Committee's work was paralleling that of the CSI and the Joint Industry Conference in the United States, in preparing documents on filing systems, a meeting was arranged in Washington so that each country would be informed of recent developments. It was agreed to work toward a common document for both countries. As both groups were doing the same thing, the Committee decided to merge the BCI with the Uniform System. The merging of the two documents led to some compromise, but it was considered in the best interests of the Association, as well as of the construction industry in both Canada and the United States. In 1972 SWAC and CSI jointly published their Uniform Construction Index, the flags of both nations graced the back cover of the UCI.

The preface to the index stated: "This publication has but one purpose; to provide the construction industry — of the United States and Canada — with a co-ordinated construction communications vehicle." The document provided the industry with a system of formats for the preparation of specifications, the filing of construction data, the indexing of construction costs and the filing of project correspondence.

The Uniform Construction Index was comprised of four main parts and was a system of formats for Specifications, Data Filing, Cost Analysis and Project Filing. The first three were inter-related and based on the current edition of the CSI Format for Construction Specifications. The inter-relationship was indicated in the Comparative Table of Contents and was further established by the Index of Key Words.

At the SWAC annual meeting in Halifax in April 1972, it was announced that SWAC would have approximately 1,000 copies of the Uniform Construction Index printed at a cost of \$2.20

each. Selling price to members would be \$6.50 and \$8 for non-members.

To conform to the UCI, product literature and catalogues had to carry the UCI logo and the division number under which the material would be filed. That meant that product literature would need to be pre-classified. A SWAC staff technical person or an outside agency was needed to do this work. Since the Department of Industry Trade and Commerce Thesaurus was one of the guides used in preparing the UCI, SWAC was expected to also review the Thesaurus.

It was agreed that the Guide Study program would concentrate on updating material in line with the UIC and that efforts would be made to complete work that was dragging on in Divisions 15 and 16. The April 1972 meeting also authorized the hiring of a qualified specification writer to operate as an administrator of technical services. The cost was to be within the \$5,000 limit authorized by the Board. Efforts would be made to make the position self supporting through the sale of technical documents. The fee for pre-classifying product literature was set at \$25 per product.

Later in 1972, Wayne Watson reported on the joint policy meetings with CSI saying: "The liaison is becoming increasingly conducive to exchange, which will be of mutual benefit to both associations. The Uniform Construction Index has been completed and while considerable delay was encountered in getting copies into Canada, they are now available and 50 percent have been sold."

"With the publication of the Uniform Construction Index," C.R.W. MacPhail reported in October 1972, "we have a document which marks an achievement not only in its presentation of technical material, but also in international co-operation. The long-standing objective for a common system for Canada and the United States has finally been achieved."

In June 1973, Yvan Hardy told the Board that translation of the UCI Broadscope Titles for Data Filing was under way, and Division I was complete. Divisions II through XVI were completed in early September. Hardy said the cost of translating the entire document would be about \$15,000, which was shared by the federal government and the Québec government at no cost to SWAC.

Spec Data Sheets

In September 1968, SWAC was informed that, due to high costs, the CSI program on spec data sheets was under review. Stuart Frost, who was working on a format for spec data sheets in Canada, was asked to arrange a meeting with CSI to discuss possible SWAC participation in their spec data sheet plans.

By April 1969, discussions were underway on the advisability of working with the Department of Transport (DOT) and CSI in the preparation of a common format for spec data sheets. Fifteen hundred dollars had already been spent on spec data sheet work being done by Frost Fernandez Associates and another \$500 would be needed to complete the work. It was agreed that SWAC should go ahead with its own program, without CSI or DOT and produce a format for use by the Association and possible sale to members. However, further investigations revealed that the program would be much more expensive than anticipated and at the Board of Directors meeting in May 1969, it was agreed that due to the high potential costs and the need for closer liaison with CSI technical programs, SWAC would delay the program until a relationship with CSI was established.

Copies of the Standard Format for Building Product Information were distributed to the board in May 1969. It was agreed that the technical director should initiate action to revise the

SWAC Standard Section Format as required, to suit the final form of the Format for Building Product Information, so that the two documents could be released simultaneously.

Construction Information Systems

Several construction information systems were under development in 1970. Building Equipment, Accessories and Materials (BEAM) was an experimental prototype developed by the Construction Division, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in Canada and the Spec Data II microfilm system by CSI was nearing completion. The former was being tested for user reaction and comments. In addition, the publishers of Sweets Catalogue, which had been used in the U.S. since 1906 and Canada since 1966, had research projects looking into electronic methods of disseminating information.

A conference held in 1972 demonstrated the planned BEAM (Building Equipment, Accessories and Materials) Canadian Construction Information System. The conference attracted senior representatives from the Canadian construction industry, including SWAC senior executives. The Canadian BEAM system was begun by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce in 1967 and by 1969 the department had begun development of the Construction Information System (CIS), which involved storing information on microfiche and filing new product and technical information on a combination of microfiche and full-size print indexes. The experimental system was tried in 1972 by 42 firms in 10 cities.

Of those using the experimental system, 90 percent of the users indicated they would subscribe to it on a payment basis if it were made available. Of particular interest was the ability to do a computer search of products. Users also recognized that

microfiche would be more up-to-date than paper systems and would be a faster means of information retrieval.

Each microfiche contained up to 200 pages of information. The system required a viewer, about the size of a small TV screen, to read the microfiche and a terminal for doing computer searches. Information could be searched manually using the microfiche or by punching a code into the terminal.

The system was to be administered by a non-profit, but self-supporting organization, the Canadian Construction Information Corporation. The cost was estimated at less than \$200 per month for the average user and use of the system without a terminal was estimated at \$50 to \$70 per month. The system was expected to be up and running in Toronto and Montréal by the spring of 1973 and coast to coast in 1974. Unfortunately, due to an austerity program, the federal government eventually cancelled the program in 1975.

Federal Common Master Specification

Based on the computerized master specification system developed by the Department of Public Works, the Canadian Master Construction Specification (CMCS) was initially to be designed for use on building programs.

James Findlay and Lloyd Boddy met with John McDonald, Deputy Minister, Department of Public Works, in Ottawa on October 26, 1970 to discuss the progress of the Master Specification and to re-emphasize the Association's interest in making an assessment of the completed master for possible use in the commercial field. It was reported that due to the workload at the Department of Public Works (DPW), completion of the Master Specification would be delayed. SWAC offered to assist in completion of the master by finding experienced specification writing personnel within SWAC who would work for DPW on a

contract basis. A number of recommendations were being made to DPW as, at the time there were five or six DPW employees working on various aspects of the master, who were also members of SWAC.

By 1973, the development of a master specification system for use by federal departments and agencies was under discussion. Recognizing the benefits to be accrued from its use, the participating departments, Public Works, National Defence, Transportation, and Indian and Northern Affairs, agreed to join forces in the development and use of a common master specification. It was to be known as the Government of Canada Master Construction Specification.

Professional Status

The need for recognition of specification writers was discussed by the Association almost from the outset of SWAC's existence. Many of the group's early initiatives in education and the development of the 16-Division Format were aimed at creating a professional designation for specification writers.

In response to the resolution passed at the 1965 annual meeting, Ivan Lavender was appointed to form a committee to investigate the requirements necessary to certify professional specification writers — who were not architects or engineers — with government agencies and to prepare a brief on the necessary steps to be taken.

Later in the year Lavender presented a list of suggested qualifications for specification writers and asked that the report be sent to board members for comment.

This early initiative did not result in any action, but the issue remained a topic of conversation among the membership. In April 1969, Executive Director Val Stengels wrote:

“One perennial project is the program for classification and certification of specification writers. Our newly established College of Fellows has expressed interest in completing this project and it is impossible to put together a group of better qualified men than our fellows. It is my sincere belief this project will be completed during 1969-70.” [As it turns out, Stengels was overly optimistic about the amount of time it would take; it was completed in 1972.]

At the Annual General Meeting, held in April 1970, Ivan Lavender, now a member of the College of Fellows, reported that the College had been asked by the Board and had agreed to take on the task of doing something concrete about the establishment of qualifications for specification writers. A special group of fellows who resided in Toronto met and prepared a report on the qualification or certification of specification writers. It was presented to the Executive Council and referred to the new Board of Directors with the suggestion that immediate action be taken on this very important aspect of SWAC.

The new Board met on June 6, 1970 and voted to conduct a survey of specification writers, to be completed as soon as possible, in order to determine the training, education, scope and responsibility of specification writers. The survey was to form a basis of study that would begin the process of establishing suitable standards for the registration of practicing and future specification writers. In October 1970, the survey was mailed to approximately 3,000 engineers, architects, specification writers and government offices drawn from a list of people receiving Sweets Catalogue. It was expected that the survey would yield information on the type of office, location, number of employees, salary scale, educational background, field experience and involvement in areas other than specification writing. The survey also asked how many offices used the BCI and how many offices would be prepared to use a master

specification. A deadline of 30 days was set and a committee was struck to analyze the information. By December 1970, 523 replies were received to the specification writer's survey — a higher than expected return. An ad hoc committee was formed to consider the question of the registration of specification writers.

In order to advance the cause of the recognition of the status of specification writers, the Board voted in March 1971 to adopt the principle of the registration of specification writers through a Registration Board. The Registration Board would be charged with establishing standards of education, experience and examination.

The appointment of the Registration Board could not precede the proposed SWAC bylaw which would set the rules and regulations governing the number and qualifications of Registration Board members. A provisional registration board was appointed for the purpose of preparing the required rules and regulations. A.W. Cluff was appointed acting chair. The provisional board members were: Ivan Lavender, Clarence Freek, Mervyn Jones, Lin Shector, John Challis and Bernie Rondot. They were charged with formulating the rules and regulations of the Registration Board, which, together with the approval of the bylaw by the membership, would permit the commencement of specification writer registration by SWAC. In November 1971, formal application was made to the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs regarding the plan to register specification writers.

In February 1972, the Executive Council voted to accept the proposed rules and regulations of the Registration Board and recommended that the Board of Directors approve the rules and regulations. Upon approval the Registration Board would produce an application form, invite applications for registration through announcements in the technical press, and

prepare a suitable certificate for issuance to the successful applicants.

The Registration Board was formed in June 1972. A mail-in vote by the Board of Directors appointed Dr. Charles Benko, specification writer; Mervyn Jones, architect/educator; James Marshall, contractor; Roy Matsui, architect; and Tony Wallis, construction consultant, to the Registration Board. Three outside members of the Registration Board, one each from the RAIC, ACEC and CCA still remained to be appointed.

The Registration Board met on August 16, 1972 and formed a Criteria Committee and an Examining Committee, appointed officers and set up procedures. Thirty-seven applications had been received. It was intended to have these processed by the end of October.

In late 1972, the first nine RSWs were recognized by the Association were:

- ◆ Denis H. Brough
- ◆ Arnold R. Barry
- ◆ Lech A. Halko
- ◆ Bernard S. Kay
- ◆ Earl P. Langill
- ◆ Alexander D. Mann
- ◆ Herman Pallas
- ◆ Milton A. Seddon
- ◆ Johan Vandergraaf

It was said at the time that the letters RSW after a name was not a licensing process but was intended to give assurance that the user had been examined and had proven ability in the field of communication in the construction industry. The choice of the term Registered Specification Writer was also based on the fact that at no time was it considered that provincial registration

would be achieved, as is required by architects, engineers etc. It implied that a register would be kept at the national office and those qualifying would have their names in the register.

Reporting to the Board in early 1973, SWAC Executive Director Lloyd Boddy said the Registration Board had been very strict in screening applicants for registration. To date, 33 had been passed. By September 1973, 107 SWAC members had received RSW certification. The Registration Board began studying proposals to establish admission requirements.

To help gain recognition for the new designation, the Registration Board issued the names of successful applicants to trade journals. Chapter chairs were informed by letter when a chapter member was made an RSW. The Registration Board, which was financially self-sufficient, amended its rules and regulations to set the annual registration fee at an amount not to exceed \$25.

Specs and Drawings: What Goes Where and How?

The following items outline some of the thoughts of early specification writers on how the nuts and bolts business of writing specifications should be conducted.

Nomenclature reared its ugly head when comparing the available reference material and the monster is not yet overcome. Our inheritance of manufacturers' literature that comes from Britain, Western Europe and the U.S.A., plus the jargon of the trade, has produced a sad lack of agreement on definitions, a multiplicity of names referring to the same thing, and some outright misnomers which are a major obstacle to the presentation of a complete concise and correct study.

R.H. Barber, specification officer responsible for compilation of the glass and glazing specification, October 1964.

An argument that the time has come to change the “No Brand Names” policy common in specification writing:

[The two accepted ways to specify materials are by: standards such as CSA, CGSB or ASTM, or where no standards exist, non-partisan performance descriptions must be used.] The explosion of technological discovery and innovation in building construction has left standard producers far behind. Each week brings whole new species of products onto the market. Even the most efficient standards organizations cannot keep pace.

In the second case, a conscientious specification writer is in the vulnerable position of having to make judgments and specifications based on chemical and physical properties, without the qualifications to do so. The specifier is forced to describe the product, rather than just naming it.

The specifier becomes a one-man standards committee, the end result of which is the enormous consumption of time, with no assurance that the specification will keep him out of trouble on the job — or even worse — drag the issue into the courts.

The policy of “No Name” specs may have had its validity in the days of simple bricks and mortar, but in today's and tomorrow's world of highly sophisticated and ever evolving materials and methodology, the policy is obsolete, unworkable, detrimental to progress, legally dangerous and needs prompt reviewing.

R.W. Marsh, letter to the editor, Specification Associate, June 1965.

In August 1965, C.E. Goodman, Giffels Associates, wrote to the editor in support of R.W. Marsh's stand on an end to the No Brand Names in Specifications policy. He suggested that a co-ordinated joint effort by SWAC, architectural, engineering and other technical associations was needed to end this obsolete practice.

In 1965 the SWAC National Board of Directors undertook a study to establish the line of demarcation between drawings and specifications. The results of panel discussions held at each chapter were used to compile the report, prepared by V.E. Stengles. Stengles concluded:

- ◆ Drawings should indicate the materials without going into detail as to quantities of material.
- ◆ Specifications should describe the materials, their quality and how they are put together.
- ◆ Schedules may be placed on the drawings or included in the specifications.
- ◆ To simplify matters and avoid conflict, place on drawings only that information which belongs there. The thickness of walls, sizes of rooms and so on.
- ◆ Write specifications that describe materials and methods. Never mix the function of these two documents.

As a matter of policy, Stengles said that specifications were to give information not shown on the drawings. The demarcation line should be between the graphical and the written description of the work.

At the Annual Business Meeting of 1966, SWAC President D'Arcy G. Helmer expressed the hope that the Association would attain a goal of 250 studies published and would continue development of the correspondence course. He also urged the Association to improve training for specification officers in construction colleges.

In a 1967 article, Val Stengles wrote on specification methods, describing what he called the cut and paste method, where specifications are copied from previous jobs. Components may be left out or unneeded specifications included, with the obvious problems. He suggested that specification writers organize a master

file containing copies of each section filed according to subject matter.

Other specification methods of the day were: standard specifications, card systems, guide specifications and automatic systems. Standard specifications, where the blanks were simply filled in, were not recommended since specifications constantly change. Clarity could be lost and those using them had to constantly update their master list. Card systems involved a large number of cards with one or two sentences written on each. The writer selected applicable cards and assembled a specification. The problem in this system was keeping the file in order, as the cards had to be re-sorted for each specification.

Recalling the days of card files, Wayne Watson told of the following incident. In 1974, he was working as an independent spec consultant, writing the specs for a project for Chris McPhail's office in Regina. Working out of Chris's office, he was using what was then a new form of punch card system all the cards were assembled in order and then sent to IBM to be processed. "All the cards were sorted and placed in a shoe box with a loose lid on it. The secretary was charged with the task of taking the box across the street to the IBM office. It was in the middle of winter, with really slushy roads, and the secretary slipped on the sidewalk. The cards went flying in all directions and were completely soaked and ruined. So poor Wayne had to start the spec all over again!"

Guide specifications were a series of partially completed sections with blanks that needed to be filled in. During the previous five years, both SWAC and CSI had published a number of specification guides that Stengles suggested be in every spec writer's reference file. These could be used to set up a filing system.

There were also several commercially available systems for electronic or automated specification production. Some stored standard clauses on perforated tape while others stored data on magnetic tapes. Systems typed at 140 to 180 words per minute and eliminated the need for proofreading standard clauses. The cost of the hardware, however, was likely out of the reach of a smaller office.

In a June 1968 article, Val Stengels wrote on the purpose and use of specifications:

The specifications we write today serve many purposes, but every paragraph I write, every word any one of you writes, has one all important objective — to communicate!

Specifications are the communication medium between two parties: the owner, as represented by the architect, and the builder. The owner uses the specifications and drawings to convey exactly what he wants and the builder has to read specifications and examine drawings to know precisely what he is submitting a price on.

Once accepted, specifications attain the status of a legal document. Approximately nine years ago the founder of our association, Dennis Brough, wrote the following words.

“It has been said that in essence the law is a matter of common sense. This has been applied to the construction business with successful results. A judge reading a contract presumably looks for evidence that both parties, when agreeing to the contract, clearly understood what was written and what was meant by the words used. This is known as a meeting of the minds. The specification, when read in conjunction with drawings and other documents, should bring about this meeting of the minds.”

Stengels concluded that *“Specifications are not in themselves an end. Their purpose is to achieve a major communications goal.”*

In June 1968, Claude Jarrett wrote on the production of the specification:

“Before the specification writer can commence his task, he has to have available information from the trade on the various items to be included, so the importance of manufacturer’s literature cannot be too highly stressed. Not last year’s literature, but today’s literature. Not a sales brochure for Mrs. Jones who is interested in a bath tub, but the technical information dealing with materials, their correct use, function and application, together with information on the limits of such material. In other words: the dos and don’ts. The better the quality of the literature, the more likely it will be that the specification writer will select the product. Manufacturers’ literature has improved vastly, but there are still many pitfalls for the unwary.”

In June 1968, Denis Brough wrote that:

The specification writer is, in my view, one of the key members of the design team. Of today’s specification writers, generally speaking, two out of three would have had high school education plus a technical institute education, or equivalent. One out of three has a higher education, university registered architect, engineer.

The specification writer is a man essentially of contradictions, a man of understanding, but a very diverse person. He is very experienced but he is a jack of all trades. He is knowledgeable and studious. He is versatile. He is inquisitive. He is aggressive and yet stubborn. He is determined but nevertheless patient. He is forward looking but at the same time conservative with a small ‘c’. He is both stubborn and considerate.

The specification writer has a lot of research work to do and he has been asked how he does it. Well, frankly, I’m sure my fellow spec writers will agree with me that most of this is done in so-called spare time. This is the way of life at present.

In December 1968, a letter to the editor from Iain Weir, the first chair of the Hamilton–Niagara chapter, wrote that some of the best specification work in the country is being done by departments of the federal government, both at the central and regional levels. Specifications were brief and contained sound common sense. The accent was on simplicity of expression, presented in a predetermined standardized fashion. Weir urged members to take an active role in the SWAC technical program.

An April 1969 report by Val Stengels, executive director, stated: “During the past year we started a new project — a survey of computerized specification systems. A lot of talk has been heard, so let us get the facts, the pros and cons, and where we can go from here.”

Technical Innovation

District Technical Conferences

In May 1965, SWAC President D’Arcy G. Helmer, outlined the plans for district technical meetings, or conferences. Three districts, Montréal–Ottawa; Toronto–London and Western Canada would hold joint conferences, the first of which would have the theme “How to write a specification and what the product should look like.”

To get the ball rolling, the first conferences were organized by the Executive Committee. Later conferences were organized by the chapters. The conferences were expected to run one full day and would be financially self supporting, although the Board was asked to underwrite any losses incurred on early conferences.

The first Technical Conference was held on October 1, 1966 at the Connaught Hotel in Hamilton. It was followed by a

Western Regional Conference in Edmonton on December 1, 1966. In June 1967, the Executive Committee passed a motion stating that regional conferences would be self-supporting with no assistance from national funds.

Computers in Construction

In September 1966, SWAC President Peter Pennington demonstrated a computerized construction materials selection system. He wrote: “With the assistance of several companies, SWAC launched specification writing into the computer age. The system is designed to reduce the amount of time we and our staff waste in the hunt-and-find system for technical information. To our knowledge there are at least 80 new construction products introduced to the market each day. Another 20 disappear each day. The information on available products and their properties is in chaos.”

Pennington’s computerized system was based on the properties and characteristics of each construction product. “All you had to do,” he wrote, “was decide what you wanted a product to do and a chart would list all available products on the market, their characteristics and properties.” Pennington estimated that completing the task of analyzing and fairly equating each product would require the work of 50 people working for 15 months. A permanent staff would be needed to keep the system up-to-date adding new products and deleting old ones.

Later, Pennington touched on the subject of computerization of the construction industry. He wrote: “It is forecast that, in this age of electronic storage and retrieval of information, drawings will eventually disappear as part of the contract documents. A word to the unbelievers, it can be done.”

Technical Committee

In 1969, the SWAC Technical Committee was revamped and its administration changed to a national technical director; four regional technical co-ordinators; and chapter technical officers. The goal was a more active and productive technical program. The Committee was responsible for co-ordinating regional technical conferences and administering the Guide Study Program; the National Standards Committee; the Canadian Joint Committee on Construction Documents and Procedures; the Canadian Joint Committee on Construction Materials; the Canadian Building Construction Index Committee; SWAC/CSI Joint Technical Committees; the Computer Assessment Committee; SWAC Standard Specifications Format; and the Proposed Standard Format for Building Product Information.

Al R. Lindsay, national technical director, reported that the revised Technical Committee got off to an early start with several guide studies completed or near completion in late 1969. The big change was that completed Guide Studies would be submitted to the national technical officer, where they would be duplicated and submitted to the technical director of each chapter. Each chapter officer would then be responsible for forming a committee to study the specification and present comment.

The comments would then be forwarded to the specification officer for final review and rewrite. The completed specifications were to be printed in the *Specification Associate* in their final form, rather than as a draft for member comment.

In February 1970, Wayne Watson reported that a complete schedule of guide studies, completed, or in progress would be published in the *Specification Associate* and would be updated in each issue. In addition, the French translation of the new BCI was completed and under review. Final copies were expected be

ready in April 1970. Much of the translation work was done by Hydro Québec.

In April 1970, the national Technical Committee began work on the Specification Writers Guide to Practice. It was developed by Juan Corkan, Calgary, for the purpose of providing Canadian specification writers with assistance in the development and preparation of specifications to a recommended uniform format.

Metric Conversion

In 1968, a joint committee was established with the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (CIQS) and groups inside and outside the federal government to study metric conversion. Bill C-50 concerning metrication had its first reading in the federal legislature in early 1970. As a result, the SWAC Metric Conversion Committee was expanded in anticipation of a change to the metric system.

In a February 1970 article entitled “Converting to the Metric System,” George W. Slee, president of CIQS and chair of a joint SWAC/CIQS committee on metrication, took a look at what had happened in the British construction industry when metric conversion was attempted.

He wrote that, with the continued use of Imperial measurements, Canada and the United States were alone in a metric sea. He stated that in Canada, conversion to the metric system was an economic necessity; that the conversion had to be generated by industry, not government; and that to be effective, the adoption of the metric system had to be made universal through legislation. Slee added that the most serious problems that the British faced were training personnel in the new system and rewriting existing data using metric measurements.

Education

Courses

The night school course in Specifications and Contracts at Ryerson Institute of Technology had, by 1964, been added to the new Construction Specifications Institute Format for Building Specifications. First offered in 1961, the 1964 class had 22 students successfully complete the course.

After three days of discussion at the 1964 convention, it was decided that greater co-ordination among the industry's many sources of education was required. As a result, SWAC was instructed to expand its Education Committee to study its potential role in the field of construction education. As a result, in 1965, the SWAC executive commissioned Russell Cornell to administer a new three-year correspondence course in specification writing. In May 1965, Cornell reported on plans for the proposed SWAC correspondence course, presenting a syllabus for a three-year course with 25 lessons each year. Each lesson would contain a written examination that would be returned to head office for marking. A final examination would be given at the end of the third year and a diploma issued to those successful students.

On the basis of an initial enrollment of 150 students and a payment of \$150 each, it was anticipated the course would be self-supporting. Cornell was willing to head the course with the help of a least three experienced draftsmen who would help prepare lessons. In November 1965, Cornell reported that the correspondence course would be ready in early 1966 and asked for direction on whether the course should be made available to schools, or retained for individuals only. A motion was passed stating that the course would be sold only to individuals for the first year and that the matter be referred to the next Board of

Directors, with a strong recommendation that the Association not license the sale of the course to schools until it had proven itself.

The course was provided to the writers of the correspondence course lessons without charge. It was also agreed, in principle, that a payment of royalties would be made to writers on a per student basis. In January 1966, it was agreed that royalties to course writers would begin when enrollment reached 150. Course fees were set at \$300, or \$100 per term, payable at the start of each series of courses. No refunds were to be made.

In 1967, Denis Brough, head specification writer for John B. Parkin Associates, was appointed to administer SWAC's correspondence course on specification writing. In October 1969, he wrote: "It is a pleasure to report that the 75 lessons of the correspondence course are now complete, a tremendous accomplishment and a credit to all those involved. I wish to express my thanks to all authors who volunteered their valuable time and services."

In October 1969, George Slee prepared the first set of examinations for the correspondence course and was paid \$150 for his work. In April 1970, two professors at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, a Mr. Paivie and Mervyn Jones, agreed to mark the final exams for the correspondence course at a cost of \$15 per student. A meeting was also arranged at Mohawk College to co-ordinate their specification writing course with the SWAC philosophy. In September 1970, Jones was appointed the administrator of the correspondence course at a salary of \$2,000 per year, with additional payments for marking exams.

A list of the first students to graduate from the correspondence course was published in the *Specification Associate* in May 1970. They were: James Hoy, Kurt Eggenberger, D.W. Pinkney, Frank Mah, Donald Sharp, Adam Vrooman, Gary Banks, Jack

Alkins, Henri Fortin and Harold Howard. All 10 students passed final exams.

In April 1969, National Education Chair Glenn M. Hardie reported that:

“While everyone today is aware of the crisis in education, it is felt that the committee should be relieved of the administrative aspects of managing the correspondence course and concentrate on researching new ideas and trends. For example, post graduate studies into techniques to produce contract documents that would suit our changing world and the co-ordination of courses offered at various institutes.”

In October 1969, Mr. Jarvis, the education director, asked that the Association consider selling the correspondence course as a bound volume. Any student wishing lessons marked would be assessed an additional \$2 per lesson. On completion of the course and the written exam, the student would receive an amended certificate. It was also recommended that the course be divided into and made available in three different disciplines, structural, mechanical-electrical and architectural. The Executive Committee agreed to the recommendations to offset the cost of the course and in November 1969, made the 75-lesson course available at a price of \$150 or \$50 per volume. The course was rebundled as the *Building Specification Writing Manual* (BSW) and sold to individuals and companies. The Publications Committee was authorized to sell the volumes and copies were made available to the chapters for resale.

In April 1970, the Board faced some hard financial decisions. A financial summary concerning the SWAC correspondence course and the BSW showed the total cost of course material and the BSW were just over \$66,000. However, sales of the correspondence course were \$25,000 and sales of the BSW were \$10,000 for a total of only \$35,000. Sales totals for April 1970 were: 71 complete sets of three volumes; nine two-volume

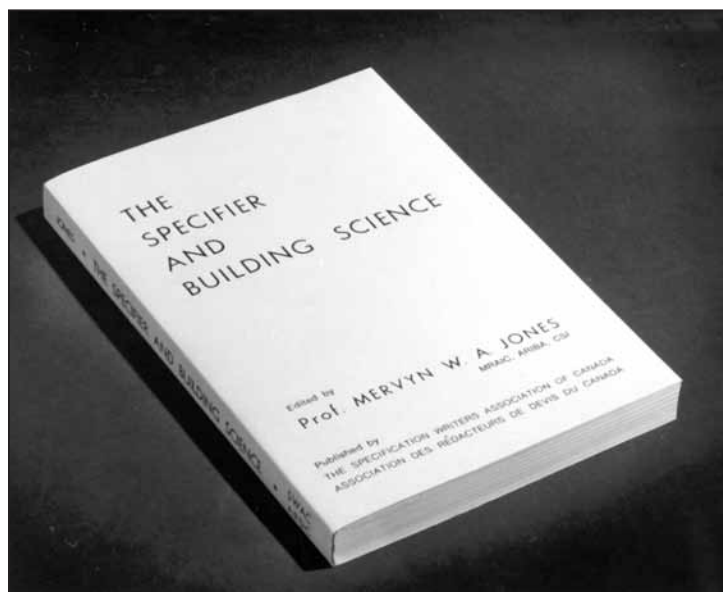
architectural sets; six two-volume mechanical-electrical sets and two structural volumes.

By the end of the 1971 fiscal year, the books revealed that the total cost of the correspondence course, including promotion and the cost of marking exams was \$71,377. Sales of the correspondence course and the BSW manual totalled \$55,381, creating a deficit of close to \$16,000. An inventory of lessons at cost was valued at \$16,000, with another entry of \$14,490 in pre-paid course fees. Obviously, the net income from this program was not justifying the effort being put into it and the time had come to set out in a new direction.

By March 1971, the Board of Directors had approved the recommendation of the Executive Council that the SWAC phase-out activity regarding the correspondence course, with due protection to the students currently enrolled, subject to ratification by the incoming board. A committee was formed to investigate the possibility of publishing a textbook based on the BSW manual. The committee was asked to make recommendations to the incoming board.

In May 1971, SWAC began negotiations with Mervyn Jones, administrator of the correspondence course, on the possibility of transferring the course to him in exchange for a textbook, written by him and to be sold by SWAC. In June 1971, the Executive Council voted to terminate its activities in the existing correspondence course and continue negotiations with Jones. A letter written to Jones stated SWAC’s willingness to enter into an agreement. By September 1971, in accordance with the terms of the contract being negotiated with Jones, SWAC had agreed to proceed with arrangements to print a textbook based on the correspondence course. The book, entitled *The Specifier and Building Science*, was published in November 1971.

SWAC finalized its decision to withdraw from operation of the correspondence course in early 1972. The interests of students enrolled would be looked after by A.B.S. Correspondence College, operated by Mervyn Jones, who was the association's course administrator. Early sales of over 200 copies of the new textbook were described as encouraging. Indications were that the book would become prescribed reading at many educational institutions starting with in the fall 1972 term.



Mervyn Jones' "*The Specifier and Building Science.*"

Publications

In February 1973, the Education Committee presented draft copies of the manual *How to Sell to Architects*, written by a Mr. Sorffer, for comment. The comments were to be used to develop

the finished publication. It was felt a copy of the manual should be given to all industrial members, with additional copies available for sale. In addition, the Committee presented a mockup of the proposed textbook, *The Nature of Materials*. The Committee suggested the book could be produced inexpensively as a three-ring binder containing brochures and leaflets from trade organizations.

Later in 1973, the Education Committee reported that work on editing *The Nature of Materials* had begun, along with work to update the textbook *The Specifier and Building Science*.

Awards

In March 1965, the Board established a bursary in the name of the late president of SWAC, Peter Barott. A committee was struck to decide the amount and institution to receive the bursary.

May 29, 1965 saw the presentation of the first Peter Barott Award for excellence in building product literature at the annual SWAC Convention. Presentation of this award continued for only a few years. However, the award was resurrected as a category in the Quality Documents Competition in 2001.

In March 1966, the Bursary Committee reported that the École d'Architecture of the University of Montréal and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology had agreed to accept \$250 scholarships to be set up in the name of Peter Barott. Barott's widow indicated approval of the choice.

A Construction Specification Institute award for best specification was won by Val Stengels of London, Ontario in 1966. The award was presented at CSI's annual convention in May 1966.

Chapter News

At a Conference Committee meeting in April 1964, it was recommended that the national Board advise the chapters, as a warning, that they keep monthly meetings free of any commercial content or aspect, within reason.

Atlantic Provinces

An Atlantic Provinces chapter was inaugurated in Halifax on September 23, 1965. At that meeting local SWAC members chose a nomination committee for the purpose of electing chapter officers.

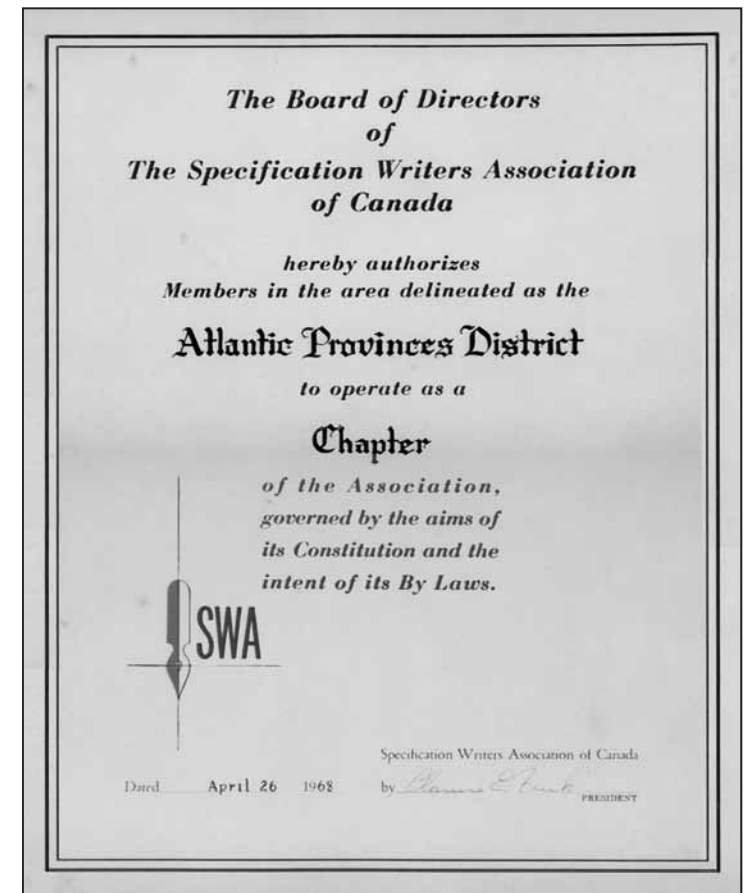
The Atlantic chapter held four meetings in 1967. Topics included: communication between all phases of the construction industry; bidding procedures as they may affect you; and sound control as it affects various trades.

In May 1967, the board set borders for the Maritime provinces. The Atlantic Provinces chapter was limited to Nova Scotia. A second chapter was to be formed for the area of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

Montréal

In 1966, the Montréal chapter meetings included an address by Herbert Auerbach, project manager for Place Ville Marie, who spoke on the use of computers in construction. It sparked a discussion on the role computers and mechanization would play in specification writing. As a result, Bernie Smits, Atlas Steel, agreed to investigate the specification formats used in Europe in order to assess claims that their formats were better able to adapt to increased standardization and production by computer.

In 1968, in an effort to expand the aims and objectives of the SWAC, the chapter executive attempted to broaden its base by inviting as many chapter members as possible to participate in a committee. Each committee would be headed by a member of the executive. Progress was made in some areas, but not in others.



Atlantic Provinces District Charter certificate, issued April 26, 1968.



President D'Arcy Helmer presents Provisional Chapter certificate to David R. Gillard, who represented New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

Ottawa

The Ottawa chapter received full chapter certification in 1964, giving it representation on the national SWAC Board. In 1965, the chapter hosted the national convention, which was the highlight of the group's activities that year. Registration at the convention totalled 240. The group had anticipated a deficit of \$600 due to a decision to replace manufacturers' displays with a manufacturers' evening. Instead, however, a net income of \$501.90 was recorded.

Toronto

In 1966, scholarships were again awarded in the name of the Toronto chapter to the University of Toronto and the Ryerson Institute of Technology in the amount of \$250 each. Letters received from past recipients were considered proof that the awards were valued and did indeed further students' interest in the importance of writing specifications.

In June 1970, the Toronto chapter made a request to the national Board that it be allowed to use a new logo and letterhead designed for use by the chapter. A motion put before the Board to allow chapters to use different letterhead from the national Association was defeated, there being no seconder for the motion. The Board directed chapters to use official letterhead only.

Because communication between the chapter's 500 members had become somewhat difficult, a chapter newsletter was launched in 1971. It was to be issued periodically to inform members of events at the local and national level. Reception of the early newsletter was favourable and a drive was begun to make the newsletter a standard practice.

In November 1966, A.W. Cluff, vice-president of the Toronto chapter, presented a brief to the Board of Directors on behalf of

the Toronto chapter, opposing the proposal that the Toronto chapter be split into two sections. A vote taken at a Toronto chapter meeting strongly rejected the proposed split.

In January 1967, the Board approved a proposal by Claude Jarrett, chair of the Chapter Development Committee, that provisional chapters be formed in Hamilton and Windsor. A committee formed to consider the delineation of the border between the Hamilton and London chapters made its report in March 1967. The borders were:

- ◆ Windsor and District: the counties of Essex and Kent.
- ◆ London and District: the counties of Bruce, Huron, Perth, Middlesex, Elgin, Oxford and Lambton.



Bob Briggs presents Hamilton Chapter charter in 1968.

- ◆ Hamilton and District: the counties of Welland, Lincoln, Haldimand, Norfolk, Brant, Wentworth and Halton, westerly from Highway 25 and south from Highway 401.
- ◆ Members from Grey, Dufferin and Simcoe counties would be considered members-at-large.
- ◆ Members in Peel and Halton counties east of Highway 25 would be polled to see if they wished to remain in the Toronto chapter or form a new chapter in Oakville.

Hamilton–Niagara

SWAC proudly announced the arrival of its 14th offspring: the Hamilton–Niagara chapter in 1968. Iain Weir, an involved member of the Toronto chapter, was the first chair.

Grand Valley

The Grand Valley chapter held its inaugural meeting in Kitchener in the fall of 1967. Credit for organization of this chapter was given to Bill Jarrell, past chair of the London chapter and present Chair W.E. Armstrong, as well as current SWAC members in Kitchener, Waterloo, Guelph and Galt.

In 1968, the chapter had 33 members. Doug Taylor of the University of Guelph was the chapter's 1968 chair. At the Annual General Meeting, on April 25, 1968, a provisional chapter certificate was presented to the Grand Valley chapter.

London

The London chapter, formed in 1963, received a full chapter certificate in 1964 and membership on the national SWAC Board. The first chapter executive was Val Stengels, Chair, C.W. DeJagger, specification member and K.L. Hudson, industrial member.

To promote the education of future specification writers, the London chapter established a close liaison with the Faculty of Engineering Science of the University of Western Ontario in 1965. Eight senior students were given free membership in SWAC. The chapter has also donated several technical textbooks to the engineering library. A liaison was also established with the University of Waterloo and the University of Windsor.

Members of the chapter travelled to Detroit on March 25, 1966, to attend an international meeting hosted by the Detroit CSI chapter. It would be the first of many international meetings between the chapters.

Windsor

Windsor became SWAC's 12th chapter in February 1967. The first chair of the chapter was W.N. Watson. Formation of the group was largely the result of the efforts of Watson, with help from Val Stengels and W.J. Jarrell of the London chapter. On the recommendation of Claude Jarrett, a \$100 grant was allocated to the new chapter.

Winnipeg

A new SWAC chapter was formed in Winnipeg in early 1964. The chapter was given a provisional chapter certificate in April 1964 at the annual meeting held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Allan Silverberg, of Waisman Ross and Associates, was elected the chapter's first chair. Inauguration of the chapter was the result of years of local promotion and national planning.

From a nucleus of eight people, the chapter had grown to over 100 by 1965. After considerable debate, the growing chapter made the decision to request that the 1968 national convention be held in Winnipeg.

Over 190 people attended the Winnipeg chapter's first annual dinner and dance held in the fall of 1965. The membership expressed their gratitude to guest speaker Russell Cornell, who was able to give an accounting to the women of what the men were up to when they left the house for the monthly SWAC meetings.

Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan chapter, formed in 1966, had 90 members, who were almost evenly divided between Regina and Saskatoon. The executive was also evenly divided between the two cities.

The division of the chapter into two geographical areas meant that meetings were organized on an alternating basis between Regina and Saskatoon to allow members the opportunity to attend a local meeting or travel between the two cities. The rigours of the Saskatchewan climate, among other factors, meant that this idea did not work well in practice. The result was that attendance at meetings was almost all local members. After two years of trying to overcome the problems of the large geographic separation between Regina and Saskatoon, the chapter reached a membership level sufficient to form two separate chapters in 1969.

The Saskatoon chapter had a membership of 58 in 1969. In addition to work on the concrete specification, the chapter established a committee to study problems in the local construction industry. Both the Regina and Saskatoon chapters were given full status and existing funds were divided between the two chapters. A grant of \$50 was paid to each chapter by the national Board.

Reporting on a Regina chapter meeting held in September 1969, Regina Chair W.B.C. deLint wrote: "The chapter's first meeting of the season was convened at a local brewery to aid the

social intercourse amongst our members after summer's drought and to facilitate discussions on this chapter's future course."

Calgary

The Calgary chapter held its first regular meeting in April 1966, with 56 members in attendance. Juan Corkan was elected the chapter's first chair. The chapter achieved full chapter status in 1967 and was represented on the Board of Directors that year. Membership in 1967 numbered 63, with 27 specification members, 34 industrial members and 2 associate members. As the 1960s drew to a close, the chapter had grown to 92 members. SWAC Calgary continued to flourish in the 1970s, offering its membership insightful meeting topics and educational courses.

In 1970, Calgary Chair B.H. Carter reported that: "SWAC had made an impact on the local construction scene! It is now often mentioned that specifications have improved considerably since the formation of the chapter. The main impact has, of course, been the adoption of the 16-Division Format."

Vancouver

The Vancouver chapter was launched at an inaugural meeting held on September 17, 1965, at the Bayshore Hotel in Vancouver. Glenn M. Hardie, CIQS, a professional specification writer, was elected chair of the new chapter, with Keith Collier and Wayne Allan, chapter officers. Three special guests formed the head table: Russ Cornell, Claude Jarrett from SWAC national office and Don Paine, a past vice-president of CSI.

The early chapter history was recalled by Don Thomas, a long-time chapter member.

“Strong initiatives by the Vancouver chapter pioneers created great interest in our organization in the early years. Up until that time, there had not been much of a platform for discussion between the various segments of the design/construction industry in the Lower Mainland. That, after all, was one of the original intentions of our organization.

“Through the assistance of the local trade paper, *Journal of Commerce*, reporting on our chapter meetings, attendance swelled to near the 100 mark each month.

“In those early days there were a lot of local issues to discuss; complaints about weasel clauses and disorganization in specifications were quite prolific, however, with our national promotion of the Building Construction Index (BCI), followed by the Uniform Construction Index (UCI), and then eventually MasterFormat (both of the latter in conjunction with CSI) circumstances started to improve.

“However, this did result in a great deal of consternation for the local millwork firms, who had been used to bidding their work as a package comprising both conventional millwork and wood doors. Now the work was specified in both Divisions 6 and 8. They took this as being a conspiracy to take work away from them, which took many, many meetings with our members to resolve.

“A part of the above mentioned problem was also integral to the fact that subtrades in B.C. through various construction associations had established and convinced the provincial government to use a bid-depository system which was probably the most organized in Canada, if not in North America. Even so, problems still arose, like subtrades bidding aluminum windows without including the glass! (Once even on a 26-storey building.) Through eventual co-ordination with our organization, the system was greatly improved, again MasterFormat being one of the essential ingredients in resolving related problems.

“When National allocated the task of preparing Guide Studies to the various chapters, Vancouver took on Gypsum Wall Board and Masonry. The GWB was really well researched and comprehensive, thanks to members of the team, and eventually provided the base for a trade association manual.

“Trade association manuals, prepared by local specification consultants in the chapter, was another emergence from B.C. Initially used provincially, they eventually received national acceptance by other related bodies. They included manuals for Architectural Woodwork, Roofing Systems, Sealants, Glazing Systems, Floor Finishes, Walls and Ceilings, and Painting, the latter now being used internationally.

“The Vancouver chapter was, for many years, very much involved with a local committee called the Architects, Engineers, Contractors Advisory Committee on Bidding Procedures. The Committee, now terminated, was known as the AEC Committee. In some respects, this organization was something like a provincial CCDC. Part of its function was to make comments on draft reviews of CCDC documents, Number 2 in particular. Due to good personal communications between our CSC national delegates on the CCDC back east, and our Vancouver chapter delegates on this AEC committee, items which CSC could not get accepted at all at CCDC meetings, went through with ease when the exact same item was proposed from Vancouver!”

International Relations

As for relations with CSI in the United States, Thomas recalled: “There has always been a strong affiliation between the Vancouver chapter of CSC and the Puget Sound chapter of CSI some 150 miles to the south. This commenced at the Vancouver inaugural chapter meeting on September 17, 1965 at the Bayshore

Inn in Vancouver, when at least a half dozen Puget Sound members turned up to lend their support at our launch. Included in the group was the late Don Paine, a past vice-president of CSI. Several of our initiating members had been members of the Puget Sound CSI chapter.

“Communication was maintained, and in 1968, instead of our local June chapter meeting, a complete busload of our members attended their chapter meeting in Seattle. This was then reciprocated the next year, and over the years it was repeated many times.

“One year the Vancouver chapter went down in a (legally) borrowed yellow school bus, driven by one of our chapter members who wishes to remain as anonymous as possible (although he was later made a Fellow!), because on the return trip the bus developed problems and had to be push-started by members every time they stopped for bathroom breaks, which incidentally were quite frequent! They finally arrived back in Vancouver some time after 2 a.m.

“On another occasion in Seattle, the meeting was held in a large restaurant with adjacent banqueting facilities for various groups, and Vancouver chapter’s only ‘Lifer’ (to date), somehow ended up having his meal’s dessert next door with Seattle’s Thursday Night Singles Club.

“At the first ever hosting by the Vancouver chapter of our national convention in 1970, again there was a good turn out of members from the Puget Sound chapter and even a few from the Portland chapter, who thoroughly enjoyed the convention. Buckminster Fuller was the guest speaker, and a Chinese banquet down in Chinatown provided another great night. Also in attendance were CSI’s national president and executive director from Washington D.C.”

Victoria

It was announced at the national Board meeting in May 1966 that a new chapter would be formed in Victoria, B.C. The chapter held its inaugural meeting September 22, 1966. Doug Grey, a specification writer with the B.C. Department of Public Works, headed up the new group, which drew over 60 people to the inaugural meeting. Claude Jarrett addressed the group.

Early discussion topics included specifications and the computer, specifications and the subcontractor, and a lively discussion that was well supported by local trade associations on the critical path method of project management. Membership stood at 33 in 1966.

As Don Thomas, a long-time SWAC member recalled: “In 1966, a few years after the launching of the Vancouver chapter, National decided to expand even further west with the initiation of a chapter in Victoria. Russ Cornell and Claude Jarrett were the two stalwarts sent out to attend the inaugural meeting.

“Victoria, as compared with Vancouver, had a lesser design/construction population to draw upon, and the majority of technical sales representatives were based in Vancouver. Despite that, initial strong support did come from British Columbia government staff, and the Victoria Construction Association, which provided meeting facilities. After a good start, with regular chapter meetings and directors attending executive meetings in Toronto, the small population base, combined with the retirement of certain members, caused the chapter to fold in 1986. A few members retained membership through the Vancouver chapter.

“However, it should be noted that the existing logo for CSC, initiated with the organization’s name change in 1974, was

designed by a member of the Victoria chapter, Theodore (Dick) H. Bos.”

National/Chapter Relations

In April 1969, Claude Jarrett reported that with the creation of the new Hamilton–Niagara chapter and the division of the Regina/Saskatoon chapter, there were a total of 15 chapters. “There is no magic formula for the creation of chapters. The work depends entirely on the interest of members who are prepared to make the necessary effort to light the flame in the areas where no chapter currently exists.

“In May 1968, the Board accepted a proposal to increase income to needy chapters. For this year only, chapter income could, on request, be brought up to \$450 per year. The treasurer agreed to write to each chapter advising them of the proposal and asking for their latest balance sheet and comments about their financial state. The matter of increased financing in future years was referred to the Finance Committee for further study. The Finance Committee was also asked to study the system of rebating dues to chapters. The first chapter handbook was finished in January 1970. Five copies were mailed to each chapter.”

Time Capsule

Critical Path Method

Writing on the Critical Path Method (CPM) of project scheduling in 1964, C.I. McKenzie, an applications specialist in the Computer Marketing Department of Canadian General Electric, states: “The computer is not a magic box; planning is still the responsibility of the Project Engineer. Time estimates are

still the combined effort of the estimating department, the project engineer, the subtrades and the suppliers. The human being uses his creative ability and then harnesses the tremendous speed and memory of the computer.”

Automation and the Knowledge-based Society

In an address to the 1964 convention in Montréal by James A. Langford, chief architect of the Federal Department of Public Works, he stated: “As far as the average citizen is concerned, automation’s greatest impact will not be on production technologies or employment. The greatest impact of automation will be on intellectual and cultural life.”

Langford speculated that an automated society would be of necessity, an educated society, with knowledge, rather than animal energy as the central resource. He went on to say that for the first time in human history it would be possible to offer an education to anyone with the intellectual capacity to acquire knowledge.

Spec Writer Shortage?

In April 1965, Russell Cornell wrote: “It is now apparent that the construction industry will be faced with a serious shortage of qualified architectural specification writers once the year has passed. The increasing volume of construction has already overtaxed the existing supply of writers and the condition will be further aggravated by building demands for Canada’s Centennial Year, 1967. At least half of the problem of producing better building specifications will be the development of more specification writers to use them.”

Goals for 1965

In his opening remarks to the new board in May 1965, President D'Arcy G. Helmer outlined the four major projects before the Association: the correspondence course, study of the CSI Uniform Indexing System, regional conferences, and the development of further guide studies.

Industrialized Building in Canada Today and Tomorrow

In April 1967, Anton A. Goldes, P.Eng, offered this view of the future.

“Pietro Belluschi, a noted architect has stated that America will need to build, in the next 25 years, as much new construction as has been built since Columbus arrived in 1492. While the anticipation of such a building boom may evoke pleasant feelings, the goal may be impossible to achieve as new construction is becoming prohibitively expensive. The day is fast approaching when our present practice of custom-building will become a luxury beyond our means.”

Goldes argued that industrialized building, which had reached sophisticated levels of development in Europe, provided one solution. “The practice is particularly advanced in the socialist countries of Eastern Europe and countries that suffered mass destruction during Second World War.” Goldes wrote further,

The architect in particular is filled with horror at this prospect. The day is approaching when designers must abandon the idea of making each building a personal monument and come to terms with the brutal, economic facts of life. The plain fact of the matter is that we need a vast amount of shelter, yet we cannot afford it at present prices.

The revolution in construction procedures has begun with school construction, for the simple reason that schools are financed through public money and there is a large volume of construction.

Truly it can be said that the construction industry has been by-passed by the industrial revolution. Let us hope that the advent of industrialized building will not be marked by a new Luddite uprising. The lessons Henry Ford taught the automobile industry have not yet penetrated the building industry. A standard component is cheaper than a custom-produced one. One hundred identical units cost less than the same unit ordered one at a time.

Buzz Word Generator

The August 1968 issue of the *Specification Associate* contained an interesting article called “Instant Buzzword Generator.” There are three columns of buzzwords, which when combined, create a buzzword.

<u>Column 1</u>	<u>Column 2</u>	<u>Column 3</u>
Integrated	Management	Options
Total	Organizational	Flexibility
Systematized	Monitored	Capability
Parallel	Reciprocal	Mobility
Functional	Digital	Programming
Responsive	Logic	Concept
Visual	Transitional	Time-Phase
Synchronized	Incremental	Projection
Compatible	Third-Generation	Hardware
Balanced	Policy	Contingency

Fifth Wheel?

In the December 1968 issue of the *Specification Associate*, J.T. Hueston, corresponding editor for the Atlantic Provinces chapter writes to ask why general contractors have set themselves up as someone apart from the industry. “Perhaps they are too busy figuring out extras to join SWAC. With a membership of 100, the Atlantic chapter has only two general contractors as members. General interest meetings have been equally ignored by the contracting sector. Why?”

“A well-known member of one of the areas larger contracting firms made the comment that the SWAC is the fifth wheel of the construction industry.” Hueston countered that “SWAC is the wheel that steers the industry and keeps the other four on track.”

Research Committee

The Research Committee was formed in 1968 to provide a means of obtaining ideas and opinions from national directors and other members on subjects that might concern SWAC in the future. Subjects raised have included morality in the construction industry, use of spec data sheets, the metric system, computerized specifications and professional liability.

Water: The Specification

The April 1969 issue of the *Specification Associate* contained the article “Water: A Material Specification,” formulated by Anton A. Goldes. A specification on water was submitted when the client’s specification checkers insisted that all materials, utterly without exception be specified under “Materials.” There was one significant omission — water. As a contribution to the

advancement of specification writing in Canada, Goldes offered a lengthy, but accurate, specification for water.

Jelly Anyone?

Also in the April 1969 issue of the *Specification Associate*, was an ad for masonry insulation fill. It showed peanut butter being placed in a concrete block, with the tag line: “Anything in a wall is better than nothing at all.” An ad in the June 1969 issue announced that The Department of Public Works, Ottawa, needs a specification writer, salary to \$9,400.

Membership Dues

A 1964 application for membership in SWAC, printed in the *Specification Associate*, listed the annual dues at \$15. Students could join for \$3.

Liaison

In May 1969, at the request of the Association of Architectural Technologists of Ontario (AATO), a liaison officer, Lloyd Boddy, was appointed to act as the SWAC representative.

Construction Industry Development Council

In 1970, SWAC President A.W. Cluff, was one of 35 leaders of industry, labour and education to be appointed by the Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, to the new Construction Industry Development Council. The Council was expected to provide a forum for industry/government dialogue on matters of economic and technological importance to the construction industry.

The Council was to make recommendations on ways to increase productivity and efficiency in the manufacture and

assembly of building equipment and accessories and implementation of the government's BEAM (Building Equipment, Accessories and Materials) program.

International Building Exhibition

SWAC played a major role in the planning of the program for the International Building Exhibition, planned at Exhibition Place in Toronto, in October 1971. Show sponsors included The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada (ACEC) and *Daily Commercial News*.

The Year of the "Shag"

The *Specification Associate* reported that 1971 was the year of the shag. Shag carpeting in colours the rainbow never dreamed of were displayed at the 1971 Floor Coverings Market in the Queen Elizabeth Building at Toronto's Exhibition Place.

Swedish Standards

At an Executive Council meeting in November 1972, Wayne Watson suggested that SWAC should intensify liaisons with Swedish and other European organizations with which he came into contact at a recent meeting in Rotterdam.

Hydro Increase Too Little

The new 12 percent increase in the cost of electricity for direct industrial users "is grossly inadequate," the Ontario Municipal Electric Association (OMEA) stated in a 1972 article. "With Ontario Hydro already running a deficit of \$5.6 million on this account, the latest increase is a palliative, too small to provide a realistic remedy for the problem," said the OMEA.

Finance

SWAC statements of assets and liabilities, prepared by Kenneth W. Ball & Co.

SWAC financial statements from March 31, 1964, showed excess income over expenditures totalled \$11,616, compared to \$7,972 in 1963. Membership fees totalled \$14,687, less \$4,505 remitted to the chapters. Net income from the *Specification Associate* totalled \$19,739 and the convention netted \$1,721. Total income for the *Specification Associate* was over \$66,000.

The SWAC financial statement from March 31, 1965, showed excess income over expenses totalled \$14,319. Membership dues totalled \$18,112, less \$5,624 remitted to the chapters. Net income from the *Specification Associate* totalled \$22,989. The convention showed a modest \$286 surplus.

Assets for 1966 totalled \$56,000. The total included \$17,000 in cash and \$32,000 in guaranteed investment certificates. Income for the year was \$34,700. Of that, membership fees totalled \$20,500, less \$6,500 remitted to the chapters. Net income from the convention totalled \$1,650 and interest income was \$1,700. The *Specification Associate* made a net income of \$20,400 on revenue of \$69,950.

Assets for 1967 totalled \$60,500, of which \$36,500 was investments and approximately \$11,000 in cash. Membership fees totalled \$26,000, of which \$8,500 was remitted to the chapters. Total income for the *Specification Associate* was \$74,000, yielding a net income of \$19,700. Total income for SWAC was \$43,300 with expenditures totalling \$41,000.

In 1969, membership dues totalled \$39,785, with \$9,697 remitted to the chapters. Total income was \$34,351. Expenditures totalled \$51,984, creating an excess of expenditures over income of \$17,596. Income from the *Specification Associate*

totalled \$60,900. Expenses were \$42,750, for a net income of \$18,150, which balanced the books for the deficit.

In 1970, membership dues totalled \$54,882, with \$8,995 remitted to the chapters. Total national income was \$51,175, while expenses totalled \$68,912 for an excess of expenditure over income of \$17,737. Net income from the *Specification Associate* dropped almost \$10,000 to \$8,766. Expenses for the magazine remained about the same. The loss of income was due to a drop in advertising revenue.

In 1971, membership dues totalled \$53,610, less \$8,819 remitted to the chapters. The amount was approximately \$1,000 less than 1970. When the expenses, totalling \$73,734 were figured in, the Association had a deficit of \$23,712. Expenses and travel related to board meetings totalled \$9,422 and Executive Council meetings cost \$5,938. The *Specification Associate* had a net income of \$60,579 against expenses of \$50,145, for a net income of \$10,434.

To increase revenue, and avoid a deficit for the 1971-72 fiscal year, a motion was passed at the 1971 Annual General Meeting increasing dues by \$10 per year. As the increase was agreed to after many members had already paid their yearly dues, members were billed the additional \$10 in a special billing in September 1971. The chapters were rebated \$1 of the increase.

Convention Highlights

Toronto 1964

The practice of alternating host cities continued with Toronto chapter hosting the 1964 convention at the Royal York Hotel on April 23, 24 and 25. Not to be outdone by Montréal, this convention featured 100 building material exhibits. The theme was

Education in Construction. This led SWAC to expand its Education Committee to study the Association's potential role in the field of construction education. SWAC President Peter T.M. Barott used the occasion to present full Chapter Certificates to the newly formed London and Ottawa chapters.

It was recommended at the 1964 Annual General Meeting and later passed, that the Board consider locating the national convention in places other than Toronto and Montréal. As a result, the 1965 convention was held in Ottawa.

Ottawa 1965

Although the Ottawa chapter was only one year old in 1965, it assumed the task of hosting the 1965 convention at the Talisman Motor Inn from April 28 to May 1, with over 200 members and guests in attendance. Attendees were welcomed by the Convention Committee at a reception held on Wednesday evening. In a departure from the trade show concept, manufacturers sponsored a social evening with a reception, buffet and entertainment featuring renowned impressionist Rich Little. This was a new approach to providing manufacturers with an opportunity to network with the delegates.

Toronto 1966

1966 saw the return of the annual convention to Toronto. This time, the location was the Inn on the Park Hotel and the dates were April 27 to 30. The theme was Building Materials Testing and a full schedule, which included site tours and demonstrations, kept delegates on the move for three days. Delegates assembled on opening night to "test" wine and cheese. Welcome receptions in the evening preceding the start of the main convention program had now become a regular feature, providing

members with an opportunity to renew acquaintances and socialize.

Montréal 1967

In 1967, Montréal welcomed the world to Expo '67 and the Montréal chapter hosted the SWAC annual convention at the newly opened Château Champlain Hotel, April 26 to 29. Edouard Fiset, chief architect of Expo, welcomed SWAC delegates on opening night. In the spirit of bilingualism, all meetings were conducted in both French and English through simultaneous translation. This became standard practice whenever the annual convention was held in a bilingual city. Celebrity author and journalist, Pierre Berton, conducted a panel discussion on "Social Responsibility in Building." Wayne Watson, chairman of



President Peter Pennington presides over annual banquet at 1967 Convention, Montréal.



President Peter Pennington (right) presents Wayne Watson with merit award at 1967 Convention, Montréal.

the new Windsor chapter, received his Chapter's Certificate from SWAC President Peter Pennington.

With the Château Champlain being recently opened to the public, delegates experienced problems with the elevators. On one such occasion, Wayne Watson, Ross Browne and Don Thomas, after a 10-minute wait, managed to squeeze into an arriving one, like sardines. With the doors closing behind them, still facing inwards with an elevator full of complete strangers, Ross Browne announced, "Now ladies and gentlemen, the reason that I have called this meeting to order..."

The registration fee for the 1967 convention was \$35 for men and \$15 for women. Room rates at the Château Champlain were approximately \$25 for a double and \$18 for a single. The Montréal chapter took it upon themselves to guarantee to accommodate all SWAC registrants, either at the Château Champlain, in other hotels or in private homes.

President Pennington advised the Board that it was the decision of the Executive Committee that the Manufacturers' Night would not be a stag night and that optional dress policies would be allowed at the annual dinner.

Ottawa 1968

By 1968, there were chapters in Atlantic region, Montréal, Ottawa, Toronto, Grand Valley, London, Windsor, Winnipeg, Saskatchewan, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. The Ottawa chapter hosted the 10th annual SWAC convention at the Skyline Hotel, April 24 to 27. G.H. Southam, Director General of the newly opened National Arts Centre in Ottawa, was a guest speaker. By now, awards presentations had become an important aspect of the conventions. Merit Awards were presented to 25 members and two new members were inducted as Fellows, bringing membership in the College of Fellows to six. This convention was considered to be the best SWAC event to date, perhaps due in part to the fact that there were 92 women in attendance.

Toronto 1969

In 1969, the Association grew with the addition of chapters in Hamilton–Niagara and Victoria. Saskatchewan had been split into the Regina and Saskatoon chapters. The Toronto chapter hosted the annual convention with the theme *The Changing World of Specifications*, at the Inn on the Park Hotel, April 23 to 26. This convention marked the start of the great debate to amend the bylaws to allow industrial members to be eligible to serve as Association president. In keeping with the theme, delegates were introduced to the MT/ST and Datatext automated specification systems, which heralded the advent of master

specifications. Manufacturers and suppliers sponsored a highly entertaining Monte Carlo night.

Vancouver 1970

The 1970 convention was significant as it marked the first movement of the annual convention to western Canada. The convention was held at the Bayshore Inn in Vancouver. The theme of the convention, which ran from April 22 to 25, was *Fusion or Confusion: the Case for a Unified Construction Industry*. The theme and venue were obviously a big draw as 241 delegates and 136 women were in attendance, including a good turnout of CSI members from the Puget Sound chapter in Seattle. The highlight was keynote speaker Buckminster Fuller, who spoke for two hours on the subject of “total thinking.” Fuller, a world-renowned engineer, scientist, mathematician, philosopher and the designer of the famous geodesic domes, had just been awarded the 1970 Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects. A session about the evolution of construction information systems featured presentations by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, CSI and Sweets Catalogue Services. This included actual demonstrations of DITC's BEAM (Building Equipment, Accessories and



President Bill Cluff and wife Pamela at Conference 1970, Vancouver.

Materials) pilot information retrieval system and CSI's Spec Data II information retrieval system.

Manufacturers and suppliers sponsored "An Evening in Chinatown" on Thursday. Moonlight cruises provided entertainment on Friday and Saturday evenings. The cruises established a precedent for future conventions, which often included cruises as part of the entertainment package. Because the 1970 World's Fair was being held in Osaka, Japan, the executive investigated the idea of adding a subsequent tour to Osaka. The additional cost tour was priced at \$979 per person.



President Bill Cluff welcomes keynote speaker Buckminster Fuller at Conference '70 in Vancouver.

Hamilton–Niagara 1971

In 1971, the Hamilton–Niagara chapter hosted the convention from April 28 to May 1 at the Holiday Inn in downtown Hamilton. The theme was Planning Tomorrow Today and included field trips to the Stelco and Dofasco steel plants. Manufacturers and suppliers sponsored an evening of dinner and dancing at the Burlington Golf and Country Club. The women in attendance had their portraits sketched by a local artist. The Hamilton convention was deemed a success and a sum of \$831 net income was credited to the convention account. In future, it was agreed, the responsibility for soliciting funds from manufactures and suppliers would be assumed by the national office in co-operation with the local chapter of the Convention Committee.

Halifax 1972

The Atlantic chapter members hosted their first annual convention at the Hotel Nova Scotian in Halifax, April 26 to 29, 1972. Delegates were greeted with snow. The convention theme was New Dimensions, New Horizons and featured keynote speaker, S. M. Gossage, chair of the Preparatory Commission for Metric Conversion. Delegates confirmed that a quick conversion would be better for the construction industry and the economy. Legislative changes were initiated to allow industrial members to serve as Association president.

The Executive Council felt that better liaison should be set up for future conventions and the convention budget should be sufficient to bring the convention chair to Toronto to report to the Executive at least twice a year. It was decided that autonomy of the host city must be recognized, but controlled. As a loss was incurred on the 1972 Halifax convention, money was transferred from the convention reserve account. The loss gave

support to the earlier suggestion that conventions be confined to larger centres where attendance and reasonable travel costs could be assured.

Edmonton 1973

In 1973, the annual convention moved west to Alberta where the Edmonton chapter hosted delegates and companions (usually wives in those days) at the Hotel MacDonald from June 6 to 9. The later date was in response to a recommendation made after Convention '72 to improve the chance of good weather. The convention theme was "The Process is the Culprit" (or, who threw the overalls into the cement mixer?). The preliminary report on the 1973 convention showed the event finished in the black by about \$3,500. In addition, material that could be incorporated into a working manual for future convention committees was prepared by the Convention Committee. All technical sessions were taped and transcriptions of the sessions were available at a cost of \$6 for the complete set. Manufacturers and suppliers sponsored "Klondike Night" to acquaint delegates and guests with the flavour of gold rush days.

Spec Notes

Higher and Longer Word Fences

Let us not pretend that better quality and larger size are synonymous or that good construction is an automatic result of good specifications. The highly competitive atmosphere in which projects are tendered is inducing specification departments to build higher and longer word fences as a protection for their clients against unscrupulous contractors who gamble profit margins on potential specifications oversights. Good building specifications

include only that which is necessary for good construction by qualified contractors.

Russell W. Cornell,
Specification Associate, February 1964.

COCA Anyone?

We hear so much about industrialization, building systems, computers and information systems, changing management/union relations, packaged projects, consortium planning, new materials and new development concepts that it leaves us reeling. While the industry is adapting to these influences, undoubtedly more, just as revolutionary, will come forth to effect further influence. And so it will continue endlessly.

Many of the changes I can foresee will be a great benefit to our industry. They can make us more productive, resulting in higher wages and more leisure.

What we need is an association of associations from the construction professions, industry and unions to assist in planning the future of our industry. Only this way can we develop methods to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Stuart Frost, editorial,
Specification Associate, June 1968.

Computer use in Spec Writing and Information Retrieval Systems

The computer is not intended to replace the specification writer of tomorrow, it's only going to alter the kind of work he will be doing with respect to materials, research and engineering. In 1906 the sum total of building products was contained in a single volume of Sweets Architectural File. As a result of the information explosion the system needs a little updating.

The automatic typewriter and computer are both inoperable without a carefully prepared master specification. However, both are tools and should not supplant the specifier, architect or engineering in his role of decision maker.

As far as one can anticipate the future, it would appear the talents of the specifier will be required far more as a materials researcher and far less as a writer as this task will be performed by the machine. The ability to prepare master specifications for a computer is the key to successful operation.

When we obtained our computer we made the decision to limit the development of master specifications to materials we were working with and using or would use within one year in order to limit the amount of time spent producing master specifications.

Harold J. Rosen, Skidmore, Owings, Merrill Architects & Engineers, presentation from 1969 convention.

Unique position

It became apparent that that SWAC enjoys a unique position in the construction industry as the single group most concerned with communication problems in the construction industry. Through our cross-linked membership we can communicate with all other groups more easily than they can with each other. This permits us to suggest solutions and thereby benefit the entire industry.

R.E. Allen, chair, Hamilton-Niagara chapter, on joint meetings with CIQS and ASHRAE, Specification Associate, April 1970.

Buckminster Fuller's Keynote Address

No attempt to summarize his two-hour speech on "total thinking" will be included, however, a few statements do have humorous connotations and are worthy of note.

"There is no up or down. These words were intended to accommodate the concept of the world as a plane and are not applicable in our universe as we know it today." Obviously Bucky is not aware of the relationship between the cost-of-living and the bank account.

"We live on a spaceship orbiting the sun at 60,000 mph and should be taught to feel the rotation." Three ladies present, looking a little pale, were last seen heading for the washroom.

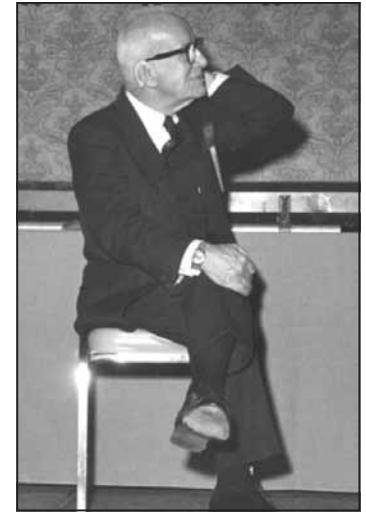
"A straight line is impossible to achieve; what results is really a very crooked line." Mr. Saunders, president of CCA was overheard whispering to Mr. Leithead, president of RAIC: *"I've been telling architects that for many years."*

"Man became a specialist out of instinct to divide and conquer." What he did not mention was that SWAC has 16 Divisions.

"Specialization is slavery." Any spec writer could have told him that.

"If nature wanted man to be a specialist, she would have made him with a microscope on one eye and a telescope on the other." This explains why no one can see eye-to-eye with the spec writer.

"With the computer, man has a tool capable of sitting up all night without getting cold, hungry or tired. (But I bet it won't change a diaper.) Man can become free to unspecialize, and to



Buckminster Fuller, keynote speaker, Conference 1970 in Vancouver.

use tools to adapt to the needs of his changing environment.”
(cough, cough)

Seriously, Bucky’s message left the audience very impressed, somewhat bewildered, a little concerned and with plenty to think about. He received two standing ovations.

Donald Thomas.

An Open and Honest Dialogue

Bernie Rondot was the first industrial member to sit on the Executive Council as an elected member. In June 1971, he had the following comments on his year as industrial vice-president: “We have provided the other side of the fence to all discussions with the intent of enlarging the scope and interest of the matters at hand. It is unfortunate that the construction industry at large does not participate in such an open honest dialogue.

Rondot answered the question of why industrial members belong to an association geared to the architectural and engineering disciplines saying: “I owe it to myself and my firm to help our industry move forward. My active support gives our industry a more effective voice in business and government. Our national officers and directors are working in my interest. The cost of belonging is extremely low rent for the place I occupy.”

Canada’s Most Up-to-date Computer Centre

Having had curiosity whetted by anticipation of a glimpse into the future significance of computers in the construction industry, it was felt by many that our members would like to know what these machines actually look like, what they are capable of doing, how they are operated and how they can affect our working lives.

This was accomplished in January 1967 by a visit (by members of the Ottawa chapter) to the Central Data Processing Bureau of the Treasury Board. Doctor Donald C. Baxter, Chief of the Bureau’s Departmental Applications Division, gave a one-hour introduction to the basic aspects of computer capabilities and applications. Our tour of one of the most up-to-date computer centres in Canada was truly a unique experience which attracted our largest attendance in quite some time.

N.C. Adams, Ottawa chapter chair,
Specification Associate, April 1967.

Presidents’ Quotes

The paramount objective of SWAC is better specifications through improved specification writing practices, used by ever more competent writers.

The Association draws its strength from the collaboration, not only of those presently most competent in specification writing, but, as well, from skilled individuals from every discipline in the construction industry - manufacturers, tradesmen, contractors, design architects, engineers, technologists and technicians, focusing their broad experience on problems. The combined strength and co-operative labour of SWAC membership over the past decade allows us now to point to the following accomplishments:

- ◆ *the Standard Section Format, published in 1965;*
- ◆ *the Six-part Section Study Format, a standardized approach to section studies;*
- ◆ *the 16 Division Format, now used by over half of specification writers;*
- ◆ *the Building Construction Index, which is compatible with the 16-Division Format; and*

◆ *the Correspondence Course on Architectural and Engineering Specification Writing, which provides training for specification writers.*

We may look back with pride on the above accomplishments. We can look ahead to their further refinements and the production of the remaining parts.

Looking ahead, we must focus on the production of section studies, which contribute more than any other aspect of our program, to the improvement of specification writing.

D'Arcy G. Helmer, SWAC president,
Specification Associate, April 1966.

Growth is reflected not only by increasing membership, but by SWAC's steadily developing technical program and our increased recognition by the Canadian Construction industry.

The association will be undergoing some critical reorganization in the coming year. Due to our growth it is necessary to distribute the Association's functions over a much broader field and use our wealth of talent to better advantage.

R.P.G. Pennington, President's Report, April 1967.

One of the challenges the national board faces in this year is the departure of SWAC Executive Director Russell Cornell, who is leaving for Europe to study construction and agriculture.

Most of you are aware of the many duties performed so capably by Russ, who truly personifies the spirit of the SWAC. He has directed our technical program, founded and edited the Construction Associate magazine, created the Building Construction Index and developed the correspondence course. In his spare time he enjoys complex botanical studies and agricultural experimentation.

The fact that we will now need several people to continue the work which he has formerly accomplished best exemplifies his contribution to the SWAC.

To all members of the SWAC, realize it is your association, your technical program, your magazine, your BCI, and your responsibility. Will you accept the challenge?

Clarence Freek, President's Report, August 1967.

The past year has seen growing involvement by the membership in the varied objectives of the Association. In the several reports from officers and committee chairmen you will notice that a sense of achievement is reflected. Membership has risen, more students are taking the correspondence course and contact with other organizations has broadened the association's horizons and, incidentally, increased the volume of work and documents required.

F.E. (Fred) Davis, President's Report, April 1969.

The '60s has been a decade of progress and achievement for our Association and substantial improvements in the construction industry have been made. We now enter 1970 with the full recognition of the importance of our association to all those vitally concerned with the building process and united in our objectives for the future.

There has been a great deal of talk regarding changes which will take place and I believe the time for change is now. The construction industry must provide, by the end of the century, as much construction as has been built in the entire history of Canada to date, at a cost which our economy can afford. Increased efficiency is urgently required to satisfy demand. Only a total effort will lead to improvement and the necessary technological breakthrough to create a better environment in which to live.

A.W. Cluff, President's Report, April 1970

Over the years the specification writer has grown in stature and respect, and he is playing an increasing role in the improvement of construction communications.

Our ability to rise above individual interests and to strive for objectives that are to the interests of the construction industry as a whole has been amply demonstrated.

James Findlay, outgoing president,
Specification Associate, May-June 1971.

Specifiers throughout the Association have promoted a high degree of uniformity of documents in use by the Canadian construction industry. They have laid down standards for the preparation of meaningful product literature and for its filing. For these and many other things they can be justly proud.

George W. Lord, Specification Associate,
November-December 1971.

From reading newsletters of SWAC chapters and a few from CSI chapters as far apart as Los Angeles and Detroit, I am struck by the similarity of aims and concerns.

One concern questions our reasons for belonging to this great organization. "Why should people belong and attend our monthly meetings?" "What is this organization all about?"

"We who are involved at the national level usually reply that our main reason for existence is for the improvement of specifications and communications in the construction industry; also to make our members' jobs easier and more effective. This may sound trite, but is nonetheless sincere.

George Lord, "The Reasons for SWAC,"
Specification Associate, March-April 1972.

While technology is becoming increasingly complex, like that in all other industries, it is still manageable. Technological changes have been surpassed by social and contractual developments.

C.R.W. MacPhail, Specification Associate,
May-June 1973.

The specifier is the individual who provides the communication medium between the drawings and the contract documents. To do his job effectively, he must have the confidence and support not only of the architectural and engineering discipline, but also of contractors, lawyers, labour and trade specialists who prepare descriptive literature for the industry. The Specification Writers Association opens the door of participating membership to all of these vocations.

We sincerely feel that all contributors to the construction process must communicate with each other if the vision of the designer is going to be carried into the contract documents and then erected properly, within budget, free from jurisdictional or other labour problems.

Wayne Watson, Specification Associate,
January-February 1973.

We have reached that point in time when the role we must play in liaison with all sectors of the construction industry is of the utmost importance. We have developed a viable liaison with governments, and we intend to pursue and develop this liaison further together with other industry groups.

Wayne Watson, Halifax Convention, May-June 1972.

Metamorphosis: 1974-1983

Governance

SWAC Name Change

The proposal to change the name of the Specification Writers Association of Canada went back to the mid 1960s. However, it was late 1974 when the name Construction Specifications Canada was proposed by the Legislative Committee, in answer to Peter Dobbing's suggestion, Construction Communications Canada. It was felt that the word "specifications" should remain because that was really what the Association was involved in, and that the word "construction" should also be included, because there were other specifications written in Canada in which SWAC's members were not involved. It was also agreed that "Canada" should be included in the new name. The proposed name was also thought to be directly translatable, meaning the same in English and French.

The Long-range Planning Committee, chaired by Bernie Rondot, recommended, at the Annual General Meeting of 1974, that the Association change its name as quickly as possible, begin an intense marketing campaign to promote its aims, take action to resolve its financing problems and support a program of interface and eventual unification of the Canadian construction industry. After a great deal of discussion, members approved the idea of changing the Association's name.

In a speech at the 1974 Annual General Meeting, President F. Ross Browne explained why the Long-Range Planning Committee and executive were proposing to change SWAC's name: "Essential to the proposal is the recognition that we, as an association, are much more than specification writers. When we

examine the activities of the Association, we find that very few are devoted directly to the writing of specifications or to specification writers as such. Our role is much larger than that and includes activities which could logically be undertaken by other organizations. However, because of the unique makeup of our membership, we recognize perhaps more than other specific interest groups, the need for improving communication and cooperation within the industry. We should, therefore, have a much wider appeal as an organization than we do at the present time. I suggest that the style and name by which we present ourselves does not permit us to grow beyond our present limits."

Members were mailed ballots about this and other changes and 40 percent responded. Of those, almost 86 percent favoured the name change. In the final tally, 535 approved the name, 87 rejected it and two abstained. The name change was made official on April 17, 1975.

In 1975, the Specification Writers Association of Canada applied for supplementary letters patent to have its name changed to Construction Specifications Canada. The title was considered less restrictive than SWAC and was thought to better reflect the multi-disciplinary nature of the Association.

Logo

In a secret ballot held in the spring of 1975, the Board of Directors selected a logo by Theodore Bos, chair of the Victoria chapter, as the basis for a new logo for the Association. It was a coupling of the traditional nib with a wave — representing a contemporary electronic impulse — to symbolize the communications media, past and present. The new name and image were



Board of Directors for 1974-75 with first draft of new logo.

intended to reflect an uplift of spirit and purpose and an opportunity toward new insight.



President Ross Browne and Past-President Chris MacPhail present the final version of the new logo, April 1975.

Bilingual Name

In January 1975, Yvan Hardy reported that a letter had been sent to the Québec government asking for precise definitions of the word “specification” for translation into French. Several translations had been offered for “specification”: “devis, spécification, norme, cahier des charges.” It had to be agreed upon before proceeding with the Association’s name change. At a Board of Directors meeting in April 1975, Lloyd Boddy reported that opinion in Québec was divided as to what the name should be in French. As a result, Boddy chose “Devis de Construction Canada” and the Executive Council approved it.

Finances

Finances were often a problem in this period. In the year ending March 31, 1974, for example, the Association’s expenditures totaled \$87,666, and its total income was \$67,520. The *Specification Associate* magazine made a profit, with income exceeding expenditures by about \$8,000. However, the Association’s overall spending cut into its general reserves substantially that year. Consideration was given to conducting a lottery to raise funds, but this was ruled out on the basis that CSC was not considered an educational or charitable institution. In March 1976, executive director Lloyd Boddy expressed concern that a surplus of \$42,000 in 1970 had fallen to \$18,997 in 1975.

CSC was in a break-even position as of July 31, 1979. A new financial agreement with the federal government helped put the National Master Specification (NMS) review program on a self-supporting basis. Two new sources of revenue were stressed: a membership drive and new advertising for the *Specification Associate*. Both of these new sources of revenue were to be split with the chapters so it would be in their interest to

encourage new membership and advertisements.

At a Board of Directors meeting in September 1981, President Larry Hogan held a special session devoted to resolving CSC's financial situation and averting a crisis. Hogan said the NMS review had kept the Association solvent for several years but that it was time to stop playing a game of financial catch-up. The Executive Council implemented an austerity program that put some program activities on hold, thoroughly examined the cost of programs and benefits, reduced committee meetings to save costs and instituted a system for projecting cash flow requirements by fiscal year quarters, in addition to many other changes. The Board also proposed increasing membership fees from \$80 to \$120, a move approved by the membership and instituted. At the end of his term, Hogan reported an excess of income over expenditures of \$10,212 in fiscal year 1981-82, compared to a deficit of \$21,753 the year before, partly because of very high sales of NMS. However, he said that even with all of the changes, it would take another three years for the Association to reach a break-even situation, after years of shortages.

In July 1980, CSC President Bernard A. Smits wrote that CSC was expecting to be "out of the red and into the black" soon, primarily because of sales of the GMS/NMS. By that time CSC was the only distributor because the federal government had decided to stop publishing the hard copy. Smits also noted that after nose-diving in 1978 and 1979, membership was also finally increasing.

In late 1980, Garth Miller resigned after many years of service as secretary-treasurer for CSC, and handed the reins to Paul Gauthier.

Outgoing President David Egan told CSC members at the annual general meeting in June 1983 that the Association had

eliminated its deficit and had a membership equity of \$24,073. High sales of the NMS helped achieve this, along with sales of new CSC publications — Divisions 0 and 1 and three units of the Manual of Practice. Conference '82 in Québec City also turned a substantial profit. Finally, the Atlantic and Ottawa chapters left all their 1982 rebates with the Association, and the Regina chapter left about half of what was due to them. Increased postal rates and a poor economy kept the magazine *Construction Canada* (formerly *Specification Associate*) in a deficit position.

By late 1983, 60 percent of CSC's budget came from the sale of publications. In contrast, membership as a percentage of people in the construction industry was on the decline.

Magazine

In April 1974, the *Specification Associate's* editor, Don Quick, told CSC's Publications Committee that, in his opinion, the magazine was in critical condition and unless substantial improvements were made to circulation, content, graphics, policy and other matters, it could not survive much longer. Quick agreed to carry on as editor, provided assistance was assured from SWAC. The Publications Committee agreed to recommend that the Board of Directors take a number of steps to improve the magazine and SWAC's Executive Council voted to invest some magazine profits back into the magazine — about \$1,000 per issue. However, in June, SWAC's Board of Directors decided to use \$10,000 income from the magazine to reduce the amount that the Association's expenditures exceeded income. In July, the Executive Council decided to terminate its contract with Quick Publications before the end of the fiscal year. Don Quick agreed to stay on as editor until the completion of the August 1974 issue, when Stuart Frost and John Worrall took over the responsibilities on an interim basis.

Stuart Frost, who had been the editor of the *Specification Associate* from 1967 to 1970, eventually agreed to return to the editor's chair on a full-time basis. He held the job until May 1978 when he passed the editor's reins to James O'Neill, who was editor until early 1980. At that point, Frost stepped back into the job for the third time. Clifford Fowke was editor from September 1980 until July 1986, at which time Stuart Frost again took over the editor's chair for the fourth time.

In 1976, the *Specification Associate* adopted a new editorial policy of including, in the first issue of each year, a membership roster, including a listing of members by company. Subsequent issues were to deal with specific subjects — for example, masonry — and include technical articles. The policy of specific topics was started in an effort to attract advertisers, who said they were advertising on a more random basis than in the past. A great deal of effort was put into promoting this new type of issue but advertisers did not respond and CSC's Board of Directors began to look at ways to cut costs on the magazine.

CSC did a survey in 1979 and discovered that the majority of *Specification Associate* readers, notably architects, engineers and technologists — the specifying members of the construction industry — were dissatisfied with the kind of product information presented to them by manufacturers and suppliers, especially in the form of promotional literature and magazine advertising. An analysis of the survey concluded the strongest need was for: utilization of a standard format for presentation of technical information; preclassification of literature in accordance with MasterFormat; dating each piece of literature with the time of issue to keep literature up-to-date; standard methods of evaluation of products; and reduction of high-pressure and obvious promotion in favour of consistent factual information.

In January 1980, CSC discussed, with other design-oriented associations, the possibility of making its magazine a joint publication. A committee was formed to study the feasibility. In the meantime, the Board of Directors approved spending up to \$5,000 for a graphic redesign of the new magazine, to be known as *Construction Canada*, and design of related technical documents. The re-design was intended to make the magazine more attractive to advertisers, as it had been a financial burden to the Association for several years.

In July 1980, *Specification Associate* changed its name to *Construction Canada* and changed its look in an effort to make it easier to read. The new name was intended to serve two purposes. It would better reflect the publication's coverage of the whole Canadian construction industry and related manufacturing, supply and research activities and promote the multi-disciplinary nature of Construction Specifications Canada. May/June 1980 was the last issue of *Specification Associate* and included a preview of its successor, *Construction Canada*. At the same time, the magazine's circulation was increased substantially as part of a new program to target architects, engineers, government officials, specification writers, contractors, manufacturers, suppliers and other design- and construction-oriented people.

Or Equal Products

In 1980, *Construction Canada* published a mock letter announcing a new line of inexpensive products being marketed under the trade name of "Or Equal" architectural products. Here's an excerpt:

We know that Construction Specifiers will be happy to realize that the products they so often specify will now be made available to them without their having to go through a lengthy comparison with other products inadvertently specified. We believe

this to be a great step forward in architecture. Now for the first time the architect can rest assured that he will receive the “Or Equal” products specification writers so often specify and so seldom receive. On their next jobs, we request that architects’ construction specifiers ask for “Or Equal” products. The results will be surprising.

The letter, first published in an American newsletter, is signed by Slick Tricks, Sales Manager for Or Equal Products Co.

NIB

In the autumn of 1983, the CSC Executive Council made the decision to reinstate the *NIB (News in Brief)* newsletter to keep members up to date with current information. At one point, the information that had been included in *NIB* was put into the magazine, but this was not effective because it meant it was out-of-date by the time it was printed. In the end, CSC tried mailing directors, chapter chairs and technical officers an in-house technical update, but some chapters were better than others at relaying the information to members. The *NIB* was to be a communication vehicle that would provide information directly from program directors to the membership. It would also provide Association membership information. It was agreed the *NIB* would be published in both English and French.

Membership

In April 1979, CSC had 1,458 members, with 401 of them in the Toronto chapter. Membership in the Association jumped by 187 during 1980, to reach a total of 1,700 by the end of April 1981. This made the goal of 2,000 members seem attainable. There were 134 RSWs in CSC in 1981, all listed in the Roster issues of *Construction Canada*.

On August 31, 1981, there were 1,786 members in CSC, located as follows: Atlantic provinces, 63; Calgary, 132; Edmonton, 196; Grand Valley, 22; Hamilton-Niagara, 64; London, 40; Montréal, 146; Ottawa, 98; Québec City, 77; Regina, 71; Saskatoon, 50; Toronto, 507; Vancouver, 159; Victoria, 17; Windsor, 28; Winnipeg, 113; At Large, 3.

Membership Dues

At the Annual General Meeting of 1974, the Long-Range Planning Committee asked the membership to approve increasing the membership fee to \$80 per year beginning April 1, 1975. However, in November 1974, the Board of Directors voted to increase the fees to only \$60 — a 50 percent increase. The increase was later criticized because, while fees had increased 50 percent, the rebate portion for chapters had been increased only 25 percent, from \$6 to \$7.20 per member.

Faced with an expected deficit of \$32,500 for the fiscal year 1978-79, CSC’s Board of Directors voted to increase fees from \$60 to \$80 annually.

The \$80 was split up in the following way: 10 percent for the chapter, 20 percent for *Specifications Associate* subscription, 15 percent administration, and 55 percent to support various committee programs.

By January 1982, CSC fees had increased to \$120 per year, from \$80, an increase that was approved by a balloted vote through the mail. The Toronto chapter urged its members to support the increase, which would mean a 50 percent increase in rebates to chapters, and would allow the local chapter to increase its activities. This greatly improved the Association’s financial state, which had been ailing.

Professional Development Committee

In March 1976, CSC's Board of Directors decided to create a committee for professional development to look after the interests of RSWs or those interested in becoming RSWs. It replaced the Education Committee.

Presidential Term Limits

In June 1978, Peter Dobbing was re-elected to serve a second term as CSC president. A change in the Association's bylaws followed, limiting presidents to one term. In 1978 and early 1979, CSC changed its charter so that from then on, rather than being elected by the voting members directly, the president of the Association would succeed to the office after serving as senior vice-president for a year. The senior vice-president, who would succeed the president, was chosen by the Board of Directors.

Executive Director

In 1978, Rene Gaulin assumed the office of executive vice-president. The change in title of the senior staff person from executive director to executive vice-president was at Gaulin's request. Prior to this appointment, the bilingual Gaulin had served as director of special services with the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada. Lloyd Boddy, who became CSC executive director in 1969, retired in 1978.

Staff

In 1977, Margaret Crockatt was appointed office manager for the Association, two years after coming to CSC. She had been a secretary at Master Builders for 12 years prior. Crockatt remained CSC's office manager until 1990 (she changed her

name to Margaret Olthuis when she married Henry Olthuis in 1980). Jack Stiff was appointed as Publications Administrator.

Office Moves

In 1975, the association's national office relocated to 1027 Yonge Street, Suite 101, Toronto. On November 1, 1980, CSC national headquarters moved from to 1 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 1206, Toronto, primarily to reduce rent expenses.

CSC Office Computer

In March 1981, CSC's Board of Directors decided to investigate whether or not a computer would become a necessity for its offices, and if so, when. CSC purchased a system in late 1983. Computers were introduced to the office primarily for text processing and membership management. Since then, the computer hardware and software have been periodically updated to improve efficiency and member services by incorporating the latest technology.

Life Membership and President's Award

In 1979, there were a number of changes to CSC's awards program. The award of Honorary Membership, conferred on members who had given many years of service to CSC, was changed to Life Membership, and a plaque was to be given to past and future recipients. An award known as Honorary Membership was created, to be conferred on non-members who had been of service to CSC or the construction industry in general. The President's Award, given by the president each year to a deserving individual, was officially recognized as an award superior to the Association Award of Merit and, in addition to giving plaques to outgoing presidents, outgoing chapter chairs were also to receive them.

College of Fellows

Starting at the 1981 Ottawa conference, the College of Fellows held an official presentation of the new Fellows at the President's Ball. Inducted into the College of fellows during this time were:

- 1974 J. Corkan; James Findlay;
Clifford C. Maple; T. Stan Wallis
- 1975 Fred E. Davis; William J. Jarrell;
George W. Slee
- 1976 C.P. Benko; Wayne N. Watson, RSW
- 1977 Walter E. Germain;
Chris R. W. MacPhail;
Bernard H. Rondot
- 1978 L.M. Bennett; Peter Dobbins, RSW;
Garth W. Miller
- 1979 Arnold R. Barry, RSW; F. Ross Browne
- 1980 Willem B.C. deLint; Paul E. Douville; Robert S. Law
- 1981 George A. Sierer; Casey A. Skakun, RSW
- 1982 Bernard A. Smits
- 1983 John W. Chomiak

Chapter of the Year Award

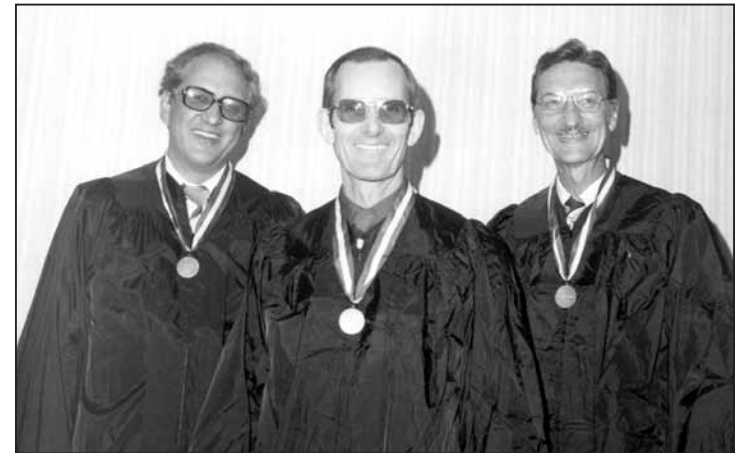
The Chapter of the Year award was created in 1976 by Executive Director Lloyd Boddy to recognize outstanding achievements by a chapter toward fostering the objectives of CSC. The award was to be presented annually to one chapter of CSC at the awards luncheon held during the annual CSC conference.

The Evaluation Committee consisted of the president, immediate past president and the executive director. The committee members evaluated 10 areas of involvement by the



College of Fellows Chancellor congratulates two new fellows: Wayne Watson and Charles Benko.

chapters, including: membership (stability and growth); chapter communications (newsletter, director reports etc.); chapter programs/activities; attendance at meetings; technical (local and national); professional development/education; spirit and effort; participation with local design-build industry associations; public relations and local promotion of CSC; and contributions to CSC's magazine *Construction Canada*. This information was to be reported by the chapters in



B. Rondot, C. MacPhail and W. Germain inducted into the College of Fellows, 1977.



F.R. Browne
CSC President, 1974-1975

“Architects and specifiers are conservative persons. Without credibility the sales representative is a dead duck. It is not a quick or easy task to obtain credibility; it must be earned by conscientiously and honestly representing your product and company to the utmost. This requires patience, perseverance, intelligence and above all a willingness to back up everything you say. If you and your company are not prepared to do this, then I suggest you have a limited future in this industry and should look elsewhere.”

the chapter awards data sheet, which was submitted with the chapter directors’ reports to the Board of Directors.

The award was a portable lectern, donated by Lloyd Boddy, to be held by the winning chapter for a period of one year. The first winner of the award was the Edmonton chapter for 1976-77. Subsequent winners were as follows: Hamilton–Niagara (1977-78), Winnipeg (1978-79), Québec (1979-80), Toronto (1980-81), Vancouver (1981-82) and Winnipeg (1982-83).

CSC’s Board of Directors decided in March 1980 to change the name of the Construction Specifications Canada Chapter of the Year Award to the Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year Award, in honour of Boddy, who originated, designed, donated and first presented the award while he was executive director of the Association. Boddy retired in 1978.

By 2001, the original lectern was well worn from travel and use. There was also no more space on the front of the lectern for new plaques identifying the winners. At this time, the Toronto chapter donated a new portable lectern.

Long-range Planning Committee

Soliciting suggestions from CSC members about the future of the group was often a thankless task. In 1977, CSC Vice-President Peter Dobbing, who was director for professional development, published an open letter to RSWs in the *Specification Associate*, in reaction to the meagre response he was getting when he sought their input about future directions for CSC. “We are too prone to putting together half-arsed systems, implementing them and then saying ‘but this is a great improvement over what we had’, or ‘it is a great step forward’,” wrote Dobbing. “I will never be satisfied with that because it stultifies progress.”

The Long-range Planning Committee was revived in 1980. It consisted of the Executive Council, with the immediate past president acting as chair. The executive director of CSI, Joe Gascoigne, helped the Committee become active again. The long-range planning exercise was called "National Tomorrow." It began an organizational review and met regularly to make plans for the future in several fields, including finances. CSC National solicited the chapters for volunteers to provide input on where the national group should be going. The Toronto chapter formed an ad hoc committee to provide input.

CSC/CSI Liaison

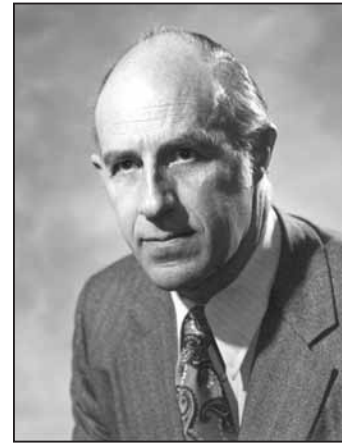
In 1982, leaders of CSC and the Construction Specifications Institute decided representatives of their two organizations' long-range planning committees should meet once a year to discuss their future programs in greater scope than had been done to that point.

Chapter Manual

James Marshall, of the Hamilton-Niagara chapter of CSC, compiled a comprehensive Chapter Manual in 1978, setting out suggested procedures for forming, managing and operating CSC chapters. The manual was intended as a policy reference for CSC chapter management, to help introduce a uniformity of operation between chapters.

Profiles

F. Ross Browne, SWAC president, 1974-75, was the first president to be elected from the industrial membership. A self-described graduate of the "school of hard knocks," Browne became involved in sales within the construction industry soon



*G.W. Miller
CSC President, 1975-1976*

"People do not become part of the association merely by being together, but by sharing interests and engaging in activities to assist the whole. The strongest bond between people is the feeling of having common problems, common values and common hopes.

"Human energy must be expended within an organization to energize membership activity. But this type of energy can also be conserved. If a good percentage of membership participates—less energy per individual is required. Individuals benefit from the energy expended when assisting a mutual cause, and the organization benefits from the energy expended by all individuals."



W.B.C. de Lint
CSC President, 1976-1977

"In CSC a common tongue has been developed in the field of specification language. This common tongue will be heard and used universally and will be, although minor in the total scope, a major force in the developments of the Canadian construction industry."

after high school. In 1960, he founded Furby Sales, a sales agency handling building products. He became involved in SWAC in 1964, when he was recruited by some local specifiers to help establish a Winnipeg chapter, and a decade later, moved into the top job in the Association. He described himself in *Specification Associate* as "an independent cuss, with different ideas and a reputation for speaking my mind." Ross, his wife Ruth and their six children, put together a band, known as Pop and the Weasels, which performed at gigs including the Winnipeg chapter's Christmas dance in 1977.

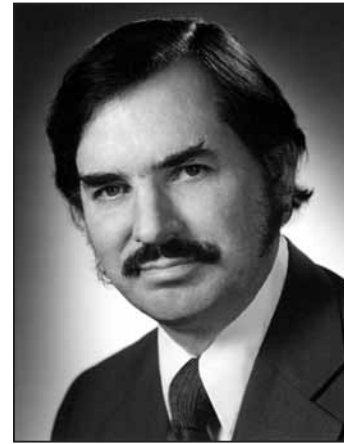
Garth W. Miller, B. Arch., FCSC, MRAIC, SWAC president, 1975-76. Born in Edmonton and raised in Vancouver, he lived in Winnipeg and Victoria before moving to Toronto as staff architect for Pilkington Glass. He worked on Expo '67 for four years and then came back to Toronto, eventually becoming director of promotion for the Ontario Masonry Contractors' Association. Miller became SWAC treasurer in 1972, and vice-president and secretary-treasurer in 1973-74 and 1974-75. He was secretary-treasurer from 1976 to 1980 and received the President's Award at Conference '81.

Miller received the Life Membership Award on March 26, 2003 in Toronto. Sadly, he passed away three days later.

Willem B.C. de Lint, FCSC, MRAIC, CSC president 1976-77. During his tenure as president, de Lint executed an agreement with Public Works Canada respecting the development of the National Master Specifications. Born in the Netherlands, he grew up in the midst of World War II and in 1953 watched his country all but washed away by North Sea floods. He moved to Canada in 1953, stopping first in Ontario and then moving west, where he became involved in the oil pipeline industry. He enrolled in the School of Architecture at Toronto, and later Winnipeg, and graduated with top honours in 1962. De Lint

formed his own practice in Regina in 1969 and joined the local SWAC chapter, becoming chapter chair and chapter representative on the National Board. “De Lint’s constant criticism and heckling at CSC Board meetings eventually resulted in his appointment as membership director (1973-75) and later as vice-president and technical director.” He turned his attention to development of a CSC Master Specification for the private sector, by March 1977. In 1988, he chaired the Construction Industry Joint Committee where representatives of many construction associations and CSC discuss items of common interest and lobby at the provincial level. He devoted a great deal of time to the Boy Scout movement and to food bank drives

Peter Dobbing, CSC president, 1977-78 and 1978-79, arrived in Canada from England in 1960, a graduate from the School of Architecture at Liverpool University. His professional experience ranged from being architect-planner with CMHC, responsible for many multi-family developments, to a term as architect-planner for the National Capital Commission and Director of Architectural Services with Campeau Corporation, where he handled major projects including the Skyline Hotel. He was architectural executive for several firms and worked on major projects including the \$85-million mixed development Cite Concordia before founding his own small architectural practice in Ottawa in 1974. He taught at Algonquin College and Carleton University, and was active in CSC as a member of the Technical Committee, as a director, and as education director. As a director, he championed the ill-fated Canadian Construction Information System and a comprehensive Metric Construction Products Directory. He proposed restructuring the Association and changing the name to Construction Communications Canada, and was active on the Legislative Committee of CSC, which re-wrote the directives by which the Association was governed on a day-to-day basis. As education director,



*P. Dobbing
CSC President, 1977-1979*

“The raison d’être for our formation and growth is that it was considered necessary to do something about the way in which specifications are written. And we have done fairly well, haven’t we? Working with CSJ, our elder sister to the south, we have put together a formidable system for the production of documentation which effectively communicates instructions from the owner, through the designer, to the constructor – at least as far as the written word is concerned.

“Notwithstanding all that, there is a tremendous amount of work to do – and all in a continuing good cause. There are still many, many inadequate specifications written...”



*J.W. Chomiak
CSC President, 1979-1980*

"During our recent 1979 Annual Convention in Toronto, it was observed that our association lacks "young blood."

"An organization must be aggressive. If an organization grows too slowly, a young person will take his interest elsewhere. Many times, the abilities of the young person is overlooked or hidden behind the shortsightedness of an organization – ignoring long term interest when short term interests are at stake...

"As an organization, we must seriously address ourselves to the importance of attracting young people to our association. If we do not, the results may be disastrous to the association's ability to function in the future."

Dobbing proposed the formation of the Professional Development Directorate, of which he became first program director. In 1978, Dobbing was elected to the College of Fellows and in 1997 he was given a Life Membership Award.

John W. Chomiak, CSC president, 1979-80, was a graduate engineer and a partner and vice-president of Vinto Engineering Ltd. He was elected as Edmonton chapter chair 1974-75. Chomiak won a CSC Merit Award in 1975 and became a national director in 1976-77. He was technical director of CSC before becoming president. In 1982-83 he was inducted into the College of Fellows.

Larry R. Hogan, CSC president, 1980-81, was familiar with many parts of Canada because he was born in Sherbrooke, Québec, educated in Northern Ontario, worked with a firm of consulting engineers in Toronto, Ottawa and various other cities, and practised in Winnipeg for many years. By the time he became CSC president, Hogan was senior associate with the Number Ten Architectural Group in Winnipeg. Hogan spent his formative professional years with Toronto-based A.D. Margison & Associates Ltd., travelling widely across Ontario and elsewhere as resident inspector and resident construction supervisor. After a decade with that company, he went to Number Ten Architectural Group in Winnipeg, where his responsibilities included projects manager, contracts administrator and field services co-ordinator. His hobbies included duck and upland game hunting, fishing and canoeing.

Bernard A. Smits, CSC president, 1981-82, first joined the Montréal chapter of the Association in 1959 and served as convention chair in 1976. He was a national director for three terms (1962-65), chair of a wide range of committees and CSC bodies and received the National Merit Award in 1977. At the time of his induction into the College of Fellows in 1982, he was

working at Atlas Steels, Division of Rio Algom Ltd., based in Montréal.

David J. Egan, CSC president, 1982-83, was project co-ordinator at B. James Wensley & Associates Architects Ltd. of Edmonton when he was chosen as CSC president. Just before moving to Edmonton, he was with Miska, Gale & Ling, Architects, in Ottawa for nine years. He also spent three years with McLean & MacPhadyen Architects of Ottawa, and before that was with Shore & Moffat & Partners Architects in Toronto for three years. Egan received CSC's National Award of Merit in 1979. He had earlier served as vice-chair and technical chair of the Ottawa chapter and was a member of the National Technical Committee, as well as technical director. He was instructor of the CSC specifications course at Alonquin College and a member of CSI.

Recalling his term as CSC President, Egan said: "I was motivated to run for President to top off my involvement in the Technical Committee and to oversee the completion of a number of documents that emerged from the intense work of that committee. Seeing the realization of those documents felt great and really capped off my year as president. This included a major revision to MasterFormat and the addition of 'mediumscope titles and numbers.' It was, in fact, the work of the Technical Committee that got me interested in CSC. The completion and publication of these documents was at the top of the committee's interests in those days.

"The theme of my year as president was 'communication' and my first article in *Construction Canada*, as president, dealt with this subject. Having moved from Ottawa to Edmonton in 1979 and then back to Ottawa in 1983, I was conscious of the perceived East/West problems and wanted to improve communications within CSC as well as between CSC and the construction



B.A. Smits
CSC President, 1980-1981

"What is left to do? Haven't we done everything?" Some people are saying just that. Remarks like, 'Well, we have our master spec, we have our registration program ...what else do we need to do?' The answer is everything! Our industry is a living organism subject to constant change. For instance, RSW status needs review; the GMS/NMS, now NMS, is by no means in its final "perfect" state ...our educational programs such as JNDECORE are only in outline form; our technical aids program is just getting underway...

"In effect, we are just starting! The past quarter century can be regarded as our formative period – we have just matured. Let's look at the eighties as the decade of growth in numbers, effectiveness and excellence."



L.R. Hogan
CSC President, 1981-1982

Let me present a few reasons for the success of CSC, why this Association of so few has been able to contribute so much and why CSC's voice and opinions are so highly regarded by the industry and other association:

CSC is the only national association with membership representing every discipline of Canada's design/build industry. Our members openly and candidly debate and address concerns affecting each of us in the industry and, as a result, we gain better understanding and resolve many differences before they become confrontations.

CSC members are from the middle management level of each discipline... who cause decisions to be made, who most influence the direction of those decisions..."

industry. Up until then, I felt that there was a lack of good communication between the design and construction sectors of the industry. Because of the multi-disciplinary nature of our Association, I felt that CSC was the ideal vehicle to enhance this communication. I believe that I achieved that goal.

"At that time, we were coming off a lot of volatility in the construction industry and that was also affecting CSC membership. We put a lot of effort into stabilizing our membership base, as did other organizations. We were struggling to keep our members involved in the Association and its activities.

"As a result of my years in the Technical Committee and involvement in other volunteer activities, I soon realized that members needed a similar commitment by their spouses towards their objectives. To this end, and with my wife Jo-Ann's support, I encouraged more involvement by spouses in CSC activities, especially in organizing and participating in social events at the chapter level and at annual conferences. This created a family atmosphere and I like to think that this was a tradition that was fostered during my term and one that still continues today.

"An unexpected event during the year of my presidency was the financial collapse of my employer, leading to my having to uproot my family and move back to Ottawa in the middle of my term. Other than that, CSC steered the course and met with any challenges laid before us.

"As previously mentioned, the publication of the revised MasterFormat and the other completed technical documents was the most important event happening during my term, together with the enhanced relationships developed with CSI during the development of these joint documents. This provided the groundwork for the ongoing liaison between CSC and CSI, still enjoyed today. In spite of the downturn in the Alberta economy, especially in the energy sector, the year ended with a highly successful annual CSC conference, hosted by the Calgary

chapter, with events taking place in venues in both Calgary and Banff.

“My mentors were Wayne Watson, in the beginning, followed by Garth Miller who introduced me to the administrative side of the Association and probably influenced me to start on the path to the presidency of CSC. John Chomiak and Casey Skakun also influenced me greatly.

“CSC offers me unlimited opportunities to effectively communicate with colleagues across Canada and has done so for 25 years. I have benefited from my links with CSI through involvement with joint documents and as a longtime member of CSI. The multi-disciplinary nature of CSC makes it an extremely effective communication tool. Even though some people have had reservations about having professionals, quasi professionals and trades people under the same umbrella, I think that this is what has made CSC so successful at communicating.

“My fondest memories still go back to the publication of the technical documents that began during my time on the Technical Committee, especially the joint CSI/CSC documents such as MasterFormat, Section Format and Page Format, and the meetings with CSI members that led to their publication. It was interesting that when we attended meetings with CSI on their turf, the ratio of CSI people to CSC was 10:1 but they were in awe of us because we had our homework done.

“Another vivid and enjoyable memory was from our board meetings when CSC Registrar, Fred Fischell, drew accurate and humorous caricatures of everyone around the table. A number of these caricatures appeared in *Construction Canada*.”

Roy Ball, CSC president, 1983-84, was a graduate architectural technologist with Forrester, Scott, Bowers, Walls, architects and engineers, in Saskatoon when he became president. He first became involved with CSC in 1968 when he joined the



D.J. Egan
CSC President, 1982-1983

“CSC offers me unlimited opportunities to effectively communicate with colleagues across Canada and has done so for 25 years. I have benefited from my links with CSI through involvement with joint documents and as a long time member of CSI. The multi-disciplinary nature of CSC makes it an extremely effective communication tool. Even though some people have had reservations about having professionals, quasi professionals and trades people under the same umbrella, I think that this is what has made CSC so successful at communicating.”



R.H. Ball
CSC President, 1983-1984

"It would appear that from the telephone calls and correspondence directed to our association that we have reason to be proud and dissatisfied. Proud that others are increasingly inviting CSC to participate in their programs and CSC has responded within the limitations of its financial and manpower resources. CSC as an association concerned with communications has done much to promote better coordination through the development of standards, formats, techniques and the National Master Construction Specification... And yet, we must be dissatisfied at the general lack of acceptance of our RSW program by the industry and our own membership and by the apparent lack of communication amongst our own members."

Saskatoon chapter. After that he went on to become chapter secretary-treasurer (1970-73), chapter chair (1976-78), national director (1973-82), as well as national vice-president (1976-78 and 1981-83). At the time he became president in 1983, he had also been senior and architectural co-ordinator of the NMS program since 1976 and a member of CSC's national technical committee for eight years. From 1976 to 1989 he was co-ordinator for NMS, the National Master Specification Program, a joint effort of the federal government and CSC to meet the requirements of both the private sector and government. He was also a member of the committee that developed MasterFormat. Ball took two years of engineering at the University of Saskatchewan before quitting to work at a surveying firm. After graduating in architectural technology at the Saskatchewan Technical Institute in Moose Jaw, he worked for Webster, Forrester, Scott, Architects and Engineers, which later became Forrester Scott Bowers Walls Architects and Engineer. He was involved in all aspects of drafting, specification writing, inspection and contract administration. He received the National Award of Merit twice, in 1977 and 1982, and was inducted into the College of Fellows in 1985.

Lloyd Boddy, SWAC executive director, 1969 to 1978, was born and raised in Toronto and attended the University of Toronto before becoming an independent soft drink bottler. When his interest in pop fizzled, he switched over to construction, becoming sales manager for a national building product manufacturer. Boddy first joined the Toronto chapter in 1955 and moved to Montréal in 1956, where he participated in the founding of the SWAC Montréal chapter. He was Montréal chapter secretary from 1960 to 1963, national secretary from 1963 to 1966 and in 1967 was one of the first four members to become a Fellow of the Association. Boddy was an executive assistant at a large contracting company before joining SWAC's staff as executive director in 1969, a position he held until his



Executive Director, Lloyd Boddy, 1969.

retirement in 1978. He felt SWAC's support should go first to specification writers. However, his industrial and contracting background made him very aware of the bidding foul-ups and jurisdictional problems that arose if the specifier didn't use the

specialized knowledge of the industry and builders. One of his pet projects was to bring SWAC into closer working arrangements with architectural technologists, engineering technologists and quantity surveyors, in order to improve communications from design concept to finished construction. After his retirement in 1978, Boddy was awarded a President's Plaque from the Construction Specifications Institute of the United States. He passed away on February 16, 1980.

George (Mr. Metric) Slee, FCSC, was CSC metric co-ordinator in 1977 when he helped the *Specification Associate* put together a special issue on metric conversion. A construction consultant who specialized in contract documents and specifications, it was Slee's involvement in the Federal Metric Commission that made him so well known that he came to be called Mr. Metric. He was a task force manager with the Metric Commission in Ottawa prior to his retirement in 1976. He held various executive positions within the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, including national president. Slee was recognized for his contribution to CSC by election to the College of Fellows in 1975. After his "retirement," Slee operated a consulting business in metric conversion, specifications, and contract documents, and continued to write articles on metric conversion for the magazine. A lecturer in construction law at Algonquin College in Ottawa, Slee coordinated a 15-week specification course there in 1980. He passed away on December 9, 1980. That year, he had been named by the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors to represent the Institute on the National Advisory Board of the NMS. The Board of Directors of CSC had named him a Life Member of CSC.

Hans Burgers, born in Holland in 1927, managed to graduate with degrees in engineering, fine arts, architecture and law, and also to work as a professional violinist, before coming to Canada

in 1954 at age 27. He settled in Halifax, where he began as a draftsman and later established his own architectural practice and partnered in a development firm. In addition to being active in many community groups and the Liberal Party, Hans joined CSC in 1967 and by 1973 was a national vice-president. He was a major force in the Atlantic Canada chapter of CSC. His contributions to CSC included preparing a syllabus for teaching specification writing, and updating the directives for CSC operation and chapter operation. He died in January 2004.

Paul-E. Douville was the founding chair of the Québec chapter in 1976. Douville had been a member of the Montréal chapter since 1966 and was Montréal chapter chair in 1975-76. He received a Merit Award in 1976 and was elected as a CSC vice-president for 1979-80, after three terms as a CSC national director. A graduate engineer, he was president of Gelinite Inc. and Filtrite Inc.

Cliff Maple, FCSC, was honoured in 1979 by the Toronto chapter of CSC for his past services, with 100 attending a special night in his honour. Maple was an original member of SWAC, chair of the Manufacturers' and Suppliers' Support Committee, responsible for donations for the conventions, was registrar of CSC and a registrar for the RSW board.

Paul Marquette, chair of the Montréal chapter for five years, was involved in every aspect of chapter operations and was also on the board at the national level. He was inducted into the College of Fellows in 1985. A structural draftsman, Marquette was also accredited as a certified translator (English/French). He worked as a specification writer in the Department of National Defence and Public Works Canada, and won several CSC awards. He also completed a survey of specification courses at Canadian universities.

I.M. (Mike) Robinson, FCSC, RSW, received a Life Membership award in 1999. At the time it was said that few individuals were more committed to the goals of CSC than Robinson. He joined the Association in 1969 as a member of the Winnipeg chapter and was active in the chapter from 1969 to 1978, serving as chair in 1974-75. He moved to Regina in 1978 and became involved with that chapter. He served on the Board of Directors for eight years and was elected to the College of Fellows in 1995. Mike's support of CSC has been unwavering and in Regina he personified CSC.

George Sierer was a national director of CSC, national vice-president and publications director. He received a Merit Award in 1976 after serving as chair of the Toronto chapter. He was a graduate architect, architectural specification consultant and President of Technical Support Systems Ltd., a computer-based specification service.



George Sierer at technical session, Conference '80.

Don Sharp was the founder of the Toronto chapter newspaper, *News + Views* (now known as *The Toronto Specifier*). Some of the more memorable projects for which Don has provided the specifications were the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo, the CN Tower and the Toronto Eaton Centre.

Specification Innovation

Uniform Construction Index

In 1972, the Uniform Construction Index (UCI) replaced the Canadian Building Construction Index (BCI) and the American Uniform System for Construction Specifications, Data Filing and Cost Accounting. It had four distinct parts: specification format, data filing format, cost analysis format and project filing format. The BCI had not been widely used by engineers on heavy construction projects in Canada, perhaps because of the “building” connotation in its title. In contrast, the UCI, which was written by SWAC and, in the United States, by the Construction Specifications Institute, was to serve the entire construction industry as a format for specifications, project cost analysis and product literature. It grouped related specification sections within 16 fixed divisions. This format was thought to apply equally well to heavy construction projects as to simple building or industrial projects.

Translation of UCI

In September 1974, the Executive Council decided the Bilingualism Committee should cooperate with the Québec and/or Canadian government to prepare a complete translation of the UCI into French, with collaboration from the Construction Information Corporation. The translation of the Uniform Construction Index was done by the Régie de la langue française, with the costs assumed by the province of Québec. It would become an official document for use in the province.

UCI and Sections Titles and Numbers

“Section Titles and Numbers,” CSC’s Document No. 004E, was produced in December 1974 and was recognized as an essential

document for all specification offices in Canada. The document was seen as an extension of the UCI, and would provide a co-ordinated, standard yet flexible method for arranging the 16 divisions and the sections of the specifications. Donald Thomas and Wayne Watson were responsible for putting the lengthy document together. Watson, of W2 Consultants Ltd., reported in 1976 that most specifiers had welcomed it. The document was, in effect, a Canadianization the Construction Specification Institute (U.S.) Master List of Sections, with refinement of section headings and a more equitable apportionment of section numbers, Watson said. It was directed at the specification writer who wished to organize his project specifications in a consistent manner and who might be maintaining a master specification system of sorts within his office.

CCDC

In 1974, the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) introduced for the industry’s use, two new documents: CCDC 2, Engineers, 1974 and CCDC 12, Architects, 1974 for Stipulated Price Contract containing the Owner/Contractor Agreement and General Conditions of the Stipulated Price Contract. These documents made the former ACEC/CCA/EIC 2 and RAIC/CCA 12, 1966 documents obsolete, and they were more than a simple updating or new format.

MasterFormat and CCDC

Division 0 and 1 Subcommittee Chair, Wayne Watson, reported in 1982 that CSC had introduced a long-awaited documents package addressing the front end to construction contract documents. Division 0 – Bidding and Contract requirements, and Division 1 – General Requirements were the two introductory divisions of the CSC/CSI MasterFormat. These master guide

specifications were totally co-ordinated with CCDC publications. Specifically, CSC Division 0 and 1 documents were intrinsically co-ordinated with and directly complemented the industry-accepted CCDC #2 and #12 “Stipulated Price Contract” between owner and contractor in addition to related publications. CSC introduced these publications by way of industry seminars in 10 Canadian cities in March 1982.

Canadian Construction Information Corporation

In February 1972, a study of computer utilization in the Canadian construction industry was prepared by Demers, Gordon, Baby, Consulting Engineers, for the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce under the BEAM (Building Equipment, Accessories and Materials) Program. This led to the establishment of a crown corporation, Canadian Construction Information Corporation (CCIC), whose mandate was to pilot a construction information system (C.I.S.).

The nature of this project drew support from the design community, including specification writers. The president of CCIC was D’Arcy Helmer, a past-president of SWAC and many of the corporation’s employees were specification writers and members of SWAC/CSC. The general manager was Kenneth I. Gordon, P.Eng., M.A.Sc., MBA.

The basic service provided by the C.I.S was to consist of a comprehensive file of product literature covering 484 product lines. The file was to be produced on approximately 150 4" x 6" microfiche cards, each containing 420 images and providing a complete library in four inches of shelf space. Access to this master file would be from a directory in a yearly handbook, or from a microfiche version of the directory issued with each monthly or bi-monthly update. File rental charges were to be in the region of \$40 per file copy. An enhancement to the system was a

computer search capability which would identify suitable products having specific properties as defined in the handbook, thus referring the user only to the literature of the relevant suppliers, rather than to all of them. The database would be accessed from a remote computer terminal and the average cost of a reasonably extensive search would be less than \$2.

The prototype system was launched with much fanfare in the spring of 1975. The service was advertised in the May/June issue of the *Specification Associate* and Ken Gordon made a presentation at CSC Conference '75 on the progress and capabilities of the C.I.S.

It was to be a listing, based on performance needs, of products available to the construction industry in Canada. The manual system included a Master File of material microfilmed from suppliers’ catalogues and literature and a handbook of instructions and indexes. The automated system was to provide all of this plus access to CCIC’s database in Ottawa. The database promised to save many hours of search time by allowing users to identify products by specific properties before accessing the Master File and it was to be cross-indexed to the Uniform Construction Index divisions.

At this point in time, the Canadian government had spent some \$1.85 million on the corporation itself and it was determined that another \$2 million of government funding would be needed before the corporation would become self-sustaining. Although there was plenty of support from the construction industry, the federal government of the day had initiated an austerity program and reduced the amount of funding available. The forthcoming metric conversion represented both a problem and an opportunity for the C.I.S. Unfortunately the lack of adequate funding resulted in termination of the C.I.S. just as its potential was being converted into reality.

CSC forwarded a resolution to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Alastair Gillespie, deploring the decision to mothball the system, which had taken many years and many volunteer hours of CSC members to develop. The Association pointed out that millions had been spent by the department to develop the system to provide a greatly-needed tool for designers, specifiers and builders.

SWAC president Garth Miller said the Association would continue its effort to assure the maintenance of the data. CSC also advocated expanding the information to include construction standards of the Canadian Government Specifications Board, the Canadian Standards Association, the Underwriters Laboratories and pertinent clauses of the National Building Code.

National Master Specification

The history of the National Master Specification (NMS) is intrinsically linked to the history of both CSC and the art of specification writing in North America. The NMS began as the Government Master Construction Specification (GMS) for use by government and the private sector for federal government projects. In the early 1970s, the federal government employees and consultants (most of them members of CSC) put together a Government Master Specification, written with government projects in mind.

In 1974, the mandate was shared by five federal government departments: National Defence; Public Works; Indian and Northern Affairs; Industry, Trade and Commerce; and Transport Canada.

In 1975, SWAC and the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce conducted a survey to identify master specifications in use in Canada at the time, and to determine the

need for a National Master Specification. Thousands of design and contracting firms and government agencies were sent a questionnaire, and personal interviews and group discussions were conducted in 13 cities across Canada.

In late 1975, CSC announced it was about to embark on the development of a National Master Construction Specification. The specification would be based on the existing Canadian Government Master Construction Specification, revised for private use. It would be suitable for use as a proprietary, non-proprietary or standard type specification. Its development was to take place in three stages.

The CSC entered into a contract with a private consultant in 1976 to produce a Master Specification for use by private industry. The specification was to consist of about 220 sections and be based upon the three-part CSC Format, with Section Titles and Numerical Index as outlined in Document 004E. The CSC also accepted a position on the federal government's Master Specification Committee Policy Board. The federal government's master specification consisted of about 600 sections and it was hoped their master could be married with the CSC specification to produce a national master for use by all segments of the construction industry.

In October 1976, George Bowen, chair of Government Master Specification Policy, and acting GMS Manager Don Mackey, visited CSC's Board of Directors meeting. They were there to revive a proposal that CSC review the Government Master Specification sections for adaptation to the private sector, for a fee. CSC was already working with W2 (Consultants) and had 60 to 70 sections out for review. It had been made clear to the CSC Board of Directors, even before the government representatives arrived at their meeting, that while the government wanted CSC to have an active role and would provide funding to help with this, the offer would be withdrawn if CSC insisted

on proceeding unilaterally with its plans to issue a master specification for the private sector.

In June 1977, CSC President Willem de Lint and J.A.H. Mackay, deputy minister of Public Works Canada, signed a letter of understanding for development of a National Master Specification. The letter outlined a commitment of up to \$250,000 over a five-year period to fund CSC's review of the GMS with the aim of producing a master specification suitable for both government and private sector projects. CSC organized an advisory board representing the private sector, to ensure adequate technical review by industry Associations and professional bodies.

The National Master Specification Advisory Board held its inaugural meeting in late September 1977, and elected CSC Executive Director Lloyd Boddy as chair. The process was expected to last five years. The document was to become, section by section, the Canadian National Master Construction Specification (NMS). In the end, the five-year review was done in four years.

In late 1978, CSC set up a new review process for the program to transform the GMS into a national master specification. CSC had been commissioned by the federal government 18 months earlier to do the review. By late 1978, 84 sections of the more than 500 in the GMS had been reviewed. However, in order to get more feedback from the private sector and review another 74 sections by the end of March 1979, CSC set up the new review process. CSC members were all asked to indicate which sections they would be interested in reviewing within a few weeks. At the same time, the NMS technical committees of each of CSC's 16 chapters were given about five sections to review. In addition, the 20 or more national associations which would be affected by the revisions were asked for their members' input. All of the comments were to be pulled together by

architectural, mechanical and electrical committees, and their recommendations sent to the chief co-ordinator. The final recommendations were then to be checked by a panel of experts and sent to the federal government.

Members of CSC responded enthusiastically when they were asked to review sections of the national master specification as part of the GMS to NMS process. CSC executive director Rene Gaulin reported in 1979 that more than 500 CSC members became involved in the review of 74 sections in 1979, representing 33 percent of the entire membership. There were so many responses from the private sector — for example, in reviewing sections in the Architectural Division — that they actually slowed down the work of the chief co-ordinator Roy Ball, of Forrester, Scott, Bowers, Walls architects and engineers, Saskatoon.

By the end of 1979, 60 percent of the Government Master Specification had been reviewed by CSC members. As the modifications were made, the document became available, section by section, and was known as the Canadian National Master Construction Specification or NMS, for short.

The review of the GMS was not universally accepted and was greeted with hostility by a number of industry associations. However, this was overcome by CSC presidents and CSC executive director Rene Gaulin. The NMS was a reference text that relied heavily on references to appropriate standards and other technical papers. For that reason, overtures were made to the standard writing organizations to bridge the gap between those who wrote standards and those who used them through specifications, outgoing president Peter Dobbins reported at the annual general meeting in June 1979.

A CSC program of master specifications seminars, held across Canada in 1979, was a great success, attracting more than 2,000 participants. Co-sponsored by CSC and the Department of

Industry, Trade and Commerce, it began with a seminar attended by 130 in Toronto in September, followed by seminars in 11 other cities. Each seminar was a full day of sessions on the Government Master Specification, the National Master Specification, the National Advisory Board and its role in GMS to NMS procedures. Keynote speakers gave overviews on the most effective use of the GMS/NMS in reducing specification writing time and costs.

On March 31, 1981, CSC completed the review of the GMS to NMS. Working under contract with the federal government, and receiving major involvement from the members of the construction industry, the five-year program was actually done in four years. The knowledge of 1,600 CSC members and 50 associations was tapped for the project. Chief Co-ordinator and Architectural Co-ordinator Roy Ball, Mechanical Co-ordinator Peter Djwa, Electrical Co-ordinator Dinesh Gandhi and Heavy Civil Co-ordinator David Carothers, as well as Executive Vice-President Rene Gaulin, were commended for their excellent work on the review. The NMS was distributed by CSC — as a complete set of 22 binders or as one or more binders available separately. CSC entered into a second five-year review with the federal government to give members of the construction industry another opportunity to comment on the content of the NMS.

Each year, CSC set itself a unit of work program for reviewing the NMS. In 1982, for example, CSC members were expected to become involved in the review of 87 NMS sections, grouped in 17 packages.

Commenting on the work done by CSC, Tom Dunbar wrote:

The private sector input came about primarily through the efforts of CSC, which helped make the NMS a truly national master construction specification for use by both the public and private sectors.

CSC continues to play an important role in the NMS as a partner with PWGSC through two separate memoranda of understanding making CSC the official publisher of the NMS and an important part of the NMS advisory board.

Thanks in part to the input of CSC, the NMS has now become the largest generic master construction specification of its kind in North America and is the only master specification available in both French and English.

NMS in Electronic Format

In early 1982, CSC began to explore the possibility of making the National Master Specification available for use on word processors. CSC President Larry Hogan wrote that one of the problems that would have to be surmounted was that each word processor manufacturer produced a system with a different language base, so the units could not communicate with each other. There were 30 to 40 different word processors or micro-computers used in the construction industry at the time and no single method to communicate the NMS from computer tape to all of these different systems. CSC surveyed design professionals across Canada and decided a response was needed to the many requests to make the NMS available on word processing systems.

In September 1982, CSC announced it was arranging for the use of the NMS on several widely used word processors. The survey of several thousand design professionals across Canada provided CSC with enough information to identify specific word processors for which there was significant user demand for NMS compatibility. Rather than provide the service itself, CSC established a number of licensing arrangements with qualified service firms which were interested in providing the word processor/NMS services.

National Building Manual

A long-range objective of the Technical Committee was a National Building Manual, to encompass all of CSC's programs. The manual was to consist of the following: standard construction contract forms; competent technical master specifications; consistent and uniform building codes; broad but objective building standards; common formats for working drawings and related graphic instruments; common and uniform workmanship standards; industry-recognized and endorsed qualities for installed materials and building systems; and consistent and responsible cost analysis methods for projects.

Technical Newsletter

By 1979, CSC's Technical Committee had begun publishing a newsletter outlining the progress being made on a number of programs. CSC Past President Wayne Watson, of Edmonton, headed up a standing committee to monitor the acceptance of the MasterFormat document and distribute reactions and comments to the overall construction industry.

Technology

Computers in the Office

In the March/April 1980 edition of *Specification Associate*, CSC Vice-President and Publications Director George A. Sierer wrote about the effect that typewriters, automatic or memory typewriters, and computers had on the form of specifications. He predicted that only a computer-based specification would be able to take further advantage of the computer's ability to make routine low-level decisions, thereby enhancing specification writers' productivity.

CADD

Economic uncertainty in 1983 meant some engineering firms had to cut back their business and design/drafting operations to the point where they could not justify continued use of their installed CADD (computer-aided design/drafting) systems. The number of new systems installed that year was only a fraction of what had been expected. However, a CAD/CAM centre was opened in Cambridge, Ontario, for manufacturing and engineering firms. The most significant development in the equipment itself was that a color electrostatic plotter for large drawings became available.

Education

CS Foundation

SWAC began looking into creating a charitable trust, The Construction Specifications Foundation, in 1974. In the same mail-in ballot as the proposed name change, members were asked to vote on setting up a Construction Specifications Foundation. Almost 95 percent approved the provision to establish the foundation.

On December 18, 1974 an agreement between SWAC and the Trustees created the Construction Specifications Foundation. The original trustees were F. Ross Browne, FCSC, Garth Miller, FCSC, J.M.T. Phillips, FCSC, A.W. Cluff, FCSC and Yvan Hardy, FDCC. The purposes of the trust were:

- ◆ To further the education and training of those engaged in preparing or dealing with construction documents;
- ◆ To research matters pertaining to construction documents;

- ◆ To promote publications and distribution of construction documents of a high standard of excellence;
- ◆ To promote publication of original articles on matters pertaining to the science and art of building;
- ◆ To provide scholarships and awards to encourage specification writers to further their education and training;
- ◆ To assist in the education of students enrolled in Canadian universities, technical schools and colleges in subjects pertaining to construction specification writing; and
- ◆ To solicit funds to be expended for the above objects.

The Foundation was registered as a charity with Revenue Canada. The Foundation became a repository for surplus funds from CSC chapters that wished to commit funds for projects and activities that fell within the purposes of the trust. Activities had to be confined to promotion of education or research. The Department of National Revenue granted charitable status to the foundation and in April 1975, Wayne Watson made the first donation. Plans to incorporate the foundation were shelved in 1979. Although the charitable status of the Foundation was revoked by Revenue Canada in 1994, for failure to submit annual returns, the Foundation continues to exist as a trust account for designated funds from chapters.

Textbook and Courses

In 1974, a textbook, *The Specifier and Building Science* was published by SWAC, edited by Mervyn W. A. Jones. It was based on selected lessons from the SWAC correspondence course on architectural and engineering specification writing. In late 1974, SWAC's Board of Directors asked ABS Correspondence College to update its course to meet the requirements of SWAC's

Registration Board. In 1975, it instructed members that CSC no longer had anything to do with the course.

Syllabus

Hans Burgers, B. Arch. MRAIC, vice-president and education director for SWAC in 1975, prepared a syllabus for use by educators preparing a specification writing curriculum. Burgers also wrote to 127 Canadian universities, community colleges, provincial ministries of education and other institutions that offered degree or diploma courses in architecture or engineering. Of the 74 who replied, only 27 said they included some reference to specification writing in their course.

Publications

By the early 1980s, CSC was publishing several technical publications: Page Format, Three Part Section Format, the French Masterformat, Division 0 and 1 documents, the *CSC Specifier Handbook* and *The Specifier and Building Science. Construction Specifier's Handbook*, formerly *The Specifier and Building Science*, and technical papers Division 1 and Division 0, as well as the seminars on 0 and 1 documents were available by the beginning of 1982 as a result of extensive work by CSC's Technical Committee.

INDECORE

Representatives of CSC and a monitor from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities held a brainstorming meeting in Toronto in mid 1979 as part of an INDECORE (Industry Developed Core Curriculum) exercise promoted by the Ministry. CSC representatives defined the basic skills of a qualified specification writer. Course outlines were to be written for each aspect. The meeting was one of the first steps taken by CSC for



Members of the INDECORE committee, 1979.

developing a program of specifications for community colleges - primarily a two-year course that could be offered by various community colleges across Canada.

The INDECORE exercise, which took place May 9 to 11, 1979, involved participants from across Canada. They identified 10 major topics, which would be part of an educational program or course of studies available to anyone, but designed for a person who wanted to be a specification writer in a design consultant's office. The 10 major topics included more than 260 sub-topics.

In 1980, Out of the INDECORE exercise, came curriculum guidelines developed by CSC for a course entitled "Construction Specification Principles." The INDECORE study was done to identify what a competent specification writer should know and what skills were required to reach this level of competency.

RSW

By autumn of 1974, 119 members of SWAC had been recognized as Registered Specification Writers (RSWs) by the registration board.

In September 1977, Clarence Freek, Registrar of the Registration Board, told a Board of Directors meeting that the requirements for RSWs had been revised so that the formal education of an applicant, while still considered, was not as vital as in the past. If an applicant had the ability and knowledge to pass the Registration Board's examinations, it was considered a good indication that he knew the basics of architectural and engineering specification writing thoroughly.

In 1978, CSC's Executive Council endorsed, in principle, a brief suggesting creation of a program for professional development beyond the RSW status. The aim was not only to promote the RSW status but to find a way to further train RSWs, perhaps through a university extension course in construction law, and to give them status on the team of professional consultant architects or engineers. It also proposed that architects and engineers who wrote specifications should also attend a post-graduate course — the same extension course as for RSWs, but modified to include general specification procedures. Finally, the brief also proposed that a four-year university curriculum be developed to combine technical and legal subjects. It would give students the basics in design and technology but also knowledge of construction law, to prevent litigation. The graduate would be a contracts and liabilities architect or engineer.

By 1982, the RSW program was under review by a committee chaired by CSC President Larry Hogan. The committee considered: recognition of "senior" or "advanced" registered specification writers and the possibility of adding "certified specification writer" (one step junior to RSW); updating qualifications and

the examination process to relate them to the *Manual of Practice* (similar to CSI's program); developing standards to recognize industrial specifiers and education programs to lead to such recognition; and in the long term, registration board review of the *Specifier's Handbook* relative to INDECORE.

Law and Liability

In 1978, the Education Committee was under the chair of Arnold Barry, RSW, vice-president responsible for professional development. The Committee considered the possibility of introducing law and liability studies into the syllabus of colleges and universities offering courses for architects and engineers. Another possibility was setting up a program of seminars to be held annually across Canada to raise professional standards. Barry developed a syllabus for an advanced course for the RSW or for a graduate university course to educate architects and engineers about law and liability, and another syllabus, designed for the architectural technologist or technician or the manufacturer and supplier who wanted to know more about specification writing.

SPEC-CRIT

In early 1976, Willem de Lint, CSC vice-president and technical director, proposed a SPEC-CRIT program in which each CSC chapter would send a specification for a medium-sized project to the CSC technical director, who would then send the spec (without identifying marks) to a chapter in a similar climatic area. The chapter would dismember the spec into sections for comment by members and hold a forum discussing the finding and making recommendations. These would be returned to CSC's technical director, who would edit the responses into an article for *Specification Associate*. De Lint thought that the

program would be useful in examining the state of specification writing.

Professional Development Programs

In 1980, the first priority for CSC's professional development program was to provide special seminars to educate the design/build industry about, for example, the technical publications of Divisions 0 and 1 — in final draft form at that time — and the NMS program, for which a user's manual had been written. CSC also wanted to develop the INDECORE program at the college/university level and educate industry members who used, rather than wrote, specifications. A long-term project for the Technical Committee was to develop a technical aid program to be a working tool for specification writers, consisting of manufacturers' data, guide specifications and reference sources.

Seminars on Divisions 0 and 1 were offered for the first time in 1982 by CSC and seminars were planned for 1983, based on CSC's developing Manual of Practice.

TEK•AIDS

In late 1980, a proposal was made to improve the guide study program. It was to be a long-range project known as CSC TEK•AIDS. The proposed new documents were intended to answer questions and provide background. The revised program was expected to improve communication in the industry, provide useful working tools for the specifier, teaching aids for universities, and some accepted practice within the industry. They were also to be a source of income for CSC. By 1981-82, the TEK•AIDS program was in the initial development stage. It was an umbrella program consisting of four types of interrelated documents: the Digest, an introductory document providing back-up for use of the references and the Guide Specification;

the Reference, the working tool used daily by the specifier to cross-reference his specifications for a project; the Guide Specification, to show how the Reference is intended to be used; and Manu•Data, a condensed version of manufacturers' literature produced in a form that could be used quickly by a specifier.

Manu•Data

CSC published results of a survey in January 1980, which confirmed that CSC readers, as specifying members of the construction industry, preferred product information to be presented on data sheets, restricted to technical data and sources of pertinent information — clearly separate from any promotional material. As a result of the survey, CSC launched Manu•Data in 1982 — the Canadian Construction Product Data System. It was the Canadian counterpart to CSI's SpecData program in the United States. Manu•Data sheets were designed to describe manufacturers' products in an attractive, condensed, uniform 10-point format, oriented to the users' needs. The material was prepared by the manufacturer and then edited by Manu•Data Services, a CSC entity. FRC Composites Ltd. of Don Mills, Ontario, was the first Manu•Data customer.

By February 1982, a contract was in place between CSC and three private companies involved in producing Manu•Data. A sample of a Manu•Data document had been produced by September 1982 and contracts were beginning to be signed with manufacturers who wanted to have their literature given to specifiers in this form. The Manu•Data program was owned by CSC, with production and distribution by Manu•Data Services as agent for CSC. The first mailing, to about 2,500, was planned for the spring of 1983.

CSC/CSI Joint Publications

At a meeting of CSC and CSI in 1980, the presidents of the two associations decided that as many technical and education documents as possible would be issued jointly. The meeting reinforced the usefulness of the present joint publications, MasterFormat and Section Format, which were MP 2-1 and MP 2-2 in CSI's Manual of Practice and 004E and 005# in CSC's Manual of Practice. Areas of disagreement were to be indicated in the joint documents.

Manual of Practice

The following story, published in the Toronto chapter's *News+Views* in March 1986, outlined the history of specifications.

The use of written specifications began at the turn of the century and increased during the depression years of the early 1930s, when there were many bidders for few projects. This trend continued during the early 1940s and in 1948 a group of specification writers organized the Construction Specifications Institute in the United States. CSI soon developed a standard method for organizing project specifications, which became the foundation for what is now a comprehensive system. In 1961, CSI published "A Tentative Proposal for a Manual of Practice for Specification Writing Methods." This led to the publication of the first Manual of Practice in 1967. At the same time, the American Institute of Architects adopted the title "Project Manual" instead of "Specifications." Beginning in the early 1960s, CSI and Construction Specifications Canada, then known as the Specification Writers Association of Canada, worked together to develop, publish and implement standards of practice. The Manual of Practice outlines recommended techniques and a philosophy for preparing and organizing written construction documents, but it does not

contain the technical product or design information needed to develop and produce project specifications. That technical knowledge is gained only through education and extensive professional experience.

[Ed. note: SWAC obtained a copy of the then CSI Manual of Practice, and gave the Technical Studies Committee the job of editing these documents for Canadian content and practices, CCDC references and metric measurement, etc. The Committee eventually came up with a system of volumes for individual chapters, with the intention that the document could then be placed in three-ring binders and updated as other relevant information came available. This system was presented at a joint meeting with CSI, where it was recognized, but CSI's document-production process was too far advanced to change directions. felt that if the Manual of Practice was completed, it could take the place of the CSC Specifier Handbook and then could be re-edited to be used as the basis of an introductory course in specification writing. In fact, the Manual of Practice was used as a reference text for the original RSW level 2 & 3.]

The Manual of Practice was written to help specifiers prepare construction documentation. When a specifier was comfortable working with the principles, rules and regulations contained in the Manual of Practice and could produce Project Manuals with a degree of expertise in accordance with these principles, etc., then, he or she was considered to be ready to take examinations to qualify for registration as a Registered Specification Writer. The initial chapters became available in late 1983.

MasterFormat

The development of the CSI format in the years 1962 to 1963, marked the beginning of a uniform system for filing technical information and organizing specifications. This format, which

started with 16 divisions, was adopted by SWAC and integrated with an overall filing system called the Building Construction Index (BCI), issued in 1966. In 1972 the BCI was superseded by the Uniform Construction Index (UCI). From the UCI in 1978, a subject-specific document for specifications was jointly developed by CSC and CSI and called MasterFormat.

Top officials of Construction Specifications Canada and the Construction Specifications Institute formed a high-priority taskforce in 1977 to merge the master list of specification section titles of CSI and CSC into a single North American reference document. The taskforce was charged with analyzing section titles and expansion of the numbering system to facilitate greater use of the 16 divisions in areas such as civil and process engineering, energy applications, automation and instrumentation. Both groups reaffirmed their commitment to the 16-division concept for specifying construction and strongly rejected proposals for expansion into additional divisions for handling separate contract or sub-contract breakouts.

MasterFormat was first published in June 1978, by the CSC and CSI. It incorporated a complete organizational format for project manuals and provided a consensus format for the organization of technical information in a Project Manual including bidding requirements, the contract documents, technical-product data, detailed costing, and specifications. It categorized information into 16 divisions with associated sections within the system and provided a master list of section titles and numbers. It combined into one master format, three of the four formats of the 1972 Uniform Construction Index. MasterFormat covered bidding requirements, contract forms, conditions of the contract, and specifications (Divisions 1 to 16). The first edition of MasterFormat was introduced by CSI as MP-2-1 and by CSC as Document 004E. In 1983, a second edition was released. MasterFormat developed from the needs of the design office

and the jobsite for clarity in description of materials and methods that would be accepted by the owner.

A preliminary standard format for product literature, developed by SWAC and the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, was put out for comment in 1975. It was intended to serve as a guide to the product supplier for the presentation of technical information. It divided product information into seven parts: product data (information on the product); design guide (information on proper use in respect to the designer's needs); detail guide (installation and interfacing details); specification guide (guide specs for use in preparing project specs), construction guide (manufacturers' instructions to the trade contractor); user's guide (manufacturers' instructions for the operation, maintenance, care of the product); and corporate data (information on the supplier).

MasterFormat was translated into French by mid 1980 — a major project for the language committee of CSC, led by Paul-E. Douville. The Québec chapter was thanked for its translation work on “Répertoire normatif.”

A joint CSC/CSI Review Committee was set up to review MasterFormat and proposed extensive revisions for Division 15, Mechanical and Division 16, Electrical, in 1982, and changes to Division 2, Site Work, to meet heavy civil group concerns. The committee decided to emphasize broad scope headings, rather than the narrow scope headings used in the earlier MasterFormat. The committee believed MasterFormat should provide the specifier with a general framework within which project specifications could be written, customized to the particular project.

The CSC Educational Seminar '83 — “Organizing Your Contract Documents” — travelled the country in the last three months of 1983. The program focussed on purpose and organization front-end documents, dealing specifically with the

relationship of the new Construction Specifications Canada documents and the new CSC/CSI Masterformat. CSC planned to stage similar seminars in both languages in Québec as soon as the CSC documents were translated into French.

In late 1983, a revised and improved MasterFormat was made available to the industry throughout Canada and the United States. A joint effort of CSC and Construction Specifications Institute, the 1983 edition of this standard industry reference for construction specifications, data filing and cost accounting replaced the original 1978 MasterFormat. There were several major concerns identified in the review of MasterFormat. It was recognized that the needs of the heavy civil engineering discipline in Division 2 deserved recognition, and changes there also affected Division 11. There was also a widespread desire for improvements in Divisions 15 and 16, and related changes to Divisions 11 and 13. Finally, blockages in numbering had occurred throughout the document, which created restrictions on the logical use of the system. Some suggested creating additional divisions for special purposes, but the review committee decided to maintain the existing 16-division format.

The committee retained the basic principles of organization contained in the previous edition. However, revisions and additions recognized the needs of the engineering disciplines. The concept of mediumslope titles and numbers was also introduced in the 1983 MasterFormat.

Chapter News

Québec City

A Québec City chapter of CSC was established and approved by the CSC board in 1976. It was expected to have about 60 members in its first year of operation. The Québec City members

were granted chapter status in 1977 and Paul Douville was their first Director.

In 1977, CSC's Québec chapter began to organize an annual Expo-Tech, a two-day exposition. In 1978, an Expo-Tech on energy conservation in building, which was held at Laval University in Montréal, attracted more than 750 visitors. The Expo-Tech held on March 20-21, 1979 in collaboration with Université Laval in Québec City, attracted 200 people. By that time, Expo-Techs had become a recognized way to collaborate with related organizations and a sound source of revenue.



Québec Chapter inaugural committee, May 10, 1976.

Toronto

The Toronto chapter of SWAC sponsored the 1976 Canadian Environmental Exposition, on April 5 to 7, 1976. The exposition was held every two years and displayed a broad cross-section of heating, plumbing, air conditioning and refrigerating equipment.

A special night was held by the Toronto chapter in 1979 in honour of longstanding and respected member, Cliff Maple FCSC, who was ill from Parkinson's Disease. He was CSC's registrar for many years. In April 1979, CSC had 1,458 members and 401 of them were in the Toronto chapter. The Toronto chapter was on solid ground financially, with a modest surplus.

Escort Services

The April 1, 1980 edition of the Toronto chapter's *News+Views* had an article stating that:

Unconfirmed reports indicate that according to a secret strategy plan, the CSC manufacturing and supplier representatives are kidnapping Toronto Area Specifiers on April Fool's Day and will provide "escort services" to the CSC Toronto chapter Meeting being held at the Boulevard Club so that these "special guests" may enjoy a presentation of the Caulking Contractors Association.

Early Risers

A small error on the front page of the November 1980 Toronto chapter *News+Views*, announcing a tour of the Kawneer plant for 6 a.m. rather than 6 p.m. got more response from members than anything in five years of the newsletter's history, according to Toronto Chair Peter Zahradnik. He urged members to use the energy they had channelled into complaining about this typo into providing useful information for *News+Views*. Reportedly, two members arrived at the Kawneer plant at 6 a.m. expecting a tour.

Support for Dues Increase

In late 1981, CSC decided that in order to turn around the Association financially, fees would have to be increased to \$120 a year. The Toronto chapter urged its members to support the

increase, which would mean a 50 percent increase in rebates to chapters, and would allow the local chapter to increase its activities. There were 1,786 members of CSC, including 507 in the Toronto chapter.

Projecting the Specifier's Role

At the request of the National office, the Toronto chapter prepared a report in 1981-82 projecting the role of the specifier, his place of employment and tools required in the future. It was to be used in long-range planning, the RSW review program and in creation of professional development and education programs.

Evolution of News+Views

In 1982, the Toronto chapter's *News+Views* evolved into a newsletter which answered technical questions raised at chapter meetings and attracted members' views on topics ranging from specifying sprinklers to the importance of being listed by Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada. *News+Views* also had some whimsy, however, best illustrated by a fictional series about the adventures of "P.Eng. Win" battling his arch enemy, "Tect."

Toronto Chapter Trade Show

In February 1979, the Toronto chapter launched what was to become one of the chapter's most successful annual events, the Toronto Chapter Trade Show, or the No Frills Trade Show. An advertisement for the event, published in the November 1978 issue of *News+Views*, invited manufacturers to book a table for the trade show. The event was to run from 3 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and would include a fine dinner. Each exhibitor would be provided with a table, approximately 30" x 72", and covered with a white cloth. The fee per table was \$100 and included dinner and

two drinks. Extra staff at the table would be charged \$8 per person.

By comparison, the November 1994 issue of the *Toronto Specifier* contained an application form for the 1995 trade show. Aisle tables were available for \$600 each for members and \$800 for non-members. Wall tables cost \$725, members and \$925 non-members. Luncheon tickets were \$40 each or \$295 for a table of eight.

Maurice McGill, a former chair of the Toronto chapter of CSC was the first chair of the Toronto Chapter Trade Show and is credited with founding the show, the first CSC trade show ever held in Canada. Explaining the beginnings of the now popular trade show McGill says: "The reason we started the show was we were short of cash and we needed money for various programs." At the time Dinshaw Kanga was the chair of the Toronto chapter and McGill was the vice-chair. McGill recalls: "We heard about a trade show the CSI chapter in Rochester, New York had started. Dinshaw suggested we find out more about it, so I drove down to have a look. I talked to the organizer down there — unfortunately I don't remember his name — but he gave me some pointers and we held our first show in February 1979 in Union Station. We used the west end of the waiting room, which is the main hall upstairs. At the time we were holding our monthly meetings there, so we made enquiries about renting space on the floor and that's how it started."

The concept of the No Frills Trade Show was to keep it "as simple as possible, just table tops with no backdrops. You put your wares on a table and you stood behind it."

When the trade show was started, McGill, like many other members of the Toronto chapter, was in the manufacturer and supply division. The show was seen as a way to eliminate the flashy presentations often seen at other trade shows and present information to spec writers in a manner that they would accept.



Inaugural Toronto Chapter Trade Show committee, 1979.

It was, said McGill, “A cheap way of doing it and a quick way for architects and spec writers to get information. The smaller companies, of which I was one, had a chance equal to the larger companies. That’s really what the trade show is all about. It obviously worked quite well if you look at the size of the show today.”

Eventually other groups in Montréal and Ottawa took it up and it’s now being done right across the country. “I remember that everybody who was on the executive pitched in to help organize the first show and the many others that were held in subsequent years,” said McGill.

In February 1995, Bob Mercer, that year’s Toronto chapter Trade Show chair wrote in the Toronto Specifier:

It may be a little exaggerated to say but, in the mid 70s the general consensus among CSC members was “The chapter’s broke — the Association is operating on a shoestring.” The Toronto Chapter Trade Show was an attempt to help fund the Toronto chapter’s activities for the benefit of the chapter, the industry and CSC as a whole.

The original committee, with Moe (Maurice) McGill as chair, included Peter Zahradnik, Joe Dunleavy, Bill Kernohan, Len McLeod and Jim Tobros, Fred Clarke and David Pinkney. Starting from scratch, with no how-to manual, these courageous souls ventured forth into the unknown.

Book the hall, advertise, rent tables and chairs, advertise, pay deposits, advertise, sign guarantees, advertise ... and so on. I understand that the night before the show Moe turned grey — overnight. The success of that show (not losing money) allowed it to become an annual event. Paying off the barber, who had a shop in the West Hall at Union Station, a day’s pay became a minor detail.

After a few years at Union Station we graduated to larger premises at St. Lawrence Market, North. By this time the formula was working well and the chapter was urged to expand the show again. The result, a quantum leap (more butterflies and grey



Tosh Sakamoto (right) puts Larry Stutt through the test on his product at the first Toronto Chapter No Frills Trade Show, 1979.

hair), the Harbour Castle Convention Centre. We had arrived! We're talking carpets and chandeliers.

The venue was perfect, allowing the show to expand in increments by taking larger portions of the main ballroom. Eventually it became harder to book the space a year in advance as the hotel's basic function is to sell hotel rooms and a one-day show doesn't sell rooms. If the International Association of Lion Tamers wanted to have their convention at the same time, we'd get bumped. That brings us to the present, the Metro Toronto Convention Centre — the whole nine yards.

Winnipeg

CSC's Winnipeg chapter held its first Product Trade Show at the International Inn near the end of 1980. More than 300 industry professionals attended 34 displays. In 1979, the Winnipeg chapter began publishing a newsletter which, like the Toronto chapter's *News+Views*, included information and business card advertisements.

Regina Creates Conference Guide

The Regina Convention 1978 Report was a comprehensive review of procedures followed to host a successful conference. CSC adopted the report in 1980 as a basis for a Conference Guide, and incorporated information from all of the conferences. The guide was used in 1983 to develop a comprehensive Conference Manual.

Edmonton

The Chapter of the Year Award was first presented to the Edmonton chapter by CSC executive director Lloyd Boddy in

1977. A portable lectern was donated by Boddy, to be moved from chapter to chapter annually.

Calgary

A major highlight for the chapter occurred in 1980 when 94 delegates and companions were bused from Calgary to Jasper for the National Conference, hosted by the Edmonton chapter. Delegates who flew into Calgary Airport from across Canada received transportation and lunch in Lake Louise.

The 1983 CSC National Conference was held in Banff, Alberta at the Banff Springs Hotel on June 9 and 10 and hosted by the Calgary chapter. The activities included a two-day trade show held on June 7 and 8 in Calgary, with an authentic Stampede breakfast starting off the show and buses transporting attendees to Banff afterward.

In the 1980s, the Calgary chapter held an annual Ladies Night and presented a trade show every two years. In 1980-81, the size of the executive grew to 11 members, due to increased membership and participation in chapter activities. Executive members took on more volunteer responsibilities with defined committees. Specific portfolios were developed, such as telephone co-ordinator, public relations, technical director/NMS/metric, publication and newsletter, membership/entertainment and awards nominations.

In 1982, the chapter had 119 members listed in the CSC Membership Roster, seven of whom were RSWs. Interestingly, the roster had no member telephone numbers listed, only member addresses. Those were the slower paced days of mailing information to members, as opposed to the instant information we all came to expect later in the millennium with the advent of voice mail and email!

In the same year, the Calgary chapter was represented on the Calgary Construction Association Board of Directors. By November 1982, membership had increased to 147. In addition to hosting the National Conference in 1983, the chapter continued to hold monthly dinner meetings with topics that included “Skylights” and “The Pursuit of Absolute Safety — A Modern Myth.”

Education

In 1980, the Calgary chapter held a “Principles of Construction Specifications” course with Reg Holden as instructor. As the 1982 year progressed, specification courses were offered by the Calgary and Edmonton chapters, the only ones at that time to do so in the Association. From these courses the Specifier’s Handbook emerged. In 1985, the Calgary chapter purchased half interest in educational course material from the Edmonton chapter. That year, the Principles of Specification Writing course was delivered by James Posey at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Bulletin

In December 1976, the first issue of the bi-monthly *Bulletin* was published. There had been resentment toward the national office, due to the dearth of material from the national organization in French. The Montréal and Québec City chapters initiated the *Bulletin* to address the problem.

International Chapter Visits

Over-the-border liaison between CSC and Construction Specifications Institute chapters had become a tradition by 1977. Specifically, Buffalo met with Toronto, Detroit with Windsor, and Portland and Seattle met with Vancouver and Victoria.

Influences

Energy Crisis

The energy crisis of the 1970s caught the specification industry’s attention. In January 1974, Chris R.W. MacPhail, president of the Specification Writers Association of Canada, wrote that

[w]hether the crisis is real, or whether, as some suggest, it is fabricated, will become evident as time goes by. What is important is that it does provide the opportunity for a new perspective on the design and construction of buildings. It should make us re-examine the accepted procedures and assumptions used in design and construction to determine whether they are still valid. With some 40 percent of the total energy consumption in North America being devoted to heating and lighting of buildings, we must reconsider the relationship between capital costs and operating costs. This has an immediate impact upon the building envelope, including insulation and openings, and on the heating and cooling systems.

Bilingualism

Yvan Hardy brought copies of Québec’s Bill 22 to the Annual General Meeting in late May 1974. The bill was in first reading at that time. It would affect specifiers’ work in Québec, because it made French the one official language for business and government.

In October 1976, the Board of Directors of CSC voted to include at least one article in French in each issue of *Specification Associate*, if one was provided.

Metric Conversion

Metric conversion in Canada gave specifiers a new set of symbols and conversions to learn from the International System of Units (SI) and the Metric Practice Guide. SWAC member George Slee, of the Metric Commission of Canada, pointed out that: “At the onset of conversion, beginning with the planning and preparation for it, to THINK METRIC cannot be too strongly emphasized. Dual dimensioning should be discouraged as such will only prolong the conversion process.” Slee noted that the metric conversion program offered the industry a unique opportunity to standardize more rapidly than would otherwise occur. Dimensional co-ordination — sizing building components so they fit together without cutting and fitting at the site — could reduce materials and labour waste, he said. The metric conversion process could be the vehicle to introduce this dimensional co-ordination, if it were integrated with a re-appraisal of product design. Slee noted that in the end, it could advance building technology and save on construction costs.

In 1975 and 1976, CSC was developing a Metric Practice Guide, and had become heavily involved in developing the Metric Construction Products Directory. The directory, which was put together with several government departments, was expected to end up on every architect’s, engineer’s and contractor’s desk, because it would provide conversion to metric size.

In a March 1977 Board of Directors meeting, vice-president Peter Dobbing bemoaned the fact that CSC’s original concept of a Metric Construction Products Directory, which it had been prepared to publish, had deteriorated into what would possibly be a list of products for which metric information could be obtained from the manufacturer. The Board of Directors voted

unanimously to complain to the federal government about the lack of tangible government support for the directory, and said the process of conversion in the design process would, therefore, be more difficult than it should have been.

The Metric Committee on construction for sector 5.1, the contractors, architects, engineers and others who plan construction activities declared that: “M-Day, January 1, 1978, is the first day of the Metric Construction Year in which the Canadian construction industry will work mainly in the SI system (International System of Units). Following M-Day, drawings and specifications, material and components which are necessary in metric terms would become available.” The deadline required that planning and designing in metric had to begin in 1976, as well as training off-site personnel and publishing metric trade literature. The metric supplement to the 1977 National Building Code had to be published in 1977 and on-site personnel had to be trained in time.

Rising Inflation and Interest Rates

Double digit interest rates and high inflation led, in 1975, to many major retail projects being cancelled or postponed and a virtual halt in rental apartment construction in the major cities, as well as a race to complete projects before costs went so high that they became unprofitable.

Legal Matters

Controversy continued in 1979 over the Canadian Construction Documents Committee’s new version of a standard owner-contractor stipulated sum contract. Two years of negotiations had centred almost exclusively on the issue of contractors’ responsibility and liability. Four of CCDC’s constituent associations, including CSC, had endorsed the wording of a controversial

waiver clause. The contract was expected to be available by mid May 1979, with the waiver clause keeping contractors liable for material defects in their work which made the work unfit in whole or in part for the purpose originally intended. The liability was to cover major defects arising for six years following substantial completion of the contract. However, the Canadian Construction Association's General Contractors Council had not met to approve the clause, which was a proposed change from 1974 warranty and waiver clauses, under which the contractor's responsibility for his work appeared to end after a one-year warranty period.

Time Capsule

Trilingualism

The following anecdote was supplied by Casey Skakun, a long-time CSC member and one of the founding members of the Edmonton chapter.

Sometime in the early 1980s I received a letter from CSC head office. My name was misspelled (not an unusual occurrence) but the city of address was Edmonton, Manitoba. That was unusual, particularly when you consider how the postal system sometimes works, but I give it credit because the mail did come through. In a joking fashion I marked up the envelope, with corrections and returned it to head office. Shortly after that I received a letter of apology written in French. I followed up with a "thank-you, no-harm-done" type of response written in Ukrainian. That had the staff scrambling around for a few weeks trying to figure out what the strange scribbling was all about. Eventually it was unscrambled and the trilingual exchange of information was accepted in good spirit.

The Times They Are A'Changing

Don Thomas, a long-time member of the Vancouver chapter shared the following anecdote about Ross Browne:

I recall, in the late 1960s there was a sharper division between the industrial members and professional members. At one convention where Peter Pennington was the president, Ross Browne went up to the microphone, took a long puff on his cigarette, and asked "Mr. President, would you permit your daughter to marry an Industrial Member?" Another puff and Ross walks away. Of course Ross went on to be our first industrial president (1974-75) beating out our CSI colleagues in doing so.

Weight Loss

In the early 1980s, liaison meetings between CSI and CSC took place once per year with reciprocal hosting of the meetings. The meetings were attended by all members of the executive councils of the respective associations, along with their spouses. In September, of 1983, it was CSC's turn to host the meeting and Québec City was chosen as the site because of its history, beauty and culinary reputation. The venue was the Château Frontenac. A host couple from the Québec chapter looked after logistics and arranged tours and entertainment for the spouses while the men attended meetings. Everyone arrived on Thursday afternoon and departed after Sunday brunch.

Evening activities centred on sumptuous dinners enjoyed at various popular dining establishments. On Saturday evening, the conversation found its way to the topic of weight gain. Before the evening was over, a weight loss competition had been developed with the participants being all persons present who planned to be in attendance at the CSC Conference in Toronto the following June. A "weigh-in" took place on Sunday morning under the supervision of the host couple. The recorded weights

were placed in sealed envelopes to be opened at the weigh-in the following June. The incentive was that each competitor would contribute \$1 to the pot for each pound that they lost between the two weigh-ins, with the winner of the pot being the contestant who lost the most weight.

Over the winter, Jo Ann Egan prepared and distributed a periodic newsletter to all contestants to maintain interest and keep everyone motivated.

When everyone arrived at the Hilton Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto in June for Conference '84, it became apparent that the competition was going to be a showdown between Audreen Jensen and Gino Ferri. After the weigh-in was completed and the dust had settled, it was Audreen who took home the \$78 prize, which was probably spent on new clothing. However, the greatest benefit from the competition was not only the fact that the group lost a combined 78 pounds (much of which may have been regained during the conference) but the comraderie that was enjoyed by all the participants.

Silver Anniversary

1979 was CSC's Silver Jubilee year, celebrating 25 years since its founding. Lloyd Boddy summed up the Association's achievements in a special edition of *Specification Associate*. They included: introduction of guide specifications and studies related to specific trades and products; development of standard formats for specifications and for manufacturers' descriptive literature; introduction to Canada of a 16-division Building Construction Index (BCI); blending of the BCI with the index in use by CSI in the United States and joint publication of a Uniform Construction Index, thereby providing both the United States and Canada with standard formats for specifications, filing and cost analysis; evolution of the UCI into a 1978 publication,

MasterFormat; development of Master Specifications geared for either manual or computer use; and a Department of Public Works contract to adapt the Government Master Specification to a National Master Specification for use on both public and private projects. By its twenty-fifth birthday in 1979, CSC had 16 chapters, stretching from the Atlantic provinces to British Columbia.

Silver Anniversary Convention

The registration fee for the 1979 Silver Jubilee Convention was \$100, and \$50 for spouses. A one-day pass for technical sessions was available for \$25. Planning for the 1979 Silver Jubilee convention in Toronto began in 1977. Don Sharp was chair during the convention year, Fred Clarke was secretary, Gavin Burgess was treasurer and Paul Gauthier was in charge of registration. One of the most difficult parts was the low registration from local chapters. The turnout from Toronto, Hamilton, Niagara, Grand Valley, London and Windsor was a great disappointment to the committee. This necessitated making last-minute cuts to the activities without damaging the program.

Convention Highlights

Toronto 1974

The 1974 annual convention, May 29 to June 1, moved back to Toronto. The venue was the Four Seasons Sheraton Hotel and the theme was EC CON 74, which stood for Ecology and Energy Conservation: key topics for businesses responding to the energy crisis of the time. The convention focussed on the inter-relatedness of ecological concerns, availability of materials and power, increasing prices, and the prospect of changing

methods and technologies in the construction industry. On a lighter note, there was an oompah-pah band for entertainment. Ross Browne was elected President of SWAC; the first industrial member to assume the presidency of the Association.

Winnipeg 1975

As Ross Browne was from Winnipeg, it was fitting that the Winnipeg chapter hosted the 1975 convention at the Fort Garry Hotel, June 15, 16 and 17 (the first Association convention to start on a Sunday). The theme was United We Go, and highlighted the following significant events:

- ◆ Change of Association name to Construction Specifications Canada (CSC)
- ◆ Introduction of the new red nib logo
- ◆ Launch of the Canadian Construction Information Corporation (CCIC)
- ◆ Update on the progress of development of the “National Master Specification”

In the fiscal year 1974-75, CSC managed to operate within its budget, and slightly in the black, membership grew and the Construction Specifications Foundation was created to raise money for education and research projects. The Manufacturers’ and Suppliers’ Fun Night was a dinner/dance cruise on the Red River, complete with Manitoba mosquitoes.

Montréal 1976

In 1976, Montréal (site of the 1976 summer Olympics) was the location of the CSC annual convention. The Montréal chapter hosted the convention at the Château Champlain Hotel, June 9, 10 and 11. The theme was The Year 2000 — A Spec Odyssey. Speakers looked into their crystal ball to envisage the roles of

various construction disciplines in the year 2000. The Annual General Meeting was heated as usual: one of the main topics was the need for more documents and communications in French. The M&S Fun Night was an evening of dinner and dancing, Québec style, featuring the Jean Carignon Quartet and Les Sortlege dancers. The menu included caribou and cider, tourtière and tête fromagée.

Vancouver 1977

1977 took us back across the mountains to Vancouver and the Bayshore Inn from June 14 to 17. The theme of this convention was Liability/Responsibility, dealing with relationships among all of the disciplines involved in construction projects. Delegates and guests were entertained at “Sweets Whale of a Night” at the Vancouver Aquarium. Although there was no M&S Fun Night, manufacturers and suppliers played a significant role in the success of this convention by contributing cash to subsidize the cost of the event. This was the first year for presentation of the Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year Award, which was presented to the Edmonton chapter.

Regina 1978

In 1978, the convention was held in Regina (where the view is unobstructed by mountains). The Regina chapter hosted the event at the Regina Inn from June 14 to 16, promoting the theme Government in Construction. Other topics included the introduction of metrication into construction, new developments in contract documentation and innovations in construction systems. This was the first convention for CSC’s new executive director, Rene Gaulin, who replaced retiring executive director, Lloyd Boddy. Delegates and guests were entertained on M&S Fun Night with the Trial of Louis Riel,

presented at Saskatchewan House, followed by dinner and dancing at the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts.

Toronto 1979

In 1979, CSC celebrated its Silver Jubilee with the annual convention returning to its roots in Toronto from June 6 to 9 at the luxurious Four Seasons Hotel, Yorkville. Appropriately, the theme was Come Back to the Source, reminding CSC members where the Association started. Included was a review of the past, present and future of Canada's construction industry with an assembly of expert speakers and panelists. A panel of CSC past presidents gave a nostalgic review of the association's quarter-century of growth and forecast trends for the next 25 years. The technical sessions included presentations on future construction costs, the computer and construction and the implications of office automation. Featured guest speakers included John Fisher, executive vice-president of the Council of



Toronto Conference '79 Chair, Don Sharp, with committee members.

Canadian Unity (known generally as "Mr. Canada"), who suggested Canada had reached its hour of challenge, and industrial relations and public policy professor John Crispo from the University of Toronto, who said that while all sectors of the economy had contributed to inflation, labour was bearing more than its share of the blame. A special Silver Jubilee issue of the *Specification Associate* highlighted people and events that played key roles in the formation of SWAC/CSC and its growth over the previous 25 years. M&S Fun Night offered dining and entertainment at one of three venues: CN Tower, The Old Fire Hall and The Tellers Cage. The poster for the convention was an aerial fish-eye lens view of Toronto, taken by well-known photographer John Stephen. Original prints had been selling for \$250 at art exhibitions. The poster sold to CSC members for \$2.

At this point in time, CSC replaced the term "convention" with "conference" for its annual gathering.

Edmonton 1980

The Edmonton chapter hosted the 1980 conference at the beautiful Jasper Park Lodge (where waiters deliver room service orders on bicycles). This was the first of several very successful conventions that were held at resorts away from the host city. The convention, with its theme Educate or Litigate, ran from May 21 to 24. The topics ranged from formulating construction contracts and general contractors' contractual responsibilities, to insurance and standards bodies. The conference was held back-to-back with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) convention, with some delegates attending both events. Delegates and companions were housed in cottage-style accommodations a short walk from the dining and meeting rooms. Single delegates were placed according to gender, much to the pleasure of Sheldon Knox from Ottawa who registered for the



Organizing committee puts final touches on plans for 1980 conference in Jasper, Alberta.

convention under his usual name “Shelley.” M&S Fun Night entertainment was a sock hop and barbecue (flashback to the 1950s, complete with bathtub gin) with a tie-cutting spree by outgoing president John Chomiak.

Ottawa 1981

The Ottawa chapter hosted the 1981 conference at the Skyline Hotel from May 10 to 13. The earlier date was chosen to coincide with Ottawa’s famous Tulip Festival. With the theme of Materials in Specifications, the technical program consisted of two streams of panel discussions of interest to the design sector or the manufacturers and suppliers. Simultaneous translation was available at all sessions. An important event coinciding with this conference was the launch of the National Master Specification. The M&S Fun Night was heralded as “The Bytown Bash,” an evening of dining and entertainment with a flavour of Ottawa



Sing along with Ross and Ruth Browne, Conference 1980.

in the days of the timber trade. This was so successful that they did it again in 2001.



Gail and Gerry Wilson at the “Sock Hop,” Conference 1980.

Québec City 1982

In 1982, the Québec chapter hosted its first CSC annual conference at Le Château Frontenac, June 9, 10 and 11, with the theme Quality/Cost in Construction. With hard times in the construction industry, the six technical sessions focussed on quality and cost, and the effect such things as codes and standards, energy requirements and metrication were having on costs. Entertainment included a Québec style party and dinner at a French-Canadian restaurant.

Calgary 1983

The Calgary chapter hosted the 1983 annual conference at the Banff Springs Hotel in the beautiful Banff National Park from June 7 to 10. The conference began in Calgary on Tuesday with a trade show at the Glenmore Inn. On Wednesday morning, delegates toured the Saddle Dome (Home of the Calgary Flames hockey team), which was under construction. In the afternoon, delegates and companions were bussed to Banff for the remainder of the conference. The theme was *Converging Complexities in Construction*, and the problems that construction specialists create for other disciplines by resolving their own difficulties without consulting the industry. Speakers were selected to illuminate sources of converging complexities, provide concrete examples of such problems and indicate where such problems had been solved by using new approaches that embraced more than one discipline. M&S Fun Night provided dining, entertainment and dancing at Brewster's Mountview BBQ. The Calgary chapter started a trend of creating distinctive convention logos that incorporated CSC graphics with unique features of the venue.

Olympics

At the 1983 conference CSC members donated \$300 to the XV Olympic Winter Games Organizing Committee, to be used to buy tickets for underprivileged children to attend the 1988 games in Calgary.

Table Top Show

Manufacturers and suppliers have played an important role in SWAC/CSC conventions since 1961. Conventions that did not have exhibits had an M&S Fun Night sponsored by manufacturers and suppliers whose names were prominently displayed in

the Fun Night venue and published in the Association magazine. The 1981 convention introduced the concept of a one-day table top trade show as a regular feature of the CSC annual convention. It was modelled after the successful Toronto chapter trade shows. Income from the trade show component subsidized the cost of hosting the convention and provided the manufacturers and suppliers with more value for their money than a sponsorship. One problem with this was that chapters who held regular annual trade shows had to reschedule the year that they hosted the CSC convention, with some loss of exhibitors. In 1993, the Toronto chapter held their trade show on the usual February date and committed the net surplus to subsidizing the convention that they hosted the following June. By 1996, the convention trade show concept gave way to conventions being subsidized by major corporate sponsors, who were provided with prominent exhibit space in the convention area throughout the convention. This has progressed successfully to different levels of sponsorship with corresponding levels of benefits for the sponsors.

Conference and Trade Show Manual

From 1959 to 1983, the host chapters had assumed the role of planning and organizing the national conventions/conferences. Each host chapter started the planning from square one and relied on the experiences and reports of previous events to develop their program. In 1983, President Roy Ball, assigned the task of developing a Conference and Trade Show Manual to Vice-President John Jensen. Over the years, several chapters had put together information on organizational procedures. By far, the most comprehensive had been put together by the Regina chapter, following the 1978 convention. Jensen used the Regina report, as well as others, as the basis of his new Conference and

Trade Show Manual. The first draft was presented to the 1983 Fall Board Meeting. Further editing and the addition of Master Planning and Event Planning matrices brought the document to formal approval by the Board of Directors at the 1985 spring meeting. The information for the manual was gleaned from previous convention reports and experiences, using ideas that were successful and noting potential obstacles that need to be averted. Since 1985, the manual has been the basic reference document for host chapters and association staff for planning the annual conference. The Master Planning Matrix allows the host chapter conference committee, the vice-president, conferences and awards and the executive director to negotiate and establish their respective roles relative to hosting the conference. The manual is a living document that is periodically revised to suit new circumstances and concepts. The last major revision occurred in 1998.

Spec Notes

On Writing Specifications

Conciseness is better than brevity, but clearness and completeness are essential. The writer should use words, terms, phrases, and clear language written in a simple manner. Old-fashioned legal words and phraseology should be avoided in specifications... An average specification may contain from 5,000 to 100,000 words. Many specifications contain more. Each word and phrase must be understood by the parties concerned. Are you sure about the words and phrases in "your" specifications? Or do you, like Humpty-Dumpty, say that they mean what "you" choose them to mean... neither more nor less?

Milton A. Seddon, RSW, *Specification Associate*,
March/April 1975.

Peter Dobbins, B.Arch., ARIBA, MRAIC, RSW, vice-president and CSC's program director for education, urged association members in 1975 to keep their minds open to suggestions that would improve "wordy, obscure, out of date" specifications. He warned against the Seven Steps to Stagnation:

- 1) We're not ready for that
- 2) We've never done it that way before
- 3) We've already tried that once
- 4) We're doing all right without it
- 5) It costs too much
- 6) That's not our responsibility
- 7) It just won't work

CSC, by pursuing this great National Master Specification network, has made a serious mistake called "overkill" and the individual specification writers are the victims . . . I suggest doing away with centralized national master specifications which are amorphous, unspecific, cumbersome and unwieldy — costly and certain death to a useful profession. I advocate uniform and standard specifications, written in clear and concise language, written by the individual specification writer to suit his or her particular type of work, employer or client, to be recorded as a master on a simple mag card typewriting machine or similar device, to be easily and quickly edited as the contents are known from beginning to end by the writer, and containing the knowledge and expertise which that individuals him/herself has acquired. That allows the specification writer to be where he/she belongs, beside the architect as part of the design and construction team, building buildings, again having enjoyment and pride in his/her work.

Hans Vandergraaf, RSW, in *Specification Associate*,
March/April 1977.

From the contractor's point of view, I believe I would start with the following guidelines for writing specifications: Language: Write in plain, every-day English. Remember that to many of us, English is a second language. So choose words that are not obscure in meaning. Intent: Avoid the use of an 'Intent' clause as the beginning of each Section. None of us know precisely what that is really supposed to mean'; it does us no good to read at the beginning of the roofing specification 'It is the intent of this specification that a high quality and sound roof, impervious to weather, is obtained". We have enough trouble sometimes understanding the rest of the specifications, without trying to figure out whether or not the Intent Clause has enough teeth to bite.

*George Cummings, vice-president of
V.K. Mason Construction Co.,
Specification Associate, July/August 1979.*

Evolution of Master Specifications: 1984-1993

Governance

The Board of Directors

The concept of electing vice-presidents for two-year terms, which had begun in 1973, had merit in that the maximum time on the Executive Council for those who ascended to the presidency was four years. The drawback was that the skills and experience of the vice-president who did not become president were lost to the Board at the end of his or her two-year term. In

1986-87, the Board looked at the CSI model and implemented the process of electing one vice-president each year to the position of fourth vice-president. Each year the vice-presidents ascended one position until they became first vice-president. On the recommendation of the president, the first vice-president was confirmed as president elect by the Board at the fall meeting. The vice-presidents rotated responsibility for committee portfolios each year so that they received maximum exposure to CSC's mandate by the time they became president. The only drawback with this process was the commitment of six years on



Board of Directors for 1985-86.



Board of Directors for 1987-88.

the Executive Council for candidates aspiring to become a vice-president. This process also usually followed two or more years on the Board as a chapter director. The secretary-treasurer and the registrar were appointed, on the president's recommendation, by the Board at the fall meeting. The Executive Council consisted of the president, immediate past president, four vice-presidents, secretary-treasurer and the executive director.

Publications

In 1984, the *NIB*, or *News in Brief*, which was published in the past by SWAC, was reinstated to improve communications.

In 1986, CSC learned that in order to obtain second class mailing privileges for *Construction Canada*, it would have to eliminate membership news from the publication and limit content to technical information. There was a feeling that it would make sense, in any case, because it was more economical to include this information in the *NIB*, which went out only to members.

Frank Spangenberg, formerly of McGraw-Hill (Sweets) was appointed voluntary publisher of *Construction Canada* magazine

in 1986 and the magazine's format was changed to reduce costs and improve content. Clifford Fowke had been the editor from September 1980 until July 1986. In September 1986, a now-retired Stuart Frost was installed as editor for a fourth time.

Thirtieth Anniversary

Construction Canada marked its 30th anniversary in 1989. When it was launched in 1959, the magazine was known as the *Specification Associate*. The *Specification Associate* was founded by its first editor-in-chief, Russ Cornell, who published it from his kitchen table. Cornell was also the volunteer executive director of the Specification Writers Association of Canada (now Construction Specifications Canada). In 1959, the Association had 500 members in three chapters: Toronto, Montréal and Ottawa. Architect Bruce Douglas provided the cover photos; Bob Fernandez and Stuart Frost did the graphics, layout and proofreading; Brian Brown sold ads; and Moya Walsh looked after the circulation list. After a few issues, Gertrude Cornell, Russ's wife, joined the team as editorial assistant to ease the load on Russ, who was editor of the magazine until 1967.

The future of *Construction Canada* came under review in 1991. The magazine had lost \$400,000 over the previous decade and the Finance Committee had recommended that it be sold if it was not turning a profit by September 1992. However, Publications Chair Gino Ferri pointed out that a 1987 survey had determined the magazine was seen as an important member service.

The Executive Council debated the issue again in 1992, but took no action until February 1993 when the Committee decided that *Construction Canada* would be changed to a quarterly publication schedule if the magazine had not reached the financial target of \$40,000 per issue by the May/June issue. Rather than switch to a quarterly publication schedule, CSC

decided to look for an external publisher. By June 1993, CSC had received proposals from three companies — Naylor Communications, Kenilworth Publishing and Tobros Enterprises. The Committee decided to select Tobros Enterprises and a couple of months later, announced that the magazine would be published six times a year by NIB Publishing — a joint venture of Jim Tobros, who became executive editor, Frank Spangenberg, publisher and Guenter Sander, art director and production manager. All had previous involvement with *Construction Canada*. The name “NIB Publishing” was resurrected from the archives of CSC to maintain continuity.

In 1993, Stuart Frost retired from his position as editor, after serving in that role for 16 of the magazine’s 34 years. CSC honoured Stuart for his service by presenting him with the National Award of Merit. Bernie Kliem, president of Technique Services Inc., became editor. The September/October issue was the first volume of *Construction Canada* to be published by the new team.

Although NIB Publishing was responsible for producing the magazine, CSC maintained editorial supervision by appointing six CSC members to the Editorial Advisory Board. NIB continued to publish the magazine until the expiry of the agreement in 1998.

Commenting on the transition at the 1994 Annual General Meeting, CSC President George Heath said that under the expert direction of Past President Dennis Looten and the expert management of NIB Publishing, CSC continued to have one of the finest technical publications in North America and, for the first time in 20 years, a financial statement in the black.

Executive Director

Rene Gaulin retired as executive director in 1990 and was succeeded by James Duncan, CAE. Jim brought 22 years of national

association and human resources management experience to the position. His mandate with CSC was threefold: to enhance the Association’s profile in the marketplace; to streamline its operations; and to build upon the strong directions established by the Board of Directors.

National Office

The Association’s national office relocated downtown to 100 Lombard Street, Suite 200, Toronto in November 1991. The new office needed extensive renovations, improvements and furnishings, which were donated by the Toronto chapter and construction material suppliers.

In total, 19 firms and individuals pitched in to help, donating their products and services to install new finishes throughout the offices.



Sign of the times: This sign, with bilingual logo, presented in the 1990s, remains in the national office to this day.



President Eileen Bredeson presents Executive Director Jim Duncan with plaque identifying corporate donors to new office. Willem deBacker of the Toronto Chapter, looks on.

Staff Changes

Margaret Olthuis formally retired from CSC in September 1987, but agreed to continue to look after the Association's accounting until a replacement could be found. CSC underwent



Margaret Olthuis, CSC Administrative Assistant, is presented with farewell gift from President David McGuigan, September 27, 1987.

a number of staff and other changes that year, along with some disruption that came with the acquisition of a PC and computing software for the office.

Membership

CSC's total membership across Canada was 1,553 in 1984, made up of 867 spec writers, 666 members of the industry and 20 students. The largest chapter was Toronto, with 448 members, about 29 percent of CSC's total. Edmonton was the next-largest chapter with 169 members, followed by Vancouver, with 152. In all, there were 16 chapters. A membership cost \$120 (students were \$20).

In January 1985, a decision by the Board of Directors raised annual dues to \$140, a \$20 increase, effective in 1986.

Membership had fallen at the end of 1984, and a majority of the Board members felt that fees would have to be increased to avoid further cuts to Association programs. There were about 100 RSWs by 1986, with the number growing by about five per year, on average. A student membership remained at \$20.

By 1988, CSC had about 1,500 members but had stopped growing and, for that reason, Treasurer Larry Stutt recommended, in a Board of Directors meeting, against increasing fees. The possibility had been considered because, although there was money in the Association, it was in chapter accounts rather than with the national office. According to the minutes from a 1989 Board of Directors meeting, the chapters were holding a sum in excess of \$231,000. CSC's total budget for the coming year was expected to be more than \$900,000.

Membership dues were increased by about 10 percent, to \$155, at a September 1990 Board of Directors meeting. It was noted that fees had not been raised in five years and that the 10 percent increase did not even equal the rate of inflation during that period. A couple of years later, in 1993, the fees were again raised, this time to \$160, but the Executive Council decided they should not be increased for 1994 because the majority of CSC's membership was in the province of Ontario, which was suffering greatly from the recession and its social contract legislation.

Finances

In fiscal year 1983-84, CSC sustained a loss of about \$40,000 — the difference between income and expenses. In February 1984, President Roy Ball warned CSC's Board of Directors that the Association would end the fiscal year of 1983-84 in a deficit position, not because of expenditures, but because income from seminars and document sales were not as high as expected, and the loss on the magazine would be higher than earlier expected.

In July 1984, Secretary-Treasurer Robert Phillips told the Executive Council the trend had worsened and CSC was heading for a loss of \$108,000 in fiscal year 1984-85 (on top of the earlier year's \$40,000). CSC was virtually out of cash, so at Phillips' recommendation, the Executive Council decided to put the brakes on many areas of spending for three months. No replacement office staff was hired, there was a freeze on committee expenditures, the September Board meeting was cancelled and some projects and programs suffered. These austere practices worked and in January 1985, the Board of Directors finally approved the 1984-85 budget, which projected a surplus of \$28,000. However, it was clear the spending freeze had caused serious problems. The office was short-staffed and it had slowed the thrust of the organization. The Board also acknowledged that an \$18,000 contribution from the Toronto chapter, from its 1984 trade show, had contributed greatly to the improved financial situation.

In September 1985, CSC's Board of Directors was told the Association's financial situation was much improved that year over the previous year. President John Clinckett thanked Past President Gino Ferri for the timely economic measures he had put in place.

The Association's improved financial position was helped by chapters that left the rebates that were due to them within the Association's overall budget. In 1985, for example, the chapters that managed without taking their rebates were: Atlantic Provinces, Edmonton, Grand Valley, Hamilton-Niagara, Ottawa, Regina, Victoria, Windsor and Winnipeg. In 1986-87, the Toronto chapter donated \$40,000 to fund the membership survey, the cost of printing the Membership Roster and to support one of the technical education programs.

However, the ongoing financial stability of the Association continued to be a concern through the 1980s. By 1987, the

Association had a budget of more than \$680,000 annually and CSC was slowly building an operating reserve by budgeting for a surplus every year, but had to remain fiscally cautious.

Local chapters also gained financial strength in the late 1980s and supported national programs. Many chapters left part or all of their rebates with the national office in 1987-88 and individual chapters financed specific projects. For example, the Toronto chapter provided financial assistance for technical programs and the roster and the Edmonton chapter financed a TEK•AID. At the June 1988 Annual General Meeting, a number of chapters made it clear they wanted to have their surplus funds channelled to particular technical documents, and the Trustees of CSC's Foundation agreed to ensure that the monies went to the particular programs for which they were intended.

Treasurer Larry Stutt reported to the 1990 Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon that CSC had a healthy increase in its surplus in the fiscal year 1989-90. CSC programs and seminars had not been financially successful, but the losses in these areas had been more than offset through the superior performance of National Master Construction Specification (NMS), technical documents and publication sales. Several chapters had left all or part of their rebates with the national Association and had financed specific programs.

Stutt gave the Executive Council a letter of resignation in late September 1990, but when faced with strong opposition to his resignation, he was persuaded to stay on. Executive Council minutes noted that Stutt was given a warm round of applause in recognition of his decision. He continued until February 1992, at which time John Jensen assumed the treasurer's position.

In the fall of 1990, CSC's Finance Committee recommended substantially reducing budgets for all non-fixed cost areas, resulting in a \$103,595 reduction in budgeted expenses. This affected committee and meeting expenditures primarily, and left

the Board needing assistance from the chapters in order to hold the January 1991 board meeting. The Association had never achieved its annual goal of a 10 percent surplus, so any accumulated surplus was always under threat. Although the chapters had about \$287,000 in their coffers, there had traditionally been a reluctance to claim this money on behalf of the Association. CSC administrative and program components were chronically underfunded, but chapter funds were not seen to be within reach. As a result, a list of items for potential financial support was distributed to Board members, in the hope that some of them would attract chapter financing.

CSC's Finance Committee presented a proposed budget for 1991 of \$836,400. Treasurer Larry Stutt reported that it had been a very difficult budget to prepare, recognizing the economic recession and the need to pare expenditures. It was a balanced budget, but had imposed considerable cutbacks to committee expenses and imposed a wage freeze on staff.

By mid 1991, it was clear CSC was entering a difficult financial period due to the recession and Stutt concluded that CSC did not have the income to support what it was doing. Either what the Association was doing had to change, or new methods of financing had to be found. He concluded the Association could not afford to keep going unless it obtained financial commitments from the chapters. Members of the Executive Council decided there would have to be strict guidelines given to the conference organizing committee in terms of expected financial returns to CSC, the association must do an advertising blitz to promote NMS and other CSC documents, and programs which lost money should be seriously examined to determine if CSC could continue to support them. The finance committee recommended that continuation of *Construction Canada* magazine be reviewed. It had lost \$400,000 over a decade and the committee

recommended it be sold if it was not turning a profit by September 1992.

GST

CSC was the legal registrant for Goods and Services Tax purposes and advised chapters how their accounting and reporting activities would have to change in order to minimize the impact of the GST on the Association. In the fall of 1990, two options were being considered: CSC would do chapter accounting or chapters would report monthly according to CSC guidelines. Treasurer Larry Stutt was to contact the chapters to let them know they should have their books up to date by November 30, 1990, in anticipation of the GST.

The bottom line on the GST was that all CSC activities — chapter, as well as national — were subject to the GST. The Association was required to collect, report and submit GST on a quarterly basis, with the first report due March 31, 1991. As CSC was the only legal GST registrant, chapters would have to have their accounts handled by the CSC office or report on a monthly basis on forms provided by the office. The CSC audit would then encompass chapter funds, so individual audits would not have to be done. The only part of CSC that did not have to pay GST was the CSC Foundation, which was exempt because it fell under the “less than \$30,000” rule for the 1991 year.

Awards

Each year, CSC recognized outstanding contributions through the presentation of various awards, including: Eureka awards to persons sponsoring three or more new CSC members; Chapter Awards of Merit to people chosen by their chapters for outstanding contribution to chapter activities; National Awards for a member’s contribution in time, zeal and effort, beyond what is

normally required by a member or officer of CSC; and the Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year Award, presented to a chapter for outstanding achievements towards fostering objectives of CSC.

Chapter Award Banner

In 1989, CSC’s Board of Directors proposed a new Chapter Award Banner be developed, to show all of the awards and recognitions bestowed on chapters and their members. Chapters were asked to provide information about how many stickers would be required to mark their achievements over the years.

President’s Chapter Award

A proposed President’s Chapter Award was approved by CSC’s Board of Directors in late 1986. It was the brainchild of 1986-87 President Keith Olsen, FCSC, RSW, P.Eng, who wanted to encourage chapters in their activities. It was hoped that the formula for the award would result in one-third to one-half of chapters receiving the award every year. The President’s Chapter Award set goals for each chapter in the key areas of membership growth, meeting attendance, financial contribution, attendance at conferences and educational and newsletter activities.

The award was based on a calculation in the five categories, by formulae, which take into account variations in geography and size between chapters. The formulae were developed by Olsen. All chapters that accumulated over 1,000 points during the calendar year received the award, which was a sticker to be placed on their chapter banner. The winners were announced at the annual Awards Luncheon.

Chapter of the Year Award

The Chapter of the Year Award was created in 1976 by then Executive Director, Lloyd Boddy, to recognize outstanding



Toronto Chapter Chair Joe Dunleavy accepts the coveted Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year award, 1986-87 from Rene Gaulin.

achievements by a chapter toward fostering the objectives of CSC. The award was presented annually to one chapter of CSC at the Awards Luncheon held during the annual CSC conference. The winners of the award during this period were: Montréal (1983-84); Edmonton (1984-85); Edmonton (1985-86); Toronto (1986-87); Calgary (1987-88); Regina (1988-89); Ottawa (1989-90); Saskatoon (1990-91); Montréal (1991-92); Saskatoon (1992-93).

College of Fellows

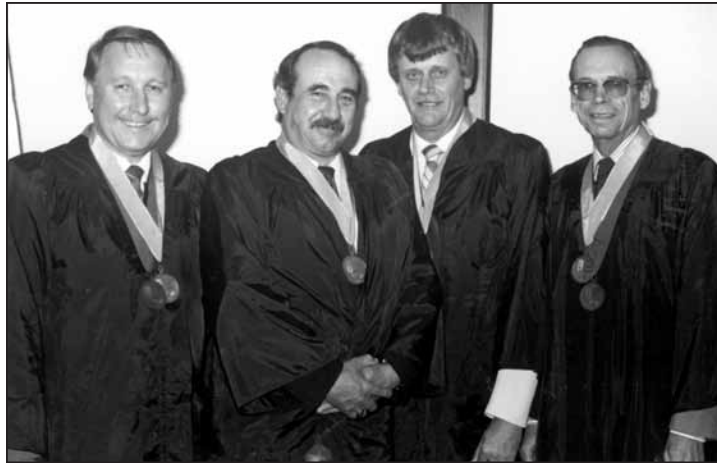
In 1986, the College of Fellows inducted its fiftieth member: Ted Ladd, Vancouver, who was chair of the 1986 Conference Committee. The following members were inducted into the College of Fellows:



Mike Robinson accepts Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year award, 1989, from Executive Director Rene Gaulin and President Jim Tobros.

- 1984 David J. Egan, RSW; Donald L. Thomas, RSW
- 1985 Roy H. Ball, RSW; Paul R. Marquette
- 1986 Gino L. Ferri; E. (Ted) G. Ladd
- 1987 John Clinckett, RSW, CCCA; Guy Duchesneau
- 1988 David R. McGuigan; Keith R. Olsen, RSW
- 1989 No election
- 1990 Joe M. Dunleavy; Rene Gaulin (Honourary); James Tobros
- 1991 John M. Jensen; Robert R. Murray
- 1992 Ian Z. Bartlett, RSW; H. Moore
- 1993 Eileen J. Bredeson, RSW

In 1994, Fellows were asked to provide histories of their chapters and a proposal was made to try to have the history written by CSC's 40th anniversary in 1994.



Gino Ferri and Ted Ladd (in centre) inducted into College of Fellows by Chancellor John Chomiak and Dean Bernard Smits, Investiture Ceremony 1986.

Survey and Long-range Plans

In 1986, CSC commissioned a national Members' Needs Survey. It found the two main things CSC members would like to see were better educational services and better communication. They wanted continuity and upgrading of courses and seminars, better access to these for all members, and improved technical content. In terms of communication, they wanted to be more connected with each other and other related professionals and have joint meetings among CSC chapters and other associations. They also wanted to improve CSC's image. Specifiers were keen on home study programs and technical expertise in the Association office. Most members favoured developing the RSW designation into a legally certified program. The strongest opposition to this idea came from architectural firms who were concerned with professional liability and viewed the designation as redundant. The survey also showed that one of the threats to the

Association was that potential members could obtain many of the key benefits of CSC without joining. It also highlighted the fact that 20 percent of the members were aged 55 and over and might be expected to resign from CSC as they left the profession. One of the most interesting findings was that two out of five potential members did not know much about CSC, a problem that was particularly prevalent in the 18- to 34-year-old range.

In response to recommendations that came out of the Members' Needs Survey, the Long-range Planning Committee, led by Keith Olsen, began working on a new five-year plan for Association activities in 1987-88.

Name Change

CSC's board of directors voted at a September 29, 1985 meeting to change the French name of the Association — Devis de Construction Canada — to Société de Construction Canada, subject to the approval of Corporate Affairs, the Québec membership and the general membership. According to the resolution, "Devis de Construction Canada" did not translate to mean an association, but instead, a book. A few months later, the idea was dropped because it was felt there would be a problem if the English and French names of the Association were different. However, the proposal was at least given serious consideration. In contrast, at the Executive Council meeting the day after the French proposal arose, a resolution calling for the Association's name to be changed from Construction Specifications Canada to Canadian Construction Specifications Association was roundly defeated in a 15-2 vote. The motion stated that CSC's name "indicates to the general public that we are a government department... e.g., Revenue Canada, Transport Canada" and went on to add that the name was "not good English."

Marketing Committee

With the Association's annual budget approaching \$1 million, members decided at their 1990 Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon that a Marketing Committee should be formed. Its task was to develop a marketing plan and a business plan to satisfy the long-term goals of CSC, with direct input from the Board of Directors.

The President's Watch

Traditions are born in every organization and sometimes they blossom from obscure beginnings. The President's Watch is an excellent example of a gift maturing into one of our many traditions.

In 1989, Lynn Bartlett, in conversation with the president of CSI, Steve Blumenthal, FCSI, learned that CSI had presented each of their presidents with a CSI watch. She contemplated the idea and ordered a watch with the CSC logo, association name and the word "President," and presented this to her husband and in-coming president, Ian Bartlett, FCSC, RSW at the CSC conference in Saskatoon, May 1990. In giving Ian this watch, Lynn recognized the passion that her husband had, and still has for CSC, and his immense pride in being able to serve CSC in one of its highest offices. Ian was delighted with the idea of a CSC president's watch, and immediately took the idea to the Executive Council and a tradition was born. The first official president's watch was presented to CSC's first woman president, Eileen Bredeson, FCSC, RSW, in May 1991.



*A tradition is born:
The President's watch.*

Profiles

Gino Ferri, FCSC, CSC president 1984-85. By the time Ferri became the 1984-85 president of CSC, he had studied and worked in several cities across Canada, married and had a family. Born in Montréal, he attended McGill University's Faculty of Civil Engineering before moving on to the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). He graduated from the Canadian Officers Training Program at the Royal Canadian Engineers School of Military Engineering in Chilliwack, B.C., and worked at Imperial Oil in Edmonton for a few years in the early 1960s. He joined Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd. in 1964 and became a principal in the firm in 1970.

When Ferri became president in 1984, he was director of business development and manager of the Edmonton office of Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd. and had been active in CSC and CSI for nine years. He served as secretary-treasurer of the Edmonton chapter, chapter chair and then chapter director in 1979. He helped develop a "Principles of Specification Writing" evening course for NAIT in 1977, was on the Edmonton Spec Trade Committee in 1979 and was given a Merit Award for his contribution to the improvement of construction specifications. In 1986, he was the 49th member to be inducted into the College of Fellows, and in 1987, he received the President's Award. In an interview in 2004, Ferri recalled his years on the CSC Board.

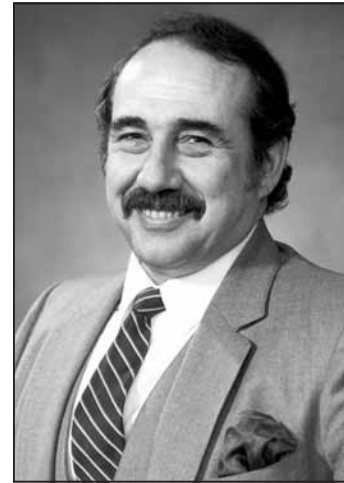
"I was motivated to run for president because of my interest in education. I was vice-president, education from 1982 to 1984 and wanted to carry on, as I could see that the main thrust of CSC, now that the NMS was on the market, would be expansion of our education programs. When I was vice-president, CSC received some money from the Toronto chapter to prepare the

education modules and I wanted to see that through to completion.

“The theme for my presidency was 3M: marketing/magazine/members. However, when I took over the reins, the reality was that CSC was operating at a \$35,000 deficit and my number one agenda became financial survival. Corporate downsizing was the norm for industry in those days and CSC needed to do some belt-tightening as the NMS gravy train was slowing down. At the August Executive Council meeting, it was decided to cancel the fall Board meeting and combine it with the spring meeting to cut costs. Separate meetings were convened on Saturday and Sunday to conform to the by-law requirement to hold a minimum of two board meetings per year. I spoke on the phone with executive director, Rene Gaulin, every Friday morning throughout my presidency to stay on top of everything that was happening. I stayed the course for the whole year and we finished the year in the black.

“The National Energy Policy of 1982 had a dramatic impact on western Canada and by 1984, the energy industry experienced major job losses, which also affected the rest of Canada. At the same time, the world price of oil dropped from about \$35 a barrel to \$14 and that too had a serious impact on the Alberta economy.

“During my term we were able to maintain the Association magazine in spite of the large amount of funds needed to support this flagship publication. I initiated a strategic plan with regular meetings to review and update the plan. This approach was a more sophisticated and effective path than the long-range planning meetings that it replaced. We took the INDECORE [Industry Developed Core Curriculum] chart to one more level and expanded the education modules. The INDECORE chart was started in 1979 in Toronto as a consultative process involving RSWs from across the country.



*G.L. Ferri
CSC President, 1984-1985*

“The highlights of my year as President, besides economic survival, were expansion of the education program, computerization of the office and development of a strategic plan following the Toronto Chapter-sponsored membership survey. When I was Immediate Past President, I introduced the process of electing one VP each year to a four-year progression to President. This replaced the former process of electing two VPs each year for two-year terms and losing the services of one experienced VP after the second year as only one VP could move into the presidency. The new process also provided VPs with more experience and knowledge before becoming President.”



*J. Clinckett
CSC President, 1985-1986*

“In the late 1980s came the AS-TTF and federal funds to write educational documents, we therefore got teaching material that reflected the required information to pass the final exam, text books, rather than a living growing system of practice information. With this came the overriding notion of certification rather than continuing education and assisting practitioners in their daily work. There is a definite need for a system for practitioners to locate easily the myriad of documents and reference materials produced and collected by an individual or in any firm that desires to remain in the present.”

“Computerization of the Association office commenced during or just before my term with the purchase of a WANG computer and software to handle accounting processes, the NMS and membership data.

“The highlights of my year as president, besides economic survival, were expansion of the education program, computerization of the office and development of a strategic plan following the Toronto chapter-sponsored membership survey. When I was immediate past president, I introduced the process of electing one vice-president each year to a four-year progression to president. This replaced the former process of electing two vice-presidents each year for two-year terms and losing the services of one experienced vice-president after the second year, as only one vice-president could move into the presidency. The new process also provided vice-presidents with more experience and knowledge before becoming president.

“My primary mentors were John Chomiak and Casey Skakun, who were both influential in my becoming a member of CSC, together with Wayne Watson. Others that I learned from included Roy Ball and John Clinckett.

“As a member of CSC, I have benefited from its status as a recognized educator and producer of quality technical documents. I feel that I am part of both the design and construction industries.

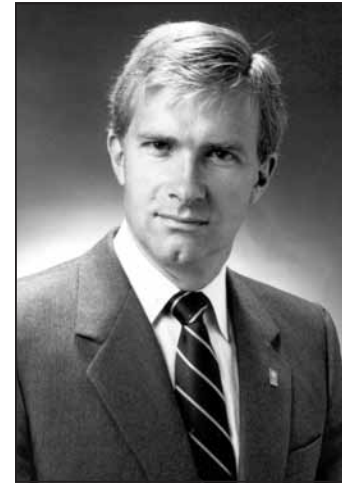
“My fondest memories are of the people that I met at conferences as well as the people that I have encountered along the way. I formed lasting relationships with people who are now only a phone call away. And of course, we all remember the steady stream of jokes from John Clinckett.

“I am grateful that the magazine has survived and become the first class, financially viable publication that it is now. I am happy that we are promoting education and I wish we could do more TEK•AIDs. We need to attract more new and younger

members. I am happy that I joined the association and honoured to have become a Fellow. It is something that I will always cherish.”

John Clinckett, CSC president 1985-86. Clinckett was operating his own architectural office in Kitchener when he became the 1985-86 president of CSC. Born in Toronto and raised in Ottawa, he was in the first graduating class of the new school of architecture started at the University of Waterloo in 1967. Along the way, he did co-op work in Ottawa, Montréal, Cornerbrook, Barbados and London, earned a Bachelor of Environmental Studies Degree and then a Bachelor of Architecture in 1973. Work in Toronto and a Masters program in Systems Design Engineering (Waterloo) followed, and he registered with the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) in 1978. Clinckett taught in both schools of architecture and engineering and opened a diversified architectural practice in Kitchener in 1980. His interest in the field came out of a high school job in an architectural practice where he was exposed to materials, drawings, specifications and construction sites. His later experience on the Grand Valley chapter executive put him on the path to the presidency. Clinckett was appointed as a vice-president of CSC at the 1983 conference in Banff. He joined the Ottawa chapter in 1972 as a student, and later joined the Grand Valley chapter. He held several chapter level positions, and was vice-president and chairman of the Technical Committee in 1980 and 1981.

Keith Olsen, P. Eng., RSW, CSC president, 1986-87. Olsen was born and educated in Edmonton, working there first and later moving to Calgary. He set up his own mechanical consulting services company in 1982, K.R. Olsen Engineering Ltd. He worked on the Alberta Public Works Master specification and was mechanical consultant to the CSI SpecText Committee, helped



*K.R. Olsen
CSC President, 1986-1987*

“The excellent efforts of individuals who are specialists in their areas of endeavour will undoubtedly result in better quality, more error free projects, within the time and economic constraints placed upon us by the owner. Specifiers should strive for that excellence, and consultant firms must strive to include the specifier on their team.”



*D.R. McGuigan
CSC President, 1987-1988*

"For us, as active participants in the construction industry, the challenge is to leave enough of our history intact so that it might be appreciated by future generations.

"Our changing needs, both in terms of the type and quality of environment, requires a greater attention to the planning of those environments. Our needs for greater flexibility demands a greater attention to man's need for a sense of place and orientation. As builders of environments for human use we must respond to these needs creatively if we are to build spaces which accommodate the intended human functions."

review the NMS mechanical sections, and was a member of a number of associations in southern Alberta.

David McGuigan, CSC president, 1987-88. McGuigan was born in Swift Current, Saskatchewan and graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Environmental Science and a Master of Architecture. He worked in the Regina area for a number of architects before going into business for himself. A few months before becoming president he joined the firm, M.W. Lafoy Architect, Regina. He joined the Association in 1973 and served on the Regina chapter Executive and as chapter chair. He was a vice-president of CSC for three years, holding the portfolios of professional development/education and legislative.

Jim Tobros, CSC president 1988-89. Tobros started his specifications writing career at Webb Zerafa Menkes Housden Partnership in the early 1970s. Under the watchful eye of Charles Benko, FCSC, he worked on the CN Tower and Royal Bank Plaza. He later did architectural spec writing on water and sewage projects for Proctor and Redfern Consulting Engineers, and in the late 1970s, worked for the Ontario Government Services Ministry, specifying on a wide variety of institutional and other construction. In the 1980s, he was a senior specifications writer and shareholder at Crang and Boake Inc., where he was responsible for more than 300 major commercial projects in Canada and the United States. While working full-time at specification writing and being active in CSC, Tobros also administered the family printing business, which produced a newsletter for the Toronto chapter of CSC for many years. What started as a hobby eventually became a large corporation and in 1989 Tobros bought a major printing company on Richmond Street in downtown Toronto. A member of CSC since 1970, he served as secretary, publicity chair, and chair (1983) of the Toronto

chapter and chapter director (1985). He was a member of the Toronto Trade Show Committee from its inception in 1978 and was its chair in 1984 and 1985. On the Executive Council, he was chair of the Membership and Chapter Development Committee and responsible for the membership survey. He introduced the graphics manual to unify and upgrade CSC's image and was also Chairman of the Professional Development and Education Committee. He earned four Chapter Merit Awards and was the Eureka Club winner for three years.

Robert A. Murray, CSC president, 1989-90. Murray, of Edmonton, was born in Edmonton, and was director of Marketing/Product Development for Elsro Construction Products in St. Albert, Alberta, and a director of the Edmonton Construction Association.

Recalling his time as president, Murray was reminded of the friends he made during his years on the Board.

"The one thing that stands out is that when I was president of CSC, Steve Blumenthal was president of CSI. Like me, Steve was an industrial representative, so we had some things in common. Steve and I developed a very good friendship, as did our wives. We still keep in touch.

"I guess the most memorable thing that came out of my presidency, and also my time on the Board, was the extremely close friendships that I was able to develop with individuals all across Canada and some into the United States."

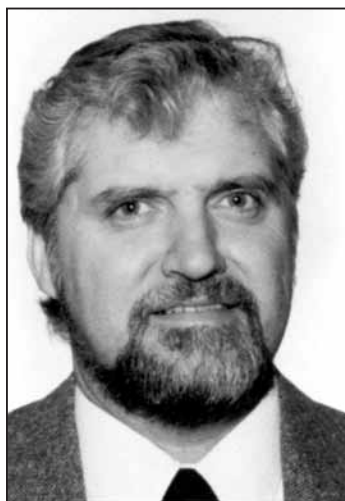
Ian Bartlett, RSW, CSC president, 1990-91. Bartlett was born in Calgary and lives in Ottawa. He obtained his RSW in 1982 and held a variety of executive, committee and chapter positions with the Association over the years. He was inducted into the College of Fellows in 1992 and received the Life Membership Award in 2004.

As Bartlett recalled,



*J. Tobros
CSC President, 1988-1989*

"The wealth of construction experience within the association qualifies CSC as a leader in the industry. CSC's dual membership (specifier, manufacturer/supplier) offers the unique opportunity to access up to date information on any facet of the construction industry. The association has been successfully networking before networking became the buzz word of the 90s."



R.A. Murray
CSC President, 1989-1990

The one thing that stands out is that when I was president of CSC, Steve Blumenthal was president for CSJ. Steve, like me, was an industrial representative so we have some things in common. Steve and I developed a very good friendship and so did our wives. In fact Steve and I still maintain contact with each other.

"I guess the most memorable thing that came out, of not only my presidency, but my time on the board was the extremely close friendship that I was able to develop with several individuals all across Canada and some into the USA."

"I had the pleasure of becoming CSC's president at the Saskatoon conference in 1990, taking over from Bob Murray. Although it was a long road to this office, having served CSC in the positions of 2nd, 3rd and 4th vice-president, I was honoured and pleased to have served this Association.

"During my introductory speech, I went through a great story of all the 'hats' I would be wearing as president of this Association, never dreaming of how true that was to be.

"Following the conference, the first and immediate job was to fill the executive director's position. A committee was struck, the position advertised, résumés reviewed, interviews conducted and eventually the position was offered to Jim Duncan. Jim had a huge undertaking to run the office and manage the affairs of CSC. His management style was quite different from Mr. [Rene] Gaulin's and sorting out the affairs of the Association and getting the house in order took considerable effort and dedication on Jim's part. Throughout my term of office, Jim and I were in contact either by phone or e-mail just about every day. We were constantly communicating in an attempt to sort out one anomaly, problem, discrepancy or variance after another. Apart from bringing Jim up to date on the 40, or so, years of CSC Association and chapter business, there was the day-to-day management of the Association's affairs. With the support of the Executive Council, Jim's patience and understanding and my constant support, we were able to sort out the management issues and steer the Association to a brighter future. This was a stressful and trying time for Jim and I did my best to provide him with positive direction and prompt decisions.

"Yes, this year in office was also a very stressful time for me, but it ended with a fantastic conference in Ottawa in 1991. The Ottawa chapter, my home chapter, not only supported me throughout my year in office but provided a great conference to celebrate my term.

“Somewhere in the course of my year as president, my 50th birthday appeared, seemingly out of nowhere. It should not have been a surprise, as I had been telling everyone who would listen that ‘When I turn 50, I’m going to get my ear pierced and buy a Harley!’ Well I got my ear pierced — more of a ‘put-up-or-shut-up’ situation — and it happened. By the way, I didn’t buy the Harley, I purchased a Honda Goldwing instead. I tell this story here because when our first female president, Eileen Bredeson, took office right after me, she thought that she was going to be the first CSC president with an earring.

“My year as President and indeed my time with CSC could not have happened without the support of my wife Lynn. She’s not a CSC member but is definitely a CSC family member. I have taken her on dozens of trips to CSC meeting locations across Canada and the United States, as well as a couple held beyond North America. For over 10 years, she has attended just about every CSC and CSI conference and convention. She has been my greatest critic, my strongest supporter and my best friend — she’s my ‘rock’ — without her there would have been no CSC for me.”

Eileen Bredeson, RSW, FCSC, CSC president 1991-92. Bredeson was CSC’s first female president and earned the respect of a male-dominated industry through hard work. She started her career processing change orders in architects’ offices, but decided to pursue a career in specification writing while she was working with W2 Consultants Ltd., in Edmonton. While she was there, she helped Wayne Watson process what is believed to be Canada’s first system for automating and retrieving master specifications on IBM Mag cards. She then joined Bittorf, Holland and Christianson. She was specifier/comptroller/office manager by the time she left in 1986 to move to Page & Steele Architects in Toronto and achieved RSW status. In the



I. Bartlett
CSC President, 1990-1991

“Somewhere in the course of my year as President, my fiftieth birthday appeared seemingly out of nowhere. It should not have been a surprise, as I had been telling everyone who would listen. “That when I turn 50, I’m going to get my ear pierced and buy a Harley!” Well I got my ear pierced — more of a “put-up-or-shut-up” situation — and it happened. By the way, I didn’t buy the Harley, purchased a Honda Goldwing instead. I tell this story here because when our first female President, Eileen Bredeson, took office right after me, she thought that she was going to be the first CSC president with an earring.”



*E.J. Bredeson
CSC President, 1991-1992*

“My most memorable and meaningful CSC years were served with the Technical Studies Committee [TSC]. Together, the TSC created numerous technical documents, rewrote existing documents, visited many Chapters of upcoming Conferences and dedicated many long hours to technical meetings and to assignments between meetings, during this time. All of the members serving during that period can be very proud of our dedication and the documents we created, as well as the camaraderie we shared.”

early 1990s, she worked for the architectural firm of Webb, Zerafa, Menkes, Housden Partnership, in Toronto, taking responsibility for specifications for the firm’s international projects. She won the CSC’s Eureka Award for three consecutive terms — the first woman to receive this award — as well as a number of other distinctions. She also managed to open a private specification practice in 1980 and was deeply involved in Alberta politics before moving to Toronto.

Recalling her years as CSC member, Bredeson said,

“Before I reflect on the honour of serving as president of CSC, I would like to share with you a bit of my history as a CSC member. I have had more varied chapter exposure than most, since I have been a part of three very different chapters — from the fulfillment, rewards, lasting friendships and hijinks of the Edmonton chapter; to the serious business contacts of the Toronto chapter; and on to the closely knit Calgary chapter.

“The Edmonton chapter must be credited for my advancement in CSC. The chapter members believed in my emerging capabilities and encouraged and promoted me within. I helped plan and organize several successful trade shows, education seminars and while serving as Edmonton chapter chair, it became the first chapter to earn the Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year Award two years in succession. I served on the Technical Studies Committee for approximately eight years, and attained RSW status during that time. After being elected as director of the Edmonton chapter, I made a move to Toronto, and remained as Edmonton director while employed in Toronto. It was this opportunity that led to my election as vice-president after serving only one year as director.

“My most memorable and meaningful CSC years were served with the Technical Studies Committee. The members of the TSC created numerous technical documents, rewrote existing documents, visited chapters that were organizing conferences and

dedicated many long hours to technical meetings and to assignments between meetings. All of the members serving during that period can be very proud of our dedication and the documents we created, as well as the camaraderie we shared.

“Immediately before my term as President, I wanted to honour my terminally ill father by reverting to my maiden name.

“Now, onto my year as President. Firstly, Lynn and Ian Bartlett went out of their way to make my inauguration very special. Lynn’s daughter made me CSC earrings incorporating two lapel pins which I’ve always been proud of. Ian started the tradition of presenting the incoming President with a CSC watch, which I was the first to receive.

“The evening of the President’s Ball in Ottawa in 1991, an orchid corsage was delivered to my suite with a note ‘to the most beautiful woman here — from your oldest fan.’ You guessed it — from Ross Browne, who was always a big supporter of mine. At the ball, my daughter sat beside me — a place rightfully hers since she gave up her mother, weekend after weekend for over 15 years, while I was away on CSC business. Many of my friends from the Ottawa and Toronto chapters boisterously held placards supporting the ‘first female President.’ I still have those placards! The Ottawa chapter, even though it was ‘Ian’s conference,’ went out of their way to make the conference very special for me. Holding the office of president was an honour and a privilege which, although earned, meant the world to me. However, my year as president was filled with controversy: both personal and professional. In addition, during this time, my father passed away after suffering many months from cancer. What unfortunate timing in this year for all that to happen!

“[After a tumultuous year] it was, quite frankly, with relief that I could pass the president’s gavel on to Dennis Looten, and slip into the background, to begin planning for a move back home to Alberta and starting my own firm. My thanks to the



*D. Looten
CSC President, 1992-1993*

“During my term as President, I attended a Task Force meeting in Washington, D.C. to evaluate the development of an international body to standardize international construction documents and contracts. From this meeting it was agreed to form JCJS. The first annual meeting of JCJS was held in Banff, Alberta in 1994. I was responsible for the event organization. There were thirteen countries participating in the first conference. This organization still operates today.

“There are numerous other memories from my time on the association Executive Council that will remain with me forever. I would strongly recommend to any member so inclined to consider running for office in Construction Specifications Canada.”

Edmonton chapter for their support during my rise through the ranks and to the firm of Webb, Zerafa, Menkes, Housden Architects in Toronto for their support during my year as President. It was an honour and privilege to serve.

Dennis Looten, CAE, B.Sc., CSC president 1992-93. Looten started his career as a high school teacher and continued in education through his role as chief executive officer of the Alberta Roofing Contractors' Association. Born and raised in Alberta, he worked as a roofing inspector at the Edmonton firm of Curtis Engineering and as a troubleshooter for a roofing contractor and later with a roofing manufacturer to gain practical experience in his field. He combined this with a science degree and educational training to join the Roofing Contractors' Association, initially as its technical manager. He was chair of the Calgary chapter of CSC in 1984-86, and set up a training organization to develop and fund programs for CSC members.

In 1981, Looten was elected to the Calgary chapter Executive and served as the chapter treasurer and the treasurer for Conference 1983 held in Banff. In 1985-86, he was chair of the chapter and in 1986 was appointed to represent the chapter on the Association's national Board of Directors. After two years as chapter director he was elected, in 1988, to the CSC Executive Council, as the fourth vice-president.

The following are some of his memorable accomplishments on the Executive Council.

“During the time when I was responsible for awards, I produced and introduced the concept of Chapter Award Banners, which are still used today to highlight the numerous achievements of chapters and their membership.

“I presented the opportunity for the Association to obtain federal funding to develop and implement technical training programs. When it became apparent that the funding could not

be obtained through our head office in Toronto, I agreed to undertake the application from Alberta. The CSC-AS-TTF (Construction Specifications Canada – Alberta Section – Training Trust Fund) was established to fund the development of CSC's educational program. The accomplishments of the TTF have been documented in the close out report of the organization that was formed.

“During my time as vice-president the long standing Executive Director Rene Gaulin announced that he would be retiring from the Association in 1990. I was asked to chair a committee to locate, interview and hire a replacement. The committee consisted of myself as chair, Gino Ferri, Stuart Frost and Larry Stutt. We advertised for the position, conducted interviews and eventually hired Jim Duncan, who served as our executive director until 1996. The committee did an excellent job of finding a replacement for Rene.

“On a personal note, my major accomplishment was turning the financial corner on the Association magazine. Historically we had been losing large amounts of money on the production and distribution of the magazine — *Construction Canada*. In years past, the subsidy from the Association was as much as \$80,000. It was agreed by the Executive Council that the situation with the magazine had to change. Negotiations were started to resolve the financial burden that the magazine created. We were successful in starting *Construction Canada* on a road to financial success. By having the magazine published outside the Association, we were no longer financially committed to the huge expenses previously incurred.

“During my term as president, I attended a task force meeting in Washington, D.C. to evaluate the development of an international body to standardize international construction documents and contracts. From this meeting it was agreed to form ICIS [the International Construction Information Society] and

the first annual meeting of ICIS was organized and held in Banff, Alberta in 1994. I was responsible for the event organization. Eleven countries in all participated in the first conference. This organization still continues to operate today.”

George Heath, FCSC, CSC president, 1993-94.

“When I joined CSC in 1981 and later became involved in local chapter activities, it never occurred to me that I was embarking on one of the most important activities of my working career. My road to the presidency of CSC started when I agreed to organize the technical program for Conference 1985 in Winnipeg. At that time conferences were completely organized and operated by the local chapter with one exception. The technical program for the conference was to be developed under the guidance of the Technical Studies Committee [TSC]. As such, the chair of the chapter Technical Program was invited to sit as a member of the national Technical Studies Committee. I received my invitation to sit as a member of the TSC from John Clinckett in 1984. This was the start of my involvement in national activities of the Association. The 1985 conference in Winnipeg was a success and I was invited to continue on as a member of the Technical Studies Committee. Members of the TSC from 1984 to 1990 included a long list of other CSC past presidents: John Clinckett, Keith Olsen, Eileen Bredeson, Ian Bartlett and Wayne Watson, to mention a few. The accumulated knowledge of the members of this Committee astounded me every time we met. I often wondered how I could contribute and more often than not felt guilty because I was learning so much more than I was giving.

“In any case, it was in the late 1980s that John Clinckett and Keith Olsen proposed that I should seek a position on the CSC Board with the idea of moving forward onto the Association Executive. I was extremely flattered by their suggestion but



*G. Heath
CSC President, 1993-1994*

“The goals one strives to achieve during their term as President are not a “flash-in-the-pan” which can be realized over a one year term. These goals can only be conceived, developed and brought to fruition through years of effort and commitment from a family of dedicated CSC members, Directors, Executive Council and, Presidents who have served before you. It’s important to remember that each of us has an important role to play to ensure we succeed in achieving our goals, regardless of whether they are attained tomorrow, next year or five years into the future.”

personally believed that I needed a bit of a break from the CSC before I moved forward to the Board level. Approximately one year later, with the urging and encouragement of the Winnipeg chapter, and in particular Ross Browne, I was appointed to represent the Winnipeg chapter on the CSC Board. In 1989, with the continued support of my former colleagues on the TSC, Winnipeg chapter, and of course Ross Browne, I accepted a nomination to sit as fourth vice-president of CSC. To answer the question ‘What motivated me to run for President?’, I would say it was two-fold:

- 1) The encouragement from my fellow CSC members and the confidence they had in my abilities to provide leadership to the Association. (John Clinckett frequently reminded me of the adage ‘The position should seek the person, not the person seek the position.’)
- 2) My desire to seek new challenges that would test my personal and professional skills.

“Two other initiatives that were given specific focus during the 1993-94 year were the delivery of the Association’s Certified Technical Representative (CTR) program to the membership and enhancement of our relationship with Les Publications Françaises DCC (LPF-DCC). The creation of the CTR program, initially envisioned by Don Thomas of the Vancouver chapter, and further developed by Bob Murray of the Edmonton chapter, was a program for our product representative membership which was long overdue. Vice-President Steve Revay made great strides and was able to officially announce the CTR program at Conference 94. Although we didn’t reach our goal of certifying 50 individuals by the end of 1994, we did make substantial inroads on the CTR program, which have contributed to its success today. Enhancement of our cooperative relationship with LPF-DCC was intended to improve the availability of French

CSC publications. Vice-President Issy LeBlond was in charge of providing LPF-DCC with all the support that CSC could offer. Several new French publication documents were translated and a strong working relationship was established. However, the challenge of inadequate funding was ever present.

“The 1993 Conference, organized and sponsored by the Toronto chapter at Deerhurst Resort, was a very memorable event not only for the fantastic location and accommodations but, more importantly, as one of the last truly successful family-oriented CSC conferences.

“Without a doubt, my most cherished memories of CSC are of times spent with fellow committee members, discussing, debating and arguing the merits of certain programs or approaches to improve our organization, often late into the evening, including

- 1) sitting around a table with fellow members of the TSC fighting over the wording of a specific paragraph or phrase and throwing jelly beans at Keith Olsen to keep him awake;
- 2) conference sing-alongs in the President’s suite with Issy and Ross leading the chorus
- 3) conferences with our kids, waiting to see what Oliver Clinckett will do this year - the tablecloth trick in Saskatoon will never be beat.

“I tended to ad lib when I was on the podium but my president’s address in 1993 included a statement to the effect: ‘The goals one strives to achieve during their term as president are not a “flash-in-the-pan” which can be realized over a one-year term. These goals can only be conceived, developed and brought to fruition through years of effort and commitment from a family of dedicated CSC members, directors, executive committees, and presidents who have served before you. It’s important to

remember that each of us has an important role to play to ensure we succeed in achieving our goals, regardless of whether they are attained tomorrow, next year or five years into the future.”

Larry Stutt, secretary-treasurer of CSC, has been involved in the Association since the mid 1970s. In an interview in 2003, Stutt recalled some of the events during his time in CSC.

“I recall joining CSC, probably around 1975 or 1976. A good friend of mine, Ian MacKay, was a very active member. He and I worked for the same company and we used to go to meetings together. He, unfortunately, died of a heart attack and his untimely death left a void. As we had always been together at meetings, I was asked by the Association to take a more active role.

“As a result I sat on the Toronto chapter executive or the national executive [as secretary-treasurer], for much of my time as a member.

“When I joined the Association it was in financial trouble. It was certainly difficult circumstances for a new treasurer. There were questions about accountability. The magazine, which had made money in the early years of its existence, was now losing money. We had to tighten our belts and make a lot of economies. Many of our programs were costing a lot of money, but weren’t bringing in much revenue. We had to look at programs that weren’t making money and cut them back and encourage programs that were turning a profit. While cost cutting is never fun, I can say we were successful, and when I left, I was lucky enough to get a National Award of Merit.

“One story I do remember, that was, if not fun, at least funny, happened at one of our annual conventions here in Toronto. One of our organizers, and I won’t mention his name, forgot to do a lot of things. One of those things involved an evening boat cruise in Toronto Harbour. He remembered to book two boats,

but for some reason he only ordered enough beer for one boat. Of course that was the boat he was on. The boat I was on, along with about 150 other people, had no beer at all.

“So there we were, down on Queen’s Quay with one of the big tour boats ready to go and we have no beer on board. We pooled our resources and drove to the nearest Brewer’s Retail store. I think we bought nearly 40 cases of beer, which may have been a bit more than we needed, but at that point it seemed better safe than sorry. And the money was coming out of our own pockets anyway. We needed more than a few cars to haul the beer back, but we got it on board and we were able to set sail with the other boat. It led to a bit of a running joke throughout the rest of the convention as people would come up to me and say ‘Where’s the beer?’ I think it became the convention watchword.

“Of course, I was involved in quite a few conferences and one that sticks in my mind was our twenty-fifth anniversary conference in 1979. I served as publicity chair that year, and we hired John Crispo, the economist and lobbyist to speak. He was a professor at the University of Toronto and was a very popular speaker in his day. He had done lots of reports on the state of the Canadian economy so he had all the answers — but unfortunately — he wasn’t in a position to do anything. He was, however, in a good position to criticize the government and was a very controversial and sought-after speaker.

“I’d like to talk for a moment about a fellow named Joe Dunleavy. He worked for Dunleavy Cordun and was a member of the CSC College of Fellows. Joe died about 10 years ago, but for many years, he was the grapevine for the Toronto CSC chapter. He was the one who called you to let you know what was going on and what everyone else was doing. He always seemed to know what was important and what wasn’t and he was involved in just about everything that happened. He was a

sounding board for all of us — what should we do here, how should we handle that. He was great guy for making things happen. Joe was a champion for the Toronto chapter and very much an advocate of the Toronto chapter's rights and keeping an eye on the national organization. Joe, along with Maurice McGill and the rest of us, championed the Toronto chapter Trade Show. The trade show was the thing that made the Toronto chapter financially independent. Today, the trade show puts a lot of money into the national organization.

“You have to have strong chapters to have a strong national organization. Toronto has always been a strong chapter and a major contributor to the Association as far as funding is concerned.”

Joseph M. Dunleavy, FCSC, president of Cordun Associates Inc., joined CSC's Toronto chapter in 1973 and went on to chair the Toronto chapter, the the Toronto chapter Trade Show and a CSC conference. Remembered as one of the chapter's most enthusiastic members, Joe passed away quietly, succumbing to cancer on December 11, 1993. Having earned many CSC awards, Joe was inducted into the College of Fellows in 1990. At the time of his death, Toronto chapter members remembered Joe saying: “His straightforward, matter-of-fact style, his energy, strength and warm smile, won the coldest heart and inspired us all to give that extra effort to get the job done... Most importantly he pushed us all and made us better. He brought us from a chapter that was \$700 in the red in 1977, to a chapter that funded Association programs in the order of \$67,000 in 1993. Joe's energy and enthusiasm inspired us all to go that extra mile.”

To quote his family, “For as long as we can remember the Tuesday night meetings, conferences and trade shows were very

much a part of the work he enjoyed. Few words can express the gratitude we felt in being part of our Dad's final CSC event.”

E.G. (Ted) Ladd was inducted into the College of Fellows at the Vancouver Conference in 1986. Born and raised in Winnipeg, he moved to Vancouver in 1948, and joined W.R. Grace & Co. of Canada Ltd. in 1971 as a technical representative. He joined the Vancouver chapter in 1966 and served in every capacity there, including chapter chair (1978) and director. He was chair of CSC's conference in Vancouver in 1977 and again in 1986 and served as vice-president conferences and awards for CSC from 1980 to 1982. He also received CSC Chapter Awards of Merit in 1977 and again in 1983.

Robert T. Phillips, of the Toronto chapter, received the National Award of Merit at the 1986 Vancouver conference. According to the *NIB*, at a time when the Association needed sound financial guidance, Bob Phillips picked up the challenge and in the period 1983-86 had managed to re-establish confidence in the future of CSC.

Specification Innovation

National Master Specification

In 1984, after 11 years of work, adaptation of the Government of Canada Master Construction Specification (GMS) was virtually complete and the National Master Construction Specification (NMS) was being marketed across Canada. It occupied 22 looseleaf binders, covering specifications for building projects, marine and heavy civil engineering works. It was also available in electronic form.

In 1985, CSC wrote a preliminary report on the possibility of privatizing the NMS, in response to a new Progressive

Conservative federal government initiative, which had been talking a lot about privatization. The report pointed out that use of the NMS was approaching saturation in the public sector. In the private sector, use of the NMS was approaching 50 percent, with NMS sales of \$245,000 in 1984. The NMS had substantially improved the quality of specifications and reduced the cost of producing them by more than half. As well, the report said the NMS could be called self-supporting. The private sector paid a user fee commensurate with the production cost, and the public sector cost was more than offset by improvements in productivity and quality. For that reason, the committee looking at the possibility of privatization recommended that the existing system for producing the NMS should be continued and it should not be privatized. At the time, CSC was providing the manpower to review the NMS, was marketing and distributing it. The government's NMS Policy Committee polished the reviewed sections, managed the database and published the end product.

Sales of the NMS were going well in 1985. In the first quarter of the year, new subscription sales reached more than \$27,000. By 1986, sales of the NMS were at more than \$200,000 annually.

CSC signed a contract with the federal government in 1986 to review sections of the NMS. Between 70 and 100 sections would be reviewed by CSC annually, and the Association collected close to \$500 for each section that its members reviewed.

The unit of work for 1986 on the NMS included 71 sections, which were reviewed by more than 100 members. CSC co-ordinators in June 1987, were: Ken Halldorson of Vancouver (architectural/structural), Peter Djwa of Vancouver (mechanical), Dinesh Gandhi of Toronto (electrical) and Dave Carothers of Toronto (heavy civil).

The company responsible for printing the NMS and CSC's technical documents declared bankruptcy in the summer of

1987. This situation could have spelled disaster if not for some quick action on the part of the CSC staff at the time. They were luckily able to recover from the printer all of CSC's masters and tapes, enabling the Association to carry on marketing its publications.

Under the contract to review sections of the NMS, CSC agreed to review 79 sections of the NMS in 1987 and received \$40,000. By 1988, CSC was in the third year of its five-year contract for review of the NMS. Between 90 and 100 sections were reviewed by CSC annually.

There were only 32 sections of the NMS to review in the 1989 unit of work, a major cut in the size of the public works contract to which CSC had become accustomed. The reduction was due to government budget restrictions.

A number of new NMS sections were proposed in the late 1980s. They included new sections for: geogrid soil reinforcement; restoration specifications for renovation/restoration projects; testing, adjusting and balancing all systems including air-moving systems; repair of stone; septic tank sewage disposal fields; pipe welding and sealants; pointing of stone masonry; topsoil and finish grading; and seeding.

In the fall of 1990, the Board of Directors and Executive Council decided to advise the Minister of Public Works that CSC was not in a position to go forward with an NMS privatization study at that time. It was generally agreed that CSC would be the appropriate organization to privatize the NMS but it was felt the timing inappropriate because of a recessionary economy and the potential for possible financial loss. In the spring of 1992, CSC's Board of Directors decided to reiterate to the federal government CSC's interest in conducting a feasibility study on privatization, providing financing was first confirmed.

NMS on Diskette

The NMS on diskette was launched at the 1988 conference in Edmonton. Although available in English at that time, it could not be marketed until the French version was available as well. It was expected CSC would be selling not only the hard copy NMS, but also the diskette version of NMS within a few months. The diskettes were 5.25 inches in size, with 360 kb capacity, programmed for WordPerfect V4.2 or V5.0 software and IBM or IBM-compatible PCs.

By 1989, the French translation was complete and the NMS became available on CSC diskettes. The diskettes were an electronic facsimile of the NMS that provided software for editing and processing construction specifications by electronic data processing equipment.

By October 1989, CSC had been marketing the NMS in hard copy for a decade and on diskette for six months. The Association was pleased that in just six months it had attracted nearly 125 subscribers for the diskettes. All in all, in 1989, 61.5 percent of the NMS sales were diskettes and 38.5 percent hard copy. Of the total copies of the NMS sold, 80 percent were in English and 20 percent in French. The Association expected it would sell about \$300,000 of NMS annually. The government had put a new clause in the contract requiring 10 percent of the sales be returned to it — so it appeared \$30,000 would go to the federal government. CSC protested the 10 percent requirement and entered into negotiations with the government.

NMS-Edit/Plus integrated the specification features of *NMS-Edit* and the project control capabilities of ProSpec into one product in late 1992, replacing three different products to achieve a complete system for construction specifications.

Sales Tax

In 1991, CSC learned that it was liable for provincial sales tax on NMS diskette sales from the date of the first sale. It was estimated this would amount to about \$17,000. There were concerns about the marketplace ramifications of collecting tax on product delivered up to two years ago, so the Executive Council decided CSC should try to collect the tax only on diskette sales made during 1991 in Ontario.

Computer-aided Design

A computer-aided design (CAD) software package that converted three-dimensional designs into two-dimensional drawings was available by January 1985. Mega Cadd Inc. advertised Design Board 3D Link as the first software package that would allow architects, engineers and designers to accomplish entire design projects on their personal computers.

Innovative Technology Inc.

In 1984, Ottawa-based Innovative Technology Inc. (ITI) developed a new system for using the NMS on the IBM personal computer. ITI announced the availability of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) in computer format by 1992, so that users did not have to buy a CD-ROM drive. The OBC was integrated into ITI's 'IDEA' software, which gave quick access to the code, CSA and CGSB standards as well as the Buildcore product database.

Canadian Construction Product Index

The possibility of CSC helping to produce a Canadian Construction Product Index was put on the table at a July 1985 Executive Council meeting. The index was to be a comprehensive listing of manufacturers, which would allow designers to find, under one

cover, who manufactured what. The index was to be prepared by Buildcore under contract with CSC.

Publication of the CSC/Buildcore Directory of Products for Construction in 1987 led to a letter of congratulations from the Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional and International Affairs, which was read at the February 1, 1987, Board of Directors meeting.

Canadian Construction Information Services

Canadian Construction Information Services (CCIS) was launched commercially in May 1989, by Southam Business Information and Communications Group, and promised to complete the computerization of spec writing. For \$1,350 a year, subscribers were promised unlimited access to search online NMS, the National Building Code, Ontario Building Code, CSA: Construction Plus, CGSB: Catalogue of Standard Construction Law and product databases such as Buildcore Index and Canadian Construction Record's Buyer's Guide.

AUTOSPEC/EDIT

AUTOSPEC/EDIT was an automated, semi-intelligent specification editing system, which became available from CSC in 1992. Using an IBM compatible computer and WordPerfect 5.1, a user answered technical AUTOSPEC-prompted questions on-screen and the system automatically managed the specification section, audit memo and a project table of contents file. In essence, based on the specifier's answers to the questions, AUTOSPEC provided the first draft of a project specification. AUTOSPEC was the focus of some controversy before it came to market. Just prior to a contract being signed between the developer and CSC, the Toronto chapter opposed it. The chapter objected to CSC promoting a program that it saw as being in competition with

the professional services its members provided and put forward a resolution to that effect at the 1992 Annual General Meeting. The resolution, which referred to CSC selling any private product, led to a great deal of discussion but was defeated and the sale of the product went ahead.

Manual of Practice

By the end of 1987, the following CSC Manual of Practice guides were available: preparation guide, page format, commissioning Volume C, contract change procedures Volume C, temporary facilities Volume C, landscape applications Volume D, interior applications Volume D, mechanical engineering applications Volume D, electrical engineering applications Volume D. The guides were written by CSC members who volunteered hundreds of hours of their time.



Manual of Practice historian, John Clinckett.

The Manual of Practice is not a Document; It's a System

In the following article, John Clinckett, a former CSC president, outlines the history of the CSC Manual of Practice. This article first appeared as a report presented to the Education Certification Committee and the CSC Board of Directors in 2000.

There seems to be a bit of confusion in the association around the origin of the CSC Manual of Practice (MOP) and I hope this discussion helps everyone gain a better understanding of the process.

In the mid 1960s CSC, then known as SWAC, originated two documents: The original Building Construction Index (BCI), now commonly referred to as MasterFormat; and the SWAC specification writers' correspondence course, which consisted of three binders of individually authored subject treatises with tests for each unit. The correspondence course gave birth to the two Specifier and Building Science books authored by Mervyn Jones of Ryerson, and published by SWAC. These binders totalled 272 pages. When Mervyn retired, the updating of this document was completed by an RSW research student. It became the Construction Specifiers Handbook [CSH], published 1981 by CSC. The red three-ring binder became the manual for the RSW exam and the text for the original evening courses. I personally used it for my RSW exam, and it was updated and expanded a number of times by the Technical Studies Committee.

In the late 1970s a group of well-meaning CSC members undertook to develop a curriculum of knowledge and study subject areas necessary to be a complete specifications writer with the hopes of selling or mounting it through colleges as a curriculum, known as "the INDECORE Chart '79" (Industry Developed Core Curriculum). It didn't take, although it became the basis for the educational programs we now enjoy in CSC. This chart was elaborated on and expanded by a number of members of Technical Studies Committee [TSC] and PD&ED [Professional Development and Education] committees in the early through mid 1980s while TSC was developing MANU•DATA and TEK•AID programs.

CSC also obtained a copy of the then CSI Manual of Practice, a group of sequentially numbered individual chapters of topical

information. TSC undertook to edit these documents for Canadian content and practices, CCDC references, metric measurement among others. In this chapter review, the Committee was constantly trying to put some order to it that wasn't there. After much debate, and some dissension, we came up with the system of volumes for the individual chapters, with the intention that the document would be placed in three-ring binders and could grow on one's office shelf as one accumulated other salient practice, regional documents, articles, papers, etc. These could be easily included in the system; would fit logically; and would be centrally available.

The Committee agreed and TSC and PD&ED took it to CSI for a joint meeting in Washington. CSI recognized the concept but their document production process was too far advanced to change streams.

It was felt that if the Manual of Practice was completed, it could take the place of the rather large CSH and it could then be re-edited to be used as the basis of an introductory course in specification writing. The original RSW level 2 & 3 used the information contained in the MOP as reference text for the courses.

In the late 1980s came the CSC-AS-TTF [Construction Specifications Canada – Alberta Section – Training Trust Fund] and federal funds to write educational documents. We now had teaching material that reflected the required information to pass the final exam — textbooks, rather than a living growing system of practice information. With this came the overriding notion of certification rather than continuing education and assisting practitioners in their daily work. There is a definite need for a system for practitioners to locate easily the myriad of documents and reference materials produced and collected by an individual or in any firm that desires to remain in the present.

Technology

TEK•AIDS

TEK•AIDs were authored in several different ways in the late 1980s — by chapters, by RSWs and by committee. However, it was difficult to find enough people to write them and in some cases, funding was available before services were offered.

In 1987-88, the Technical Studies Committee, led by Eileen Dwelsdorf (nee Bredeson), put a major push on developing 17 TEK•AID documents. Additional chapters for the Manual of Practice were also being developed and MasterFormat underwent minor revisions.

In 1988, the Long-range Planning Committee considered a proposal to address the problem of matching the NMS and TEK•AIDs. The proposal aimed to develop a TEK•AID, Digest and Reference for each section of the NMS. A user's guide for each section would also be formulated to provide guidelines to



Technical Studies Committee members Ian Bartlett, Dominique Theriault and John Sampson.

the user on how to modify each section to suit particular project requirements.

In November 1989, CSC introduced the revised Document 0 and Division 1 series of TEK•AID master specifications documents, intended for use by specifiers who used Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) documents.

MasterFormat

Work on MasterFormat continued with the release of the 1983 edition, which replaced the previous document published in 1978. In 1987, the Technical Studies Committee formed a sub-committee to liaise with CSI and review the MasterFormat document, which was due for re-publication in 1988. The Committee was chaired by Roy Ball and included John Clinckett, Ivan Lavender and CSC President, Keith Olsen as its members.

In the summer of 1992, the Executive Council was told that the publication of the 1992 version of MasterFormat might be delayed by five years due to the work being contemplated with UniFormat (with CSI). The Executive Council decided, however, that a 1993 MasterFormat was needed and informed CSI of their decision.

Education

A discussion of the vast amount of work done by CSC under the umbrella of education must include the various certifications and designations available, the numerous courses and seminars provided and the wide variety of publications, which are continuously updated.

Certifications and Designations

Registered Spec Writer (RSW)

The recommendations of the RSW Review Committee, led by Dave Egan, were presented to the Board of Directors in January 1985. It concluded that if the Registration Board had worked to CSC's bylaws, it would have been a very active board. Many of the guidelines and procedures that were adopted in 1973 and 1976 would have been effective, if followed, the Review Board said. It concluded that there should be more input from the RSW Board to the professional development/education committee and that courses should be developed by the Committee, whether through the development of the INDECORE (Industry Developed Core Curriculum) chart or something else. The Board recommended that, in the absence of an education program, the CSC Manual of Practice should be used as the course of studies for the RSW and examinations should be held twice a year, rather than at the individual's discretion. It also suggested the structure of the thesis required should be in line with the Technical Committee's TEK•AID program. A new Registration Board was established and a draft of the Registration Board Regulations was approved in principle for interim operation of the Board.

The Registration Board, under the direction of Chair Ian Bartlett, had an extremely active year in 1986-87. RSW examinations underwent a thorough review and were rewritten based on the CSC Manual of Practice. Preparation work was begun on an RSW promotional pamphlet and *Experience Log Book*. There were 31 RSW candidates in various stages of the procedure.

Construction Canada set out the requirements for designation as a Registered Specification Writer in its November 1993 issue. In order to be considered for designation as a Registered Specification Writer, a graduate architect, engineer or

technologist needed to have 7,500 hours specification writing experience and 1,000 hours of administration and inspection experience. People with substantial appropriate experience were also allowed into the formal training, with a minimum of 4,500 hours, provided they had completed the three-part CSC Home Study course for construction specifiers. A prospective RSW had to submit samples of his or her actual specifications to CSC's Registration Board and prepare a research paper using the prescribed format of the CSC *TEK•AID Preparation Guide Digest*. Within two years, a candidate had to join in the writing of a supervised, open-book specification writing assignment in an unfamiliar technical environment, get 70 percent overall on all submissions and complete an exam aimed at probing the candidate's knowledge of specifying principles, bidding and contract procedures and knowledge of construction information resources.

Early Certified Construction Contract Administrator

The Construction Administration and Inspection Technology (CAIT) diploma program was launched at Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in 1987. The post-diploma program was designed to prepare graduates to monitor and administer construction contracts to ensure work was done as intended by the contract documents. SAIT was the only Canadian institution offering the program.

Certified Technical Representative

A Certified Technical Representative (CTR) program was proposed in the late 1980s by Vancouver chapter member, Don Thomas. A committee set up a number of requirements that manufacturer/supplier members of CSC were required to meet in order to use the CTR designation. These included a code of ethics, educational and experience requirements, and product

knowledge requirements. In the fall of 1991, CSC decided to send a questionnaire to the membership to determine how to proceed with this program.

At the annual meeting in 1994, CSC President George Heath, reported on the CTR program saying, “The 1993-94 term marks the commencement of our much anticipated Certified Technical Representative Program. Education and certification for our product representative members is long overdue and expected to be well received in the construction industry as a whole.”

Courses and Seminars

INDECORE

Developing the Industry Developed Core Curriculum (INDECORE) chart for the construction specification writer into a number of courses for community colleges and a home study program was one of the priorities of CSC in the mid 1980s. The courses of study would be based on the 10 areas of competence outlined in the INDECORE chart. In 1985, the Edmonton, Toronto and Winnipeg chapters had courses, the Ottawa chapter gave a two-day workshop and other chapters were planning courses and seminars.

By September 1985, INDECORE curriculum development was about 75 percent complete. The Toronto chapter had financed the writing of the sections and editing of the curriculum and CSC was looking for funding for the final stages — for example, establishment of specific courses to be used in community colleges and development of a home study program.

By mid 1987, the INDECORE chart was complete, with financial help from the Toronto chapter, and had been formulated into the *Educational Reference Manual for Construction*

Specification Writers. The manual was intended as the basic manual for all of the education programs CSC wanted to set up, and would be made available to interested institutions and program co-ordinators.

Spec Writer’s Courses

In the spring of 1984, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and the Edmonton chapter of CSC developed a series of advanced courses in specification writing for the construction industry.

In January 1985, the Toronto chapter of CSC offered a course in “Construction Specification Principles” (Stage I) at George Brown College for the first time. The instructors were Arnold Barry, FCSC, RSW and David Pinkney, RSW and the course co-ordinator was Martin Jacobson. The course was full, with an enrolment of 35, and had a waiting list of 17 for the September class. A Stage II course for senior specifiers, architects and engineers started in January 1986. It covered contractual matters, liabilities, bonding, liens, etc., of the specification and was taught not by RSWs, but by other people in the industry, such as lawyers, architects and underwriters.

By September 1986, 50 people from the Toronto chapter had completed the Stage I course and received certificates from the chapter and George Brown College; the course was being offered for the third time. It covered: the 16-Division Format; 3-part Section format; Page format; Document 0 (Front End); Division 1 (Liens, Payments, Holdbacks, etc); construction associations and bid depositories; bonds and insurance; building codes; industry and association standards; and specification assembly and writing. It consisted of three-hour lessons given weekly for 21 weeks. The Stage II course (*Construction Specifier’s Manual*) was also being repeated. It focussed on

topics such as insurance, bonding, liens and liability and consisted of nine lessons of 2.5 hours each.

In 1985, CSC prepared a proposal for a two-week course on specifying principles to be given to 35 Department of National Defence personnel at Camp Borden. The course started in 1986 and was expanded in 1987 to a 10-day workshop that included electrical and mechanical specifications.

A week-long specifying seminar was presented to 40 employees of the Department of National Defence in February 1988 and a one-day specification writing course was held for employees of Transport Canada in March. Several other departments expressed interest and a seminar was also planned for the employees of the Atomic Energy Commission at Chalk River in June 1988.

CSC held five-day workshops for specifiers in Banff in 1991 and again in Ottawa in 1993, providing an in-depth study of the specification process, principles of specification writing, the role of the project manual in construction projects, and key documents used in construction specification preparation.

Five-year Education Program

The *Education Resource Manual*, completed in 1990, represented the basic resource material from which a spec writing course could easily be developed by a university or community college. In the fall of 1990, Eileen Dwelsdorf (nee Bredeson), vice-president for the Professional Development and Education Committee told the Executive Council that her Committee had developed a five-year education program. It would include expansion of the Education Resource Manual, the Home Study Course, the Registered Construction Document User Program (later known as the Certified Technical Representative

program), seminars and the Registered Specification Writer program.

Air Barriers

A seminar on air barriers in 1990 was well received and there was demand for a more detailed follow-up seminar, the Executive Council was told in July 1990. Seminars earned CSC \$33,000 in the year leading up to that meeting. The *TEK•AID Digest and Specification References* for air barrier design, detailing, specifications, supervision, application, manufacture or performance came out in March 1990.

Home Study Program

Profits from seminars in 1989 and subsequent years were poured directly into development of CSC's new Home Study Program, which used the *Education Resource Manual* as a base. The first phase of the Home Study Program, which was the phase for architectural staff and product representatives, was completed by mid 1990 and was available in 1991. Phases 2 and 3 were to be developed next.

In an address to the membership at the 1993 Annual General Meeting, CSC President George Heath said 1993 would see the completion of the complete three-phase Home Study Program for construction specifiers. The project's completion was the result of eight years of hard work and dedication by volunteers and vice-presidents, especially Eileen Bredeson.

Publications

Many excellent publications were available from CSC. In 1989, this is what members paid for them:

- ◆ *Construction Specifier's Handbook*, \$42

- ◆ CSC *Manual of Practice*, including MasterFormat 1988 and Section Format 1985, in a binder, \$170
- ◆ CSC TEK•AIDs, complete set Document 0 in binder, \$70
- ◆ CSC TEK•AIDs complete set Division 1 in binder, \$165

The *Construction Specifier's Handbook* was a primer for students, with 18 chapters and six appendices. It was an update of the former *Specifier and Building Science* textbook. The CSC *Manual of Practice* was a basic guide for a practicing specifier, providing theory, techniques and formats for the organizing of specifications and the construction Project Manual. TEK•AIDs were a technical information program for the practicing specifier, including digest, reference and master specification components.



Proud members of CSC Language Committee present the "Guide du Redacteur de Devis," first issue of French version of Construction Specifier's Handbook, March 1987.

TEK•AIDS

In the early 1970s, CSC chapters were involved in the work of preparing the guide studies. In the early 1980s, Forrest Grierson of the Toronto chapter suggested to the Technical Studies Committee (TSC) that CSC should develop a new comprehensive technical document for specifiers to replace the old guide studies. Grierson envisioned a three-part document consisting of an educational treatise of the subject, a reference portion, complete with standard details, and a master specification section. These documents which became one of the best technical references for specifiers in the consulting community, still carry the same name Grierson and the TSC created: TEK•AID.

In 1987, an attempt was made to revise and integrate the guide studies into the TEK•AID Series, and also have the RSW thesis follow the *TEK•AID Preparation Guide*. To that end, the guide studies were sent out for rewrite to the chapters that had originally written them. A copy of the *TEK•AID Preparation Guide* was included, along with a request that the chapters update the studies into TEK•AID format. In order to further develop the TEK•AIDs, the RSW Committee decided in 1990 that TEK•AID topics would be used as the thesis requirement for RSW certification.

Section Format

Section Format, a CSC/CSI document, was due for publication in 1990. A committee was formed in 1989 to solicit comments from as many sources within the construction industry as possible, including all of the chapters, the NMS community, the quantity surveyors, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Association of Consulting Engineers of Canada and Canadian Construction Association.

Construction Specifications Canada – Alberta Section – Training Trust Fund

The mandate of Construction Specifications Canada – Alberta Section – Training Trust Fund (CSC-AS-TTF) was to support CSC training activities. By the spring of 1992, it had been instrumental in assisting with *Education Resource Manual* Stages 2 and 3. Phase 2 of the Home Study Course was expected to be completed by the end of August 1992, and allowance for Phase 3 was being made. Another of its activities was a workshop in Banff in the spring of 1992. Activities funded by CSC-AS-TTF, which received federal funding for training, had first to be presented by CSC in Alberta, where the program had been spearheaded.

Bilingual Documents

Répertoire normatif, the MasterFormat in French, was well-accepted and was used in community college courses in Québec by 1985. The translation of the *Specifier's Handbook* was available in French by mid 1987. The Language Committee had also translated Section Format, Document 0 documents, Supplementary Tender Information forms and other documents by that time and was working on translation of the TEK•AIDs and the *Manual of Practice*. There were close to 50 documents on CSC's publications list by 1987 that were available in French and used extensively in Québec, all of them translated by volunteers free of charge.

In order to improve the Association's ability to translate CSC documents, the responsibility for translating them was turned over to an organization called Les Publications Françaises DCC in 1993. Traditionally, translations were handled through the Secretary of State co-ordinated by a federal employee who was a CSC member. When this member retired, the translation

arrangement ceased. Les Publications Françaises DCC was a separate organization set up to qualify for funding, similar to CSC-AS-TTF. With this development, the Language Committee was disbanded.

Chapter News

New Brunswick

In late 1993, the Board of Directors decided to canvass CSC members who lived in New Brunswick, advising them of a request that a Saint John chapter be established. Ten members responded and were in favour of a chapter, and Margaret Sweet, RSW, set about organizing the members into what would be called the New Brunswick chapter. CSC set aside \$1,000 in seed money for the chapter and the Executive Council decided to let the New Brunswick Executive determine in which community the chapter activities would take place.

Montréal

The Montréal chapter put on a membership campaign in 1986 and gained 112 new members. In June 1987, CSC had 1,433 members. In 1985, the new federal Minister of Public Works, Roch La Salle, visited the Montréal chapter and challenged the construction industry to form an advisory committee for him. CSC jumped at the chance and began trying to convince the government that, with its broad-based membership, it would be perfect to lead the initiative.

The Montréal chapter presented a resolution at the June 12, 1987 Annual General Meeting calling for *Construction Canada* magazine to be published in both official languages, keeping in mind that 15 percent of the Association's members lived in

Québec. The motion was defeated, 32 to 13, after members pointed out that the Association could not afford to do this. However, the magazine was ready to publish, in French, any articles submitted in French that did not require translation.

Toronto

In the late 1970s, the Toronto chapter of CSC was in serious financial trouble, dependent on the 10 percent rebate of Toronto chapter membership fees from the national Association. This was not enough to operate the chapter and valuable programs were dropped. An annual trade show was created and it became the source of the chapter's financial survival. In the 1984-85 season, Toronto came out of its shell and began to work on programs, creating an education course in specification writing for the betterment of the whole construction industry. While Toronto was redeveloping, the national Association was finding itself in even greater financial difficulties and was forced to postpone programs. By 1985, Toronto was able to offer its financial help. The chapter provided, for example, \$15,000 for the development of the INDECORE (Industry Developed Core Curriculum) Chart.

In the spring of 1983, Toronto chapter members signed a petition and their executive called for a special general meeting with the national Executive, prior to the annual meeting in June. Many members were disenchanted with the progress being made on some programs. The call for the meeting was withdrawn based on assurances from the national level. However, the Toronto chapter reported that its efforts had paid off, as evidenced by the implementation of changes to the RSW program to stimulate renewed interest and creation of a task force to dissect the INDECORE Chart for an educational program. A conference manual was also begun, to provide

guidance to chapters about conference organization, and *News in Brief (NIB)* started publication again, in an effort to improve communications.

On June 5, 1984, the Toronto chapter held its sixth annual No Frills Trade Show at the Harbour Castle Hilton, along with the annual convention. There were 210 tables at the show, a big increase from the 40 tables of the first year. Featured breakfast speaker, John Crispo, delivered an impromptu dissertation on politics and the Liberal leadership candidates. The 1985 Toronto Chapter Trade Show, held February 4, featured comedian Dave Broadfoot as the lunch speaker. The show attracted more than 2,200 architects, engineers, draftsmen, specification writers, property owners, contractors, plant engineers and developers, as well as 175 exhibitors. In 1986, Hee Haw's Gordie Tapp kicked off the annual trade show luncheon.

The Toronto chapter's meetings in 1986 covered everything from techniques to deal with defects in building envelopes (and limit liability insurance increases) to an update on the specifier's role in the industry, to issues facing the paint specifier. Toronto chapter also toured Valley City Manufacturing Co. in Dundas with the Hamilton chapter of CSC and the Buffalo chapter of CSI. In 1988-89, the Toronto chapter meetings covered topics such as the building envelope and air barrier membranes, building commissioning, slab on grade design and construction.

In 1986-87, the Toronto chapter funded a membership survey for the Association, paid for the printing of the Membership Roster and supported one of the technical education programs. In all, it contributed more than \$40,000, President Keith Olsen told the Annual General Meeting in June 1987. In 1990, the Toronto Chapter donated \$25,000 to pay for computer

hardware and software for the Association office. Executive Director Jim Duncan said the new computer system had significantly increased productivity in the office.

In 1993, members of Toronto chapter began to inquire about the possibility of attending CSC executive meetings. CSC ascertained that the Ontario Association of Architects permitted members to attend its council meetings. In the end, CSC decided to revise its *Administrative Manual* to state that executive meetings would normally be open.

In June 1988, the Toronto chapter began to publish “FREE Specifications” in its newsletter, *The Toronto Specifier*, but the specifications should perhaps have come with a warning about being worth what you paid for them. One such example was the “Pipe Specification, Material: 1.0” specification, which stated that “All pipe is to be made of a long hole, surrounded by metal centered around the hole.”

The first annual Golf Tournament of CSC Toronto Chapter was held at the Thunderbird Golf and Country Club, Ashburn, Ontario, August 18, 1988. CP Air offered a hole-in-one prize of two round-trip air fares to any destination on its system. The tournament also offered prizes for the best “Herb Tarlek look-a-like” golfer (à la WKRP in Cincinnati). In October 1989, the Toronto chapter toured the Buffalo waterfront redevelopment with the Buffalo chapter of CSI to compare it to Toronto’s own Harbourfront Plan. The Toronto chapter had 546 members in 1989.

Windsor

The Windsor chapter of CSC had very few members and no Executive in 1991. It was concluded there was insufficient interest among the membership to sustain a viable chapter there, due to the small number of members and poor performance of the

local economy. The Windsor membership was informed of the loss of their charter in the spring of 1992. The members were assigned to the London chapter.

Calgary

In 1985, membership dropped to 67, down from 114 the previous year. This was attributed to poor economic conditions resulting from a recession, which affected the oil and gas industry. On a bright note, 1985 saw the first annual joint meeting of the Calgary and Edmonton chapters held in Red Deer. The topic was Air Tight Buildings vs. Air Quality. Membership totalled 69 in 1986. By 1988, the chapter membership had increased to 75 and the chapter continued to be represented on the Calgary Construction Association Board.

In the 1980s, dinner meeting topics included: Productivity Applications with Computers; Barrier Free Design; Alternate Energy Systems; Mistakes in Tenders; Legal Critique of Spec Writing; and a half-day seminar on Selling to Specifiers. In 1987, the location of the dinner meetings changed to the Polish Canadian Cultural Centre, where topics included Architect Liability, China as a Potential Source of Work, and Free Trade. By 1989, the location of dinner meetings was once again changed, this time to the Austrian Canadian Cultural Centre.

In May 1990, the Calgary chapter introduced Vendor’s Corner at their Annual General Meeting. The fee was \$1 per person attending a 10-minute presentation. Joint meetings with other associations were organized; one with the Glass and Architectural Metals Association (GAMA) took place in 1991-92. Joint meetings with the Edmonton chapter continued. By 1991, the Calgary chapter was represented on the Calgary Construction Association Joint Building Industry Committee. In 1991, in addition to presenting their annual trade show held at the

Calgary Convention Centre, the chapter began planning to host the 1992 National Conference to be held in Calgary.

In 1993, a two-day education course on specifications and communication within the construction community was presented at the University of Calgary, continuing Calgary's emphasis on education. In the 1990s, dinner meeting topics included: Construction Payment Act; Mechanical Aspects of the Olympic Bobsled and Luge Project; Pitfalls in Contracting; and Environmental Regulations and Construction.

CSC-AS-TTF

In 1988/89 Dennis Looten of the Calgary chapter was elected to the position of 4th vice-president on the national Executive Council. It proved to be an important year for CSC, as in 1989 the concept of a CSC education trust fund was presented by Dennis Looten to the national Association. This concept was to be funded by a government grant. An organization called the CSC – Alberta Section – Training Trust Fund (CSC-AS-TTF) was formed with two trustees from Edmonton and two from Calgary. The Calgary trustees were Greg Barrett (replaced in 1992 by Tom Newton) and Steve Revay. The Edmonton trustees were Gino Ferri and Bob Murray. The administrator was Dennis Looten.

The 1990s saw the Calgary chapter continue its focus on education. The chapter ran four Level 1 courses in the first five years of the decade. In 1990, government grant money was received and the CSC-AS-TTF began developing and funding training and education initiatives. Among the accomplishments during the fund's duration were: the completion of an *Educational Resource Manual*; development of consistent and updated courses; development of a home study program; a two-day course and a five-day workshop; development of education related seminars such as CCDC changes; development of a CTR

program; and funding for three Alberta conference technical programs.

Victoria

In 1986, the board of directors voted to proceed with actions to withdraw Victoria chapter's charter and amalgamate the Victoria chapter with the Vancouver chapter. Members of the Victoria chapter became Vancouver chapter members effective January 1, 1987.

Vancouver

The Vancouver chapter turned over a surplus of \$25,000 to the Association from the Vancouver Conference '86 and Trade Show.

Influences

Think Canadian

The "Think Canadian" program of the federal Department of Regional Industrial Expansion gave CSC the opportunity to publish and distribute the *Buildcore Index '86 Compendium*, in 1986. It was a comprehensive catalogue that gave designers information about who manufactures and distributes what in the Canadian construction industry. This catalogue was to be published annually and used a maple leaf to identify products that the Department recognized as made in Canada.

Free Trade

The 1986 Memorandum of Understanding between the Canadian Standards Association and Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

was revised in 1989 to reflect the objectives of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The basic principle of the FTA was that standards must not be used to create unnecessary barriers to trade. The 1989 revisions included reciprocal acceptance of test data for a wide variety of products, from air conditioning equipment to circuit breakers, vacuum cleaners to communications cables.

Toronto chapter Chair Bruce Taylor predicted in November 1987, that free trade between Canada and the United States would not lead to a great onslaught of new products because most major manufacturers and suppliers of construction products had already marketed and sold their products in Canada for some time. Many of the established manufacturers and suppliers had gone to great effort and expense to ensure that both Canadian fabricated products and imported products from the United States complied with national and local building codes and had appropriate ULC and FM testing completed. However, he added that at that time, it was difficult to know what the implications of free trade would be.

WHMIS

On October 31, 1988, new legislation called *Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System* (WHMIS), became effective. It required that employers tell employees what chemicals they were working with, the hazards that existed, and how to handle the products safely. Stuart Frost, editor of *Construction Canada*, wrote in November 1988 that under the new law, specifiers would definitely pay more attention to the toxicity of materials when selecting and specifying construction products.

Legal Matters

Any discussion of preparation of specifications, sooner or later, brings up the famous (or infamous) "Or Equal" clause. "Or

*Equal" normally means that products other than what is specified can be submitted for approval, if in the estimation of the supplier they meet all the requirements of the specs. This clause usually is written into the specs. The question often raised is: Can you as a consultant or specifier write a proprietary spec in which you restrict the specs to one particular product, whether by name or description? The answer is yes! In a landmark court decision, *Whithen v. Paddock* (508F. 2nd 547- 1st Circuit 1974), the court ruled that proprietary specifications are not a violation of antitrust laws. In 1975, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of the decision by the District Court of Massachusetts affirming the specifying party's clear authority at the federal level. The court stated that trained professionals, such as specifiers, make informed judgments about products they feel are most suitable. If the specifier wants to limit specifications to one source or one manufacturer's product, he has the authority and responsibility to do so and to enforce it. This was one of the most important decisions in construction law history.*

Robert M. Waxman, CDC,
Construction Canada, May 1985.

[In] drawing specifications remember that the courts have held that, subject to the contract saying otherwise, the owner (and therefore the drawer of specifications) warrant that the specifications will work. When writing contract specifications you should not re-invent the wheel each time, but you should however draw your specifications to fit the specific needs of the project. Each set of specifications should be an embodiment of the peculiar needs of that particular project Mr. Justice Estey in the Supreme Court of Canada appropriately stated: "Such are the problems of the pioneer . . ."

W. Donald Goodfellow, Q.C.,
Construction Canada, July/August 1988.

Carson's Construction Dictionary was published in January 1990, by the Toronto Construction Association. The 107-page book was written by John Carson, a law partner at the Toronto firm of Carson Gross and general counsel to the TCA for more than 20 years. Its aim: to reduce the number of costly disputes and claims that arise from lack of understanding and clarity of construction terms, particularly as they relate to written documents and contracts.

In addition to the technical purpose of specifications to detail the precise nature of the construction to be performed on a project, specifications also have a legal status and function as part of the contract documents which define the rights and responsibilities between the owner and the contractor. Although specifications are typically not prepared with the input of legal counsel, the principles of legal interpretation which apply generally to contract documents are also applied to the interpretation of the specifications. Specification writers should be aware that ambiguities or omissions in the specifications sometimes become the specific focus of major construction litigation.

J. Marc MacEwing, LLB,
Construction Canada,
September/October 1990.

Time Capsule

Obituary

George Heath recalls that around 1990, vice-president John Muirhead, of the Saskatoon chapter, was killed in a car accident while travelling between Saskatoon and Regina.

Convention Highlights

Toronto 1984

The 1984 conference was hosted by the Toronto chapter, on relatively short notice, as the originally scheduled host was unable to fulfill its commitment. The conference was held at the Hilton Harbour Castle Hotel from June 3 to 6 and, despite the short notice, it was declared "best ever" with 200 displays and 1,000 visitors. The trade show took place in the Hilton Convention Centre, which was linked to the hotel by a walkway. The trade show luncheon speaker was the ever-entertaining and controversial, John Crispo. Topics on the technical program included: the time-frame for producing a new product and the testing required; a presentation on contract forms by the Canadian Construction Documents Committee; and trade jurisdiction vs. work definition by the unions and specifications sections. Fun Night was a dinner cruise on Lake Ontario.

Winnipeg 1985

The Winnipeg chapter hosted the 1985 convention (it traditionally played host in the years ending with the number "5") from June 3 to 5 at the Holiday Inn and adjoining Winnipeg Convention Centre. The theme was Bidding Procedures and Standard Contracts. The conference was described in a construction trade publication as "a dramatic break from the bleak construction industry association meetings of the last few years, where business prospects were poor and membership was dropping by the wayside." At the opening reception, an engineer from Edmonton, a supplier from Winnipeg and an architect from Montréal all said business couldn't be better. Fun Night was a step back

into the middle ages at Lord Gort's Feast, reached via double-decker open air busses.

Vancouver 1986

Vancouver hosted the world at Expo '86 and the Vancouver chapter hosted Conference '86 from June 22 to 25 at the Westin Bayshore Inn. The theme was Construction in Motion.



Eileen Bredeson receives award from President John Clinckett, during Vancouver Conference '86.

The conference featured a four-hour cruise along the Vancouver shoreline, concluding at the Expo '86 site with a fireworks display. Fun Night was an Expo Evening. The conference fee was \$195 and, in addition to being a very well-run conference, it made a significant contribution to the Association's financial well-being.



President Keith Olsen and wife Marg accept recognition after successful year in office, 1987.

Montréal 1987

Conference '87 was hosted by the Montréal chapter at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel from June 9 to 12. The theme was Communi Action and the event included the Contech '87 Trade Show. Fun Night dining and entertainment was provided at the popular Le Festin du Gouverneur, located on St.



President Keith Olsen bestows CSC honorary member status to George J. Bowen for his support and assistance to CSC.

Helen’s Island at the historic fort, followed by viewing of the fireworks competition at La Ronde Amusement Park. The Jacques Cartier Bridge provided an ideal viewing platform for the fireworks.

Edmonton 1988

The Edmonton chapter hosted the 1988 conference at the Edmonton Inn from June 5 to 8. The conference theme was Innovate or Stagnate, and the technical program provided two tracks of sessions; one geared to specifiers and the other to readers. On Fun Night, delegates, companions and guests were treated to dining and entertainment at Fort Edmonton.



Repairs at Edmonton Inn, Conference 1988 cause downpour in lobby of hotel.

Halifax 1989

The 1989 conference moved to the east coast where delegates and companions were hosted by the Atlantic chapter at The Château Halifax from June 11 to 14. The theme of Conference ’89 was appropriately, Changing Tides. Fun Night was a dinner cruise aboard the Harbour Queen with the John Alphonse Band providing music for dancing.



President Bob Murray presents Past-President's award to Jim Tobros, Conference 1989 in Halifax.

Saskatoon 1990

The Saskatoon chapter hosted Conference '90 at the Delta Bessborough Hotel on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River, May 27 to 30. The conference theme was Confronting the 90s. Among the topics in the technical part of the program were legal trends affecting construction in the 1990s and breakthroughs in construction management and documents. Fun Night took delegates and companions to Boomtown at the Western Development Museum for dining, entertainment and a stroll down Main Street of an indoor replica of an early prairie town.

Ottawa 1991

In 1991, the annual conference returned to historic Ottawa, June 2 to 5, to explore the Restoration Renaissance theme with

speakers and guided tours to study the many facets of building recycling. The venue was the Westin Hotel and adjoining Ottawa Congress Centre.

The Fun Night for this conference was titled Roaring 20s, and provided guests with the opportunity to dress-up. Lynn and Ian Bartlett took the opportunity to do so. As you can see from the photo, Lynn really got into the spirit of the roaring 20s party making the flapper dress, head band and earrings herself. Note, if you dare, the derringer attached to her right thigh with a decorative garter.

Entertainment for the Fun Night was a murder mystery provided by the capable actors of Eddie May Mysteries, who had been serving up murder, mayhem and mirth for over 19 years. They claimed to have murdered over 3,000 people at private parties. Kathy Donovan from CJOH-TV in Ottawa remarked, "It's the kind of night where anything can happen —



Ian and Lynn Bartlett get into the swing of things at Fun Night '91.



Ian Bartlett receives President's Medal from outgoing president, Robert Murray.

and it does!" How right she was. the Eddie May Mysteries planners may have never bargained for the likes of CSC conference attendees.

As the murder mystery unfolded, according to the script, the critical moment of suspense and drama arrived. The lights went out, a shot was fired, and a scream was heard. The lights came on and there on the floor lay not one, but three bodies. One, according to plan, was a murder

mystery actor and the other two, well who knew? The look on the lead actor's face was one of shock and amazement but, being a professional, experienced actor, he quickly recovered to exclaim "What a great shot that was!"

The first of the extraneous bodies belonged to Glen Vaillancourt, Ottawa chapter, who, it was later reported, simply fell off his chair while attempting to steal the bottle of wine from the adjacent table using the sudden darkness to conceal his theft. The second body, and this report is unsubstantiated and highly suspect, belonged to Gino Ferri, Edmonton chapter, who simply fell off his chair.

Calgary 1992

The Calgary chapter hosted Conference '92 at the Westin Hotel from June 7 to 10. The trade show was held at the Convention

Centre attached to the Four Seasons Marriott Hotel. The theme was The Environmental Challenge, with technical sessions relating to "green" design and construction technology and practices. The technical program addressed the economical, political and technical threats to the environment. Session topics included: Environmental Auditing in Canada, Recycled Architectural Building Materials, and Buildings and the Environment: Assessing Design Options. Alberta's Minister of the Environment, Ralph Klein, was a keynote speaker. A trade show was held at the Calgary Convention Centre, in conjunction with the conference, with approximately 100 exhibitors. One hundred delegates and 60 non-delegates attended Conference '92. Fun Night was held at Stampede Park and included dining and entertainment with a wild west flavour. Attendees were challenged to calf roping from a mechanical horse. This was so popular that it was tried again 10 years later at Banff. The total contribution to CSC from the conference was \$37,500, of which \$13,500 was provided by the CSC-AS-TTF.

Toronto 1993

Conference '93 was hosted by the Toronto chapter at Deerhurst Resort, located in Huntsville, about a two-hour drive north of the city, from June 6 to 9. Delegates and companions, who arrived in Toronto by air attended a welcome reception in Toronto before being bussed to Deerhurst the following day. Although the venue was a popular resort, registration fees, which included accommodation and all meals, were reasonable because the conference costs were subsidized with surplus funds generated by the Toronto chapter's February trade show. The theme of the conference was Contracts and included John Crispo as a keynote speaker. Fun Night consisted of dinner and a well-performed song and dance review from the 50s at the

on-site dinner theatre on the shores of the beautiful Peninsula Lake.

Spec Notes

Computers in the office

The computerization of job- and contract-oriented industries is accelerating rapidly. In 1974, 74 percent of Canadian contractors surveyed “would never consider using a computer for cost control.” By 1980, only 11 percent “considered computerized cost control unimportant.” Similarly, interest in computerization for estimating rose by 60 percent.

Brent Holden, RIA, president of RMS Management Systems Inc., in the “Revay Report”, Construction Canada, September 1985.

Computerized Specifications

Concurrent with software development, the evolution of master specification systems began in earnest and has continued to the present. The distinct necessity for utilizing a base master specification is to work from a common specification base for the preparation of each uniquely customized project specification. This base specification must be dynamic in structure, permitting updating and maintenance with relative ease. The selection of an appropriate word processing software program is critical to capturing the efficiency of this form of specification production.

Wayne Watson, writing about how computers were affecting specification writing in *Construction Canada*, November 1987.

What is a “Specification”?

It is rather surprising that the organizations which are directly concerned with production and improvement of construction specifications have not come up with succinct definitions. . . . After gathering and reviewing numerous definitions the following is the result of our search. . . . Specifications: A written concise description of the project to be constructed, supplementing drawings and forming part of the contract and describing qualities of materials, their methods of manufacture and installation into the project, workmanship and mode of construction and also giving other information not shown in the drawings and including description of the final result. Specifications indicate the procedure by means of which it may be determined whether the requirements given are satisfied.

Val Stengels, FCSC, RSW,
Construction Canada, November 1984.

In the last few years with the tremendous technical advances in word processing, many architects and engineers have safely stored their specs on word processors, disks, etc. This is a great technological advance for the architect, as it becomes very easy to pull a spec off the computer. Herein lies the essence of the problem. Many architects have the tendency to use the same spec for all types of projects. This usually leads to a great deal of confusion, as it is unlikely that a hollow metal spec for a hospital will be applicable for the elderly housing project.

Robert M. Waxman, CDC,
Construction Canada, May 1985.

Coming of Age: 1994-2003

Governance

Governance Model

CSC's governance model came under review at the 1995 fall Board meeting with Executive Director James Duncan, promoting the "Carver" model. Following input from CSC chapters, a workshop was held during the 1996 spring Board meeting with former President Dennis Looten, acting as facilitator. The outcome was to maintain existing governance structure, but with direction influenced by a new strategic plan evolving from the workshop. This was based on the concept of the Carver model that the Board of Directors would set policy and the staff would execute it. It was meant to streamline Board meetings by avoiding situations where the Board became bogged down in details.

The new governance model was a topic of hot debate at many chapter meetings in the fall of 1995. A report was prepared by Don Shortreed, with files from Dinshaw Kanga, CSC president in 1994-95 and Carole Howlett. It was published in the *Toronto Specifier*.

The CSC Executive Council's reasons for revising the governance structure were:

- ❖ *The workload on the Executive Council had increased substantially in the last couple of years.*
- ❖ *Directors had requested more participation in the running of CSC.*
- ❖ *A more efficient way to run CSC was needed to compensate for the declining revenue base.*

- ❖ *It was harder to find volunteers due to the working environment — fewer people, double the workload.*
- ❖ *No level of accountability was required from the Association office.*
- ❖ *With a commitment of 10 to 13 years required to become CSC president, including time on the chapter executive, and the increased workload, the chances of burnout were increased.*

Three proposed models of a new governance structure were developed and one was chosen as the functional model, but it was pointed out that it was only a starting point and no changes to the bylaws could take place without ratification by the full membership. The revised governance structure was to be



Board of Directors for 1993-94.

presented to the Board of Directors at its next meeting in February 1996.

It was the opinion of the Toronto chapter Executive that the chapter membership should be kept abreast of the ongoing dialogue on proposed changes to the CSC governance structure, in order to allow the membership a chance to provide timely input into the way the Association was being governed. To that end, the Toronto chapter Executive held a special meeting on October 24, 1995 to discuss the proposed changes. President Dinshaw Kanga advised that concerns raised by the Toronto chapter were not unusual and similar questions were being raised across the country.

Board members had expressed concern about the workload and the time commitment, given that 10 to 13 years of unbroken service — including time on the chapter Executive — was needed by the president. In the work environment of the late 1990s, long-term commitments were becoming more difficult to justify. Board members suggested that shorter terms would be more willingly accepted by directors and volunteers.

Kanga explained the proposed changes saying: “An environmental scan would be conducted to explore membership and industry needs. This would create a knowledge and information base, rather than an opinion-based structure. Goals and objectives could be identified from the scan. The Board would then set monetary limitations and checks and balances for the office. The Board would become active in all portfolios and the employees at the national office would take the responsibility of ensuring all projects were completed.”

Concerns were expressed over the availability of funds for expanded office staff and replacing volunteer vice-presidents with paid office staff. Concern was also expressed that, while office staff could support volunteers, they could not lead or monitor them.

Kanga pointed out that the environmental scan would set priorities and avoid projects that ended up sitting on a shelf and generating little or no revenue for the Association.

Concern was expressed by Don Shortreed that the Toronto chapter, with 450 members, had only one director and therefore one vote. Votes, he said, should be more representative of the membership. Kanga agreed that this important issue needed to be addressed.

H. James Duncan, CSC executive director, weighed in on the topic with an article in the *Toronto Specifier*. Outlining the need for change he wrote:

Our directors have told us they are not satisfied with the way things are run and they want more input into decision making.

With a declining revenue base, resources have to be directed toward programs that have a high level of member support.

Except for education programs, most products are at the end of their life cycle.

The current board structure spends too much time on how things are done, rather than what should be done.

Our structure is process driven, not results driven.

Levels of responsibility, authority and evaluation are fuzzy.

People are no longer willing to make the 10- to 13-year time commitment needed to become president.

We have unrealistic expectations of our executive, resulting in volunteer burnout.

Four steps to establish the system were proposed.

- ◆ *Ends: Determine why CSC exists, who is to benefit and at what cost.*
- ◆ *Executive limitations: This refers to the principles of how the staff carries out the Board direction.*
- ◆ *Board/staff relationship: This clarifies who is to do what.*

- ◆ *Board process: This means how the Board as a group will work.*

In February 1996, an informal meeting of the Board of Directors was called by CSC President Stephen Revay to review the following points. Dennis Looten, FCSC, a past CSC president acted as a facilitator.

- ◆ *CSC membership survey review*
- ◆ *CSC governance*
- ◆ *NMS/RFP 95-01*
- ◆ *Establishment of board priorities*

Revay said the meeting was an opportunity for all directors to provide input into the future of CSC. He suggested that if the Board was dissatisfied with the results of the day's activities, it should not point fingers, as the Board collectively was responsible for its actions.

Looten said the Executive Council had done a good job in consolidating governance comments received from the chapters and had presented a reasonable set of recommendations to the Board. Each director was then asked for their comments related to the memo that dealt with governance and operation adjustments.

While many chapters were receptive to the contemplated changes, the majority were relieved that the pace of the proposed changes would be slower than originally suggested. Most of the questions posed by the chapters dealt with how the changes would be implemented and why they were needed.

Roy Shearer, representing the Ottawa chapter said "the feeling among members was that while change was probably necessary, we should go slower. Overall, the question was 'why change?'" The recommendations before the Board, he said, "addressed Ottawa's concerns."

Burt Barteaux said the Atlantic chapter was positive about the proposals and went on to say, "We should not be afraid to regroup and to continually examine and evaluate what we are doing." He was concerned about those who questioned the need for change saying, "If we don't, we'll go the way of the dinosaur."

Don Shortreed, Toronto, said the main concern was the workload on the office and how it would be handled. Another concern of the Toronto chapter was the feeling that the new model could result in heavy use of consultants, which could potentially bankrupt the Association. The other concern of the chapter was representation by population, or the size of the chapter in relation to the number of directors.

Looten, as facilitator of the meeting, felt there was a willingness to look at change and that the Association's way of doing



Board of Directors for 1994-95.

business should be examined. While no structural changes were recommended, he said the Board should discuss the issue on an ongoing basis. As a result of the concerns expressed by the chapters, only operational changes were proposed and discussed. They included:

- 1) The Board would identify issues of importance to CSC based on its knowledge, feedback from chapters and feedback from member surveys.
- 2) The Board would prioritize issues of importance to CSC.
- 3) Executive Council would calculate budgets based on board-identified priorities and determine, in descending order of importance, the issues that could be accomplished during the term.
- 4) The Executive Council would present a budget to the board prior to March 31.
- 5) Vice-presidential responsibilities would be assigned based on prioritized issues.
- 6) Working committees would be identified and formed by vice-presidents and would include a co-chair.
- 7) It would be the chair's responsibility to identify and assign tasks and ensure the mandate was accomplished.
- 8) The executive director would provide updates on each committee's activities to the Board on a predetermined basis.
- 9) The executive director would support the various committees on the management and administrative side, but would not set the committee agenda or direction.

10) The priorities of the executive director and the office would be the same as those identified by the Board, plus day-to-day administration and management.

11) The board would continue to meet twice yearly.

The group then took on the task of determining the CSC priorities using the membership survey. The issues were discussed and a determination was made as to which were administrative and which deserved Board attention. The priority list was as follows:

- ◆ *financial stability*
- ◆ *membership/chapter support*
- ◆ *marketing*
- ◆ *communications*
- ◆ *education/certification*
- ◆ *technical*
- ◆ *National Master Construction Specification (NMS)*
- ◆ *translation*
- ◆ *conferences*
- ◆ *organizational structure*
- ◆ *International Construction Information Society (ICIS)*
- ◆ *director training/orientation*
- ◆ *partnering*
- ◆ *membership directory*

Those items not on the priority list were determined to be important, but were primarily administrative in nature and could be handled by the office as ongoing activities.

In the March/April 1996 issue of *Construction Canada*, H. James Duncan, CSC executive director, wrote on the role of the Association:

More and more the role of the Association is related to that of obtaining and offering business services to its members (customers), rather than as a forum for likeminded individuals. This is not to say that the role of the forum is no longer important, rather, the reason people join and remain members of an association has shifted in favour of being able to obtain and offer business services. This has produced a move away from issues management to one of facilitation of business services. How associations react to this shift is often expressed in governance changes or, to borrow the corporate term, re-engineering

Those associations that do not address governance issues find themselves falling into increasing irrelevancy — you can't continue to do what you have always done and expect everything to remain the same.

CSC recently embarked on an exercise to re-examine itself and its products and services. One service identified by the membership in a survey conducted in December of 1995 is increased education and certification training.

The survey received a 30 percent response rate from the members. The results were analyzed by the Board in February of 1996. Overwhelmingly members joined CSC and retained their membership because of their local chapter meetings, trade shows and educational seminars. More than 50 percent of members wish to obtain a Registered Specification Writer, Certified Construction Contract Administrator, or Certified Technical Representative designation.

Using member input, the Board was able to form a plan whereby it will re-structure committees with a greater emphasis on communication, and allocation of resources in support of professional goals. The Board was able to accomplish this renewal while leaving the formal structure of the Association in place, thereby maintaining the comfort this represents to members and chapters.

Board Meetings

Due to the accessibility to good air transportation and the number of Board members residing in central Ontario, Board meetings were usually held in Toronto on twice-a-year schedule. The Executive Council met for one day immediately prior to each Board meeting and during the annual Association conference. Between meetings, Association business was conducted via electronic communications. Discussions, however, occasionally took place on the possibility of holding Board meetings in other locations.

In November 1994, the Executive Council discussed the possibility of holding the September 1995 board meeting in Québec City in order to demonstrate support for Conference '96, planned for Québec City. A discussion took place on the costs and precedents involved in holding meetings in a conference host city. While meetings in central Canada would not necessarily increase costs, meetings in Vancouver or Halifax would. It



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Board of Directors for 2003-04.

was recognized that the Québec conference represented a different situation as it was a joint CSC/Les Publications Françaises (DCC) Inc. (LPF) conference.

In October 1995, a discussion at the Board meeting concerned funding for the upcoming February 1996 Board meeting. It was suggested by Don Shortreed that each chapter consider funding their director's attendance, rather than having the national Association pay the cost of director attendance. It was agreed that each director would approach their chapter executive to determine whether they would be able to offer funding. Failing that, the Toronto chapter might be able to support those directors who required funding.

Alternatively, the funding for the meeting could be taken from surplus, as agreed in February 1995.

Long-range Planning and Marketing

George Heath, CSC president for 1993-94, noted that marketing activities would be of paramount importance during his term. More seminars, more chapter education programs, increased membership, better recognition for RSWs and action

on the development of the Certified Technical Representative (CTR) program would mark his term. Special emphasis would be placed on development of French language publications with LPF, through Vice-President Issy LeBlond.

The specific goals of the Association were outlined by the executive council in February 1994.

- ◆ *Awards: Increase recognition value of member awards by informing employers of awards members have won.*
- ◆ *Legislative goal: Have uniform chapter utilization of administrative manual by 1999.*
- ◆ *Education and professional development: Recognition of CSC as the leading education source for construction contract documentation in Canada by 1999.*
 - Ensure RSW involvement in the production of CSC technical material and presentation of CSC educational offerings.*
 - Promote the use of RSWs among architects, engineers and government.*
 - Determine the role of the RSW in the future office.*
 - Develop the Certified Technical Representative program.*
 - Determine the feasibility of a Certified Contract Administration Program.*
 - Determine the feasibility of a Construction Document Technologist Program.*
- ◆ *Technical studies goals: Improve the recognition of CSC as the leading source of construction technical documents in Canada by maintaining the NMS and AUTOSPEC, and developing a CSC Master Specification.*
- ◆ *Financial goals: Attaining an operating surplus equal to eight months' operating budget by 2000.*

Hiring technical support staff and obtaining additional office equipment such as a Macintosh computer and a CD-ROM reader were also included in the goals. In April 1994, \$2,000 was budgeted for the purchase of a new computer server for the CSC national office.

For many years, the past president was responsible for the strategic planning portfolio. In 1998, the first vice-president assumed responsibility for strategic planning so that he/she would be overseeing the establishment of objectives and activities for the year in which he/she was president.

In July 2001, CSC President Don Shortreed, RSW, CET, outlined the year's objectives:

For those unable to attend the annual general meeting, I will reiterate some of our objectives for the coming year.

MOP and TEK•AID: A dedicated individual has been asked to bring the Manual of Practice back online. I would ask for your patience with this task as it will not happen overnight. Another goal is to bring the TEK•AID program back on-stream. There is a lot of valuable information within these documents that should be available to members.

Education: Thanks to the Calgary chapter, over the next three years we will be evaluating CSC's education programs with respect to what students should know on graduation. The exercise may also lead to modularization of CSC courses for distance or Internet learning.

In the upcoming year we would like to strengthen our relationship with CSI and industry partners McGraw-Hill Construction Information Group.

We will participate in developing systems like the OmniClass Construction Classification System with the intent of keeping CSC at the forefront of the development of new classification system databases.

This is just a brief summary of what the Association would like to accomplish this year and are not designed to take away or distract from CSC's ongoing activities.

Mary J. Friesen, RSW, CSC president 2002-03 reported:

While developing CSC's new strategic plan, we reflected on the Association's vision, core values and beliefs. A new vision statement was developed by asking the question: "How do we want to be perceived and where do we want to go?" Our new vision statement reads: "The construction community's first choice for quality documentation, education and networking."

The beliefs that guide us in business and govern our behaviour are summarized in the new core value and belief statement: "Quality, Professionalism, Teamwork, Integrity, Openness and Innovation."

These new statements lead us to reword our mission statement, which asked: "What are you doing today?" The CSC mission statement now reads: "Committed to the ongoing development and delivery of quality education programs, publications and services for the betterment of the construction community."

Membership

A motion was passed at the February 1995 Board meeting to issue CSC membership cards. Upon receipt of dues, a wallet-sized membership card would be issued on an annual basis. The front of the card would include the CSC logo, member designation, member since date, and a signature box. The rear of the card would include CSC's mission statement, list of chapters and a smaller version of the CSC logo and address.

Membership cards would be issued by CSC, upon payment of dues, commencing in 1998. The cards would provide members with a method of demonstrating that they were members in

good standing and would also provide a method of tracking and assisting members. The cards were meant to provide a membership identification system to control access to CSC/CSI membership services.

In late 1994, the Board of Directors approved an increase of \$2.50 in membership dues for 1995. The increase was needed as, due the general economic situation, there had been no increase in membership dues for the previous two years and the minimal inflation had been absorbed by CSC. In September, 1995, the Board voted to increase membership dues by \$2.50 for the 1996 membership year and to consider a further increases annually.

Membership dues for active members increased from \$167.50 to \$172.50 effective January 1, 1999.

In 1993, Vice-President Issy LeBlond reported that 21 people were active in the membership campaign, which had recruited 107 new members. A toll-free fax number was set up to assist members.

With membership in the Association at 1,317 in late 1994, a three-pronged marketing campaign was begun. CSC was aiming for a membership target of 2,000 members in 2000. With a yearly retention rate of at least 80 percent, each chapter would have to recruit an average of 10 new members per year. "It may seem a formidable task," wrote Marketing Officer Don Marks, "but it is attainable." The Saskatoon chapter increased membership by 75 percent and Ottawa was up 10 percent to 118 members. In February 1995, it was announced that CSC membership stood at 1,384, up 67 members from October.

CSC held a national membership recruitment campaign between October 1, 1995 and December 31, 1995. Each member who sponsored a new member was entitled to one ballot for a contest draw prize of a registration for one delegate at Conference '96 in Québec City.

As of December 1996, CSC was pleased to welcome 116 new members. This represented a growth of 8.4 percent and was encouraging in the drive for 2,000 members in 2000.

Membership in CSC as of October 1997, stood at 1,309, an increase of 40 members over total membership in the fall of 1996. The Toronto chapter membership totalled 441.

As of September 30, 1998, membership totalled 1,344, an increase of 35 members over the previous year. The Toronto chapter had 445 members. In February 1999, membership was at 1,424. The 2,000 members in 2000 was not reached; but continued to be something for which the Association aimed. In 2004, membership reached 1,502.

Executive Director

James Duncan, CAE, resigned his position as CSC executive director in June 1996, after holding that position for six years. Duncan gave his final report at the 1996 convention. He praised the Board for its vision and commitment and said the Association was in an advantageous position regarding its future development. In an oral report, he commented on the survival of the association, the governance process, the membership survey and the establishment of priorities.

George Heath, FCSC, Winnipeg, thanked Duncan for his dedication and Gino Ferri, FCSC, Edmonton, thanked Duncan for transforming the Association office into an efficient and business-like operation. Duncan left CSC to become the executive director of the Ontario Chiropractic Association.

Later in 1996, Issy LeBlond, CSC president, announced the appointment of Hélène C. Green, CAE to the position of CSC executive director, effective September 1, 1996. Green had over 15 years experience in the not-for-profit field and had held the position of executive director of the Manitoba Association of

Architects. For the previous two years she had been the executive director of the Spina Bifida Association of Canada. Her contract was terminated in December and John Jensen, FCSC, became acting executive director until Nikola (Nick) Franjic, CAE, was appointed executive director April 1, 1997.

Franjic had been an employee of CSC since 1993, during which time he achieved his CAE designation and was involved in all aspects of CSC business, including accounting and membership. Prior to coming to CSC, he had gained many years of management experience in the hospitality industry.

New Office

Prior to expiry of the office lease on Toronto's Lombard Street in 2001, the Association purchased 1,100 sq. ft. of condominium office space at 120 Carlton Street, Suite 312, in Toronto using reserve funds. This acquisition reduced the annual operating expenses, while retaining value as a fixed asset. The office space was enhanced with new ceiling finishes donated by CGC, floor finishes donated by Armstrong and tiles donated by Arriscraft International.

Publications

Construction Canada

At the 1993 Annual General Meeting, President Dennis Looten noted that *Construction Canada* would henceforth be published by an outside publishing organization, a step that was taken to limit financial losses. The September/October 1993 issue was the first issue of *Construction Canada* to be published by NIB publishing, with Jim Tobros as executive editor. Although NIB was responsible for publication of the magazine, CSC maintained editorial supervision by appointing six CSC members to the Editorial Advisory Board. NIB continued to publish the

magazine until the expiry of their agreement in 1998, when negotiations between NIB Publishing and CSC failed to reach agreement on the subsidy level for the magazine. As a result, proposals from other publishers were considered and the one from Kenilworth Publishing was accepted. The Kenilworth agreement did not require a subsidy and allowed for revenue after year one of the contract.

A survey of the readership of *Construction Canada* conducted in early 1994, indicated that readers wanted more technical articles, specification-related articles and expansion of the legalities column. A new column called Spec Talk was to be introduced.

In the May/June 1998 issue of *Construction Canada*, Tobros wrote:



Ellen Kral, Publisher of Construction Canada magazine, presents John Cooke with the F. Ross Browne Article of the Year Award, Conference 2003 Regina.

This is NIB Publishing's last issue of Construction Canada magazine and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the industry who have participated and contributed to this magazine. The entire editorial content comes directly from the experts in the industry, offering our readers a vehicle to keep up-to-date with the latest technology. The magazine is read in detail from cover to cover, as evidenced by the many letters and feedbacks from our readers.

In the September 1998 issue of *Construction Canada*, Nick Franjic, CSC executive director, wrote:

Communication, be it verbal or written, is an organization's lifeline. The Specification Writers Association of Canada, as CSC was originally known, published its first magazine, the Specification Associate in 1959. Through the years it evolved into Construction Canada, a vital communication link for CSC members and the construction industry.

Commencing with this issue, Construction Canada has a new publisher, a redesigned magazine format, expanded and more targeted editorial and a broader market reach. Our new publisher, Kenilworth Publishing Inc., has excellent credentials and a track record of success as a publisher of association magazines.

Kenilworth has continued to publish the magazine up until the present time, with Ellen Kral as publisher and Blair Adams as executive editor. A six-member Editorial Advisory Board, appointed by the CSC Board of Directors, continues to oversee the editorial content of the magazine. Since contracting out publication of the magazine in 1993, the cost to the Association has steadily diminished to the point where CSC is now the beneficiary of royalties based on the advertising content of *Construction Canada*.

CSC owes a debt of gratitude to those visionaries who, in the early days of the Association, recognized the importance of effective internal and external communications and established

this vital link to members and the construction industry. Thanks go to the many members who solicited or wrote informative articles for the magazine as well as those who have served on editorial advisory boards.

Les Publications Françaises (DCC) Inc.

At the annual Members' Forum, held June 6, 1995 in Winnipeg, Ian Bartlett, FCSC, RSW, Ottawa, asked for clarification of the relationship between CSC and Les Publications Françaises (DCC) Inc. (LPF). Issy LeBlond answered saying that LPF was a separate, not-for-profit organization established by the Montréal, Québec and Ottawa CSC chapters. Québec is the base of operations to allow for credible applications for funding to the government of Québec. He stated that Conference '96 would be the springboard to deliver CSC goods and services to Québec members. To be a member of LPF, you first had to be a member of CSC. CSC had a seat on the LPF Board and CSC educational products were being targeted for translation. Guy Duchesneau, FDCC, LPF president, said the Québec government would provide funding for specific activities and that was the basis of how LPF was organizing its work. He said an investment in LPF was an investment in CSC. Products jointly produced by the two organizations or sold by one organization on behalf of the other were subject to revenue sharing.

In February 1997, CSC President Issy LeBlond said: "Les Publications Françaises (DCC) Inc. is pleased to report that the translation of the RSW/CTR/CCCA Level 1 course is well under way thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Toronto chapter. The Montréal and Québec chapters are planning to run the course this spring. Translation of MasterFormat 95 is expected to be completed in May of 1997."

It was reported to the Board of Directors in October 1998, that the translation of the MasterFormat into French was

complete. The new document would be available pending finalization of copyright and a cover.

In December 1997, CSC President Gerry Wilson, RSW, wrote:

Les Publications Françaises — DCC (LPF) was developed within CSC to assume responsibility for French language translation of CSC technical and educational documents. Liaison with LPF continues to be a priority for CSC. Presently, LPF has completed a substantial portion of the translation of MasterFormat 95 and the Construction Specifications Handbook. When the translation of these documents is complete, CSC and LPF will be able to extend CSC technical and educational programs to French-speaking chapters.

NMS

A review of the financial statements to December 31, 1997 indicated that the projected loss for the fiscal year 1997-98 was due to a lack of NMS revenue. It was noted that any loss of the revenue for the current year should be budgeted for the following year.

Awards

Quality Documents Competition

In September 2001, CSC introduced Canada's first annual competition to recognize excellence in construction documentation. The CSC Quality Documents Competition (QDC) was born out of a dedication to improving construction documentation, coupled with a desire to provide Association members with an opportunity to showcase their work.

The QDC consists of two main categories: Project Manuals and Product Binders.

CSC recognizes that the quality and professionalism of product literature contributes directly to the success of a project. Well-written product binders are essential to effective specifications and promote clear communication among all parties involved in building design and construction. More importantly, the quality and professionalism of construction documents contribute directly to the success of projects.

CSC noted that the effort, experience and depth of knowledge required to prepare the project manual, along with effective product literature to co-ordinate the technical, administrative and procedural requirements that comprise the project manual were skills to be acknowledged and rewarded. The following awards were given out in 2001.



Members of the Quality Documents Competition Committee presented with Program Director's award for their efforts in launching the competition.

- ❖ The QDC Project Manual Award was given to The Cohos Evamy Partners and Keith Robinson, RSW of The Cohos Evamy Partners.
- ❖ The QDC Product Binder Honour Award was given to Arriscraft International.
- ❖ The QDC Product Binder, Honourable Mention Award went to C.J. Rush Industries, the Merit Award also went to C.J. Rush Industries.

The 2002 Quality Documents Competition attracted one Project Manual and four Product Binders for evaluation. The Project Manual was of excellent quality, but unfortunately had a major deficiency, which eliminated it from competition. Of the four Product Binders, one had a major deficiency and was disqualified. The remaining three did not meet the standards that merited any awards. It was the consensus of the Committee that it was preferable not to issue an award for 2002 as doing so would undermine the credibility of the competition.



Toronto Chapter receives Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year Award at Conference '96.

Award winners for 2003 were presented at the 2004 CSC conference and were as follows:

- ❖ Project Manual Merit Award went to The Cohos Evamy Partners and Keith Robinson, RSW.
- ❖ Product Binder Honourable Mention Award went to Maxxon Corporation.
- ❖ Project Manual Honourable Mention Award went to The Cohos Evamy Partners and Keith Robinson, RSW.

New Scholarship

In 2003, the Calgary Chapter entered into a scholarship agreement with the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT). With an endowment amount, a fund was established for the exclusive purpose of awarding an ongoing Construction Specifications Canada Scholarship. The award was to go to students in the Architectural Technologies Program at SAIT with the highest marks in the specifications course.

Chapter of the Year Award

The Chapter of the Year Award was created in 1976 by then Executive Director, Lloyd Boddy, to recognize outstanding achievements by a chapter toward fostering the objectives of CSC. The award was presented annually to one chapter of CSC at the Awards Luncheon held during the annual CSC conference. The winners of the award during this period were: Toronto (1993-94), Saskatoon (1994-95), Toronto (1995-96), Edmonton (1996-97), Vancouver (1997-98), Toronto (1998-99), Edmonton (1999-2000), Atlantic (2000-01), Toronto (2001-02), Vancouver (2002-03) and Winnipeg (2003-04).



Susan Morris receives Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year award from Executive Director, Nick Franjic, Regina, 2003.

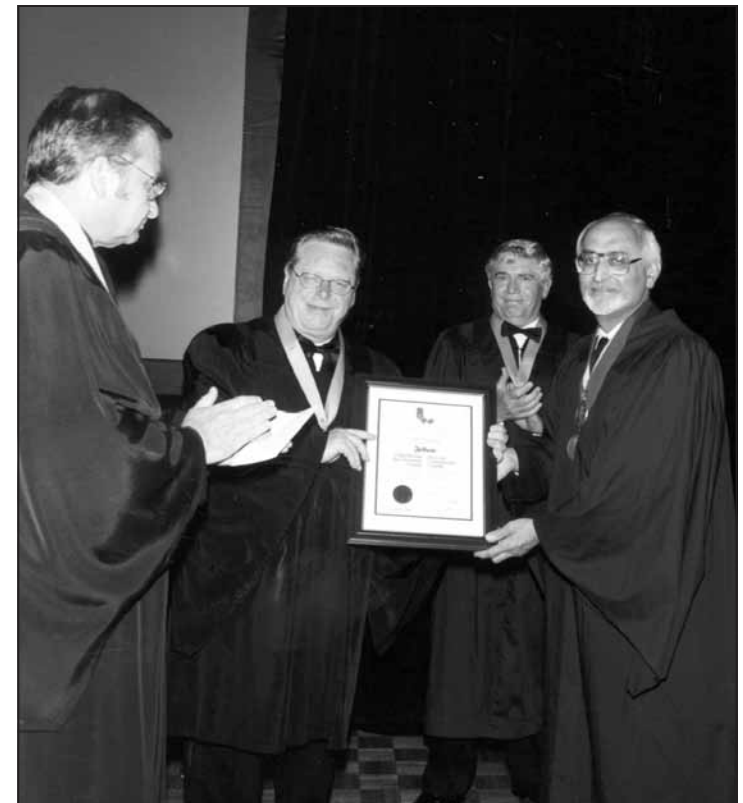
College of Fellows

Members of the Association who were elected to the College of Fellows during this decade were:

- 1994 Craig Bell; Dennis B. Looten; CAE; Larry Stutt
- 1995 George Heath; Matt Klepacki, RSW;
I. Mike Robinson, RSW
- 1996 John M. Burgoyne; Dinshaw Kanga
- 1997 Ken A. Halldorson, RSW; Stephen O Revay
- 1998 Isidore J. LeBlond
- 1999 Walter G. Strachan, RSW; Gerry A. Wilson, RSW
- 2000 Thomas Dunbar, RSW; Christopher J. Johnson, RSW
- 2001 Fred Clarke; Greg Clemons, RSW, CCCA;
Phillip J. Evans

- 2002 B. Burt Barteaux; Terry Johnson
- 2003 Don Shortreed, RSW; Yvon Lebrun
- 2004 Mary J. Friesen, RSW; Keith Robinson, RSW

In 1992, Fellows Ivan Lavender, David Egan and Peter Dobbing were tasked with reviewing the Interim Terms of Reference and expanding the document to include operating procedures for guidance of the College. A draft document was submitted in



Dinshaw Kanga, Chancellor, College of Fellows inducts Fred Clarke into College of Fellows. Fellows John Jensen and Larry Stutt observe.



John Jensen accompanies new Fellows Phil Evans, Greg Clemons and Fred Clarke, Conference 2001 in Ottawa.

1997 and a revised version was adopted in 1998. George Heath prepared Protocols for the College of Fellows Investiture Ceremony in 2000. John Jensen, in collaboration with Larry Stutt, prepared a document outlining the duties and responsibilities of College Officers, which was approved on May 25, 2001.

On September 20, 1999, President Philip Evans requested the College examine the role of the Association registrar with the intent of expanding the role to make the office more meaningful and contributory. A discussion paper prepared by Will deBacker was the starting point for this project. Dinshaw Kanga and John Jensen, in consultation with College of Fellows' members, submitted a draft document to Past President Evans on July 21,

2000, for review. A final version was completed on October 29, 2000, and became effective at the time of the 2001 Association Annual General Meeting.

Liaison

In September 1999, Phil Evans, CSC president, reported: "Like many organizations, CSC must establish strong relationships to achieve success in today's dynamic marketplace. The Association has accomplished many projects through partnering and I would like to touch on some of them.

"Innovative Technology Inc. (ITI) is CSC's partner in producing the electronic version of the National Master Specification (NMS). The NMSPlus CD includes the NMS and a host of value-added products. ITI provides the technical expertise and CSC handles sales and marketing.

"In February 1999, CSC reached an agreement with Buildcore Inc. for the use of CSC's Manu•Data organizational format for presentation of manufacturers' product data.

"Our longest standing relationship is with CSI. At CSC's 1999 conference in Edmonton, an agreement was signed to formalize joint publication agreements for MasterFormat, SectionFormat and PageFormat. The agreement augments the 1997 strategic alliance between CSC and CSI. The alliance will help provide one-stop shopping for members of both organizations seeking information on construction practices in the North American market.

"These partnering relationships illustrate CSC's involvement in the entire spectrum of construction documentation, not just specifications."

International Construction Information Society

An organizational meeting of the International Construction Information Society (ICIS) took place in June 1993 in Thun, Switzerland. There were 12 countries in attendance, with Wayne Watson as the lone representative from Canada. This meeting put the wheels in motion to form the organization. Swiss “society” status was applied for and a Swiss bank account was opened. On October 3, 1993, the CSC Board of Directors approved a motion for CSC to become a founding member of ICIS. One of the first objectives was to improve international communications among all participants in the construction process. The principle goals of ICIS were to:

- ◆ *Support efforts and developments in the field of construction information which would lead to international harmonization and standardization.*
- ◆ *Set principles for organizing construction information that could be applied within member countries.*
- ◆ *Expand member knowledge about changing international markets.*
- ◆ *Provide professional information on the harmonization and standardization of construction information.*

At a Board meeting in February 1994, Issy LeBlond reviewed the CSC involvement with ICIS saying that CSC had been granted official status by the Standards Council of Canada to represent Canada on the International Standards Organization Technical Committee 59, Subcommittee 13. (Also known as ISO/TC59/SC13.) The first annual general meeting of ICIS took place May 9 to 12, 1994 in Banff and was organized by CSC’s Denis Looten.

In February 1995, the Board of Directors approved a motion that CSC continue to participate in ICIS activities until

December 31, 1996 to obtain the results of various work groups which were expected in the fall of 1996. The cost of the program had become a concern of the Board.

In February 1996, CSC requested that ICIS suspend the Association’s membership dues for the current year, but ICIS refused, saying the dues would have to be paid at some point. The Toronto chapter agreed to fund the dues.

At an Executive Council meeting held February 23, the council agreed to the nomination of Wayne Watson as ICIS president. However, any costs related to Watson’s involvement with ICIS would not be underwritten by CSC.

In January 1999, Sandro Ubaldino, Toronto chapter director, wrote in the *Toronto Specifier* chapter newsletter:

As many of you know, CSC represents Canada on the International Construction Information Society (ICIS), which is an association of organizations which provide national master specifications and cost information systems. ICIS members are non-political, technically authoritative and solidly rooted in the construction industry. In December 1998, CSC’s representative, Wayne Watson, was elected president of ICIS.

In September 2002, CSC President, Mary J. Friesen, RWS, reported on CSC involvement with ICIS saying: “To remain a major player in the Canadian construction process, CSC had to become involved and lead the way in implementing ICIS’s new principles and standards. ICIS activities are aimed at keeping pace with rapid changes in the construction industry and client needs. They include: studying performance specifications; studying environmental issues and management through proper specification practices; studying the impact of international standards on national specifications; participating in the development of information classification tables; studying the integration of related resource data, particularly CAD drawings, specifications, cost data and production information; and



D. Kanga
CSC President, 1994-1995

“A building is constructed through the teamwork of developer, architect, engineer, specifier, supplier, and contractor. Together, they produce something which individually they can’t do. Their success lies in their collaboration. So it is with CSC. Our success in the 1994/95 term is due to the combined efforts of hundreds of our volunteers working on both Chapter and Association committees. Together, we have built and strengthened CSC beyond the ability of any one Chapter, Board, committee, or individual. CSC is considered as that type of association which demonstrates ‘best practices’ in its vision, its activities, and its preparation for future relevance to members. All this reflects the dedication of our volunteers and their continuing belief that CSC is a meaningful and fulfilling association for them.”

influencing the development of international standards through participation on technical committees. ICIS has already started the move from theory to practical application with the initiation of its first test project, which will test the use of intelligent objects using classification systems to attach proper specification content and cost data to drawing objects in CAD. Participation in this type of pilot project allows CSC to stay abreast of international developments and guarantees a Canadian voice is heard.”

Profiles

Dinshaw Kanga, CSC president, 1994-95.

“I joined the Toronto chapter of CSC, which was known at the time as the Specification Writers Association of Canada, in 1974. I was on the Chapter Executive for several years and, while I enjoyed the interaction and networking with fellow members, I was always impressed with the volunteer time and effort put in by my fellow members on the chapter executive and on various committees. During my term as Toronto chapter chair, 1978-79, the No Frills Trade Show was initiated. Maurice McGill chaired and championed this project putting in countless hours to organize the show. It has gained strength over the years and become a major fundraiser for the Toronto chapter, and has provided the impetus for other chapters to follow suit.

“After serving as the Toronto chapter chair and director, I served as the Association registrar for a few years before getting onto the Executive Council and assuming the office of the president at the London conference in 1994.

“Governance was a major issue during my term as president, as the Association struggled to come to grips with a new way of conducting its business. The ‘Carver’ method of governance was initiated during my term and finalized during the ensuing year.

Under this method, the Board of Directors decided on policy matters and the Association office staff were entrusted with the responsibility of carrying most of them out, thus reducing the burden on the voluntary time of board members.

“On other fronts:

- ◆ *CSC was granted official status by the Standard Council of Canada to represent Canada on the International Standards Organization.*
- ◆ *The Program Director’s Award was instituted.*
- ◆ *A committee was appointed by the College to prepare new “Terms of Reference” for the College of Fellows.*
- ◆ *A “Matrix,” which identified all the Professional Associations that CSC needed to liaise with, was prepared.*
- ◆ *Non-CSC members were encouraged to enroll in the CSC education program levels 1, 2, and 3 courses through an offer of free membership for one year.*
- ◆ *The reporting system from the various program directors was revised to a new format.*
- ◆ *Revisions were made to the Administration Manual to recognize CTR, the Certified Construction Contract Administration (CCCA) program and the Certification Committee.*

“The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) came under discussion at a conference held in Houston, Texas in 1995. The CANAMEX Conference was a joint conference in which architects, engineers and specification writers from Canada, the United States and Mexico were invited to discuss the practical ramifications of NAFTA. The Canadian Consulate in Houston hosted the event and the federal government of Canada requested representations and papers on the subject from all the professional associations.

“Representatives of professional associations from the three countries gave their opinions on the repercussions of cross-border work. I presented a paper on ‘Specifications,’ outlining the differences such as licensing requirements, regulatory approvals, metric vs. Imperial units, manufacturers and suppliers indigenous to each country, among other things.

“Fond memories and unusual events experienced during my term as president:

“Tie-Cutting Ceremony: When major events occur, there is usually a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Well, on the opening night ice-breaker at the Winnipeg conference in 1995, the dress code happened to be informal. Both Fred Wright, the conference chair, and yours truly had tie and jackets on. After the opening address, where both of us spoke, Past President George Heath



George Heath performs the ceremonial tie cutting on President Dinshaw Kanga, Conference 1995 in Winnipeg.

approached us with a pair of scissors and promptly cut both our ties in half — to the delight of all the spectators.

“Blues Brothers Entertain at the President’s Ball: Members of the Executive Council (Steve Revay, Issy Leblond, Gerry Wilson, Chris Johnson and Phil Evans) had earlier composed a song and performed it dressed up as the Blues Brothers — complete with dark glasses.



The “Blues Brothers,” Chris Johnson, Issy LeBlond, Steve Revay, Gerry Wilson and Phil Evans, perform at Conference 1995 in Winnipeg.

“Earth Shaking Experience: As is the tradition, the president of CSC is invited to attend the annual CSI conference during his term. In my case, the city was San Francisco. After the evening ended, we retired to our hotel room on the 32nd floor and just as my wife and I got into bed, the bed started to shake, not

because of any hanky-panky stuff, it was the shake, rattle and roll that California is famous for. Guess what was the main topic of discussion at breakfast the next morning — everyone relating where they were when the mild (fortunately) earthquake struck.”

Stephen O. Revay, CSC president, 1995-96. Incoming President Stephen O. Revay provided a perspective on CSC at the 1995 Winnipeg convention, saying members were both owners and clients of the Association. He noted that CSC was addressing both revenue and expense matters and had been successful over the past several years, especially with regard to *Construction Canada*. He intended to focus on revenue generation during the year, saying he believed expenses were under control. He was inducted into the College of Fellows in 1997.

Recalling his term as CSC president, Revay wrote:

I made the decision to run for president because I was intrigued by the challenge and felt I could contribute positively to the goals of the Association. During my years as vice-president, CSC struggled financially. In my year as first vice-president, we had a surprising deficit, which was actually only known after fiscal year-end. My agenda was financial. I wanted to make sure the Association had a better grasp on its finances. To that end we were successful, as we had a surplus during my year as president. Additionally, we made progress in terms of securing our sources of revenue. To my surprise, during my term, we became involved in considerable introspection on our overall governance structure. Much to my pleasure we received considerable input and comment from the general membership. The end result was status quo not because it was simple, but rather because that is what the membership wanted.

In terms of important events I am proud of the fact that during my term as vice-president of education I set up the Education

Certification Committee and successfully launched the CTR program.

My fondest memories are twofold: The first being the numerous late-conversations I have had with other keen CSC members on the burning issues of the day. The second was seeing, at the annual awards banquets, the various contributions of so many dedicated and unselfish people.

Isidore J. LeBlond, CSC president, 1996-97, was a founding member of Les Publications Françaises (DCC) Inc. He was instrumental in revitalizing the relationship between CSC and CSI and the signing of a five-year alliance between the two organizations. He was inducted into the College of Fellows in 1998.

In June 1997, outlining the highlights of his year as president, Issy LeBlond said: “It was an exciting, yet difficult year for CSC. The Board accepted the challenges and is poised to lead the Association into the next century. The things that made the year worthwhile were:

- ◆ *The translation of CSC documents by LPF.*
- ◆ *The adoption of our marketing strategy in March 1997.*
- ◆ *The success of our Internet home page.*
- ◆ *The unveiling of our new construction products CD-ROM.*
- ◆ *The signing of a strategic alliance with CSI.”*

LeBlond reminisced more recently: “When I look back on the many years within the ranks of CSC, my fondest memory would have to be celebrating a successful joint CSC-LPF Conference 1996 in Québec City in 1996. After several years at trying to get Québec members involved in the national scene, the 1996 conference was truly the highlight of hard work and determination by a few dedicated CSC-DCC members.

“It all started back at a Board meeting in Winnipeg when Guy Duchesneau, FDCC and I committed to make it happen. Once



*S. Revay
CSC President, 1995-1996*

“I am quite grateful for the recognition as Past President. I trust everyone recognizes that this recognition for all Past Presidents is partially symbolic. Notwithstanding the contribution of these individuals our association is also where it is because of the many, many volunteers who have contributed significantly year in and year out without serving on executive council. I take this opportunity to personally thank you.”



*I.J. LeBlond,
CSC President, 1996-1997*

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"It all started back at a Board meeting in Winnipeg when Guy Duchesneau, FDCC and I committed to make it happen. Once we managed to convince others to join in, it was no turning back. After three years of planning; lobbying federal/provincial governments; seeking industry partners; and resurrecting the Québec City Chapter... not only was it a first but also my introduction as CSC President."

we managed to convince others to join in, it was no turning back. After three years of planning; lobbying federal/provincial governments; seeking industry partners; and resurrecting the Québec City chapter... not only was it a first but also my introduction as CSC president.

"I will always have fond memories of Conference '96 and the people that made it so special."

Gerry A. Wilson, CSC president, 1997-98 said the following at the 1998 President's Banquet in June 1998:

"The programs for 1997-98 were based on the priorities of the Board of Directors established in response to our survey of you, the membership. I trust you will concur that we have responded positively and furnished programs and activities consistent with these priorities. We now have three educational programs, RSW, CTR and CCCA.

"I have enjoyed my time as president and would like to thank you, each and everyone, for your confidence, your support, and for the opportunity to serve as president. I trust you will agree that 1997-98 has been a successful year for CSC. I trust you realize the success we have enjoyed is due to the efforts of our program directors, board of directors, chapter executive, committee members and office staff.

"As president of CSC it has been my pleasure to carry out our many functions. Perhaps one of my greatest pleasures was the presentation of a Life Membership Award to Mr. John Jensen, FCSC and Mr. Robert Briggs, FCSC, FRAIC."

Chris Johnson, CSC President, 1998-99, wrote:

During the four years I participated on the CSC Board of Directors, I discovered that there was much more to our Association beyond the scope and breadth of chapter activities. Initiatives and programs of a greater national scope, and particularly the international endeavours of the Technical Studies Commit-

tee, fired my imagination with the desire to contribute, develop and indeed forge CSC's goals and objectives as a member of the CSC Executive Council.

For those reasons, I accepted the position and responsibilities of CSC vice-president in 1994. I served as a member of the CSC Executive Council from the years 1994 through 2000, culminating in my year as CSC president during 1998-99.

During this time, I was primarily concerned with broadening CSC's exposure and influence within the construction industry by concentrating on issues affecting the improvement of communication, technical information and contract documentation amongst construction industry participants. Development of CSC educational programs and the diversification of technical initiatives were two objectives that I believe have helped CSC to realize a greater role in shaping and improving the Canadian construction industry.

My years spent working on the Executive Council also saw many changes in the way CSC addressed issues of governance. Greater efforts were made with respect to increasing director involvement in the decision-making processes, and I believe this has resulted in a more vital and productive association, whose direction better reflects our members' needs nationwide.

CSC also pursued the creation of new strategic alliances with many other industry-related organizations, as well as strengthening those alliances we already had. Particularly, we expanded our alliance with our American partner, the Construction Specifications Institute, initiating better lines of communication between our two associations at the presidential level, and sharing information and opportunities as they apply to our common goals and objectives.

I remember my years as a member of the CSC Executive Council with great fondness. I very much felt I was a member of a team that was dedicated to the continuing improvement of our



G. Wilson
CSC President, 1997-1998

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"I have enjoyed my time as president and would like to thank you, each and everyone, for your confidence, your support, and for the opportunity to serve as president. I trust you will agree that 1997/98 has been a successful year for CSC. I trust you realize the success we have enjoyed is due to the efforts of our program directors, board of directors, chapter executive, committee members and office staff."



C.S. Johnson
CSC President, 1998-1999

We must ask ourselves: How will we manage multi-dimensional change at the breakneck pace we can expect in the next century? I believe this to be an emerging role for associations such as CSC. Faced with the Herculean task of remaining up to date, members of the construction industry will look towards progressive organizations to provide them with significantly enhanced services, better enabling them to meet these challenges. We are already witnessing trends that suggest continuing education and certification renewal will play major roles in the future.

"The key is to plan for the proper implementation of continuing education strategies, offering multifaceted opportunities that will accommodate the diverse needs of our diverse membership."

Association. Although the members of the team changed each year, the spirit of co-operation, and the camaraderie that bound us together remained constant, making our personal and professional sacrifices as volunteers all worthwhile. I can say without hesitation that I made many cherished friendships during that time, which continue to this day and will last a lifetime.

In closing, I would urge each member of CSC to become as actively involved with our association as they possibly can. Whether this is participating at the chapter level, or serving as a member of the Board of Directors, or leading our Association as a member of the CSC Executive Council, the investment of time you make will be well paid with experiences and memories that will enrich both your personal and professional lives. I know it has for my own.

Looking forward, I wish future volunteers of our Association all the best as they continue to steer CSC on the course necessary to assure the health and vitality of our association. Play it again, Sam.

Philip J. Evans, B.Arch., MSAA, MRAIC, CSC president, 1999-2000, obtained his degree in architecture from Ottawa's Carleton University in 1975, he worked briefly in Ottawa and Toronto, and moved to Regina in 1977. He joined CSC in 1982 and was chairman of the Regina chapter from 1987 to 1990, a period during which the chapter received the Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year Award. Evans, was inducted into the College of Fellows in 2001, and has been an active member of the Regina Chapter since 1982. He has been one of CSC's two representatives to ICIS and CSC's sole representative to OCCS since 2001. Evans is a partner in Saunders Evans Architects Inc., a firm that deals with all phases of project development.

Recalling his time on the Executive, Evans wrote:

After Conference '96 in Québec City I inherited the conferences portfolio of Executive Council and commenced preparations for Conference '97 in Vancouver. Very little planning had been done by the fall of 1996, except select the Hotel Vancouver. This prompted a significant involvement on my part with the Vancouver chapter Executive. The "new format" conference was a success and great friendships were made on the far side of the rockpile. Who can forget the continuous introductory line: "Hi, my name is Jim Dunsmore"?

I had the great pleasure to work with an excellent group of people on the Executive Council. Following in a Flatlander's footsteps on the Executive Council and as president was "The Seagull" — Burt Barteaux, a fellow architect, whose problem solving methods were similar to my own. Presenting the President's Award to Burt at Conference 2000 in Montréal was a highlight for me.

I was particularly proud to have signed an alliance agreement with the McGraw-Hill Construction Information Group during "my Conference" in fabulous Montréal. *Merci beaucoup Montréal!*

Burt Barteaux, MRIAC, CSC president, 2000-01, was inducted into the College of Fellows in 2002. Barteaux was director for the Atlantic chapter. He was instrumental in upgrading CSC's *Administrative Manual* and took a lead role in revitalizing CSC's *Manual of Practice*.

During his term as CSC President Barteaux wrote: "CSC is a special association. It transcends every conceivable facet of the construction industry. This is evident through the various education programs and technical publications the Association offers to owners, designers, specifiers, product representatives and contractors."



P. Evans
CSC President, 1999-2000

"I first became involved in the association because of its multidisciplinary nature, and I firmly believe that improvements in the way we do things in the construction industry can be made through effective interdisciplinary communication of which education is a key component. CSC has developed well-respected education programs that can fit nicely into the continuing education program of other construction associations.

"Like many organizations, CSC must establish strong relationships to achieve success in today's dynamic marketplace. The association has accomplished many projects through partnering."



B. Barteaux
CSC President, 2000-2001

"CSC is a special association. It transcends every conceivable facet of the construction industry. This is evident through the various education programs and technical publications the association offers to owners, designers, specifiers, product representatives and contractors.

"We should not be afraid to regroup and to continually examine and evaluate what we are doing. If we don't, we'll go the way of the dinosaur."

Don Shortreed, CSC president, 2001-02, has been a member of CSC since 1988. He served as Toronto chapter director and chaired the Toronto Chapter Trade Show Committee. He was inducted into the College of Fellows in 2003 and received the President's Award in 2004.

Shortly after graduating from George Brown College, Shortreed joined CSC's Toronto chapter. One of his first jobs was on the Publications Committee where he looked after the *Toronto Specifier*. "I didn't realize until later that that was one of the more difficult jobs," he said. Later, he became chair of the Toronto chapter.

Shortreed stated, "From a professional standpoint, being a member of CSC allows you two things: The opportunity to improve your skills through the courses that are offered and the chance to network with lots of different people."

Networking was what eventually steered Shortreed toward the national Executive: "I remember coming back from a Toronto chapter ski day with Jim Tobros. Through the course of the drive Jim put the question to me: 'Are you interested in going forward?' Jim said, 'We're at the stage now where either you have to go for it, or we have to let someone else go for it,' because the last president from the Toronto chapter had been Dinshaw Kanga, in 1994-95.

"Jim, who was a past president, really made me think about it: either do it, or not. I thought about it and eventually, I took his advice."

Monetary issues, which had been a problem for several years, had largely been resolved by 2001, said Shortreed. "Instead of spending days worrying about how we were going to cut costs, or how we were going to be able to afford this or afford that, it was more, we can afford to do this."

One of the biggest changes Shortreed recalled was the improved relationship between the National Board and the

Toronto chapter. "When I first got on the executive the Toronto chapter was very leery of the national finances. They wanted to know where the money was going, how it was being spent. Now they are saying 'We trust you. Spend the money at your discretion.' The big thing was, for a long period of time, nobody from the Toronto chapter was on the executive, so nobody was reporting. Now we have new people coming along.

"Now I think the communications are fairly good, because we have promoted the need for Toronto chapter members to sit on the board."

As to his term as president, he will never forget is the events of September 2001. "We had scheduled a board meeting for September 13, 2001. I was working in the home office when I got a phone call from my wife saying turn on the TV. The first tower had been hit, and a few minutes later I saw the plane hit the second tower.

"That same day I had planned to book plane tickets to go to New York for an early November meeting with the president of CSI. So here I was looking at the TV, seeing these towers on fire and phoning a travel agent apologizing for the fact that I had to travel to New York.

"I remember then going to New York the first week in November and meeting with CSI. The hotel we were meeting at was near the United Nations building, so streets were blocked off and security was everywhere. Even weeks later the scene was surreal.

"I'd have to say the best thing about having served as president of CSC is I got to see and meet people from across the country. Having grown up in Toronto, where you can do anything you want in a small area, CSC allowed me to get an appreciation for the entire country; something I don't think I would have gotten without being a member of CSC. So in addition to a



*D.G. Shortreed
CSC President, 2001-2002*

"From a professional standpoint, being a member of CSC allows you two things: The opportunity to improve your skills through the courses that are offered and the chance to network with lots of different people.

"On the positive side, however, I'd have to say the best thing about having served as President of CSC is I got to see and meet people from across the country. Having grown up in Toronto, where you can do anything you want in a small area, CSC allowed me to get an appreciation for the entire country. Something I don't think I would have gotten without being a member of CSC. So I in addition to a lot of great memories, I came to realize what a great country we live in and I got meet and know a lot of great people."



M. Friesen
CSC President, 2002-2003

*W*e have seen a tremendous change in the way we do business over the last decade and the need for education and improvement of our educational products is a recurring theme at board meetings.

"The trend toward electronic communication, alternative project delivery methods, a global economy with fast-paced emerging technologies and the development of international standards demands that *CSC* keep pace with a changing world. We must constantly re-evaluate and improve our products and delivery methods to continue providing leading-edge education. We have to look beyond traditional delivery methods and adopt those that will serve us better."

lot of great memories, I came to realize what a great country we live in and I got meet and know a lot of great people."

Mary J. Friesen, RSW, CSC president, 2002-03

During my year as president, it had become obvious that changes were taking place on the international scene, particularly in the area of electronic communication, standardization of construction specifications, standards and documents. Digicon Information Inc. was a logical choice for an alliance partner. For many years they had shown an interest in working with CSC and now, after many years of representing CSC on several of these international committees and task forces, the timing seemed right. Their technical and IT experience, along with their in-house marketing expertise, set the stage for an alliance with CSC to jointly market and distribute our products. The agreement for the alliance, Spex.ca, was signed on November 18, 2002. Less than three months into the alliance, Spex.ca had recovered its start-up costs and was on the way to making a surplus.

Through all this activity, there was an ongoing thrust in the area of education. A very active Education Committee under the guidance of first vice-president Sandro Ubaldino, RSW, succeeded in completing DACUMs [Developing a Curriculum] for three levels of education and began the process of rewriting the former Level 1 course and updating the RSW program. The Committee has also started the process of making distance learning a reality. With this momentum, our members will soon begin to reap the benefits of the commitment CSC has made to education.

We all have our embarrassing moments and you would think that by the time you become president and have sat through dozens of board meetings, chairing a meeting would be almost second nature. However, I still found my nerves somewhat rattled residing as chair at my first formal Board meeting as president. After everyone was settled, I enthusiastically welcomed all the

new and returning board members and then proceeded to pronounce "This meeting is now adjourned!" I believe that should have set the record for the fastest board meeting ever!

My time in CSC has given me many fond memories. A particularly memorable event was Fun Night in Regina, made more so by the participation of our executive director Nick Franjic and incoming president Sandro Ubaldino in the dunk tank. This wet event was made more meaningful because funds raised by the dunking went to the Sandra Schmirler Foundation. It was a great success with over \$400 raised. And while they got dunked, I was handcuffed and forced to join the entertainment group in a hilarious horse routine!

Sandro Ubaldino, RSW, CSC president, 2003-04 became a member of CSC in 1985 when, after working in the industry a few years, he sought to further his education and to learn about contract documentation and construction technology from his peers. Soon after, he began to work on his Registered Specification Writer designation, which he received in 1990. As a result of his work toward his RSW, Sandro became more knowledgeable of CSC activities and decided to become more involved.

Sandro's first involvement with CSC was as a member of the Toronto Chapter Trade Show Committee (1989 to 1997). He then joined the Toronto Chapter Executive Committee in 1991. On the chapter executive, Sandro held various portfolios, serving two years as chapter chair (1995 to 1997) and three years as chapter director. During Sandro's term as chapter chair, the Toronto Chapter received the Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year Award and the President's Chapter Award.

Sandro first became involved at the Association level in 1993 as a member of the Technical Studies Committee. Since then, he has volunteered his time and efforts on the RSW



S. Ubaldino
CSC President, 2003-2004

"Membership in CSC, and my work on various CSC committees, has been an invaluable asset to my work. The volume of technical information available through involvement in CSC is unmatched. What I especially found to be valuable is what I have learned by participating and by getting involved.

"Also very rewarding is the interaction with other members of the construction industry, and with CSC members from across the country."

Sub-Committee, the TEK•AID Task Group, as a member of the CCCA Instructors Workshop in 1997, as a reviewer of CSC educational material and on the Strategic Planning Task Group in 1998. Sandro also served as an editor of *Construction Canada* magazine from 1994 to 1997.

Sandro believes that the benefits of membership outweigh the time and effort put forward as a volunteer, and when asked on what being a member of CSC has meant to him, said “Membership in CSC, and my work on various CSC committees, has been an invaluable asset to my work. The volume of technical information available through involvement in CSC is unmatched. What I especially found to be valuable is what I have learned by participating and by getting involved. Also very rewarding is the interaction with other members of the construction industry, and with CSC members from across the country.”

Sandro feels that the association’s role as a resource of quality contract documentation and educational programs is unmatched in the construction industry. He believes that the recognition CSC has within the industry is as a result of its diversity as a multi-disciplinary association. But CSC’s strength rests with its members, for their vision, commitment, their great spirit of volunteerism, and their desire to share their knowledge and expertise for the betterment of the industry.

John Jensen, CSC Secretary-Treasurer, grew up in rural Saskatchewan but has spent almost all of his working life in Ontario. He worked in the 1960s as an inspector for the City of Ottawa, then as office manager of Brais, Frigon, Hanley Associates, and joined the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) in 1972 as construction co-ordinator for the Eastern Region. He graduated from Algonquin College with an Honours Diploma in Business Administration in 1985 and in 1993 moved to Toronto

as Manager of Construction for the LCBO, a position he held until his retirement in 1997.

Jensen’s involvement with CSC dates back to the Ottawa chapter in 1969. He joined the Chapter Executive in 1970 and remained on it continuously until 1992: as chapter chair from 1973-75, chapter director from 1980-82 and chapter treasurer from 1978 to 1992. He was registrar for Conference ’81 and Host Committee chair of Conference ’91.

At the national level, Jensen was Association vice-president from 1983 to 1985, responsible for the Conferences and Awards portfolios. During this time, he prepared the first drafts of the *Awards Manual* and the *Conference and Trade Show Manual*, which became Parts 6 and 7 of the *CSC Administrative Manual*, respectively. In 1992, he became Association secretary-treasurer, and oversaw the transition from deficit financing to seven consecutive years of surpluses. He remains on the Executive Council and the Board of Directors and was acting executive director for a 15-week period in 1996-97 during a vacancy.

Jensen received the chapter Award of Merit (1975, 1989 and 1991), National Award of Merit (1983 and 2004), President’s Award (1994 and 1997) and Life Membership (1998). He was also given an Outstanding Achievement Award by the Ottawa chapter in 1993, was elected to the College of Fellows in 1991.

Thomas Dunbar, FCSC, RSW, director, CSC Ottawa, was inducted into the College of Fellows in 2000. He reports, “There were two really important things about being on the Technical Studies Committee. First it was the beginning of an amazing growing experience that gave me a self-confidence that I never had before; and secondly the camaraderie and friendship that I developed with members of that first group has lasted to

this day. I'll always be grateful for my time on the Technical Studies (Presidents) Committee.”

Specification Innovation

National Master Specification

In the January/February 1994 issue of *Construction Canada*, the following Technical Studies Committee article was published with the intention of providing background material and information on the Canadian National Master Construction Specification (NMS) and CSC's long involvement in the master specification system.

We, as an association, have been involved with the NMS practically since its inception in the content, management, distribution and updating procedures.

Over the past 23 years the NMS has been one of the main methods through which our association has become known to the wider construction industry and we feel it is high time we proudly tooted our collective association horn. We are taking time to tell CSC members and our associates in the construction industry about the NMS and CSC's involvement with this master specification system.

The NMS is one of the most comprehensive master specification systems in Canada and is a resource tool and checklist. It is available in English or French, for new construction or renovation. This 21-volume master specification contains approximately 600 specification sections in 3,300 English language pages and 4,000 French language pages.

The NMS came into existence in 1970 when the Government of Canada decided to improve and standardize its specifications. At the time CSC was considering developing a master specifica-

tion. CSC entered into an agreement with the government to create a single document, as it was desirable for the Canadian construction industry to have a single master specification.

In summary, the diversity of the CSC membership serves to:

Enhance our role as the private sector representative to the NMS.

Encourage CSC to continue to be involved in negotiations to make the NMS fully usable for and utilized by the private sector.

Provide specification professionals with the opportunity to provide input and review comment for the continuing revision of the NMS.

Provide product sector, building system and discipline experts to write new sections of the NMS.

Influence the continued provision of different types of hardcopy and software-based products for the NMS.

In February 1995, the Board voted to respond to the National Master Specification Secretariat (NMSS) as follows:

- ◆ That CSC respond in positive manner as recorded in the Directors' Forum held February 11, 1995.
- ◆ That CSC forward a proposal to the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) to purchase the NMS by April 1, 1998 and develop a state-of-the-art master specification system, subject to a business plan approved by the CSC Board of Directors.
- ◆ That, as a contingency plan, CSC propose the immediate purchase of the NMS name for a nominal fee.

The newest edition of the NMS, issued in December 1996, had some new features, highlighted by changes to the Spec Notes.

The new document had four different types of Spec Notes instead of one.

The first was the General Spec Note that had been part of the NMS since its inception. It was intended to help the specifier make the correct material and product decisions.

The second was the Spec Note Description. It was the first Spec Note seen in each NMS division and gave a brief description of the contents of the section and how it should be used.

The next was a Spec Note Environmental, which directed the specifier to the environmentally responsible choices available.

The final was the Spec Note Support, which was intended to acknowledge construction industry associations that had assisted the NMS with the development of the section.

The first organization to become involved in the update process was the Thermal Insulation Association of Canada (TIAC). Three sections of the NMS were virtually rewritten from scratch with the involvement of TIAC.

The Interlocking Concrete Paving Institute reviewed and updated two other sections and the Heating Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada was looking at approximately 40 sections.

Writing in *Construction Canada* in the January/February 1998 issue, Gerry Wilson, RSW, CSC president said:

Master specification systems provide consultants with reference material that is beneficial throughout all phases of the project. The independent office master specification systems relied on by many consultants may be inadequate when compared with a system developed by an association such as CSC.

The National Master Specification, marketed by CSC as NMSPlus '98, has been developed as a combined effort of CSC, the Canadian Construction Industry and participating depart-

ments of the federal government. As a result, it reflects the priorities of both the public and private sectors.

The NMS comprises commonly used specification sections written in project specification format. It can be used for small, medium and large projects. Spec Notes are incorporated throughout the NMS to guide the consultant in the preparation of the specification. There are extensive references to industry standards, to clarify quality, product performance and workmanship.

CSC has participated in the development, updating and maintenance of the NMS, writing of new sections, as well as distributing and selling the NMS. Innovative Technologies Inc. (ITI) has joined with CSC in this endeavor. ITI is one of Canada's leading software developers. The enhancements ITI has made to the NMS promise to improve its effectiveness.

I trust you will share our excitement regarding this unique master specification system. Consultants that prefer an independent office master specification system are encouraged to develop their own systems using NMSPlus '98 as a template.

Greening the NMS

In September 1997, Ian Bartlett wrote about environmentally responsible choices in the NMS. The following are excerpts from "Specifying Environmentally Responsible Choices Using the NMS" in the September-October 1997 issue of *Construction Canada*.

The NMS has taken a leadership role in providing environmentally responsible choices in the master specification to respond to the federal government's greening initiatives and public demand for greater environmental responsibility. The NMS now communicates products and services that are more environmentally responsible than traditional construction practices and integrates them into the NMS.

This work is, however, unfunded. Sources of funding had to be found through partnering arrangements with the federal government and private consultants. Using these small pockets of funding, environmentally responsible choices have been included in 43 sections so far.

The latest update of SectionFormat will contain a new article title in Part 1 called Waste Management Disposal. This is significant as it allows direct cross reference to the newly developed NMS section 01355 — Waste Management and Disposal.

Environmental Spec Notes direct the specifier to responsible choices and alternate disposal methods. Environmentally enhanced specification for construction renovations have also been produced and will assist in renovation, repair and associated demolition work.

In October 1998, it was reported that 80 sections of the NMS had undergone a greening process. The goal was to have 120 green sections by the end of 1998. The NMS business plan had also been finalized and put in place.

CSC as NMS Publisher

In April 2001, CSC Director Fred Clarke reported on the March 2001 Board of Directors meeting, saying CSC had been confirmed as one of the master distributors of the NMS and a two-year contract had been signed in January 2001.

In a year-end report in May 2002, CSC President Don Shortreed reported on the NMS saying: “For over 25 years CSC has had a close working relationship with the National Master Specification Secretariat. The NMS is the most comprehensive master construction specification in Canada. CSC has been the largest private sector participant in the NMS review and revision process and is one of three NMS publishers. Through this long-standing relationship with Public Works and Government

Services Canada (PWGSC), CSC has been able to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding recognizing CSC as the official publisher of the NMS.

“The agreement allows for a change in how revenues are received, creating a sustainable revenue source for maintaining and updating the document. Other publishers who are currently licensed to publish the NMS may continue to do so under sublicensed agreements with CSC.”

MasterFormat 95

The joint CSC/CSI document, MasterFormat 95 was put on the market in March 1996, and was an instant sales success. Tom Dunbar stated “The MasterFormat is an industry-accepted document that affects our everyday business of preparing contract documents. Not only specifiers, but manufacturers and suppliers must study the changes to this document. We cannot ignore major changes in the MasterFormat that have relocated certain items into different sections.”

Tom Dunbar wrote in *Construction Canada*:

Over the past 30 years the system of numbers and titles at the heart of the MasterFormat has been used increasingly by the construction industry. Today it is the only system of organizing construction specifications in widespread use in North America. MasterFormat is used by provincial and municipal governments and is the basis of the title and numbering system for the Canadian National Master Specification (NMS), which is used by all federal government agencies and a large portion of the private sector.

The document was changed to include an expansion of the application guide. The title categories broadscope, mediumslope and narrowscope introduced in the 1983 edition were replaced by a hierarchical system. A Division title was

considered level one and subordinate titles were identified with five-digit numbers at levels two and three. Titles at level four were unnumbered. The explanation column referred to level three, as well as level two titles and included standard explanations and cross references to other titles.

A MasterFormat expansion task team was convened in May 2001 to study the need for expansion of the format. The task team's proposal suggested the 16 divisions that had made up MasterFormat throughout its history should be expanded to encompass new subject matter and allow room for additional growth. The project was a joint effort of CSC and CSI. The proposed scheme was based on the following principles:

- ◆ *make MasterFormat more acceptable to building engineering disciplines;*
- ◆ *expand MasterFormat to adequately cover more than just building construction and the full lifecycle of projects;*
- ◆ *provide space for expansion within each division; and*
- ◆ *keep change to a minimum for architectural building subjects.*

In the November 2002 issue of *Construction Canada* it was reported that:

MasterFormat has quite literally run out of space and CSC and CSI are revising and expanding the document in an effort to solve the problem. Concurrent with this, is work on the OmniClass Construction Classification system (OCCS). The OCCS, a CSI initiative, will be developed through the contributions of multiple organizations. It will be used by all industries involved in creating and sustaining the built environment.

In May 2003, Draft Four of the expanded MasterFormat was published. It included the current MasterFormat's basic structure of architectural divisions, but had room for future growth

through a six-digit numbering system for sections. Draft 4 resulted from industry feedback received from Draft 3 and reflected the industry sentiment that Draft 3 was outside the comfort zone of most people with regard to the number of divisions. Draft 3 proposed 86 division numbers within nine groupings. Draft 4 had 49 division numbers in three groupings.

Key to Draft 4's expandability was that it retained the previous draft's six-digit numbering system, which allowed for up to 10,000 sections per division. It was also consistent with the OmniClass Construction Classification System.

Some of the goals of the new MasterFormat were to make it more acceptable to building engineering disciplines; expand it to cover the full lifecycle of projects and add flexibility to accommodate future changes.

The purpose of MasterFormat was to establish an organizational structure for the project manual and enable reference keynoting on drawings. Its expansion would not affect how specifiers prepared the manual, as only the numbers would change. Its structure would allow electronic linking to drawings and costing processes, as well as information management from all processes associated with construction, from cradle to grave.

Previously, many civil engineering project manuals had been issued with more than 16 divisions, to make up for MasterFormat's inadequacies. It had reached the point where the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) had begun to formulate a new format specifically for civil engineering specifications. The new MasterFormat scheme included four divisions for civil engineering with room for more divisions, if necessary. The ASCE Specifications Committee began participating in the MasterFormat expansion process after this change.

Similarly mechanical and electrical engineering had been constrained in two divisions for far too long. It would be expanded to five or more divisions. The IT community would have its own division, as would process engineering, two groups which barely existed when the previous MasterFormat was created.

In addition, the lifecycle activities of a facility, which were never given any serious recognition, would be given space for subjects such as operation and maintenance.

Alternate Project Delivery

One of the main partners in the NMS, the Department of National Defence, was moving to the design-build delivery system, utilizing UniFormat as the platform. CSC, it was reported, would need to look at the methods of document delivery, needed by its clients, in order to compete in the marketplace.

In September 1998, Chris Johnson wrote in “Message from the President” in *Construction Canada*:

Alternate project delivery methods are becoming the dominant trend in our industry. This is due to the owner’s desire to:

- ◆ shorten project delivery frames;
- ◆ consolidate project responsibility; and
- ◆ reduce the need for multi-party coordination.

This trend will affect how we plan construct and operate our built environment. The traditional roles of many industry participants are shifting and, in some cases, becoming redundant.

Computer-assisted Drafting Standard

In 1999, the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) released the first edition of the United States National CAD [computer-assisted drafting] Standard. “This long-awaited

standard,” said Phil Evans, CSC president, “will streamline and simplify the exchange of building design and construction data. Adaptation and use of this CAD standard is urgently required in Canada. Its use will reduce costs associated with developing individual office standards.

“CSC, in partnership with CSI continues to develop the Uniform Drawing System, (UDS). The UDS provides uniformity for graphical information in drawings. CSC is expanding its vision by changing focus from a specification and formats organization to a construction documents organization.

“The advantage of having a single standard for North America should be obvious. The time has come for clients to start using the standard and insist upon its use by design professionals.”

In March 2001, Burt Barteaux, MRAIC, CSC president wrote in “Message from the President” in *Construction Canada*:

The reality that construction has moved beyond the paper era has prompted the development of an electronic solution which organizes and manages design and construction information among worldwide organizations. Lexicon is the name being used to identify the concept of using objects as the basis for a series of classification tables for recording design and construction information.

Lexicon treats various terms like objects — brick, wall, window, glass, etc. — and adds attributes and characteristics that can later become part of classification tables.

A new software package, under development, will structure the objects within a defined classification table. The program would be stylized to meet the needs of the project team that uses it. All members of the construction team will have access to the same information.

OmniClass Construction Classification System

The first preliminary draft of the OmniClass Construction Classification System (OCCS), developed by a joint CSC/CSI committee, was published for review and comment in October 2001. Revisions and major changes to the structure and number of tables were proceeding in 2004, but the release date for Version 1, which had been scheduled for 2004, was uncertain. OCCS was to be a common standard, free and available to all, using consistent terminology to classify data about all aspects of construction, from conception through demolition. It would be the basis for electronically organizing information.

The benefit of the OCCS would be fewer communication disconnects, which were seen as the breeding ground for delays and mistakes. It would foster the seamless transfer of information about every project and encourage collaboration and industry-wide efficiency.

Specifically OCCS was designed to classify:

- ◆ *types of construction projects and complexes of multiple facilities;*
- ◆ *spaces within a building and portions of a building site;*
- ◆ *participants and activities in the construction process;*
- ◆ *tools and resources used by participants in the construction process; and*
- ◆ *attributes defining entities employed in construction or maintaining the built environment.*

Contractors could use the OCCS to bid and build a project and facility managers could use it to operate a building. Product representatives could use it to describe and classify products while designers can use it to renovate the facility. Wayne

Watson and Phil Evans represented CSC on the joint CSC/CSI committee.

Canadian Construction Documents Committee

In 1994, the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) completed its review and re-write of CCDC#2 — 1994 Stipulated Price Contract, last issued in 1982. John Clinckett outlined the changes to the contract. The contract defined the mutual roles and responsibilities of the owner, contractor and consultant relative to the project and the work of the contract.

Among the major changes were that the wording was revised to reflect the situation where the consultant may co-ordinate other consultants to prepare contract documents. and that the contract price, value added taxes and the total amount payable to the contractor were all listed.

In February 1995, the CSC Board requested permission from CCDC to sell and provide “The Agreement” portion of CCDC 2-94 in electronic format. The Board also voted to give CCDC representative John Clinckett the authority to negotiate CCDC 2-94 in the best possible form from the perspective of CSC members.

In September 1999, Nick Franjic wrote: “Equally important to partnering and building alliances is CSC’s ongoing support and involvement with industry organizations.

“For example, CSC continues its involvement with the Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC), the International Construction Information Society (ICIS), the Federal National Master Specification Policy Committee and the Construction Industry Consultative Committee (CICC).

“CSC is now in its 45th year. During this time relationships have been formed with other construction-related groups and amongst individual members. These relationships have been

profitable in many ways, including the personal friendships that have developed — the benefit of which cannot be measured.”

Buildcore

CSC and Buildcore, a CMD Group company, announced on February 1, 1999 that they would team up to form an alliance that would simplify and make more systematic the building product specification process in Canada. “This alliance is ideal for both Buildcore and CSC because it magnifies the strength of both organizations by producing a comprehensive selection of product information for Canada that speaks the language of the community who uses it,” said Susan Steele, publisher of Buildcore.

As a result of this union, Canadian specifiers would be able to compare standardized product information in three areas. First was the preliminary building product information found in *BuildSource Product Finder*. The second was *BuildSelect Product Data*, a product based on Manu•Data, CSC’s 10-part data sheet and the third was *BuildSpec Product Specifications*, which contained manufacturers’ specifications based on CSC’s three-part Section Format.

“We expect to build new products and services that will leverage our joint strengths and ultimately better serve the industry in Canada,” said Nick Franjic, CSC executive director.

Beginning in 2000, more than 5,400 product specifiers in Canada, including all CSC members, received a complimentary copy of *BuildSource*. Electronic access to *BuildSelect* and *BuildSpec* was available on the Buildcore Web site and was downloadable.

Technology

CSI Alliance

The 1996 annual meeting in Québec City provided an opportunity to hold an informal meeting with members of CSI. Issy LeBlond, CSC president, commented that the meeting would be viewed as a brainstorming session that would be used to develop a work plan between the two organizations. He suggested building CSI/CSC home page links and working together on items that concerned both associations. Building on the meeting, CSC signed a memorandum of understanding with the CSI on June 7, 1997, which forged a five-year alliance between the two organizations. The purpose of the alliance was to provide members of both associations with enhanced services and to advance the quality of building construction in both countries.

In April 1996, Chris Johnson reported on the activities of the Technical Studies Committee (TSC) saying a joint meeting of CSC and CSI held in Alexandria, Virginia in December 1995 had led to an agreement that the two associations would work together on technical issues. Initiatives such as the International Construction Information Society (ICIS), MasterFormat, electronic document systems and the need to reduce duplication of effort were discussed with promising results.

Major changes in the TSC made in previous years had resulted in a better working model for the Committee. The new model made better use of the volunteer resources and better defined responsibilities among individuals.

The Committee agreed to the following goals and objectives. It would:

- ◆ provide technical support to the Education Committee;
- ◆ increase private-sector input to the NMS;

- ◆ *develop electronic systems;*
- ◆ *maintain and update CSC technical documents;*
- ◆ *monitor trends in construction law; and*
- ◆ *partner with CSI to develop technical documents for the North American construction industry.*

A report from Thomas Dunbar, RSW, in July 1999 outlined the activities of the Integrated Information Initiative that CSC was pursuing with CSI. Dunbar, a member of the Integrated Information Initiative task team, said the team's purpose was to improve the communication of construction information between all participants, permitting more informed decisions while improving the utilization of resources. The purpose aligned almost exactly with the goals of CSC. When completed, the outcome was expected to be:

- ◆ *the elimination of redundant operations;*
- ◆ *the streamlining of information processing with more efficient tools;*
- ◆ *improvement of decision making by accessing otherwise unavailable or difficult to obtain information; and*
- ◆ *reduction of cost, time and risk.*

Dunbar said, "As the project becomes more widely understood, you are going to hear a lot of people talking about disconnects. The definition is: 'Any inadequacy or interruption in the communication of information at any point in the lifecycle of the constructed entity that adversely affects the cost, schedule, performance or scope of a project.'"

The project was divided into three components:

- ◆ *an industry study to identify disconnects;*
- ◆ *an Integrated Information Manual that would take the form of a journal with information updated quarterly; and*

- ◆ *an integrated information model, the long-term goal of the initiative, would be an electronic information model that would permit construction information to be shared by all participants during the lifecycle of the constructed entity.*

Dunbar concluded: "When completed, this project will result in better communications in the construction industry and tools that will help participants avoid costly misunderstandings and mistakes."

CSC Web Page

In February 1996, the Board began discussion on the creation of a CSC Web page. It was noted that the Toronto chapter had a Web presence on the Ontario Association of Architects ARQX system and the Ottawa chapter was developing a Web page. It was noted that the Association might not have direct control over these chapter efforts, however, an association Web page would have to be comprehensive, include chapter activities and be seen by chapters as the Web page to copy. CSC held two meetings with AEC Info-centre and received a proposal to establish a Web site at no cost to CSC.

At the 1996 annual meeting in June, Vice-President Chris Johnson reported that the CSC Web page was now in operation — a direct response to the marketing concerns revealed by the membership survey.

TEK•AIDS

Changes to the 1994-95 CSC Publications Catalogue included the new CCDC-2-94 and new TEK•AID documents for 02080 Hazardous Substances and 03100 Concrete Formwork. New reduced prices were in effect for many documents. In February 1995, it was announced that sales of TEK•AID/CCDC were up dramatically, with sales to date totalling 2,800 copies.

In February 1995, it was decided that the Technical Studies Committee (TSC) should be given the authority to negotiate with CSI on the feasibility of issuing joint technical documents. It was pointed out that CSC TEK•AIDs were information rich, while those of CSI were not as extensive. The TSC felt there was merit in examining the possibility of joint documents.

The goal of bringing the TEK•AIDs back on stream became a reality in 2002. The TSC sorted through the TEK•AID portfolio and came up with a list of TEK•AIDs that needed to be written or updated. In November 2002, Chris Johnson, FCSC, RSW, of Tri-Spec was chosen to redevelop TEK•AIDs for Division 0/ Division 1.

Continued support from chapters providing direct funding contributed to the ongoing upgrades of existing TEK•AIDs and the development of new one.

E-mail

An article in the November/December 1994 issue of *Construction Canada* discussed a new communications solution — e-mail. “With long distance telephone and travel costs becoming prohibitive, CSC has adopted an email solution for members.”

Electronic mail, the article explains, is the exchange of written remarks and comments between people using computer technology.

Suggested uses included short messages, questions and requests for help. Online costs through Datapac were quoted at 13 cents per minute, or \$8 per hour for 2,400 bps and \$20 per hour for a 9,600 bps access.

In February 1995, it was agreed that all members of the Board of Directors would be provided with access to the CompuServe network. The Association agreed to reimburse each director for

the cost of basic service on a quarterly basis. Additional charges incurred by a director were the director’s responsibility.

CD-ROMs

In an April 1994 article in *Construction Canada*, Isidore LeBlond wrote that CD-ROM (Compact Disc – Read Only Memory) and its recordable offspring CD-R (Recordable) was revolutionizing the way in which information was stored and disseminated. Corporations were turning to CD-ROM because it could improve their competitive advantage and governments were adopting CD-ROM because it allowed them to operate more efficiently. According to IBM, three out of every four computers sold in 1995 would incorporate a CD-ROM drive.

Project Tracker

A new electronic age development, the Electronic Tender Network, ProjectTracker, was described in early 1995. It allowed the electronic transfer of information between architects, owners, contractors and suppliers. However, in order for the system to become fully functional, industry standards needed to be established. The legal roadblocks to the transmission of bids and proprietary information such as drawings and tender documents also needed to be resolved.

Spex.ca

In March 2003, Mary J. Friesen, RSW, CSC president, announced CSC’s new product store, Spex.ca. A product CD was released the first year, but to stay in step with industry trends, went to full e-commerce in its second year. Spex.ca is part of CSC’s commitment to providing a wide range of products and was developed to help CSC market and sustain those

products. Spex.ca is a marketing alliance between CSC and Digicon Information Inc.

Education

In September 1993, it was reported that 30 packages of the new Home Study Course (HSC) had been sold and that projections were for 10 additional sales per year. The development of the HSC was a result of the Woods Gordon Study, as was the *Education Resource Manual*, which provided the basis for further development of the RSW as a professional designation. The purpose of the course was twofold: To advance a specifier into the RSW program and to educate draftspeople about specifications.

At a February 1994 Board of Directors meeting, it was announced that the revised Instructor's Manual for the Understanding Construction Specifications course was ready for release. Regarding the Certified Technical Representative (CTR) program, which was under development, Stephen Revay asked the directors to provide as much input as possible from the chapters to ensure a national perspective.

Revay also provided background information related to the establishment of the CSC-AS-TTF, or the Construction Specifications Canada – Alberta Section – Training and Trust Fund. It had been very successful in securing funds to produce educational material and was now looking to develop a Phase II Workshop and a Phase III Home Study Course.

Financially, \$193,000 of the \$200,000 grant had been spent. The current balance stood at \$109,000 due to receipts from courses and interest earned. Revay asked the directors to advise the CSC-AS-TTF of any educational products which it should consider developing.

Reference Library

In March 1995, Specification Officer Bernie Kliem began the process of putting together a reference library that would be housed in the Association's Lombard Street offices. By June 1995, a large number of volumes were available, but it was announced that contributions for this unique and valuable resource would be welcomed.

Certified Technical Representative

In March 1995, CSC launched the new Certified Technical Representative program. Using the designation CTR, it was developed to provide professional recognition to individuals who marketed and distributed products and materials to the construction industry.

Over 100 program requests were received within weeks of the launch. The intent and objective of the program was to set high professional standards and levels of practice for technical sales representatives.

Education Certification Committee

In May 1995, the structure of the proposed Education Certification Committee (ECC) was outlined by Stephen Revay. The Committee would be responsible for pursuing a long-term strategy; accreditation by others; certification of candidates; and administration and maintenance of CSC's three programs: RSW, CTR and CCCA.

The suggested committee structure would include two RSW members, two CTR members and two CCCA members. One representative from each of the following groups was suggested: the CS Foundation, College of Fellows, CSC-AS-TTF, LPF, as well as the CSC executive director.

In June 1995, Revay noted that the creation of the Education Certification Committee was a highlight of the 1994-95 term. “This committee will have overall responsibility for all CSC education and certification activities and will be able to create a consistent base.”

In a 1996 report, Gerry Wilson said that the onus to deliver CSC courses must rest with the chapters. He found two things that were apparent from the membership survey: members identified with their chapters and members wished to increase their level of education. The issue of the requirement that all CSC certification courses be taught by an RSW would be raised with the Board. It was clear that this was not working and it was also clear that there were many qualified instructors who would be able to teach courses, but who were not RSWs.

In February 1996, the Board approved the administrative fee for CSC education courses at \$35 for one-day courses; \$45 for two-day courses; and \$50 for courses of three days and longer. The chapter or course executive would be responsible for paying the administrative fee for each student enrolled. It was noted that CSC education courses were those which led to registration/certification and did not encompass courses or seminars presented by the chapters, which were not oriented to registration or certification.

In June 1997, CSC announced the availability of the Certified Construction Contract Administration (CCCA) Program. It allowed the Association to offer an education and certification program to members who were building owners, project managers or contractors. The CCCA program supplemented the existing RSW and CTR programs. Between June 1997 and June 1998, two members of CSC received RSW certificates, 16 received CTR certificates, and 12 received CCCA certificates.

In July 1997, President Gerry Wilson, RSW, said: “At Conference ’96 in Québec City, we granted certificates to two new Registered Specification Writers and the first members of our association to achieve the prestige of Certified Technical Representative. At Conference ’97, Vancouver, we witnessed the certification of three new RSWs and an additional 10 Certified Technical Representatives. Now that we have our Certified Construction Contract Administrator program in place, I look forward to Conference ’98 in Halifax. At that time we will have education and registration/certification programs for specifiers, suppliers, owners, contractors and consultants responsible for the administration of construction contracts.”

In a September 1997 article in *Construction Canada*, CSC Executive Director Nick Franjic encouraged members to take advantage of the professional certification programs offered by CSC writing:

The newest addition to the CSC certification program, the Certified Construction Contract Administrator (CCCA) is now available. The objective of the program is to improve construction contract administration by providing the educational resources needed to administer and enforce the contract. The CCCA designation will attest to your knowledge of CSC’s recommended practices in implementing and supervising construction contract documents.

The Certified Technical Representative program tells clients you have an expert’s knowledge of the construction products you represent and understand their uses. The CTR designation will increase your credibility in the design and construction field and make you a valuable resource whenever technical advice is required.

The Registered Specification Writer designation is available to architects, engineers and construction technologists. RSW behind

a specifier's name demonstrates a commitment to recognized standards of quality.

Marketing and Presenting Education

It was announced at the October 1997 Board of Directors meeting that the CSC guide, *Marketing and Presenting Education*, was completed and had been distributed to all chapter education committees. This document expanded the original material developed by CSC-AS-TTF and was considered to be an excellent reference document to use in presenting the various CSC education courses.

Education Evaluation

In November 2001, CSC President Don Shortreed wrote in *Construction Canada*: "To date, CSC has done a great job of keeping our education courses current. What we have not done is evaluate what today's students should know once they complete a course and how best to deliver these programs. Over the next few months the CSC Calgary chapter will be evaluating our education programs to establish specific objectives."

"The education scene is busier than ever, judging by the number of certificates that have been signed this year", said CSC President Mary J. Friesen, RSW, in March 2003. "The Level 1 course is being updated using the recently completed Level 1 DACUM [Developing a Curriculum] and work is underway to develop Level 2 DACUMs.

Revisions to the Level 1 Course were completed for the winter/spring 2003 education sessions. The Level 1 course was the first to be reworked, as it is the common pre-requisite course for all three of the registration/certification streams."

Following the DACUMs for the Level 2 courses and evaluations of the DACUM results, requests for proposals for the redevelopment of the Level 2 courses were issued in the summer of 2003. The intent was to have the new RSW/CTR/CCCA courses ready for the winter/spring classes of 2004.

Legal Liability and CTR

In a September 1998 article in *Construction Canada*, the question of whether a manufacturer's representative would be held to a higher degree of liability if he or she is a CTR was addressed by Doug Saunders.

Individuals are held to the standard of care of a reasonable person. The question of whether holding yourself out as a CTR increases your liability depends on whether the people you are representing take it as being some higher degree of qualification or expertise. Typically people assume a designation is indicative of a higher level of qualification. In principle it is likely that holding yourself out as a CTR will increase the standard you are held to as being that of a reasonably competent CTR.

It is difficult to predict what effect a CTR designation would have on someone who sees it on your credentials. It would depend on how the credentials were presented.

Manual of Practice

In February 1995, it was agreed by the Board that no further development would take place on the *Manual of Practice* and that the document would be phased out. However, in 2002 an informal committee was established to create a document that would detail the scope and content of an updated *Manual of Practice*.

In March 2002, John Clinckett, outlined the history of the *Manual of Practice* in an e-mail to Don Shortreed, CSC president.

The MOP started life as the SWAC three-year correspondence course. The course material was stored in three-ring binders and it gave birth to the two Specifier and Building Science books authored by Mervyn Jones, a professor at Ryerson. When he retired, the document was updated and published as the Specifiers' Handbook, which became the manual for the RSW exam and the text for the original evening course.

The big update took place when CSC obtained a copy of the CSI Manual of Practice, which contained individual chapters of topical information. Relevant chapters were combined with the CSC-MOP. The MOP continued to be updated for years.

CSC needs volunteers from all sectors to provide input during the current updating process if we are to continue our tradition of publishing documents attuned to what is happening in the industry.

In 2002, CSC began the process of compiling and writing sections of the manual. In May of 2003, the rewriting of the *Manual of Practice* was well underway, with two requests for proposals issued in April 2003.

Chapter News

In February 1995, Vice-President Chris Johnson indicated he had sent an 18-page fax to members of his Board Development Committee on February 7, 1995, listing what it should be prepared to discuss at the Board meeting. New initiatives included the development of a strategy for ailing chapters and expanded orientation information for directors.



Chapter Director Margaret Sweet receives New Brunswick Chapter charter from President George Heath, February 1994.

New Brunswick

Because of distance, it was difficult for Atlantic chapter members residing in New Brunswick to attend CSC functions in Halifax, where the greatest concentration of Atlantic chapter members lived. To overcome this, the New Brunswick chapter was chartered in 1993. Unfortunately, because members were scattered around the province, activity level remained low, in spite of assistance from the Atlantic chapter members. The new chapter relinquished its charter in 2001 and the New Brunswick members reverted to Atlantic chapter affiliation.

Toronto

In February 1994, the Toronto chapter funded reprogramming of the Association's broadcast fax system to incorporate the 416/905 area code changes.

In May 2001, Toronto chapter Chair Bob Rymell reported: “Last year the Toronto chapter was able to donate over \$125,000 to CSC initiatives and a contribution should be available again this year. The tradition of returning all chapter rebates to the Association has been maintained. The Toronto chapter was also pleased to provide the money to build a new lectern for the Lloyd Boddy award.”

The Toronto chapter was also in the process of dedicating funds for the 50th anniversary of CSC. The Toronto chapter would be hosting the anniversary convention in 2004. Don Shortreed chaired this initiative.

Hamilton–Niagara

In February 1998, Don Shortreed reported that four people were interested in standing for the chapter Executive in Hamilton–Niagara. An outline of planned activities for the chapter was distributed and Jim Ferguson agreed to present the plan to the Board of Directors. At a CSC Board of Directors meeting on February 22, 1998, the Board voted to monitor the activities of the Hamilton–Niagara chapter for a period of one year to allow the new chapter executive a reasonable time period to start and sustain the chapter revitalization process.

Winnipeg

In 1995, the Winnipeg chapter hosted a Trade Expo, which was combined with the national conference being held in Winnipeg that year. The turnout for the trade show was less than satisfactory, and had been for several years before. At a meeting in 1996, Ross Browne, FCSC, put forth the idea of replacing the timeworn trade show with the more dynamic SpecNet concept, a social type of event. The main criterion for the event was that it

allowed casual and social interaction between the sponsors and their invited guests.

The general concept of the event was that sponsors paid a set amount to participate and in return each spon-

sor would be allowed to invite 10 guests. The database of potential guests and ticket distribution was carefully controlled to ensure all tickets were accounted for. Control of the tickets was extremely important, as it allowed sponsors to know who was or wasn't invited and prevented tickets from getting into the hands of unpaid competitors. Further, the event was held at a prominent, popular venue to help give it credibility.

The proposal met with considerable skepticism, but in Ross's usual style, his persistence eventually paid off and Connections Café was born. The Winnipeg chapter hosted its first Connections Café at the Mondetta World Café (now the Spaghetti Factory) located at the Forks. It was a particularly memorable event, as it was the spring of 1997 during the peak of Manitoba's “Flood of the Century.” The restaurant was located at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers and no one who attended that first event will forget the raging water and ice in the fast-moving swollen river just metres from the building. It helped set the stage and atmosphere for what was to become one of the most popular events the Winnipeg chapter has ever hosted. Each year, it continues to draw the capacity 40 sponsors and approximately 400 guests. It is the only event that routinely brings out architects, interior designers, engineers and technologists alike.

The name Connections Café was registered by the Winnipeg chapter and donated to the Association for all chapters to use.



Logo for Connections Café.

All related graphics and letters were made available from the Association office. Connections Café stands as one of Ross Browne's legacies to CSC.

Regina

In a letter to the Board in February 1998, Bruce Peberdy of the Regina chapter raised the question of affiliate membership. Bob Friesen, Regina chapter director, stated that the concern was that small businesses could not afford the cost of more than one CSC membership and that that was affecting their chapter. He referred to the goal of 2,000 in 2000 saying the Regina chapter felt that CSC did not do much to achieve that. He assured the Board that the chapter would not just drop the issue and the next Regina chapter director likely raise the issue again. The Regina chapter did not have a plan as to how to provide affiliate memberships but stated that it would continue to pursue it.

Edmonton

In May 1997, the Edmonton chapter initiated the InfoNet networking evening, held at the Sidetrack Café. This consisted of an informal evening with special invited guests from the industry. In 1998, the chapter added a guest speaker and Internet demo to the InfoNet program. In 1999, InfoNet was incorporated into Conference '99 at the Delta Centre Suite Hotel as the welcome reception and sponsors evening. On March 23, 2000, the chapter held its 4th InfoNet, with guest speaker James Dykes. An educational component was added, with two streams of four technical seminars to the program. A total of 37 students took the seminars and attended the InfoNet networking event. On March 8, 2001, the format was changed once again to include a formal sponsored dinner with a guest speaker. At this point, the educational sessions were increased to three streams of six technical seminars.

Tabletop displays were available for sponsors. In 2002, InfoNet increased in size and the chapter went looking for a new venue for it, in addition to one for Conference 2005, for which the Edmonton chapter was to play host. The Sheraton Grande Hotel was chosen, which allowed the chapter to increase the tabletop displays. Again the educational component was increased, this time to four streams of eight technical seminars. The dinner speaker that year was Peter Busby, Architect, FRAIC, who spoke on Sustainable Design. There were 180 in attendance for dinner and 70 students for the technical sessions. The March 2003, InfoNet raised the bar once again, with special guest, Douglas Cardinal, FRAIC, speaking at the sponsored dinner to 275 attendees. There were over 30 tabletop displays at a free lunch, which 125 attended. The technical sessions consisted of four streams of eight technical seminars, with 75 in attendance.

Calgary

In 1994, a Level 2 RSW course was presented by the chapter. Educational seminar topics included Design-Build Contracts, The Art of Negotiating, and Alternate Dispute Resolution. Also in 1994, the chapter organized the first ICIS meeting, held in Banff. In 1997, membership was 81 for the Calgary chapter. Dinner meeting topics in the late 1990s included: The Electronic Highway; Alternate Dispute Resolution; an Overview of the CTR Program, CCDC-2 1994; Consulting and Construction Law, Design Build; MasterFormat 1995; the Product Substitution Game, Bid Shopping; and Construction Contract Strategies. By 2000, construction in Calgary was booming and so was membership, at 116. However, the booming market left fewer hours for volunteers.

By 2003, the Calgary chapter had approximately 114 members and programs included topics such as: High Performance

Curtain Wall Systems; New Technologies in Buildings — Advances in Wireless Communication; Green Building Rating Systems; and Environmental Construction Rebates.

SPEC•NET

In 1995, after observing the success of the Alberta Interior Design Association's fundraiser, the Calgary chapter began planning an event to take the place of their trade show. The new event, named SPEC•NET, was held in September 1996 at the Hard Rock Café. The format was a networking evening, which attracted 100 sponsors and their invited guests. Recognition of sponsors was done through continuous television infomercials on the more than 18 televisions located throughout the café. The event was a huge success. In fact, it was such a success that its format became the prototype for similar events throughout the country. Winnipeg and Edmonton adopted this concept, with Connections Café and InfoNet becoming recognized as major events for their membership. The concept was adapted by other chapters to meet their specific requirements.

Education

Some members of the Calgary chapter were growing increasingly discontent with the CSC education courses in the latter half of the 1990s. Course evaluations showed students were both disappointed and critical of the course materials. David Thompson, an executive member, former education chair and a long-time advocate for improved courses, along with the Calgary executive at the time, campaigned for change to the Education Certification Committee (ECC). Among the recommendations the chapter made was to have professional course development based on the skill sets graduates should have upon

completion of the courses. The chapter suggested that employers and other stakeholders in the process should have input as to the skill set. As well, distance learning was increasing in use by post-secondary institutions. The Calgary advocates felt that with professional course development and the creation of modules for each course, this goal could be achieved for CSC courses. In 1998, the chapter organized a brainstorming session to identify skill sets for each course and prepared a comprehensive report, which was delivered to the ECC outlining recommendations for improvement.

After much discussion with the ECC and other chapters on the stand that Calgary had taken about the future of CSC education courses, the ECC came to Calgary in 2001 for their spring meeting, allowing time in their schedule for a presentation outlining the chapter's concerns and recommendations for change. The recommendations were well received, and the committee agreed to look into an examination of skill sets through the DACUM process. By October, the ECC realized that CSC educational programs should be reviewed with input from industry and not just CSC members. A DACUM was held resulting in the ECC focussing on the benefits of CSC courses as an educational tool in general for the industry, not just for CSC members and Certification and Registration programs.

In 2001 the AS-TTF completed its mandate and, having no further funds, ended operations. The AS-TTF had an important impact on training and related programs at CSC. It effected a shift in CSC's focus from an emphasis on technical documents to education.

Calgary — The First 50 Years

The first 50 years of CSC history for Calgary saw the chapter grow and develop into one of the most viable chapters in the

Association; its contributions varied, innovative and irreplaceable.

The chapter has contributed to and had an influence on educational and training programs with chapter members sitting on the Architectural Technology Advisory Committee at SAIT since 1966, teaching courses at the University of Calgary and SAIT, presenting information seminars to Mount Royal College students and, of course, contributing through the Alberta Section of the CSC Training Trust Fund. The chapter has presented courses in all streams of the education program, in formats ranging from one-day seminars to five day workshops and thirteen week courses.

Calgary developed Tek-Talks in the mid 1990s as a format to inform industry members of timely topics in a short one-hour time frame. It was the first chapter to develop a full-year program brochure for the convenience of its membership, for which it won a Chapter of the Year Award. As computerization made advances in other areas of the industry, the Calgary chapter was the first CSC chapter to have an electronic version of its newsletter, develop an electronic style guide for CSC communications and design its own Web site. These innovations were a result of the efforts of David Watson, CET of the Calgary chapter.

Industry liaisons have always been important to the chapter, with affiliations with the Calgary Construction Association, the Alberta Building Envelope Council, the Glass and Architectural Metals Association, The Alberta Roofing Contractors Association, the Construction Specifications Institute (at the chapter level), the Alberta Wall and Ceiling Bureau, The Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada and the Edmonton CSC chapter. The Calgary chapter organized and held the first official ICIS meeting in Banff in 1994.

Calgary chapter members have made great contributions to the industry and CSC committees, including CCDC,

TEK•AIDs, Education, Editorial Advisory and Technical Studies, among others. The chapter has four past presidents, all Fellows of CSC, and a rich history of national contributions. The chapter also contributes financially, returning its chapter rebate to the Association each year. Calgary has won consecutive chapter awards since 1991.

The Calgary chapter of CSC looks forward to the next 50 years, evolving and adapting to meet member needs and industry changes with innovative and constructive programs. Calgary will continue to contribute locally, nationally and globally to the construction community as an integral chapter within CSC.

Vancouver

Like many organizations, membership fluctuated in the 1990s, despite having a good variety of topics to discuss at chapter meetings. However, the chapter had a major upsurge in meeting attendance spurred by the fact that the Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC) introduced a mandatory Continual Education Learning System and through an agreement with the chapter, attendance at a chapter meeting results in earning one Professional Learning Unit, of which 18 are required by each AIBC member per year. This resulted in attendance of 131 at one meeting, the highest ever for a chapter meeting. In 2002, CSC grew nationally by 48 members, 21 of whom were in the Vancouver chapter.

The chapter has also been active in providing CSC courses with a strong representation of CTRs. The chapter has also had a presence at a construction trade show held annually at Canada Place, which has kept the chapter in the forefront with other industry organizations.

On the lighter side, the annual golf tournament met with continued great success, attracting many players from the local

construction industry. It has become a profitable event and a major contributor to chapter funds.

At this time of the celebration of our 50th Anniversary, the Vancouver chapter is in good health and looks forward to the future, and the next 50 years!

Time Capsule

Order of Canada

Willem B.C. de Lint, OC, FCSC, and former CSC president, 1976-77, was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1995. The Order of Canada is comprised of a select group of Canadians who have distinguished themselves in public life. The Regina architect was born in the Netherlands and later attended the School of Architecture of the University of Manitoba. His projects include the Plains Health Centre, Victoria Union Hospital, and the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre.

Last Curmudgeon's Corner

In what turned out to be his last Curmudgeon's Corner, in November 1999, F. Ross Browne, FCSC, wrote about the animals of the construction industry.

I thought it might be amusing to consider the variety of characters we encounter in our day-to-day tribulations and give them animal persona. The trick is guessing who's who.

The status of cow belongs to those individuals who lack knowledge about the building industry and have little interest in learning anything new.

There are those whose interests lie wholly in the domain of profit. They are surely the pigs in the barnyard. They seemingly take delight in short-changing their customers on quality, while simultaneously driving their own cost to deficit levels.

The sheep are those willing to provide a market for cookie-cutter boxes and post-modern designs that have been slavishly copied from magazines, thus promoting this travesty of what was once a classic design.

Dodo birds are those who strenuously toil at limiting their responsibility (and, so they think, their liability), to the point where they end up knowing more and more about less and less. Ultimately they become experts at doing nothing. Reading Darwin, we know what happens to a species that has no purpose. They become endangered through a process called natural selection. Does this sound like anyone you know?

The dogs are the people who will say anything to get what they want, making them sycophants. If you don't believe me, look it up.

The monkeys are those individuals who seem to do nothing other than fool around on the job, but still want to get paid.

I've encountered enough people throughout my professional career that I could easily fill another page with such comparisons, but I'll save some for you.

Appointment

Gino Ferri, FCSC, chair of the Board of Directors of Trustees, Construction Specifications Foundation, announced the appointment of Larry Stutt, FCSC as a Trustee of the Foundation in September 1994.

Obituaries

Stuart Frost

Stuart Frost, FCSC, RSW, passed away November 19, 2000. A founding member of the Association, many of his former friends and colleagues paid tribute to Mr. Frost.

Robert E. Briggs wrote:

Born in Toronto in 1925, Stuart graduated from Danforth Technical School and at age 18 and joined the RCAF as a pilot.

In 1954, he helped found the Specification Writers Association of Canada, now CSC, and in 1958, served as SWAC president.

With Bob Fernandez, he established Frost Fernandez, a company that produced building specifications. In 1967, Stu took over the editorship of the Specification Associate, now Construction Canada, from Russ Cornell, the magazine's first editor.

Over the years, Stu was recognized for his many contributions to SWAC and CSC, receiving the Toronto Chapter Award of Merit on more than one occasion. He was inducted into the CSC College of Fellows in 1972. In 1996, Stu was honoured with CSC's Life Membership Award.

Ian Frost, his son, paid tribute to his father saying: "If you knew Stu, you would not be surprised to hear that creative energy was apparent in every facet of his life. He was an accomplished photographer, skilled wood worker, talented cartoonist and devoted father. Each year he combined those diverse skills to produce a Christmas card that told the story of his family, travels, and life through poetic verse, cartoon, photographs and paintings.

"One of my fondest Christmas memories is the family gathering around the dining room table to fold and colour the cards. His life is chronicled in those 50 years of cards, the last of which was written and drawn by the entire family after Alzheimer's had robbed him of his keen mind."

F. Ross Browne

The last Curmudgeon's Corner, a regular column in *Construction Canada*, was written by George Heath, FCSC, in January 2000. He used the space to pay tribute to F. Ross Browne who had authored the column. The column was entitled, "A Leader in Every Respect."

As most of you who read this column know, Ross Browne died of a heart attack on October 16, 1999. I have been asked to pay tribute to this remarkable man in what will be the last Curmudgeon's Corner.

Every opportunity to spend some personal time with Ross was special and with every goodbye, you knew there was the possibility it might be the last. But somehow with Ross, you just never expected the last goodbye to be right around the corner. He always had things to do, places to go and great plans for the future.

In his formative years Ross had taken a keen interest in music. With his trombone, horn and bass, he and his friends often jammed at clubs. In fact he went on to earn a living playing local gigs.

His passion for life was clear to everyone who saw or spoke to him in Edmonton (at the 1999 convention). His spirit was strong and his wit as sharp as ever. CSC conferences will never be the same without Ross.

There was another side to Ross that many who knew him came to love — Ross the painter. In the last 10 years he realized a life-long desire to express himself through art. He studied various forms of art and was just beginning to come into his own. He will be deeply missed.

I think it is only fitting that I wrap up Curmudgeon's Corner with the closing comments Ross used in his column about the rewards of volunteering. I leave you with words from three philosophers:

To do, is to be. Voltaire
To be, is to do. Rousseau
Do be do be do. Sinatra

Heath also recalled Ross the painter, writing:

Another fond memory of conferences from the late 80s through to the late 90s was the Ross Browne art show. As many CSC members will know, after Ross retired, he took up sketching

and painting as a hobby. His painting skills quickly developed to the point where he could command a decent fee for one of his pieces. Ross rarely missed a conference and his art show in the president's suite (or anywhere someone would give him some space) became a regular and anticipated event. As a consequence, many CSC members throughout the country have a little piece of Ross Browne hanging on the wall in their home or office.

Nick Franjic, CSC executive director, wrote on the passing of F. Ross Browne: "Ross held the distinction of being the first president of CSC, 1974-75, and the last president of its predecessor, the Specification Writers Association of Canada. He was also the first president who was not a specification writer, architect or engineer, but rather, a manufacturer's representative." Franjic continued:

Ross was elected to the College of Fellows in 1979 and acquired a Life Membership in 1992. He was also one of the founding trustees of the Construction Specifications Foundation, established in 1974.

I first met Ross at the CSC Conference '94 in London, Ontario. Our relationship can be best described as "confrontational to confidant." He stated his opinion and gave no apologies for doing so. He demanded respect when deserved and always gave it when earned. He would be confrontational when needed and fair at all times. Ross was humorous, insightful and wise and yes, at times he was known to be sarcastic. Whatever the mood, you always knew to expect the unexpected.

With the passing of Ross, CSC has lost a dedicated member; many have lost a friend and this world has lost great man. Ross the artist, the musician, the friend, the man, will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

Tip of the Hat

In January 1999, Nick Franjic offered a tip of the hat to CSC volunteers saying: "CSC, like many not-for-profit organizations, has had to face a growing concern — the organization's dwindling volunteer base. All the restructuring and downsizing that has taken place in the construction industry has meant a decline in the Association's volunteer base. The desire of volunteers has not diminished, but the time and energy that members have to contribute is not as abundant as it was in the past.

"In that light, the commitment and contributions of members who have made the time are that much more important. It is to those individuals and their employers that I extend the appreciation of CSC."

In March 1999, F. Ross Browne, FCSC, commented on Nick Franjic's tip of the hat to volunteers. A CSC member since 1964, Browne wrote:

In 1974 I volunteered myself right up to the presidency of SWAC. Now I was famous (infamous) and happy I had chosen this path. But the best was yet to come. In 1979 I was asked to expand my sales territory from Manitoba and Saskatchewan to include Alberta and British Columbia. I discovered very soon that I knew a lot of people in this new territory and my name was not unknown to many new customers I didn't know. None of this would have been possible without the time I had spent volunteering. My feeling is that if you go the volunteer route you will always get back more than you give.

9/11 donations

In November 2001, CSC President Don Shortreed wrote:

On September 11, the terrorist attack on the U.S. shook not only our friends south of the border, but the world itself. In an

effort to help in whatever way possible, CSC began a campaign to raise money for the families of fallen New York City firefighter and police. This initiative was spearheaded by Bruce Gillham of the Toronto chapter.

Needless to say it did not take long for the donations to start rolling in and on October 2, I had the honour of presenting two cheques to charities established for the families of these true heroes.

Congratulations

At the Annual General Meeting on June 6, 1995, in Winnipeg, the CSC sent its congratulations to CSC member Jane Baker, FCSI on being elected the first female president of CSI.

Convention Highlights

In February 1995, the Board voted to continue the practice of holding an annual conference or general meetings on the understanding that the conferences be directed toward self-sufficiency. It was agreed that the annual conference was required to meet constitutional and program needs, but that the conference needs should be examined annually.

By 1996, the traditional trade show had experienced a decline in popularity in western Canada on the part of suppliers as well as the design industry, with a resulting decline in revenue for the CSC chapters. This was partly due to changes in marketing strategies by manufacturers' representatives, who were faced with reduced marketing budgets and larger territories to cover. The Calgary chapter developed a concept for a more dynamic evening social event called "Spec Net," as an alternative to the traditional annual chapter trade show. This brought together sponsors (the technical representatives who would normally be

involved in a trade show) and quality customers (people who make decisions regarding the selection of construction products) in a social setting that included food. The first successful Spec Net was held at the Hard Rock Café in Calgary on September 26, 1996. In 1997, the Edmonton chapter followed Calgary's lead by developing and hosting a similar event called "InfoNet." InfoNet has progressed over the years to include various levels of sponsorship, with matching benefits, and afternoon education sessions with a separate fee schedule. In 1997, the Winnipeg chapter followed suit by developing a similar concept called Connections Café.

These formats have, and continue to be, successful networking ventures bringing together sponsors and customers and generating income for the host chapters. Information, including appendices and graphics for networking and fund raising activities is now included in Part 7 of the CSC Administrative Manual.

Curmudgeon's Corner conference report

In his Curmudgeon's Corner column, published in May, 1999, F. Ross Browne reminisced about past CSC conferences.

It may seem I have been at all the conferences since 1965, but I really did miss some. The memory banks tell me all were enjoyable, but some were especially memorable.

The conferences of 1975, 1985 and 1995 were each held in Winnipeg, so pardon my bias for my hometown. 1975 sticks out in my memory — it was the year I left office to become a lowly past president. I ensured broccoli was removed from the menu, made a speech and got to sleep in a four-poster bed because we were staying in the Fort Gary Hotel — the epitome of a Lloyd Boddy hotel.



Ross Browne makes presentation to Executive Director Jim Duncan.

CSC's Winnipeg Chapter hosted three conferences and all scored well. But enough backslapping, lets move on to my other favourites.

The 1970 conference in Vancouver, B.C., featured Buckminster Fuller as the keynote speaker. The ambiance of the waterfront and the mountains was dazzling, as good as the wine. Damn near got pregnant because of it!

However, the 1980's conference in Jasper was probably the best of all. Once again I got to make a speech, play bass with my wife at the piano for a singsong and was privileged to sing "O Canada" one night when it was announced that Rene Levesque's referendum was defeated. I seem to remember we were all crying at once when the singing had subsided. Then they brought me a four-foot platter of broccoli to make me feel bad. No way!

Calgary was the setting for the 1992 conference. Once again the social aspect, and those in attendance, contributed to the

overall feeling of being part of an organization that not only gets things done, but fosters a fellowship that perhaps doesn't happen in other organizations.

I also received my Life Membership that year, but I didn't get pregnant again! Then there was Québec City in 1996. Once again a Lloyd Boddy Hotel. The best one of all. (Hotel that is.) The weather was pure gold, ambiance everywhere. Having French in your ear all day and night was also a treat. More than a few friends to meet.

So far I have neglected the technical program. I am not a big fan of this aspect of conferences, although I attended most of them until 1988 when I retired.

To me, what is really important is the awards luncheon. CSC must reward its volunteers and we must salute them at this time. Here we find those of us who lead. It is a great feeling to watch the rise of young people over the years and to observe their growth as individuals in our industry.

London 1994

In 1994, The London chapter hosted its first and only CSC conference from May 29 to June 1 at the Radison Hotel London Centre. The trade show was held at the nearby convention centre. Because London is known as the Forest City, it was fitting that the theme would be "Renewable, Resourceful, Remarkable Wood." A featured speaker was Lyman Shepard, who gave his impersonation of Frank Lloyd Wright



Logo for London Conference 1994.

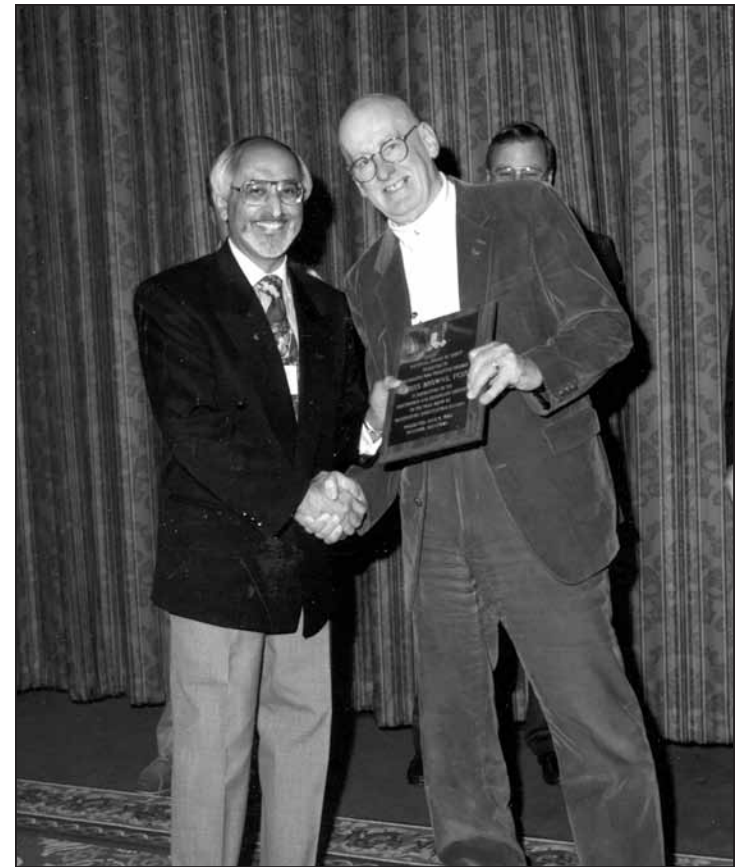


President George Heath presents Past President Denis Brough with CSC Life Membership award, May 1994.

and the effect that his architectural legacy has had on the West. The conference mascot was a humorous walking tree (a.k.a. Lewis Acre).

Winnipeg 1995

Winnipeg chapter hosted Conference '95 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, June 4 to 6. The program included a facility tour of the newly constructed \$100 million Laboratory Centre for Disease Control on June 4 and the Trade Expo at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on June 5. The theme of this conference was Communication. Fun Night was dinner and a mini Folklorama at The Forks, featuring entertainment by various groups representing the diverse ethnic community in Winnipeg. Jane Baker, the incoming first woman president of CSI, was in attendance and was unanimously congratulated at the Annual General Meeting on her achievement.



President Dinshaw Kanga presents Ross Browne with the CSC Life Membership award, Conference 1995 in Winnipeg.

Québec City 1996

The venue for Conference '96 was the Chateau Frontenac Hotel in beautiful and historic Québec City from June 6 to 9. This conference was a significant event because it was hosted jointly by the Québec chapter of CSC/DCC and LPF/DCC (Les



President Issy LeBlond and the President's Ball receiving line at Conference 1996 in Québec City.



President Issy LeBlond presents Past Presidents plaque to Steve Revay.

Publications Françaises (DCC) Inc.). Also, it ushered in an era where the Association office and staff would play a more active role in the planning and administration of conferences. Association involvement included procuring national corporate sponsors, contracting with venues and service providers and handling delegate registrations. Net income generated by the conference would now be shared equally by the Association and host chapter(s). The theme of this conference was Performance, with three tracks of technical sessions. Delegates and companions were treated on Fun Night with entertainment, dinner and a mini casino while cruising the St Lawrence River.

Vancouver 1997

The theme of Conference '97 was Building New Bridges, with a technical program concerning networking, sharing knowledge and developing new systems to preparing for the new millennium. The Vancouver chapter hosted the conference at the Hotel Vancouver from June 5 to 7. Featured speakers were internationally known architect, Bing Thom and CSI President, Dick Eustis. Fun Night at Canada Place featured dining on west coast finger food and the antics of nationally renowned Theatre Sports improvisational group.

Halifax 1998

The next year took CSC to Halifax, the other end of the country, for Conference '98, hosted by the Atlantic chapter at Hotel Halifax from June 4 to 6. With the theme Going Global, delegates were challenged to expand their horizons, broaden their scope, enhance performance and network by attending technical sessions that catered to various construction industry disciplines. Fun Night on the waterfront was an occasion to dine on lobster and be entertained by east coast music and singing. On

the way back to the hotel, some attendees stopped at the casino to try their luck.

Edmonton 1999

The Edmonton chapter hosted Conference '99 at the Hotel Delta Centre Suite from May 27 to 29. The theme was Northern Exposure and some of the technical sessions, of which there were two streams, related to cold-weather construction. The Welcome Reception took the form of an InfoNet at the Elephant & Castle. The companion program included a visit to the Muttart Conservatory, lunch at Hotel MacDonald and the musical *Babes in Arms* at the Citadel Theatre. Fun Night was an evening of sightseeing, dinner and dancing aboard the *Edmonton Queen*, which cruised the North Saskatchewan River.



President Phil Evans and wife Edna enjoying Fun Night at "Festin du Gouverneur," Conference 2000, Montréal.



Toronto Chapter members eat and be merry at "Festin du Gouverneur," Conference 2000, Montréal.

Montréal 2000

The Montréal chapter put in its request, many years in advance, to host the first conference of the new millennium (or the last of the old millennium, depending on how you count years) and was awarded Conference 2000, held at the Renaissance Hotel du Park from May 25 to 27. With the theme Advanced Technologies, delegates were able to select technical sessions from two streams that accommodated both the supplier and design disciplines of the construction industry. The Welcome Reception was an InfoNet at a nearby restaurant. Fun Night treated delegates, companions and guests to Le Festin du Gouverneur at the Fort on St Helen's Island (a return to the venue of the entertaining 1987 Fun Night).

Ottawa 2001

Ottawa chapter followed their tradition of bidding for CSC conferences in years ending with the number "one" by hosting



Incoming President Don Shortreed and Past President Ian Bartlett give last minute instructions to piper.



Logo for Ottawa Conference 2001.

Conference 2001 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel from May 24 to 26. The theme, Capital Vision, provided a technical program that was challenging, compelling and informative, with three streams of technical sessions. Keynote speakers were Douglas J. Cardinal, Architect, and Byron Johnson,



Ottawa 2001 Conference Committee.

Technology Demonstration Coordinator, Public Works and Government Services Canada. Cardinal explained how technology inevitably follows the creative spirit and Johnson discussed the incorporation of innovative technology in construction documents. The Sponsors Welcome Reception celebrated the 25th anniversary of the National Master Specification Secretariat. Fun Night was a repeat of the highly



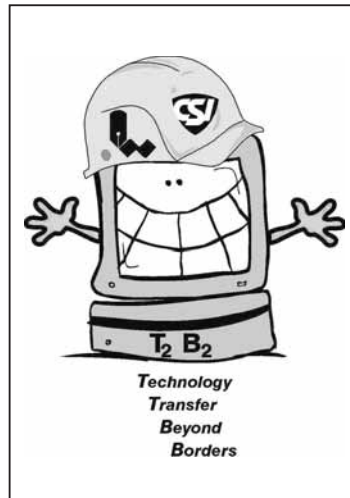
President Burt Barteaux and his head table at Conference 2001, Ottawa.

successful Bytown Bash from 1981, but at a different venue. This time, delegates, companions and guests were bussed to the scenic Camp Fortune in the Gatineau Hills, 30 minutes north of Ottawa.

Calgary 2002

Nineteen years after the first CSC conference in Banff, the Calgary Chapter of CSC and the CSI Northwest Region, Willamette Valley Chapter hosted Conference 2002 at The Banff Centre, a campus-type venue, from May 23 to 25. Excitement was high for Conference 2002, the first joint conference with CSI, and members were urged to book rooms early, as space was limited. Registration was very vigorous and the chapter had to scramble for enough rooms, booking space in nearby hotels to accommodate the increased interest. Not only was member interest high, but sponsor interest was at an all time high. The corporate sponsorship target of \$100,000 was exceeded by over a third, totalling over \$150,000. This allowed for upgraded programs for delegates and companions. The 2002 Conference organizing committee was chaired by Steve Revay, FCSC and Loren Berry of CSI.

The spring date allowed all four seasons of the year to be experienced. Magnificent views, stunning mountains and the



Mascot for Calgary/Willamette Valley Joint CSC/CSI Conference 2002.

Canadian wilderness all contributed to making this a memorable conference. The theme “T2B2,” or Technology Transfer Beyond Borders, recognized the significance of this first conference to be jointly hosted by CSC and CSI.

The idea for a joint CSC/CSI conference came about during the CSI convention in Baltimore in 1998. As John Lape — who was on the CSI national Board representing the northwest region of CSI — recalls, David Watson of CSC, and Chris Johnson, then CSC president, were attending the 1998 CSI convention. “Chris, David and I were talking and the subject of the 2002 Conference in Banff came up. Banff has instant appeal worldwide and the opportunity to have a joint conference was born.

“CSI and CSC Chapters had previously held joint meetings and there will most certainly be joint conferences in the future. These activities present unique opportunities. The Banff conference needs to be viewed as a special event and not precedent setting.”

The featured speaker was Laurie Skreslet, the first Canadian to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. He described how he and his team spent over five years planning and raising the funds required to make the ascent possible. The conference technical program included sessions on construction contracts, electronic documents and Web-based project management, international trade issues, electronic bidding and the development of the OmniClass Construction Classification System. Fun Night once again treated attendees to an evening of western-style food, “calf roping,” entertainment and dancing at the Mountview BBQ in the beautiful Canadian Rockies.

Regina 2003

With 2003 being the centennial anniversary of the founding of Regina, the Regina chapter hosted Conference 2003 on the prairie flatlands at the Hotel Saskatchewan Radisson from May 29 to 31. The theme Expanding Horizons provided delegates with opportunities to network with other industry professionals and stay current with the day's technology with two streams of technical sessions.

The keynote speakers were Dr. Joseph Lstiburek, a forensic engineer, who entertained and challenged delegates in his presentation, "When Things Go Wrong," and Joan McCusker, Olympic curling champion and CBC commentator.

The technical program addressed the expansion of the CSC/CSI MasterFormat and the OmniClass Construction Classification System. CGC Fun Night provided dining and entertainment at the Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts, Wascana Centre.



Logo for Conference 2003, Regina.



President Mary Friesen presents the National Award of Merit to Burt Barteaux at Conference 2003, Regina.



President Sandro Ubaldino presents Mary Friesen with the Past Presidents award at Conference 2003, Regina.

Toronto 2004

Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) celebrated its 50th anniversary with style and panache in the city where it all began. Hundreds of delegates, along with many companions, gathered in Toronto from May 26 to 30, 2004 for networking opportunities, and to take in educational sessions, exhibitor booths, social activities and keynote addresses.

During the opening ceremony Wednesday night, President Sandro Ubaldino, RSW, and 17 past-presidents were led into the Toronto Marriot Eaton Centre Hotel to the skirl of bagpipes. This not only kicked off Conference 2004, it heralded the celebration of 50 years of serving the construction industry. Along with Ubaldino, Robert Briggs, CSC President 1958-1959, shared some memories with those assembled.

Keynote luncheon speaker Dick Pound delivered an entertaining yet informative talk on the construction business and planning spectrum of the International Olympic Committee



Logo for Conference 2004, Toronto.



Yvan Hardy receives the Life Membership Award from President Sandro Ubaldino. A 39-year member of CSC, Hardy has been one of the association's pillars in Montreal, introducing bilingualism to CSC and other construction associations.

(IOC). One of the main myths he attempted to dispel where the Olympics are concerned is that host cities always lose money. The IOC wants nothing of the kind to happen to host cities — the IOC now publishes specifications showing host cities exactly what is required, no more, no less.

Friday's Fun Night lived up to its name, as registrants and their companions made their way to the nearly CBC Toronto headquarters. There, with food and beverage, they enjoyed an entertaining evening beginning with a Chinese dragon dance and Japanese drum performances, and ending with comedy sketches by the Second City comedy troupe.



President Sandro Ubaldino (centre with scissors), cuts the ribbon to officially kick-off CSC's 50th Anniversary conference. Joining Ubaldino for the festivities were some of the association's past-presidents, including Dennis Looten (1992-93), Claude Jarrett (1959-60), Eileen Bredeson (1991-92), Robert Briggs (1958-59), Peter Dobbing (1977-79), David McGuigan (1987-88), Jim Tobros (1988-89), Phil Evans (1999-2000), Dinshaw Kanga (1994-95) and Don Shortreed (2001-02). Toronto Chapter Director Bruce Gillham looks on.

Raymond Moriyama, one of Canada's most respected architects, delivered Conference 2004's keynote address. He has worked on a number of noted projects, including the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Ontario Science Centre and the Bata Shoe Museum. Using two of his international projects — the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo and the Saudi Arabian National Museum — Moriyama explained the benefits of design-build (international in scope) and its positive impact on the Canadian economy... all while showcasing Canadian talent in art, engineering and design.

Two recipients were awarded Life Membership in 2004: Ian Bartlett, FCSC, RSW, MAATO, and Yvan Hardy, P.Eng.,



In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the enhancement of CSC, Immediate Past President Mary Friesen and Keith Robison are inducted into the CSC College of Fellows by Chancellor Larry Stutt (right) and Dean John Jensen (left).



President Sandro Ubaldino (left), presents Ian Bartlett with the association's highest honour — the Life Membership Award.

FDCC, MOIQ, LMASCE, PMCSI. Bartlett joined the Specification Writers Association of Canada (SWAC) in January 1968, accumulating 36 years of continuous membership and volunteerism. He became a Registered Specification Writer (RSW) in 1982, and has served the association at both chapter and national levels in almost every way possible. The documentation received by the executive council in support of Yvan

Hardy's nomination for Life Membership comprised about 100-plus pages—mostly double-sided—expounding highlights from Hardy's 39 years of CSC membership. Hardy continues to be one of the association's pillars in Montréal, introducing bilingualism to CSC and other construction-related organizations.

CSC's College of Fellows inducted two new members into its ranks at the President's Ball: Immediate Past-President Mary J. Friesen, RSW, and Keith Robinson, RSW, CCS. Friesen joined CSC in 1989 through the Winnipeg Chapter and went on to hold various offices on the executive. Her accomplishments grew in number when, in 1999, she was elected 4th



President Sandro Ubaldino presents the President's Award to his friend and mentor Fred Clarke in recognition of Fred's commitment and dedication to CSC and the History Committee, as well as his guidance and support to Sandro over the years.



President Sandro Ubaldino (centre) and CSC Executive Director Nick Franjic (left) accept a gift from their colleagues to the south, the Construction Specifications Institute (CSI), commemorating 50 years of excellence. On hand to make the presentation were CSI President Edith Washington, FCSI, CCS, and Executive Director Karl Borgstrom, Ph.D.

vice-president. Keith Robinson has been an active member of CSC since 1984, and has held a number of offices and appointments at both the chapter and national levels in various positions and capacities. Robinson has spearheaded the ongoing process of registering specification writers through CSC, and has streamlined and updated the process of registration through his efforts.

As one of his last duties as CSC president, Sandro Ubaldino, RSW, presented the President's Award to two individuals: Don Shortreed, FCSC, RSW, and Fred Clarke, FCSC. Ubaldino thanked Shortreed and Clarke for their commitment and dedication to CSC, for their guidance and support over the years and

helping him execute his duties as president.

This year's recipients of the National Award of Merit included Lori Brooks, John Jensen, FCSC, Tosh Sakamoto, Roger Ali, CTR, John Dyk, Bob Mercer, Paul Shupe, CTR, Russell Snow, CTR, and Larry Stutt, FCSC, CTR.

With seven per cent growth in membership, it was evident that this year's Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year winner's promotion of CSC membership was paying off. They target related associations for each chapter meeting, depending on the topic of the technical presentation. They also offer an annual scholarship at a local college and continue to hold their annual Connections Café/Infonet. The 2003/2004 Lloyd Boddy Chapter of the Year was awarded to the Winnipeg Chapter.

In memory of the late F. Ross Browne, FCSC, Kenilworth Publishing Inc. presented an award for the best-written article in *Construction Canada* from 2003 to Yves Bradet for his article "Taking the Heat Off: Recommended Roofing Installation Practices," from the May 2003 issue.

The President's Ball Saturday evening was a grand event, opening with a head table procession led by a bagpiper. Also attending the event were representatives from CSC's friends to the south, Construction Specifications Institute (CSI). President Edith S. Washington, FCSI, CCS, congratulated CSC and presented the association with a commemorative gift. The evening was capped with music and dancing, led by Juno-award winning jazz singer, Liberty Silver.

Under the leadership of CSC Conference 2004 Chair Don Shortreed, the Conference Committee delivered on every level, including technical, companion and social programs.

On the occasion of our 50th anniversary we can look back on our annual conferences as a testament to the variety of venues, technical programs and entertainment that has been provided to



Lori Brooks received a National Award of Merit Award from President Sandro Ubaldino for her dedication to the CSC History Committee, and in particular her efforts in helping produce the CSC history book.

SWAC/CSC members during the first half century of the association's existence. This is the result of dedication, imagination, planning and hard work by the host chapters and association staff. Although the commentary has described the uniqueness of each conference, there have always been elements of the conferences that are basically consistent from year to year. These include the Awards Luncheon, Members' Forum, and Annual General Meeting. Every conference concludes with the President's Banquet and Ball. This event is preceded by a sponsored reception, with Sweets Group (McGraw Hill Construction



President Sandro Ubaldino presents the 2004 Conference Organizing Committee with the Conference Program Directors Award. Back row (left to right): David Pinkney, RSW; John Dyke; Bruce Gillham, CTR, CCCA; Roger Ali, CTR; Don Shortreed, FCSC, RSW. Front row (left to right): Michael Hicks; David Wilson, RSW; Nancy Wiskel, CTR; Sandro Ubaldino, RSW (CSC President); Steve Leblanc, CTR. Absent: Scott Wylie.

Information Group), being the sponsor as far as long as the writer can remember. During the ball, specialty coffees are provided by Dow Building Materials. The ongoing support by these and many other sponsors has contributed greatly to the attraction and success of the conferences.

John Jensen, FCSC.

Spec Notes

My interest in project specifications led me to learn of the existence of an association dedicated “to fostering the interests of

those who are engaged in or who are affected by the compilation or use of any forms of specifications or related documentation for the construction industry”, namely the Specification Writers Association of Canada (SWAC). At the suggestion of my superior, I joined SWAC in April 1969 and started attending chapter meetings. I also attended my first Association conference in Toronto that month. A year later, I became a member of the chapter Executive and have held office at chapter or association level every year since.

Over its first half century of existence, SWAC/CSC has steadily become a highly regarded and influential constituent within the Canadian construction industry. Its strength lies in the multi-disciplinary nature of its membership. Educational programs, from the correspondence courses of the early days to the current education and certification programs, have been a boon to the industry. The Association has prided itself on keeping abreast of cutting-edge technology and is constantly updating its technical documents and education courses. I have always looked forward to the annual conferences and have attended 22 to date. Each one attempts to raise the bar a little higher.

John Jensen, FCSC.

The past few years have seen a downturn in the construction industry across Canada with job losses in both the private and public sectors. Through it all, membership in CSC has remained constant, which is outstanding.

One of the unique benefits of CSC is that our network is truly multi-disciplined. I joined CSC some 20 years ago as a student member because I thought it would help me establish contacts in the real world. It would appear my initial investment has paid off.

My theme for this year can be described in three words. Marketing, marketing and marketing. Thanks to the support of the

Toronto chapter, CSC will be taking a more aggressive approach in marketing our educational programs and products. The development of the CSC home page will allow us to reach the international scene.

Issy LeBlond, *Construction Canada*,
July 1996.

We are at an interesting phase in the history of CSC and we must assume a greater role in dealing with building owners and facility managers, especially with the shift toward design/build agreements. Our Association is poised to expand thanks to the continued support of you, the members, and, in particular, the hundreds of chapter volunteers.

The Board of Directors recently approved the distribution of the NMS on CD-ROM and the Web site to promote our educational programs.

Issy LeBlond, *Construction Canada*,
April 1997.

We must ask ourselves: How will we manage multidimensional change at the breakneck pace we can expect in the next century? I believe this to be an emerging role for associations such as CSC. Faced with the Herculean task of remaining up to date, members of the construction industry will look towards progressive organizations to provide them with significantly enhanced services, better enabling them to meet these challenges. We are already witnessing trends that suggest continuing education and certification renewal will play major roles in the future.

The key is to plan for the proper implementation of continuing education strategies, offering multifaceted opportunities that will accommodate the diverse needs of our diverse membership.

...CSC also pursued the creation of new strategic alliances with many other industry-related organizations, as well as strengthening those alliances we already had. Particularly, we

expanded our alliance with our American partner, the Construction Specifications Institute, initiating better lines of communication between our two Associations at the Presidential level, and sharing information and opportunities as they apply to our common goals and objectives.

Chris Johnson, FCSC, RSW, MAATO, CCS,
Construction Canada, March 1999.

If you missed CSC's Conference '99 held in Edmonton, then you missed a truly great event. The technical content was excellent and the social events and hospitality were second to none. The Edmonton chapter Organizing Committee raised the already high standard we have come to expect of CSC events. At the conference it was my pleasure to accept the office of CSC president for 1999-2000. I first became involved in the association because of its multidisciplinary nature, and I firmly believe that improvements in the way we do things in the construction industry can be made through effective interdisciplinary communication of which education is a key component. CSC has developed well-respected education programs that can fit nicely into the continuing education program of other construction associations.

Phil Evans, "Message from the President,"
Construction Canada, July 1999.

We have seen a tremendous change in the way we do business over the last decade and the need for education and improvement of our educational products is a recurring theme at Board meetings.

The trend toward electronic communication, alternative project delivery methods, a global economy with fast-paced emerging technologies, and the development of international standards demands that CSC keep pace with a changing world. We must constantly re-evaluate and improve our products and delivery

methods to continue providing leading-edge education. We have to look beyond traditional delivery methods and adopt those that will serve us better.

We need to recognize that our technical documents are no longer developed and used in isolation. They need to address not only local conditions, but also the global marketplace. Examples are the element-based Omni-Class Construction Classification System, the introduction by ICIS of the new, smart master specification editing systems and expansion of the familiar MasterFormat to accommodate new technologies.

At the threshold of so much change, it is appropriate that CSC will be renewing its five-year strategic plan this fall. Our challenge is to be at the forefront of change and positioned to bring these changes to our members and industry participants in an appropriate and timely manner.

Mary J. Friesen, RSW, "Message from the President,"
Construction Canada, July 2002.

Epilogue: The Future is Promising

Construction Specifications Canada has a statement of belief indicating that its sole function is to act as an organization representing the diverse interests in the construction industry and related professions, dedicated to improving the quality and flow of information between these interests, whether in the form of specifications, contract administration or marketing. The art of preparing, editing and writing specifications, product presentation and data exchange; electronic record keeping; and contract administration are just a few of the leading technological changes just starting to affect our association. In the coming years, our association will need to play a key position to assist or direct how new technologies are related to the members. We have already seen the significant role that CSC played in responding to reverse bidding concerns in a few of the early attempts at on-line bidding. This is only one example of the leadership that CSC will continue to provide to the construction industry. New forms of construction management agreements and contract delivery methods will add to the frequency of changes with which our members are faced. Computers have already changed the way we manage data and communications, a trend that only seems to be improving our effectiveness as we continue into the future. Not all changes we face are related to information or electronic improvements. There is a trend towards making construction follow good environmental stewardship practices. The stated premise of the CSC will have to change to encompass the greater range of specialization, diversification and interest that the membership is bringing to the Association. The day is coming where we will be more than an association comprised strictly of building professionals, manufacturers and contractors. CSC's future membership roster

may also include construction information consultants, construction law specialists or electronic management experts.

Keith Robinson, RSW.

At birth, the Specification Writers Association of Canada (SWAC) was created to improve the skills of most architects who specified products. At a young adult age after many years of maturity, it found its true nature and became Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) because a lot more people wanted to learn about specifications and how to specify.

In the future, I believe that CSC will transform itself into a new entity with the help of CSI, ISIS and OCCS. CSC will be a link to the multifaceted world of construction and will need to convert to virtual concepts for its products and services.

Education will remain our major focus but we will be more involved in being recognized as a resource for contract administration. Our education programs will be presented by way of satellites, Internet long-distance learning for computers or even 3-D courses on new technologies. Lawyers will want to speak to us. Contracts are becoming more and more sophisticated and our input on Internet-generated contracts will help invent new systems for bidding jobs that are safe and legal.

Our on-line services will also expand to new areas so we can inform our members of what's happening across the country. Members given a special code will have access to our membership through the Web site and will be able to see on their laptops technical events given through the chapters of CSC within the calendar year. They will have abilities to change their information directly on line and communicate with all our personnel and services.

Our uniqueness of offering products in both English and French will force the Association to be a unifying force in penetrating the global markets which will seek Spanish and Chinese interpretations of world systems. CSC will have shown that ability and will be solicited by many world organizations to lead them into the 22nd century and on . . .

Yvon Lebrun.

If the accomplishments of Construction Specifications Canada (CSC) in the past 50 years are an indication of how the Association will challenge tomorrow, let us realize that our future success is limited only by our resolve to continue in that tradition.

And while the evolution of the construction industry will determine the focus of our efforts, I believe history will ultimately recognize CSC as an educator, committed to providing the training and resources required by the design and construction community. CSC's mandate to provide quality education programs will continue to be the reference from which future success will be measured.

Realizing that maintaining the status quo would be easier, I still foresee changes to CSC's education programs as the Association evolves with the construction industry. The existing three education streams will survive by their own merits, but an expanded course offering and alternate delivery methods will allow CSC to affect a larger audience. Considering the current state of the industry and the achievements of humankind in little more than 200 years since the Industrial Revolution, expect advancements in the construction industry to increase at a significant rate. Whether industry changes are driven by society's increased environmental awareness, construction material evolution or new project delivery methods, therein lie opportunities to

develop education material and promote our role as industry educator. The Association's choice to commit to a larger education role may result in the emergence of new partnerships with industry stakeholders and the potential for integration of CSC-designed courses into the formal education streams of post-secondary and technical institutions.

As in the past, our ability to provide quality, current course offerings will rely on our most valued asset... the membership. The success of our education programs is dependant on the experience, diversity and commitment of those charged with its development. The respect afforded to CSC's courses is a tribute to those efforts.

The future is promising, for we have empowered ourselves to define it.

Jason Hicks.

When talking to other professionals in the construction industry, I get the distinct feeling that we belong to a special association. Nowhere else is there the diversity of members, the willingness to share information and experiences, the camaraderie among "competing" companies. Thanks CSC!

Corinne Golding, RSW.

"The success of our education programs is dependant on the experience, diversity and commitment of those charged with its development. The respect afforded to CSC's courses is a tribute to those efforts. The future is promising, for we have empowered ourselves to define it."
