

SUMMER 2026

LiUNA **LOCAL 1059 NEWS**



BUILDING WHAT CONNECTS US

Local 1059 members Neil McLeod and Kale Brooks put the finishing touches on a new bridge in London, including epoxy and trap rock surface coating, safety rail installation, and concrete work.

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Expanding
Services

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Centre Taking
Shape

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Day Continues
to Grow



*Brandon MacKinnon,
Business Manager
LiUNA Local 1059*

Dear Members,

As we head into the fall, I want to take a moment to look at where we stand as a Local and some of the opportunities ahead for our members.

The construction industry in London and across southwestern Ontario continues to show signs of strength. We're seeing significant investment in roads, bridges, transit, and water and sewer infrastructure, along with continued housing development across our region. While there are always challenges in our industry, the overall direction is encouraging, and Local 1059 is well positioned to take advantage of the work ahead.

We're also continuing to invest in important services that provide real value to our members and their families. The Local 1059 Wellness Centre is expanding with the addition of orthodontist Dr. Sonia Palleck at the Dental Studio and Registered Psychotherapist Sydney Hildebrandt at the Middlesex Spine & Sport Clinic. Recently completed renovations at the Middlesex Spine & Sport Clinic provide additional space to introduce confidential counselling sessions and allow us to expand other services, including massage appointments. Combined with the recent increase in mental health coverage from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per person, these additions are making it easier for members and their dependents to access quality care close to home.

It was great to see so many members join us at our summer gatherings. In addition to annual events at Delaware Speedway and Labatt Park in London, our brand new event at Story Book Park in Owen Sound was a particular highlight, bringing nearly 300 people together for a day with our families. We're looking forward to building on that success and expanding our events in the northern part of our jurisdiction.

That same commitment to our northern members is reflected in the new Training Centre we're building in Walkerton. Construction remains on schedule for completion in spring 2027, and the building is really starting to take shape. Pre-apprentices from the region have already had the opportunity to work on the project, including helping with the concrete floor pours, giving them a chance to work alongside experienced Local 1059 members on a major construction project. Once complete, the facility will serve as a regional hub for apprenticeship training, safety certifications, and skills development across Bruce, Grey, Huron, and Perth counties. We couldn't be more excited to cut the ribbon.

The Local continues to track major projects on the horizon that could create significant opportunities for our members. Bruce Power's Unit 3 refurbishment recently returned to service seven months ahead of schedule and under budget, while the proposed Bruce C project continues to move forward. We're also monitoring TC Energy's proposed 1,000-megawatt Pumped Storage Project

near Meaford, which has now entered the federal Impact Assessment process and is moving into its next phase of development. We've included updates on these projects inside this newsletter, and Local 1059 will continue to monitor their progress and work to ensure our members are positioned to participate in the opportunities they may create.

We're continuing to focus on the next generation of skilled tradespeople as well. Our Trades Awareness Day continues to grow, with approximately 300 students taking part this year and hundreds more members of the public attending our open house. We also hosted two Skills Ontario Trades & Tech Summer Camps at our London Training Centre, including an all-girls camp, giving students an opportunity to get hands-on experience with the skilled trades.

Giving back to the communities where we live and work remains another important part of what we do. This year, we continued our relationship with the London Children's Museum with a \$15,000 contribution supporting its Discovery Lab programs. Pre-apprentices in London have also taken part in community projects at Stevenson Children's Camp and the Norwich District Curling Club, gaining practical experience while helping make a difference in the communities around us.

There's a lot to be encouraged about as we look toward the future. Our membership continues to grow, our training capacity is expanding, our Wellness Centre is providing more services, and major construction and infrastructure projects are taking shape across our jurisdiction.

On behalf of the Executive Board and staff, thank you for your hard work and dedication. There's plenty of work ahead, and we will continue to work on your behalf and keep Local 1059 moving forward. Most importantly, stay safe as we head into the fall.

All my best,
Brandon MacKinnon
Business Manager

Update on Key Provincial Changes

Ontario proposes new legislative changes affecting workers

The Ontario government has introduced Bill 105, the Protecting Ontario's Workers and Economic Resilience Act ("POWER Act"), which is currently proceeding through the legislative process. The bill proposes amendments across several key statutes, including the Employment Standards Act, Labour Relations Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Workplace Safety and Insurance Act.

The proposed changes include:

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT

Bill 105 proposes to strengthen wage-related protections, including measures aimed at preventing workers from being charged for required uniforms or equipment. Where these charges are made, they may be treated as wages owing and subject to enforcement. The Bill also includes updates intended to modernize wage recovery and enforcement processes.

Separately, the provincial government announced in April that Ontario's minimum wage will increase to \$17.95 per hour effective **October 1, 2026**.

LABOUR RELATIONS ACT

The proposed changes would update parts of Ontario's labour relations system, including appointment processes, oversight structures, and timelines respecting displacement and termination applications in the construction industry. The province says the changes are intended to streamline administration and align the system with broader public sector governance standards.

Separately, a private member's bill would restore Ontario's ban on replacement workers during strikes and lockouts. Bill 96, the Anti-Scab Labour Act, 2026, passed second reading in June and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. Bill 96 would amend the Labour Relations Act to prohibit employers from using replacement workers during a legal strike or lockout, subject to limited proposed exceptions.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

Bill 105 includes measures aimed at reducing duplication in health and safety requirements, particularly where equipment, training, or personal protective equipment already meets equivalent standards in other Canadian jurisdictions. In some cases, the minister would have the authority to recognize those external standards.

WORKPLACE SAFETY AND INSURANCE ACT

Bill 105 includes several proposed changes to the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act that would affect WSIB benefits and claims administration. Most notably, the bill would increase loss-of-earnings benefits from 85% to 90% of the difference between a worker's pre-injury and post-injury net average earnings for new claims filed on a go-forward basis on a date to be proclaimed by the government.

The proposed changes would also allow some workers to continue receiving loss-of-earnings benefits beyond age 65 if they can demonstrate they would have continued working, while making changes to how the WSIB reviews certain long-term benefit payments.

As with the other provisions of Bill 105, these changes are not currently in effect, though it is expected that Bill 105 will be given Royal Assent once legislature resumes at the end of October, 2026. Local 1059 will continue to monitor the legislation and keep members informed about developments that could affect them ■





Member Spotlight: RON THIESSEN

Building a Career That Gives Back

After years working in non-union construction, Ron Thiessen has found opportunity, purpose, and a secure future with Local 1059

After a major ice storm hit Muskoka in March 2025, Ron Thiessen didn't hesitate when he heard crews were needed to help restore power.

"I actually messaged my boss right away," Thiessen recalled. "Luckily, I was one of the few people out of our yard to actually be taken up north."

Days of freezing rain left a thick coating of ice across the region, bringing down trees and hydro lines and leaving nearly 400,000 homes and businesses without electricity across Ontario.

Thiessen was part of a small crew from Pickard Construction sent to Huntsville as

the community dealt with the widespread damage and power outages. The District Municipality of Muskoka had declared a state of emergency, with debris, damaged infrastructure, and dangerous roads creating major challenges for residents and the crews working to restore essential services.

The response was unlike anything Thiessen had experienced before. Workers were dispatched deep into the woods and along trails that were difficult for trucks and construction machinery to access. He worked on rock mounts and anchors for utilities infrastructure as helicopters carrying hydro poles flew overhead. In some areas, crews dropped hydro cables into lakes to reach island communities.

The work was physically demanding and the days were long. Crews could start as early as 5 a.m. and work until 11 p.m., returning to their hotel only to sleep before starting again.

"It was a lot harder work up there than it is down here," Thiessen said. "(It was) a whole different version of what we do."

Despite the tough conditions, the week-long experience quickly became one of the highlights of his career so far.

"It was such an amazing feeling being able to help people out in a situation and time that nobody ever wants to be in," Thiessen said. "It is super rewarding being able to say I had a part to play."

FINDING HIS WAY INTO THE TRADES

Thiessen, 27, is still relatively early in his career. He's been a Local 1059 member for just two years.

Originally from Saskatoon, Thiessen spent 15 years there before moving to Saint John, New Brunswick. He relocated to London about two and a half years ago to be closer to family, particularly his niece, and quickly discovered that Ontario offered new opportunities in the trades.

"It turns out there's great opportunities here," he said. "Work was something that was hard to find out east."

By then, Thiessen already had several years of experience in non-union environments, including framing houses and working with commercial doors, windows, frames, and hardware on projects ranging from apartment buildings to hospitals and schools.

The trades had always interested him, particularly the opportunity to keep learning and developing new skills.

"There's something about learning and growing and possibly moving up the ladder that's always intrigued me," Thiessen said.

His path to Local 1059 began through a family connection — member Ben Lavoie is his uncle — but it was his own experience and interest in the trades that led him into the Local's pre-apprenticeship program in July 2024.

"I've always just resorted to working with my hands and learning how to have fun with that," he said.

BUILDING A CAREER

Thiessen describes his time at the Local 1059 Training Centre as an important step in his career.

"It was amazing. I loved it," he said. "The experiences, the knowledge that you gain from the instructors and everybody else around you ... was awesome."

The program came with its challenges. Thiessen remembers spending his first days digging a four-foot hole and moving duraform and cinderblocks by hand, along with working through some of the math required to succeed.

"It was pretty difficult, but it was a good introduction. I enjoyed it," he said. "The people you meet, the friends you make. Just the experience alone was well worth it."

Thiessen was placed in the Utilities sector, initially working on fibre-to-the-home projects before moving into his current role with Pickard Construction. Today, his work includes digging vaults, laying pipe, operating excavators and hydro-vacs, installing anchors, and delivering materials to job sites.

"You're always on your feet. You're always moving. You're outside, which was a big thing for me. It's different every day."

In just two years with Local 1059, Thiessen has successfully completed his Red Seal exam and is now about 750 hours away from finishing his apprenticeship.

MORE THAN A PAYCHECK

Thiessen's experience working for non-union employers has given him a clear perspective on what has changed since joining Local 1059.

Safety stands out first.

"I've never actually worked for a company or an organization that really cared about safety," he said. "And that's the biggest thing that I've noticed here: the safety."

The difference extends beyond the jobsite. Thiessen says the wages, benefits, and pension have given him a level of financial security he had never experienced before.

"I've never had anything like that in my life either," he said. "I've never had this much money in my life, which is kind of amazing to say."

Those improvements have made a difference today while also helping him look ahead.

"I've never actually worked for a company or an organization that really cared about safety," he said. "And that's the biggest thing that I've noticed here: the safety."

"Knowing that I'm going to be able to comfortably retire when that time comes really means a lot to me."

A CAREER WITH PURPOSE

The Huntsville ice storm showed Thiessen what his skills can mean when an entire community is facing an emergency. Long days in the woods and difficult conditions were part of the challenge, but so was the satisfaction of knowing his work was helping people get their power back.

"That's the bigger thing: just helping people," he said. "When the opportunity got thrown my way, I thought 'that would be cool' and I just jumped at it. It was also early on with my career, too, so you can't really say no when you have an opportunity to learn more and get more experience and make yourself a little more versatile."

That sense of purpose is something Thiessen hopes to carry throughout his career.

"What makes me proud to be a LiUNA member is the opportunity to give back to the community," he said.

He also sees the trades as a path that can offer others the same combination of opportunity and security he has found.

"I totally would recommend this as a career for anybody," Thiessen said. "It's hands on, you're constantly moving, and it's very rewarding."

In just two years, Thiessen has found a career that allows him to keep learning, put his skills to work when people need them most, and build a secure future through good wages, benefits, and a pension.

And if another opportunity to help people comes his way, chances are he'll be one of the first to raise his hand ■

Local 1059 Wellness Centre Continues to Expand

New orthodontist, psychotherapist highlight growing services available to members and their dependents

The Local 1059 Wellness Centre continues to grow, with new specialists and renovated space expanding the range of services available.

These additions are part of the Local's ongoing commitment to providing convenient, high-quality health and wellness services close to home, while continuing to respond to the needs of our membership.



Orthodontist Dr. Sonia Palleck joins Local 1059 Dental Studio

The addition of Dr. Sonia Palleck to the Local 1059 Dental Studio is helping expand access to orthodontic care for members and their families.

Dr. Palleck brings more than 25 years of experience in orthodontics and has built a reputation for providing high-quality care throughout southwestern Ontario. A graduate of Western University, she also serves as a clinical instructor, helping train the next generation of orthodontists.

Her addition to the Dental Studio will increase appointment availability. Members considering braces or looking to learn more about their treatment options can book a consultation with Dr. Palleck by calling the Dental Studio at 519-286-1206.

Now is a great time to schedule a visit to the Dental Studio. Whether you're new to the clinic, due for a routine cleaning, or interested in learning more about the services available, members and their families are encouraged to take advantage of summer appointment availability while it lasts.



Registered Psychotherapist Sydney Hildebrandt joins Middlesex Spine & Sport Clinic

The Middlesex Spine & Sport Clinic has expanded its services with the addition of Registered Psychotherapist Sydney Hildebrandt.

Psychotherapy provides a safe, confidential, and supportive space to work through personal challenges, improve emotional well-being, and develop tools to navigate life's changes.

Sydney holds a Master's degree with honours in Counselling Psychology from Yorkville University and brings a compassionate, client-centred approach to her practice. She supports individuals with concerns related to anxiety, depression, stress, grief, life transitions, and more.

Her arrival comes as the clinic undertakes renovations to expand its available space. The work includes a dedicated soundproof counselling office, as well as additional space that will allow the clinic to expand other services, including massage appointments.

Members interested in meeting with Sydney can book an initial appointment or complimentary 15-minute consultation. Appointments are now being scheduled. To book an appointment or learn more, contact the Middlesex Spine & Sport Clinic at 519-286-1310.



The Local 1059 Benefits Plan has also recently increased annual coverage for psychologists, psychotherapists, and social workers from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per person, giving members and their eligible dependents greater access to mental health services.

As a reminder, members can make the most of their benefits by accessing eligible services at the Local 1059 Wellness Centre. Members pay no out-of-pocket costs for eligible services at the Dental Studio, Middlesex Spine & Sport Clinic, and Local 1059 Optical Centre, helping stretch their benefits further.

For more information about the Wellness Centre and its services, visit the Local 1059 website or check the Members App ■



Discovery+



A New Approach to Preventative Health Care for Local 1059 Members

LIUNA Local 1059 members and their families now have access to **Discovery+**, a new preventive health program from MembersHealth. Developed by experienced doctors, **Discovery+** provides personalized tools and real-time monitoring to support proactive, long-term wellness.

Since 2020, Local 1059 members and their dependents have had access to MembersHealth's 24/7 online healthcare services. Now, with the introduction of **Discovery+**, members can benefit from advanced health planning and early detection strategies, ensuring they receive the care they need before health concerns arise.

WHAT DISCOVERY+ OFFERS



Personalized Health Plans:

Utilizing advanced data analytics and genetic testing to tailor health strategies to individual needs.



Real-Time Monitoring:

Cutting-edge wearables and diagnostics provide continuous health insights.



Early Detection:

A proactive approach to identifying potential health risks before they develop into serious conditions.



Ongoing Support:

Access to a team of medical professionals, including doctors, nutritionists, and fitness coaches.

HOW TO ACCESS



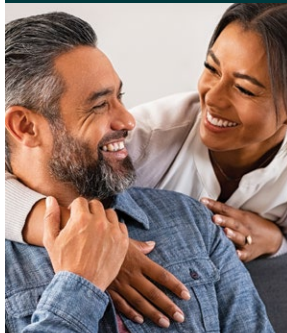
Getting started is simple. Members can scan the QR code and complete a short intake form online. Once registered, MembersHealth will arrange an initial consultation to guide participants through the program and its benefits.

Beyond **Discovery+**, MembersHealth continues to offer 24/7 virtual healthcare services, providing members with access to doctors via phone, tablet, or PC. Whether it's diagnosing illnesses, writing and renewing prescriptions, referring to specialists, or ordering lab tests, MembersHealth ensures that members receive timely and comprehensive care.

For more information about **Discovery+ or other MembersHealth services, call 1-800-484-0152 or visit their website to connect with the MembersHealth Care Team.**



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including Green Shield Health Inc. and Green Shield Administration Inc.



**Canadian Mental
Health Association**
Thames Valley
Addiction and Mental Health Services

A reminder to all members:

If you need help with addictions or mental health challenges, get in touch with Josh Keene at Addiction Services of Thames Valley for confidential counselling. This is a free service included as part of your benefits package as a member of Local 1059.



Josh Keene at Canadian Mental Health Association,
Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services
Josh.Keene@cmhatv.ca | 519-673-3242 ext. 230
Cell: (226) 376-2629

Summer Events Bring Members Together

Members and their families enjoy another summer of fun while supporting the James MacKinnon Scholarship Fund

Local 1059 members and their families had plenty of opportunities to get together this summer, with events in London and Owen Sound bringing hundreds of people out for some fun away from the jobsite.

Our annual sponsored race at Delaware Speedway in June offered an evening of racing, including a chance to cheer on LiUNA-sponsored drivers Matt Langford and Ray Morneau.

In July, Local 1059 members gathered at historic Labatt Memorial Park for a ball game between the London Majors and Hamilton Cardinals.

Later that month, the Local introduced a new family event at Story Book Park in Owen Sound. Families from the northern part of our region spent the day enjoying the park's attractions, along with mini golf, ice cream, and a BBQ lunch.

Beyond providing opportunities to relax and spend time together, the events also helped support the James MacKinnon Local 1059 Scholarship Fund. Ticket sales from all three events helped support the post-secondary education goals of our members and their families.

Thank you to everyone who joined us throughout the summer, as well as our partners at Delaware Speedway, the London Majors, and Story Book Park for helping make these events possible. We can't wait to do it all again next year



Bruce Power Projects Signal Continued Work for Skilled Trades

Unit 3 returns to service as Ontario advances plans for the next generation of nuclear infrastructure

There's plenty of positive news coming out of Bruce Power, where Local 1059 members continue to play an important role in major nuclear infrastructure projects.

Bruce Power's Unit 3 reactor has returned to service following a refurbishment completed seven months ahead of schedule and under budget. The achievement marks the fastest nuclear refurbishment completed in Ontario to date and extends the reactor's operating life for more than 35 years. The refurbishment included the replacement of key components such as fuel channels, feeder tubes and steam generators, and involved thousands of skilled trades workers.

The work is part of Bruce Power's broader Life-Extension Program, which will refurbish six reactors and extend the life of the Bruce Nuclear Generating Station through 2064. With Unit 4 currently undergoing refurbishment and Unit 5 scheduled to begin its outage later this year, the project will continue to provide opportunities for skilled trades workers for years to come.

Ontario is also moving ahead with the early development of the Bruce C Nuclear Project, a proposed new 4,800-megawatt nuclear generating station that would become the largest nuclear generating facility in the world if fully developed. The province has authorized funding for early activities including workforce planning, community and First Nations

engagement, pre-construction work and site preparation planning.

Bruce C is expected to create thousands of jobs during construction and represents a significant opportunity for skilled trades workers across the region. The project will also build on the existing workforce and infrastructure, as well as the nuclear supply chain that has supported Bruce Power for decades.

"The successful completion of Bruce Power's Unit 3 refurbishment ahead of schedule and under budget is a tremendous achievement for Ontario's nuclear sector and the skilled workers who made it possible," said LiUNA International Vice President and Canadian Director Joe Mancinelli. "Projects like the Bruce Power Life-Extension Program create thousands of good-paying jobs and strengthen local economies. LiUNA is proud of the role our members play in building and maintaining the infrastructure that keeps Ontario resilient."

For Local 1059 members, the continued investment at Bruce Power represents more than major infrastructure projects—it means sustained employment opportunities and a growing need for skilled tradespeople in the region. Local 1059 will continue to monitor the development of Bruce C and advocate for opportunities that could have a positive impact on our members ■

TC Energy's Ontario Pumped Storage Project Moves Into Next Phase

Proposed 1,000-megawatt facility near Meaford continues to advance through planning and regulatory review

TC Energy's proposed Ontario Pumped Storage Project near Meaford continues to move forward, with the major energy infrastructure project recently entering its next phase of development.

The proposed facility would provide 1,000 megawatts of flexible energy storage to Ontario's electricity system using pumped hydro technology. If developed, it would be located at the existing 4th Canadian Division Training Centre north of Meaford in Grey County.

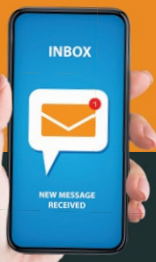
The latest milestone came in August, when TC Energy announced that Worley had been selected to lead the next phase of development, working alongside construction and infrastructure firms EllisDon and AECOM. The team will support detailed engineering, project design, cost estimates, execution planning, and overall project readiness, according to a news release.

TC Energy says the project will be advanced through its Hire and Buy Local Program, with a focus on creating opportunities for local and Indigenous workers, suppliers, and businesses. The company says these commitments will be incorporated into project requirements as development continues.

The project is currently in the planning phase of the federal impact assessment process, with environmental and technical studies continuing. Recent work has included geotechnical investigations both at the training centre and in Georgian Bay to help inform the project's design.

The project has also received continued support from the Municipality of Meaford. In July, TC Energy and the municipality announced a three-year pre-development agreement that will provide up to \$4 million in funding for local priorities while planning and regulatory review continue.

For Local 1059, the proposed project represents a significant potential opportunity in the northern part of our jurisdiction. While construction is still some time away and the project remains subject to regulatory approvals, we will continue to monitor its progress and look for opportunities for our members to participate in the work it creates ■



DO WE HAVE YOUR UP-TO-DATE EMAIL ADDRESS?

Be sure to email admin@liuna1059.ca to update your contact information any time it changes.

Walkerton Training Centre Continues to Take Shape

Construction advances as members, pre-apprentices help bring new regional training hub to life

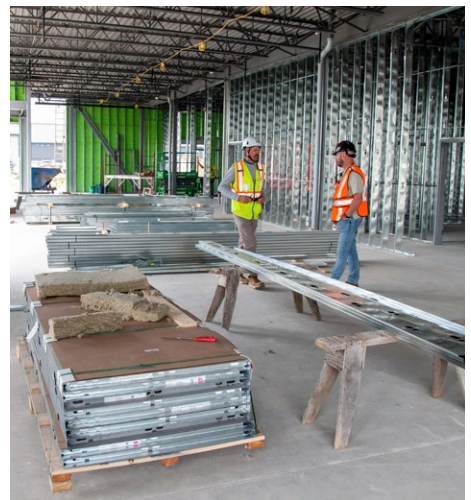
Work continues to move forward at the new Local 1059 Training Centre in Walkerton, with construction remaining on schedule for completion by spring 2027.

Training Instructor Mike Rock has been helping oversee the project as it progresses and recently provided a tour of the site to Business Representative Adam Millman.

During the visit, Local 1059 member Maxwell Davis of GA Masonry was on site making preparations for the building's masonry work.

Mechanical and electrical rough-ins are now complete, the building envelope is largely in place, and concrete flooring has been installed. The floor pours also gave Local 1059 pre-apprentices a unique opportunity to work alongside experienced members on a major project. It's great to see the Training Centre already providing opportunities for the next generation of tradespeople from across the region.

Once complete, the Training Centre will serve as a regional hub for apprenticeship training, safety certifications, and skills development, supporting members and the next generation of skilled tradespeople across Bruce, Grey, Huron, and Perth counties ■



Trades Awareness Day Showcases Careers in the Skilled Trades

Five-day event at Local 1059 Training Centre showcases training pathways, hands-on learning, and workforce opportunities across construction sectors

The Local 1059 Training Centre's annual Trades Awareness Days continued to grow this year, welcoming hundreds of students and members of the public for hands-on experiences and a closer look at career pathways in construction.

Taking place over five days, approximately 300 students from local schools participated in hands-on learning experiences designed to introduce them to skilled trades opportunities and highlight pathways into apprenticeship training, including the Red Seal Construction Craft Worker program. The public open house also drew a strong turnout, with several hundred attendees engaging directly with the Training Centre and its programming.

Certified Local 1059 instructors led all demonstrations and activities, providing an authentic exposure to the trades and ensuring participants gained practical insight into real training environments. Five sectors represented by the Local were showcased at the event: Multi-Sector Construction (including Demolition), Sewer and Watermain, Formsetting, Cement Finishing, and Utilities.

As the event continues to grow, so too does interest from the broader community and media. Trades Awareness Day was featured this year by Rogers TV and the London Free Press, helping further raise awareness of skilled trades career opportunities across the region.

Local 1059 extends sincere thanks to the sponsors whose ongoing support makes this event possible:

- London & District Concrete Forming Association
- London Sewer and Watermain, Curb, Gutter, and Sidewalk Association
- Ontario Association of Demolition Contractors
- The Utility Contractors' Association of Ontario

Trades Awareness Days have become an important part of Local 1059's community outreach efforts. We look forward to building on the event as we continue strengthening the region's skilled workforce pipeline while introducing more people to the trades that our members work in every day ■





Apprentice Spotlight

Earlier this year, Local 1059 transitioned from a monthly Apprentice of the Month feature to an Apprentice Spotlight series, aligning recognition more closely with apprentice intake cohorts.

This approach allows us to highlight apprentices in a more focused and meaningful way, while better reflecting the stages of training within our programs.



May

- **Johnathan Cabana**
Multi-Sector (Weathertech)
- **Jacob Watkins**
Sewer & Watermain (Blue Con)
- **Jacob Weiler**
Utilities (Aecon)
- **Alex Herrington**
Cement Finishing (Brosco Concrete)
- **Ray Delbridge**
Formsetting (Blackwall Forming)



June

- **Carter Dicks**
Sewer & Watermain (Oxford Civil Group)
- **Nikolas Doroshenko**
Multi-Sector (A-1 Restoration)
- **Steven Carmichael**
Formsetting (Concrete Forming (1980))
- **Dylan Hall**
Utilities (Telecon)
- **Nathan Arnold**
Utilities (Gotech Communications)

This program would not be possible without the commitment of our employer partners who continue to provide meaningful, hands-on opportunities for apprentices to learn and develop their skills in the field.

We also acknowledge the industry partners, who support the Apprentice Spotlight program through their ongoing contributions to training, development, and recognition, including Battlefield Equipment Rentals, Collins Clothiers, Emco London, Federated Tool Supply Co., Great Lakes Supply, Keyline Safety, Milwaukee Tool, United Rentals, and Unity Uniform & Safety ■

Building Interest in the Skilled Trades

Skills Ontario summer campers get hands-on at the Local 1059 Training Centre

The Local 1059 Training Centre recently welcomed the next generation of potential tradespeople for a week of hands-on learning as part of this year's Skills Ontario Trades & Tech Summer Camps.

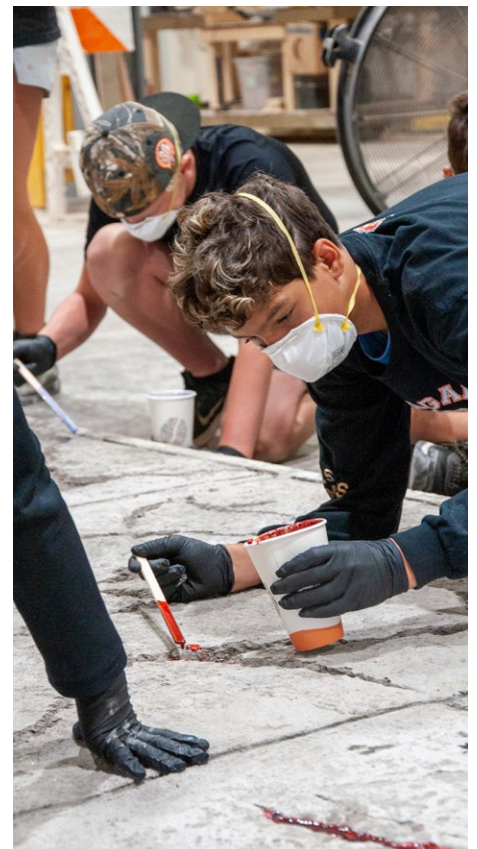
Over five days, students entering grades 7–9 explored the skilled trades alongside Local 1059 instructors and Skills Ontario counsellors.

Campers made their own cement coasters, practiced cement finishing on a mock sidewalk, and learned the basics of epoxy finishing. Fanshawe College also joined the camp for a robotics demonstration, adding a technology component to the week.



The camp gave young people a chance to work with tools and materials, learn from experienced trades instructors, and get a firsthand look at the kinds of skills that Local 1059 members use every day on the job.

Programs like this are an important part of building interest in the skilled trades and strengthening the workforce pipeline. Local 1059 is proud to work with Skills Ontario to give young people an early look at the opportunities available through apprenticeship and careers in construction ■



Building Community

Local 1059 supports community organizations while giving pre-apprentices opportunities to put their skills to work

Local 1059 is proud to support organizations and initiatives that make a difference in the communities where our members live and work. Whether through charitable donations or hands-on projects, these efforts also provide opportunities to introduce the next generation of tradespeople to the value of giving back.



London Children's Museum: London Children's Museum Executive Director Kate Ledgley, Local 1059 Business Manager Brandon MacKinnon, and London Children's Museum Development Associate Lindsay Sutton.

PRE-APPRENTICES PUT THEIR SKILLS TO WORK

Local 1059 pre-apprentices have also been getting a taste of real jobsites while giving back to local organizations.

At the Norwich District Curling Club, a group of pre-apprentices led by Training Instructor Corey Chambers recently took part in a concrete pour as part of a major upgrade to the club's ice surface infrastructure. The project provided valuable hands-on experience while contributing to an improvement that will be a major boost for the club and its members.

The group also recently completed concrete work at Stevenson Children's Camp, a registered charity that has provided residential camp experiences for children facing financial and other hardships for more than 70 years.

Projects like these give pre-apprentices an opportunity to put their training into practice in a real-world setting while working alongside experienced instructors and contributing to the communities around them. For Local 1059, it's a great combination of building skills and building community ■



SUPPORTING HANDS-ON LEARNING AT THE LONDON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Local 1059 recently donated \$15,000 to the London Children's Museum to support its Discovery Lab programs, which give children opportunities to build, create, solve problems, and learn through hands-on activities.

The programs help young learners develop confidence, creativity, critical thinking, and curiosity while discovering how their ideas can take shape in the world around them. We believe it's important to support opportunities that help inspire the next generation of builders, makers, and creators.

Local 1059 members can also access discounted London Children's Museum memberships.

Check your email for more information on how to take advantage of the discount.



J-AAR CEO Ryan Aarts receives Jim MacKinnon Community Builder Award

J-AAR CEO Ryan Aarts has been named the recipient of the 2026 Jim MacKinnon Community Builder Award, recognizing his ongoing commitment to supporting local causes.

Presented by United Way Elgin Middlesex as part of its annual Labour Appreciation Awards, the award recognizes individuals connected to the building trades who go above and beyond to help make their communities stronger.

Under Ryan's leadership, J-AAR has made community involvement and charitable giving an important part of its work. During a ceremony at J-AAR's Page Street office, he said his company's role in building the community comes with a responsibility to give back to it as well.

"I'm just honoured to be able to lead such a great team that steps up," Aarts said. "We have over 500 employees, which is so powerful in terms of being able to engage positively and help change the culture of our community. Sometimes people focus too much on the problems and not on the solutions."

Local 1059 Business Manager Brandon MacKinnon helped present the award.

"Ryan understands that building strong communities starts with supporting the people who build them," MacKinnon said. "Through his ongoing commitment to union labour, charitable giving, and community partnerships, he has demonstrated that business success and community leadership go hand in hand."

We are proud to recognize him with the 2026 Jim MacKinnon Community Builder Award."

Local 1059 congratulates Ryan on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him and the J-AAR team for their continued commitment to our community ■

READ MORE ABOUT THIS YEAR'S
LABOUR APPRECIATION AWARDS:
unitedwayem.ca/2026-labour-awards

OR SCAN THE QR CODE:



Charity Partnership Program Continues to Grow

More than \$210,000 has now been directed to community organizations across southwestern Ontario



Local 1059's Charity Partnership Program continues to grow, with several signatory employers recently renewing their partnerships or joining the program for the first time.

The program is simple: participating employers display the LiUNA Local 1059 logo on their vehicles and equipment and, in return, Local 1059 makes a donation to a registered charity selected by the employer. It's a way for Local 1059 and its signatory employers to work together to support the communities where our members live and work.

As part of a renewed agreement, Local 1059 recently made a \$15,000 donation on behalf of JoBi Construction to Advocate Connections, a local organization supporting individuals with developmental disabilities. The donation helped Advocate Connections build three offices at its new Dundas Street location, creating additional space to support those who rely on its services.

"This donation was huge for us because it gave us the opportunity to continue to grow,"

said President and Board Chair Sandra Vieira. "It's had a big impact on the people we've been able to house and keep housed."

JoBi's first participation in the program also supported the homelessness sector, with a \$15,000 donation to Ark Aid Street Mission in 2022.

"I think it's a great idea," said JoBi President and CEO Joe Narciso. "I've always had a soft spot for the homeless and the way people struggle every day to make ends meet. We've always done whatever we could to support that community ever since we started the business."

GOTECH Communications recently joined the program, resulting in a \$15,000 donation to the Maria Luisa de Moreno International Foundation, which supports immigrants and Canadian families through education, employment support, and community programming. Combined with a previous contribution through Apeiro Construction, the foundation has now received \$23,000 through the program.



Local 1059 also renewed its partnership with Riverside Concrete Forming, one of the program's earliest participants. As part of the renewed agreement, another \$15,000 donation will be made to Habitat for Humanity Heartland Ontario, bringing the total support connected to that partnership to \$30,000 over the past three years.

The Charity Partnership Program has now contributed more than \$210,000 to over 20 local charities across southwestern Ontario. These partnerships are another way Local 1059 and our employers can make a meaningful impact beyond the jobsite and strengthen the communities where we live and work.

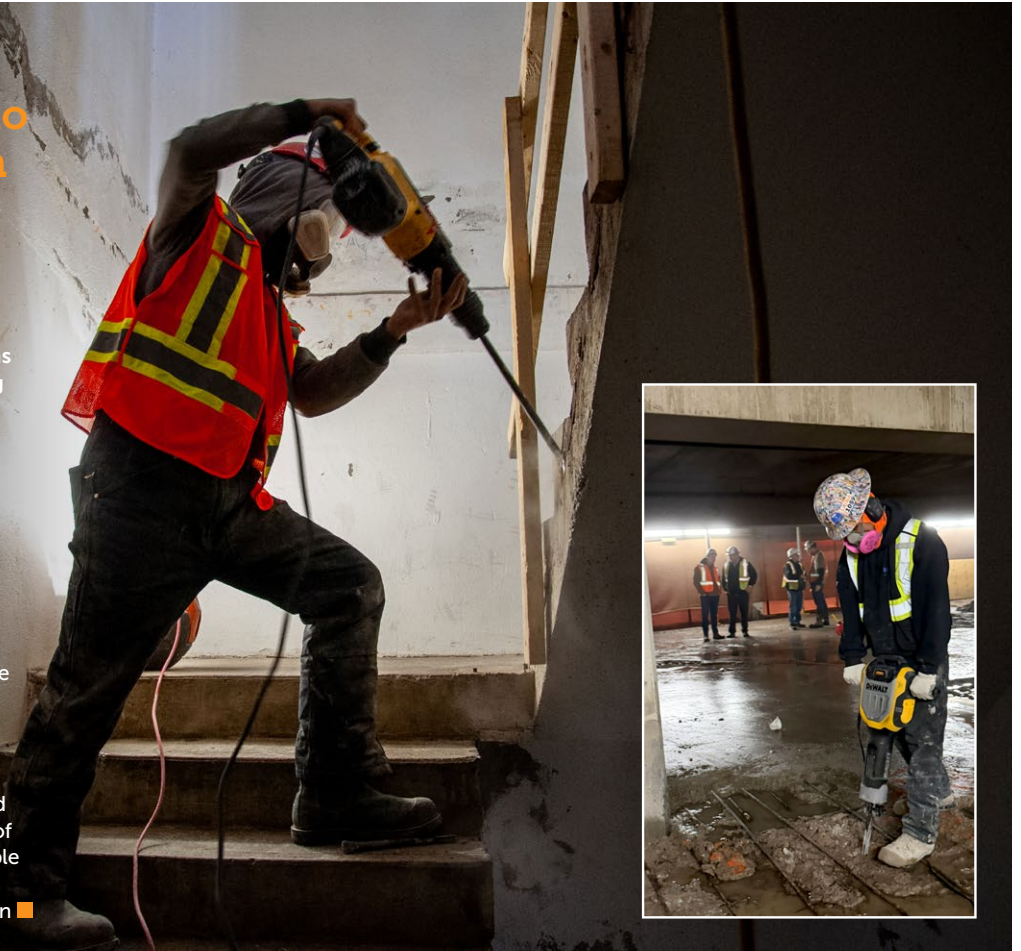
If you or your employer would like to learn more about the Charity Partnership Program, speak with your business representative ■

Members Bring Specialized Skills to Major Restoration Project

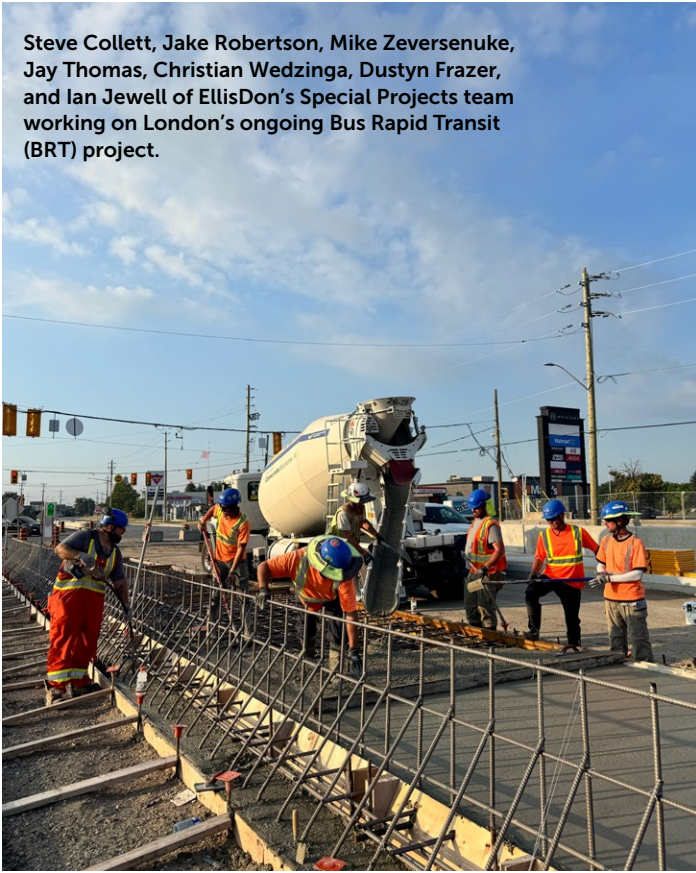
Local 1059 members are playing a major role in a large-scale parking garage restoration project in London, working with Pro Seal Building Systems on a complex multi-level site spanning roughly 600,000 square feet.

The project involves a wide range of specialized work, including hydro demolition, waterproofing, coatings, and scaffolding. During a recent visit, members Matt Holmes and McKenzie Trepanier were operating hydro demolition equipment, using high-pressure water to carefully remove damaged concrete while preserving the surrounding structure.

At peak, the project is expected to have 65 to 75 Local 1059 members on site, including experienced tradespeople and apprentices. The scale and complexity of the work provide another strong example of the skills and versatility our members bring to major projects across the region ■



Steve Collett, Jake Robertson, Mike Zeversenue, Jay Thomas, Christian Wedzinga, Dustyn Frazer, and Ian Jewell of EllisDon's Special Projects team working on London's ongoing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.



Nathan Weatherall, Mike Taylor, Nathan Douglas, and Douglas Borowski of Netdrill are working alongside EH!tel Networks to help expand reliable high-speed internet access across Grey County.

Neil McLeod and Kale Brooks of Weathertech Restoration Services work on a new bridge in London. Also on site was Marty Chortos.



Federal Investment Signals Strong Support for Skilled Trades Training

Local 1059 welcomes new federal commitments aimed at strengthening apprenticeship and workforce development across Canada

Local 1059 is welcoming the federal government's recent announcement of new investments aimed at recruiting, training, and retaining skilled trades workers across Canada.

The announcement, made as part of the federal Spring Economic Update, includes a proposed \$6 billion Team Canada Strong initiative designed to support the recruitment, training, and hiring of up to 100,000 new Red Seal tradespeople over the next five years. It includes paid work placements for young people entering the trades, enhanced apprenticeship supports, and financial incentives to help apprentices complete their training and achieve certification.

The announcement reflects the Federal Government's recognition that skilled trades

workers will be essential to delivering the housing, infrastructure, energy, and defence projects Canada will need in the years ahead. Local 1059 has been actively advocating for increased investment in apprenticeship and skills training, including discussions with elected officials such as London Centre MP Peter Fragiskatos.

For members, continued investment in training and workforce development means more opportunities to build careers in the skilled trades and help meet the demand created by major projects across southwestern Ontario.

The announcement also generated significant local media interest. Local 1059 Business Manager Brandon MacKinnon, Training Centre Director Mike Ropp, and

member Johnson Olowofela contributed to local coverage highlighting both the opportunities and workforce challenges facing the construction industry.

As skilled trades issues continue to attract public attention, Local 1059 will continue working with government and community partners, advocating for policies and investments that support our members, strengthen apprenticeship opportunities, and ensure skilled workers are prepared for the projects ahead ■



Liberal MPs Steven MacKinnon, Peter Fragiskatos, and Arielle Kayabaga on a tour with Local 1059 Training Director Mike Ropp during a visit to the Training Centre in 2025

Building Relationships with Government Partners

Training Centre tours provide opportunities to showcase workforce development needs and strengthen support for the skilled trades

Local 1059 continues to engage elected officials from all levels of government to strengthen relationships and ensure decision-makers understand the importance of skilled trades and workforce development in Ontario.

This spring, the Local welcomed representatives from the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario and the Conservative Party of Canada to its Training Centre in London for tours and discussions about apprenticeship training, workforce development, and the role skilled trades workers play in supporting major infrastructure projects.

Visitors included Middlesex–London MPP Lianne Rood and, during a separate visit, Elgin–St. Thomas–London South MP Andrew Lawton and Thornhill MP and Conservative Party of Canada Co-Deputy Leader Melissa Lantsman.

The visits provided an opportunity to showcase Local 1059's training programs and demonstrate the skills, knowledge, and opportunities available to workers pursuing careers in the skilled trades.

By maintaining strong relationships with government partners, Local 1059 can continue advocating for policies and programs that support apprentices, skilled workers, and the future of the construction industry across southwestern Ontario ■



Local 1059 Training Director Mike Ropp, Elgin–St. Thomas–London South MP Andrew Lawton, Thornhill MP and Conservative Party of Canada co-deputy leader Melissa Lantsman, and Local 1059 Business Manager Brandon MacKinnon



MPP Lianne Rood listens during a tour of the Local 1059 Training Centre led by Local 1059 Training Director Mike Ropp



Local 1059 Training Centre Instructor Dylan Barker guides MPs Andrew Lawton and Melissa Lantsman through a pipe-tapping demonstration in the Local 1059 Training Centre

MEMBER PERKS & DEALS

We're always looking for ways to improve the lives of our members and your families by offering added perks for being a member of Local 1059. Recently, we've partnered with a number of local businesses to secure various discounts for you. Check out the deals below, and be sure to keep an eye on our social media channels and future newsletters – we'll continue to update you as we add more perks to the list! ■

	GoodLife Fitness Corporate membership rate for you and up to 4 family members. corporate.goodlifefitness.com.		Bell Mobility 30% off phone plans, plus discounts on select mobile phones for you and up to five family members! To enrol, please call 1-866-244-9108.
	Adrenaline MMA 20% discounts on monthly memberships with your union card. adrenalinemma.ca		Great Wolf Lodge Up to 25% off a booking using the promo code posted on the Local 1059 app and sent via email. Book online or by calling 1-800-905-9653. greatwolf.com
	DoubleTree by Hilton Local 1059 members receive an automatic discount on rooms when booking via the provided link. https://tinyurl.com/4r4xv6mm (London location only)		Canada Life Place Discounts on select shows throughout the year. Keep an eye on your email or check out the Members Discount tab on the Local 1059 app to view the promo code and upcoming events.
	Collins Formal Wear Local 1059 members get 15% off menswear purchases. Just show your union card!		Hanford's Tire and Service Discounts on tires and services with your union card. hanfordtires.com
	Mark's Local 1059 members get a 15% discount at any Mark's location. Just show your union card!		Mister Safety Shoes Local 1059 members are now eligible for 15% off footwear and 10% off attire and accessories at any location, including their Shoe Mobiles. To unlock your discount, show your union card at the point of purchase.



PARK'N FLY

NEW DISCOUNT!

We're excited to announce another great perk for LiUNA Local 1059 members — **discounted parking at Toronto Pearson International Airport with Park'N Fly!**

With this group discount, you can enjoy convenient, secure, and affordable parking for your next trip. Local 1059's exclusive Park'N Fly discount code is 1152739. This discount will vary depending on the time of year you're travelling, but taking advantage of the savings is easy. Whether you're reserving online or via the Park'N Fly app, simply enter the Local's discount code in the optional discount field during the reservation process.



forest city fitness
FUN, FRESH, FRIENDLY

NEW DISCOUNT!

Local 1059 members can save **25% on monthly memberships at Forest City Fitness.**

The gym offers 24/7/365 access, an experienced fitness team, a smoothie bar featuring Spartan Nutrition supplements, and more.

To receive the discount, contact Forest City Fitness and show your Local 1059 membership card when registering.

For more info: joinfcf.com

	Perkopolis Access to 5000+ discounts. Check your email for a unique Local 1059 registration code, then visit Perkopolis.com		Work Authority 15% off regularly priced merchandise. Just show your union card to receive the discount. Available at all locations.
	Dale Wurfel Chrysler Dodge Jeep Affiliate Pricing for members. dalewurfelchryslerdodgejeep.com		FitWell Clothing 10% off dry cleaning and alterations when members show their union card. 1295 Highbury Ave. N. facebook.com/fitwellclothing
	The Factory 15% off attractions for you and 4 guests. Just show your union card! thefactorylondon.ca		Carey's Bar & Grill Members receive 10% off regularly-priced food. Show your union card to your server.
	Southwest Marine Text #LIUNA to (519) 238-2887 to activate your member-exclusive discount. southwestmap.com		NEW MEMBER DISCOUNT Damian Warner Fitness To learn more, visit www.damianwarnerfitnesscentre.ca
	First Class Mobile Kutz Local 1059 members receive a 20% discount (30% if it's your birthday) at this one-of-a-kind mobile barbershop. To book an appointment, call or text 226-236-9541 and remember to show your union card to unlock the discount.		Dos Tacos Local 1059 members now receive 10% off at Dos Tacos when you show your union card. dostacos.ca
	Wet 'N' Wild Discounted rates on all tickets using code TENFIFTYNINE . wetnwildtoronto.com/AffiliateStore		Unity Uniform and Safety Significantly discounted rates on high-vis, plus discounts on almost all other products. unityuniformandsafety.com



WOMEN'S HEALTH & FITNESS

NEW DISCOUNT!

FOR WOMEN 20% off general memberships and group classes using the exclusive code **LIUNA20**. Find out more at www.bfitnesstraining.ca



NEW DISCOUNT!

Local 1059 is excited to announce a new partnership with Watford Ford Lincoln, giving you exclusive savings on your next vehicle and every service visit you book with the dealership for as long as you own it. To find out more about what Watford Ford Lincoln has to offer, contact **Dave Howes** — liuna1059@watfordford.com — or call **519-635-1612**. Make sure to mention you're a Local 1059 member and have your membership card ready at the point of purchase.

In Memoriam

In memory of our Local 1059 brothers and sisters.

Robert Medeiros, April 6, 2026
Member from 2023-2026

Armando DeSousa, April 14, 2026
Member from 1976-1998

Robert Evanski, April 15, 2026
Member from 2007-2026

Jaime Amaral, April 23, 2026
Member from 1976-2010

Gerry Galbraith, May 22, 2026
Member from 2002-2020

Domingos Sousa, May 23, 2026
Member from 1985-2009

Roberto Soares, May 25, 2026
Member from 2005-2026

Darin Miller, May 28, 2026
Member from 2010-2026

Kodey Buchanan, June 21, 2026
Member from 2021-2026

Ryan Ryckman, July 3, 2026
Member from 2012-2026

Gary Logan, July 18, 2026
Member from 2008-2026

Paul Castelhamo, July 28, 2026
Member from 2012-2014

Jose Melo, August 5, 2026
Member from 1995-2018

Michael Bemister, August 6, 2026
Member from 2025-2026

Joao de Medeiros, August 11, 2026
Member from 1976-2011

SUMMER 2026

BUILDING WHAT CONNECTS US

Local 1059 members Neil McLeod and Kale Brooks put the finishing touches on a new bridge in London, including epoxy and trap rock surface coating, safety rail installation, and concrete work.

DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Having email addresses allows us to quickly and inexpensively relay important information to members, and for construction members to respond to employers needing construction workers immediately. Contact us today to add your email address to our database.

liunalocal1059.com

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LOCAL 1059 NEWS

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