

THE TROWELLER

A Publication of the Manitoba Masonry Institute

Summer 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



As my first year as president of the Manitoba Masonry Institute (MMI) comes to an end, we have seen many positive things beginning and, at the same time, new challenges arising.

We have reconnected with the University of Manitoba (U of M)'s Faculty of Architecture through the recent guest lecture presentations

at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (see article on page 5), which have garnered fantastic acceptance and positive feedback from the design community. We will continue to promote and support the design community and help them prepare for the 2018 Manitoba Masonry Design Awards.

At the U of M, we are making strides in planning a masonry undergrad course for the 2018 winter schedule, with the hope of eventually creating a masonry chair within the faculty. This, however, takes time and money, so we must stay vigilant on our path to achieve our goals.

Red River College continues to turn out top tradespeople and has now embarked on an exciting journey, developing three test huts to obtain proper data on how our masonry products react in this climate, as well as their energy efficiency.

However, despite the positive initiatives underway, we face a

definite slowdown in our industry, thanks to recent spending cuts to schools and hospitals.

It is during these times that the industry needs to continue to band together to increase market share. We need to teach our systems to designers to promote our advantages and show them how masonry can assist to solve design issues. We need to look for opportunity for everyone, be it veneer or structural commercial or residential. All of this fantastic work makes our continued search for an executive director even more important, so he or she may lead this charge, taking back markets we have lost and keeping what we still have.

I'd like to thank everyone for their support this year, and I look forward to big advancements in our industry over the coming year. 🙌

Mark Laarveld
President
Manitoba Masonry Institute

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- A profile on Harry Laarveld
- Restoration work in Lower Fort Garry
- Skills Canada National Competition



PROFILE ON: Harry Laarveld

Growing up in the Netherlands in the late 1950s, Harry Laarveld had a tough decision to make at the end of the sixth grade.

“Back in those days, we would decide whether we would take an academic or trade route, followed by three years of trade school if we chose that route,” recalls Laarveld. The first year would consist of a formative class, where students picked from three different trades – carpentry, metal work and machinery – followed by two years of courses specific

to the selected trade.

“Schooling was a little different in (the Netherlands) than in Canada,” he laughs.

As it turned out, the carpentry class – Laarveld’s first choice – was full, which set the course for a different career path, one he would follow for more than half a century.

“The director of the school convinced me to try a new program – so I started the bricklayer program at 12 or 13 years old,” he says.

After completing his schooling, Laarveld worked for a general contractor for seven years before moving to Canada in 1969, where he took a job with Prall Construction in St. Vital. “Bricklayers were recruited from all over Europe, and I was one of those bricklayers,” he notes.

In coming to Canada, Laarveld faced a new challenge: his certificate from his schooling in the Netherlands was not recognized here.

“It can be a challenge when you don’t speak the (primary) language,” he says. “I went to ESL classes for a year and then to Red River College to obtain my Canadian Red Seal certification in 1970, spending extra time studying and being queried on questions. The challenge was definitely in understanding what was being taught in class!”

His hard work and dedication paid off – he passed the course, allowing him to move forward in the industry. “I became a journeyman with the company and was then given the opportunity to be a foreman and estimator,” he says of Prall Construction, which closed in the late 1990s. “I worked there for 14 years.”



In spring 1983, he opened HJ Masonry (HJ standing for his and his wife's initials) before it morphed into Euro-Can Enterprises in 1988. There, as president, he led countless projects across the province and grew his company to be one of the largest masonry contractors in Manitoba.

“My most favourite project actually can't be seen anymore – the former Sheraton Hotel in downtown Winnipeg had an archway entrance that has since been covered over,” he says (*see photo at right*). “Over the years, I did a lot of projects but my favourites were always alterations in older buildings, like in Winnipeg's Exchange District – seeing how a building was done 100 years ago and putting it back together again so it doesn't look any different.”

Though he retired from Euro-Can in 2012, with his son Mark taking over as president of the family business, Laarveld is showing few signs of slowing down. Throughout his career, he became involved with a number of associations and groups, both provincially and across the country, and continues to liaise with them on behalf of the industry.

“One of my favourite parts of working in masonry is the amount of time I spend working in one place. I like that transient feeling of not having to be in the same place of work all the time, every day. I like seeing different places and different faces,” he says.

In addition to serving as president of the Manitoba Masonry Contractors' Association for 13 years and president of the Manitoba Masonry Institute, Laarveld most recently acted as national president of the Canadian Masonry Contractors' Association (CMCA) after first getting involved with the association in the early 2000s.

Laarveld also spent eight years as a member of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) technical committee for mortar and grout, and served as chair of the Manitoba Provincial Trade Advisory



Committee for six years, where he worked on updating the curriculum. On top of his executive roles, he was provided the opportunity to sit on the editorial board for the creation of the *Textbook for Canadian Masonry*, now heading into its second edition.

“Working on the textbook is really rewarding, because you can bring your experience and put it in words for the young people who are going to learn the industry,” he says.

Laarveld emphasizes the importance of joining professional associations for everyone, whether experienced or just starting out in the industry. “Even though it might look like a big mountain to climb, the sooner you can get involved, the better,” he says. “There is no doubt that the learning experience helps you

in your work and that you grow from other people's experiences. You constantly need to rejuvenate your industry – and that's very difficult on your own."

So what's next for Laarveld? After passing the baton to the new CMCA president this spring (see *CMCA update on page 16*), he will continue to serve on the association's board of directors as the immediate past president.

"I'm going to slowly pull back both nationally and locally and make myself available as a consultant

rather than permanent fixture," he says. "So many younger executives are now stepping up to the plate and carrying the ball in the association – they're really showing a passion for the industry and trying to move it forward."

And though he's technically retired, Laarveld remains just as busy as ever. "I still need to keep a day-timer to make sure I'm not double-booking myself," he laughs. "In terms of future plans, I plan to travel more. I'm lucky to have good health. Life is good." 🍷

Masonry: then and now

Through his decades in the industry, Harry Laarveld has seen countless advancements in masonry – but more so in technology and processes than in actual masonry techniques, a testament to the longevity of masonry construction.

"The industry today is completely different than when I started, in that it is far more mechanized," he says. "In the past, forklifts and other available tools were not very effective. There was a lot more hand work involved in the whole masonry business, and more people to do the same job.

"Insofar as actual masonry, the biggest change has been what we put in the building envelope – it's a complete overhaul," he continues. "It's making the buildings last longer in modern mechanical conditions, and we don't have air escaping like we used to have in the past."

Safety procedures have also evolved over the years. "All of the temporary structural work that goes along with a masonry project, such as scaffolding and wall support, has become much more formalized and needs to be engineered now," he notes.

As for the future of masonry in Canada, Laarveld sees the industry at a turning point, one that he believes will help recapture lost market share over the coming decades.

"We've been declining for 30 years because other industries have taken over market share. While change is not going to happen overnight, we're at a place where we can prove the quality of our industry," he says.

"People are now realizing that it's worth it to pay a little extra up front to regain the difference over time and have a longer-lasting building. I'm hopeful by what I'm seeing, both in Manitoba and nationally."

SPOTLIGHT ON: Guest lecture series

Continuing education has always been a cornerstone of the masonry industry. In partnership with the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Architecture, the Manitoba Masonry Institute (MMI) recently sponsored a successful guest lecture series, bringing in world-class architects and engineers to present at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (WAG).

Each lecture highlighted groundbreaking initiatives by contemporary professionals, with academics, industry professionals and approximately 50 grad students from the Faculty of Architecture in attendance.

In early December 2016, over 150 people attended a lecture about vaults by internationally acclaimed structural engineer John Ochsendorf, also a professor of architecture and engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The lecture provided an overview of 20 years of historical and technical research on historical stone and brick structures, opening up new possibilities for design for the future.

New York-based architect Billie Tsien followed as the second lecturer in March 2017. Tsien, whose architectural firm was recently selected to design the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago, has received more than two dozen awards from the American Institute of Architects, as well as numerous national and international citations, over the past three decades.

“Architects are thrilled, sharing that this is exactly what we should be doing – bringing everyone together, raising awareness and opening all of our minds to the endless possibilities of masonry,” said Jeffrey Dolovich of Gillis Quarries, who helped plan the lecture series. “The guest lecture series has quickly become a highlight of the year.” 🏗️

Manitoba Masonry Institute Sponsorship
5pm Reception, 6pm Lecture
The Winnipeg Art Gallery
300 Memorial Blvd



MARCH 2
BILLIE TSIENT

Please send your RSVP to liane.lanzar@umanitoba.ca or by calling 204-474-6995

Billie Tsien was born in Ithaca, NY and received her undergraduate degree in Fine Arts from Yale University and Master of Architecture degree from UCLA. She began working with Tod Williams in 1977. Together, they founded their architectural practice in 1986.

Located in New York, their studio focuses on work for institutions including schools, museums, and not-for-profits—organizations and people who value issues of aspiration and meaning, and timelessness and beauty. Their buildings are carefully made and useful in ways that speak to both efficiency and the spirit. A sense of rootedness, light, texture, detail, and most of all experience, are at the heart of what they build.

Over the past three decades, Tod and Billie have received more than two dozen awards from the American Institute of Architects as well as numerous national and international citations. Most recently, they received the 2013 National Medal of the Arts from President Obama, 2013 Firm of the Year Award from the American Institute of Architects, and 2014 International Fellowship from the Royal Institute of British Architects. Additional recognition includes

For upcoming events please visit: www.manitobamasonry.ca/architecture/events

FAMM Architecture University of Manitoba
Faculty of Architecture | University of Manitoba
@faumanitoba



UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA | Faculty of Architecture
Cultural Events 2016-2017

Due to the high attendance and overwhelmingly positive feedback, two more presentations are in the works for fall 2017 and spring 2018. For more information on upcoming events, please visit:

www.umanitoba.ca/architecture/events

SPOTLIGHT ON: New schools in Manitoba

With Winnipeg and surrounding communities continuing to grow every year, it's no wonder new educational facilities have made an appearance in our prairie province. *The Troweller* looks at three different facilities recently constructed or currently under construction in Manitoba.

École Sage Creek School

This fall, a new dual-track school is set to open its doors to about 600 elementary students in the southeast Winnipeg community of Sage Creek.

Collaboration was key to the design of the 7,148-square-metre École Sage Creek School, part of the Louis Riel School Division. An integrated design process brought together stakeholders in the project's early stages, and consultations with the community also helped inform the design.

"Right from the beginning, we sat down with the community to look at how we could orient the building on the site to take advantage of natural features like the wind and sun, as well as logistical components like traffic flow," says Christina Legris, associate and education / recreation studio lead at Number TEN Architectural Group, the prime

consultant on the project. "They were all part of the conversation."

The result? An innovative and progressive learning environment that saw a sense of community as an integral design consideration.

"We broke away from the 'corridors and classroom' model we typically see in schools and broke them down into smaller neighbourhoods of classroom groupings," says Legris. Classrooms have the ability to spill out into a common instructional area for group activities, which connects to a central learning commons acting as a social hub for the school.

The school is designed to blur the lines between indoors and outdoors, incorporating lots of natural light and views to the outdoors from almost any vantage, not only providing relief for the eyes but also a sense of connection to the environment.

"It pays tribute to the history of the site from the early indigenous roots, through the agricultural history of the land and then back to the natural prairie landscape that has been established throughout the Sage Creek community," says Legris. To add to the focus on nature, prairie plants and landscapes are reflected in the names of the school's neighbourhoods and adjacent landscape plantings.

Exterior finish materials like masonry are also incorporated into interior spaces in a variety of ways, including a Tyndall Stone column in the main floor learning commons and coloured concrete block to define the gym. This helps to create a sense of continuity between the interior and exterior spaces of the school.

"Anywhere there is glass in the main space, we tried to bring brick right into the school," says Legris. "We brought a big wall of





charcoal grey brick from the exterior to interior, and also used glazed brick to add definition and highlight pops of colour around the school in yellow, orange and light yellow/cream, which was intended to look like a prairie field from above.”

A fossil wall is also featured prominently on the south side of the school, providing an opportunity for students to use the building as a learning tool. “At the beginning of the design process, we started talking to Gillis Quarries about creating a fossil wall and as they were quarrying the Tyndall Stone, they set aside fossils and we had the contractor concentrate them all in one area,” says Legris.

The building also employs several methods to contribute to environmental sustainability. “One of the major components is in the energy use – geothermal loops harvest energy from the earth to run the building’s heating and cooling through a radiant floor heating and chill beam system,” says Legris. “The chilled beams and radiant floor heat create a natural convection current of air, which uses less energy than a forced air system.”

Construction on the school, which began in summer 2015, will be completed this summer in time for the start of the school year.

“There is such a strong connection between the

design intent and the intent of the Louis Riel School Division, and the result is a school that is designed to complement the users’ needs and division’s goals,” Legris says of the project. “It was a great experience and extremely rewarding.”

École South Pointe School

The 98,000-square-foot École South Pointe School – and attached child-care facility – is designed to be the centre of the South Pointe community, also establishing its own school community within.

Part of Pembina Trails School Division, the recently opened school boasts a number of state-of-the-art features that contribute to the vision of offering modern, flexible learning opportunities to its elementary students. For example, moveable walls between many central spaces provide flexibility of use.

One of the school’s stand-out features is a ‘living wall’ incorporated into the second-floor multi-purpose area. A roof-pop in the two-storey central lobby brings in natural light, as do large south-facing windows that flood the classrooms and spaces with light.

“The main lobby in the centre of the school receives a varying interplay of light and shadow due to the clerestory pop-up roof as the sun moves across the sky,” says Jeff Moroz, senior associate with Stantec Architecture, the project’s prime consultant. “The gym has high clerestory windows facing north to bring some daylight into the largest space in the school, and large windows at the end of the main corridors lighten up the entire circulation system.”

Other features are inspired by Manitoba’s landscape and geology. “Most of the landscape/geology inspiration is expressed in the outdoor features developed by HTFC Planning and Design, who provided landscape architecture services,” says Moroz. “We developed the interior signage with Pembina Trails to link Canadian geographical features to help orient within the school.”

Masonry plays an important role in the school’s construction, with load-bearing concrete masonry units acting as the structural system to ensure durability, and a combination of brick and stone veneer appearing around the entire two-storey building.



Red River College Skilled Trades and Technology Centre

Red River College's Notre Dame Campus will soon be home to state-of-the-art classroom, laboratory and workshop space. Currently under construction, the college's new Skills Trades and Technology Centre (STTC) addition will house space for students in high-demand trades and technologies, including carpentry, refrigeration, sheet metal, electrical and manufacturing.

Number TEN Architectural Group – with associate architects Ager Little Architects Inc. – are leading the design of the 103,000-square-foot facility.

“Early in the design process, we had many discussions about how to make the building user-friendly and comfortable for everyone,” says Mark Ager, principal architect at Ager Little Architects. “One of the really interesting elements is the exterior façade development. We wanted to break from tradition and give a fresh face to the college.”

The overall design was, in part, inspired by the longevity of the birch forest. “That idea is grounded with the masonry – generally where the building comes into contact with the ground, there are masonry

“The field colour is on the darker side and changes appearance based on the angle of the sun,” says Moroz. “Other brick and locally manufactured Tyndall Stone were selected for massing highlights and as a contrast to the field brick colour.”

Environmental stewardship is a priority for the school given its physical proximity to the Brady Landfill, with environmentally friendly features incorporated throughout the facility.

“The selected interior products and finishes were low volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Mechanically, we incorporated some in-floor radiant heating in the slabs, displacement ventilation and chilled beams,” says Moroz. “We also incorporated a robust exterior envelope including triple-paned windows, air-vapour barrier membrane and rigid insulation.”

A highlight for the design team was the collaborative design process and participation of many stakeholders throughout the project, including students, staff, teachers, and divisional trustees and administrators, culminating in the school's grand opening in January 2017.

“We are proud of our partnership with Pembina Trails in delivering a vibrant educational environment for students and staff, and a new, iconic community space for the South Pointe neighbourhood,” says Moroz.





elements,” says Ager. “It is durable but also represents the rich prairie soil.”

The prominent masonry work includes 10,000 concrete masonry units on both the exterior and interior of the facility. “We tried to give the masons liberty to use their artistic expression. We provided guidelines for the brick patterning and let them interpret that,” says Ager.

Glue-laminated timbers – resembling the ribs of a canoe – appear inside the building, with wood elements appearing on the exterior panels. “The exterior’s inspiration was a constant rhythm of shadow and light that is never the same twice as one drives past a stand of birch trees,” says Ager. “A large skylight, which runs the length of the building, represents the canopy of the forest, with dabbled light coming down through the trees.”

In keeping with the birch forest theme, the facility also uses different brick textures and a pixelated brick pattern to denote rain falling through the forest.

Targeting LEED Gold status from the Canada Green Building Council, the facility has also incorporated a number of energy-efficient design features.

“We had very stringent requirements for the building envelope and high insulation levels. The landscape

architect, HTFC Planning and Design, created a rain garden, a drainage system that allows water to percolate into the soil,” says Ager, adding the project team also incorporated a number of recycled materials. “One of the really unique features of this project is that we used recycled brass in the floor so it almost looks like gold veins running through the floor.”

Ager credits the project’s success to date to an integrated design process and collaboration between all consultants and sub-trades.

“One of the highlights of this project is the incredible team of consultants. The construction manager (Akman Construction) and their sub-trades have been fabulous, and the college also has a lot of really knowledgeable people on staff that have made significant contributions to the project.” says Ager, adding that students were even involved in the building’s design. “There is a very collaborative spirit on the project and it really feels like everyone has gone above and beyond. It’s not every day that such a large and complex project comes along, but it’s such a treat to work on a project like this with such an incredible team.” 🏡



Photo captions for school article:

Page 6 - Exterior of École Sage Creek School (view video of the site on the [Number TEN Architectural Group website](#))

Page 7 - Interior of École Sage Creek School (courtesy of Number TEN)

Page 8 - Exterior of and living wall in École South Pointe School (courtesy of Stantec)

Page 9 - Exterior of and pixelated 'raindrops' falling down the brick in RRC's STTC (courtesy of Ager Little Architects)

REPRINT FROM THE CCMPA

The following article has been reprinted with the permission of the Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association.

As flood waters in Quebec recede, we're reminded that climate change is real, and that we need to adapt to it by building better.

By Paul Hargest, President,
Canadian Concrete Masonry
Producers Association

On May 11th, Justin Trudeau stood in front of a group of reporters in Gatineau, Quebec. He'd just taken an aerial tour to survey the area's flood damage. With Premier Philippe Couillard by his side, he talked about the growing threat of extreme weather, and our need to prepare for it.

"The frequency of extreme weather events is increasing.... And that means that as we look to rebuild our communities, our homes, our infrastructures, we're going

to have to think about what we can do to rebuild better...." Yes, Trudeau acknowledged, it "might be more expensive to rebuild better now, but that'll certainly be less expensive than the clean-up and the disaster response that is going to increasingly have to happen if extreme weather events keep going the way they are."

From ice storms and heat waves to droughts and unprecedented flooding (think Alberta in June 2013), our weather is becoming more severe. Climate change is real.

While we may not be able to control the rain and snow, we can control how we adapt to it — in particular, how we construct the homes and buildings in our communities.

To build better, we need more rigorous construction standards. We need to set the bar higher than it is now. And in fact, many building experts would argue that climate change aside, our building (and fire) codes should be stronger,

period.

Take the example of the leaky condo epidemic that has plagued homeowners in British Columbia and Alberta in recent years. Condo owners faced enormous repair bills, in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, as a result of severe leaking.

Damage to the condos ranged from rotting stucco-covered walls (water had gotten in behind the stucco) to balconies that were ready to drop off. Repair estimates provided by contractors often tripled and quadrupled when the full extent of the leaking was discovered.

The Alberta and BC governments responded by enacting legislation that now requires a five-year warranty.

At the time of construction, materials like wood and stucco were thought to be the cheaper option. But later, the expense, inconvenience and anxiety brought on by the leaking was nothing short of catastrophic for homeowners.

Water is something that we as homeowners can expect more of in the coming years. As we batten down the hatches and prepare for the onset of climate change, it's critical that our building codes address the issue of resilient construction, especially where water is concerned. According to the Insurance Bureau of Canada, "In today's world of extreme weather events, \$1 billion has become the new normal for yearly catastrophic losses — most of this is due to water-related damage."

Moreover, in many cases, insurance will not cover the damage, and many insurers are turning away applicants because of anticipated high numbers of claims. A recent article in the Financial Post reported that, "A survey in January [2017] of 700 Quebec condo corporations by an industry group found that 55% changed insurers over the last five years because of higher premiums, while 13% were refused a renewal by their insurer." The article goes on to say that, "Water, the number one cause of damage, has already led to deductibles as high as \$100,000 for certain condo corporations in Vancouver."

As these facts suggest, the desire to cut costs at one end of the construction cycle too often trumps public well-being at the other end. Looking at fire safety, for instance, materials like wood and drywall are deemed fire-safe in highly controlled laboratory testing; however, in real life, where lightweight wood assemblies burn hotter and faster than ever before, drywall is brought to the ground in a matter of minutes. Comparable concrete assemblies, meanwhile, remain standing and structurally sound.

Thus, while the warranty legislation enacted in BC and Alberta is a step in the right direction, it needs the enforcement teeth of a building code behind it. Because ultimately, it's still up to developers to decide how they want to build, and with what material. As long as it's built to code, it's legal. A warranty, by comparison, is no doubt beneficial, but it puts the onus on homeowners to push for repairs and compensation — and after five years, leaves them with nothing to fall back on.

A real solution would be to build better in the first place. Just ask Justin Trudeau.

PHOTOS: MMI golf tournament



Photos continued on page 17

PROFILE ON: Lower Fort Garry restoration



The oldest collection of stone fur trade buildings in Canada, the Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site draws thousands of visitors every year.

The site has played a pivotal role in a number of significant events important to Canada's history. It was the location where the first of the numbered treaties with First Nations communities in western Canada was made. The site also served as a Hudson's Bay Company post and a training base for the North-West Mounted Police (Canada's central police force that later became the RCMP).

More recently, to extend the lifecycle of the heritage site, Public Service and Procurement Canada (PSPC) and Parks Canada Agency engaged Calgary-based Coupland Kraemer Architecture + Interior Design Inc. (CKAID) to assist in developing and implementing a strategy to address deteriorating limestone walls and bastions, minimizing potential for water penetration into the wall cavity.

During the design phase, Winnipeg firm 1x1 Architecture assisted in assessing the condition of the walls and creating design solutions, while

Alpha Masonry provided their historic masonry rehabilitation support throughout the project.

"Guided by the conservation principles of minimal intervention, reversibility and using the gentlest means possible, the rehabilitation work included the replacement of 100 per cent of the existing copings, 35 per cent of wall mortar and five per cent of wall stone," says Gavin Kraemer, an architect with CKAID.

Included in the project scope was the introduction of new Tyndall Stone coping pieces, complete with overhang and a drip edge to protect the walls from freeze/thaw cycles; carefully selected mortar mixtures; and installation of natural bedded fieldstones.

"All new interventions were selected to ensure the masonry work would provide technical performance, be aesthetically compatible and subtly distinguishable," says Kraemer.

Naturally occurring vertical cracks were accepted as an inherent element of the walls, with control joints installed to accommodate movement and limit the potential of water penetrating the wall system. Installation of a protective membrane will ensure





future coping masonry work can be completed without damaging the heritage fabric of the wall.

Several masonry conditions required detailed discussion among the project team, including the installation of segmented, wedge-shaped coping stones on the bastions.

“In order to accommodate the circular and irregular shape of the bastion walls, Alpha Masonry recommended reducing the coping stone widths, allowing the masons to adjust accordingly to ensure the inner and outer edges were aligned and centred over the wall,” says Kraemer. “This resulted in a beautiful visual curved appearance and provided the required overhang to protect the wall below.”

The intersection of the straight wall coping with the circular bastion coping also posed a challenge, resulting in Alpha Masonry creating geometric transition stones with valleys to ensure water drainage from the coping.

During construction, 1x1 Architecture conducted regular site reviews, liaising between Alpha Masonry and the rest of the project team throughout the process. Despite tight timelines and an unexpected re-build on a portion of a wall, the project remained on schedule.

“During early construction phases, it was discovered

that an area on the south wall had significantly deteriorated and would require a complete re-build,” says Kraemer. “Alpha Masonry began work on the re-build immediately and ensured this added scope of work was completed in a timely manner that did not affect the overall project schedule.”

A range of expertise and dedicated team that collaborated every step of the way resulted in a restoration project that adhered to the principles of conservation.

“It was a really great opportunity to work on Lower Fort Garry – it was such a unique project,” says Gus Kotoulas, president of Alpha Masonry. “I was proud of the quality of the workmanship.”

“The masons were competent, well-organized and produced a high-quality product in a short timeframe,” adds Kraemer. “The end result was the protection and lifecycle extension of a valuable piece of Canadian heritage.” 🏰



Photos (courtesy of CKAID):

Page 12, top left: bastion coping detail completed

Page 12, bottom right: gun port 12 interior south wall complete

Page 13, top left: new sloped coping

Page 13, bottom right: south wall after construction

SPOTLIGHT ON: Provincial and national skills competitions



Winnipeg recently played host to the 23rd Skills Canada National Competition, bringing together hundreds of students and apprentices from across Canada to participate in skilled trade and technology competitions, along with thousands of spectators who came to cheer them on and learn more about related careers.

This year's event, which took place from May 31 to June 3 at the RBC Convention Centre, saw more than 40 competitions representing six different sectors: construction, employment, information technology, manufacturing and engineering, transportation and service.

Participating students qualified to compete in the national competition by earning a gold medal in their respective provincial/territorial competitions. This year, participants from seven provinces competed in the brick masonry contest, in which students constructed an arch with a traditional-style elevation.

"It was a double-ring Roman arch with a sawtooth," says Brian Gebhardt, bricklaying instructor at Red River College. "The students had to cut their own arch forms."

While glass block detail was originally included in the project scope, students had to swap out the glass with concrete blocks due to unforeseen circumstances. "The students also had some difficulty working with an imperial product in a metric drawing, as it was not the way the project was intended," says Gebhardt. "But overall, everything went very well and all of the students performed very well."

Some of the technical skills measured in the brick masonry competition included the students' ability to measure lengths, calculate and mark angles, determine the layout and gauge, cut brickwork, level, make corners and comply with plans, among other skills.

After a tight race, Ashley Bent from New Brunswick came in first place, with provincial gold medalist Colin Breckman from Red River College

(see sidebar) taking home the silver medal.

"It was a very close competition," says Gebhardt, adding that 2017 marks 20 years of participation in the national competition for Manitoba, as well as 20 years on the podium.

In addition to the actual competitions, the event included a number of other activities to provide competitors and the approximately 10,000 visiting students with hands-on experience and to showcase skilled trades and technology career options. Dozens of 'Try-a-Trade and Technology' activities were hosted by educators and industry experts, including a collaborative masonry-focused activity called 'Building Bridges' that saw participating students help span an arch to build a bridge.

"The students were able to write their names on a brick and place them on an arch," says Gebhardt. "At times, there were line-ups because so many people wanted to lay a brick!"

Next up is the WorldSkills Competition, at which over 1,300 competitors from across the globe will compete in Abu Dhabi in October 2017. Pierre-Olivier Desmarais from Montreal, Quebec will represent Canada in the bricklaying competition. We will provide an update in the next issue of *The Troweller*. 🏠



Photos courtesy of Skills/Compétences Canada.

Skills Manitoba Competition

Held at Red River College on April 13, 2017, the 20th Annual Skills Manitoba Competition saw hundreds of high school, post-secondary and apprentice students compete in skilled trades and technology contests, the winners of each competition earning a spot in the national competition.

Congratulations to gold medalist Colin Breckman and silver medalist Patrick Gossling, both from Red River College. Breckman went on to compete at the Skills Canada National Competition, where he took home the silver medal (*see full article on previous page*).

UPDATE FROM THE CMCA

The Canadian Masonry Contractors' Association (CMCA) annual conference, in conjunction with its annual general meeting, took place from June 3 to 6, 2017 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This weekend marked the 50th annual masonry conference, coinciding with the 13th Canadian Masonry Symposium.

Our next AGM and conference are being planned for early June 2018 in Victoria, British Columbia. We encourage you to plan to attend and help keep our organization strong by bringing your experience to the meeting.

Some of the more important developments for the CMCA:

1. The second edition of the *Textbook of Canadian Masonry* that our schools are using to instruct apprentices is now at the printer. It will be ready for use by September 2017, first in English with the French translation scheduled to follow later this year. Thank you to all those involved for your time, effort and support.
2. Through the National Trade Contractors Coalition of Canada, we are leading the charge across the country to help formulate provincial prompt payment legislation.

Federally, bill 224 has passed all stages in the Senate. Next, it will be introduced in the House and we expect a similar timeframe as in the Senate there. To that end, we continue our lobbying efforts on Parliament Hill.

3. Our board of directors, consisting of provincial representatives, has taken the next step in the succession plan. We are happy to see younger board members being appointed.

There will also be a change in the executive director position with Mr. John Blair retiring. Mr. David Stubbs will take on the duties of CMCA executive director along with his current position at the Canadian Masonry Design Centre (CMDC). Although we expect the transition to be seamless, we look forward to the new ideas that will be brought forward as part of this change.

4. Lobbying for fire safety in buildings housing multiple families is ongoing. We continue to work with other industries closely associated with masonry. Fire testing is currently paused until the National Research Council finds a new facility in which it can perform tests. We are hopeful this pause will be short-lived.

5. The latest CSA standards related to masonry are being published. The CMDC will soon announce the fall seminar dates and locations across the country to help designers and contractors understand the revisions. These standards will become part of the new national building code.

We continuously work to bring together industry members and work toward a consumer-friendly environment by which our customers are assured quality of work when they choose CMCA contractors and their partners.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the board and staff at the CMCA for the guidance I have received over the past two years. I look forward to working with Mr. Bill George, the incoming president. 🍷

Harry Laarveld
Immediate Past President
CMCA

2018 Masonry Design Awards

Mark your calendars – the next Manitoba Masonry Design Awards are set for Oct. 25, 2018. The awards celebrate the MMI's long-respected partnership with the province's architectural community. The submission form is now available on the MMI website.

More information about the awards will follow in the next edition of *The Troweller*.

New website

Our new MMI website (www.manitobamasonry.ca) provides a wealth of information of interest to designers, students, developers and the public. Be sure to bookmark the new page to stay apprised of all things masonry in Manitoba.

The Troweller wants to hear from you!

If you have a story idea or a project you would like us to feature, please contact us. We are always looking for new content of interest to our readers. We look forward to hearing from you!

Golf tournament

Our annual MMI golf tournament was held on June 16, 2017 at Larters at St. Andrews Golf and Country Club. See photos below and on page 11. Thank you to everyone who attended – see you next year!



In memoriam

The Manitoba Masonry Institute would like to acknowledge the passing of Douglas Gillis, who passed away on May 4, 2017. Doug worked in the Gillis family business, Gillis Quarries, for over 40 years. He will be deeply missed by the masonry industry across the country, by all of his colleagues who worked closely with him, and by many members of the construction industry.

Our thoughts go out to his friends and family.

Manitoba Masonry Institute Executive

Mark Laarveld (Euro-Can Enterprises Ltd.) — President

Kevin Dudych (Brock White Canada) — First Vice-President

Norman Blerot (Blerot Masonry Ltd.) — Second Vice-President

Jordan Bowcott (I-XL Masonry Supplies Ltd.) — Third Vice-President

Neil Ingram (Expocrete Concrete Products Ltd.) — Treasurer

Jeffrey Dolovich (Gillis Quarries Ltd.) — Immediate Past President

The Troweller Committee

Neil Ingram, Expocrete Concrete Products Ltd.

Chris Cunha, Cunha Masonry Inc.

Kevin Dudych, Brock White Canada

For more information about *The Troweller* or the Manitoba Masonry Institute, please contact us at:



1447 Waverley Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 0P7
Phone: (204) 949-0688
Fax: (204) 694-7505
www.manitobamasonry.ca