

From the Desk of Ron Chelack....

Director of Marketing and Business Development

After a brief retirement, I was approached by the Saskatchewan Masonry Institute to assist in Marketing and Business Development. In my 34 years of exposure to the Masonry Industry, it is encouraging that the SMI continues to succeed as the voice of our industry in Saskatchewan. I have had the opportunity to work with SMI member Contractors, Suppliers, Producers and the University of Saskatchewan. Some of my early SMI roles involved representing Saskatchewan Manufacturers on the SMI Board of Directors, culminating with the 6th Canadian Masonry Symposium held in Saskatoon.

I am confident the future of the SMI will remain as a strong voice for our industry in Saskatchewan.

My new role with the SMI will include, but not limited to:

- Collaboration with our current members ensuring their concerns are addressed.
- Promoting SMI Membership to new businesses.
- Exploring Masonry opportunities with design and engineering professionals.
- Encouraging use of masonry for new builds with various government bodies and private enterprises.
- Assist Jamie Epp/SMI office as required.

I look forward to supporting the membership of the SMI.

Ron Chelack



Dominic Iula—SMI President, Ron Chelack—Director of Marketing and Business Development, Ryan Leech—SMI Treasurer

Engineering Courses

The Engineered Masonry Design Course (EMDC) was first offered in 1998 by Dr. Bob Drysdale and since that time it has been taken over by CMDC staff and expanded. Historically it was only ever offered consistently in Mississauga, ON with one-time classes run in Ottawa, Kingston, Calgary and Edmonton (most recently in 2014). The course is now back after a 4-year hiatus, as a hybrid in-person and online. In spring 2024 it was offered in Mississauga and Ottawa, ON where it was taken by 35 Engineers.

As of October 8, 2024, the course is being offered in Edmonton, AB and Saskatoon, SK, with 14 Engineers registered. The EMDC is tentatively planned to run again in winter 2025 in Mississauga, ON, Montreal, QC (in French), and Halifax, NS. Participants will receive 20 hours of in-class instruction (see photo below), 12 hours of virtual lectures, 10 hours of other virtual activities, feedback on graded assignments, as well as a graded final exam and project. Aside from the theoretical learning, practicing engineers get the opportunity to work with some of our apprentices and journeypersons through a **hands-on demonstration** laying brick and block.

More Information Available

[Click Here](#)



Engineering Textbook

In partnership with the Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association (CCMPA), **over 275 copies** of the book have been donated to graduate and undergraduate students at Universities across Canada for use in masonry design courses. In addition, **over 200 copies** have been sold to Design Professionals and Engineers across Canada.



More Information Available

[Click Here](#)

New Mass Release

Version 4.2 is Now Available for Download

What's New in MASS Software?



Comprehensive Analysis for Conventional Construction Shear Walls: Delve deeper into your designs with the ability to perform comprehensive analyses on conventional construction walls with a seismic hazard greater than 0.35. This enhancement allows for a more thorough understanding of structural behavior, ensuring robust and resilient designs.

Enhanced Shear Deformation Calculation: Experience more accurate deflection assessments with our newly integrated shear deformation component in deflection design. This enhancement empowers designers to fine tune their structures with precision, resulting in optimized performance and increased reliability.

Elevate your masonry design endeavors with the latest advancements in MASS software. Embrace innovation and unlock new possibilities in your projects today!

More Information Available

[Click Here](#)

SMI's Annual Golf Tournament - Royal Regina Golf Club

SMI hosted their annual golf tournament in Regina on July 25, 2024 at the Royal Regina Golf Club. The day began with a BBQ lunch supplied by SMI. After 18 holes of golf, everyone gathered in the clubhouse for dinner and cocktails. The evening continued with a speech from SMI's president, Dominic Iula, followed by prizes donated by SMI and its members. A big thank you to Brxton Masonry and City Masonry for sponsoring the bar once again! Planning is underway for the 2025 tournament.



SMI's Annual Golf Tournament - Riverside Country Club

Another great turn out for SMI's annual golf tournament at Riverside Country Club. SMI supplied a BBQ lunch for the golfers followed by a shotgun start. Some of SMI's members set up on various holes with some fun contests and prizes. After 18 holes, the golfers returned to the clubhouse for dinner and cocktails. The evening was capped off with speeches and prizes donated by SMI and its members. A big thank you to Brxton Masonry and City Masonry for sponsoring the bar. We look forward to seeing you next summer!





15th Canadian Masonry Symposium

Work is underway for the upcoming 15th CMS in Ottawa, ON, which will be run jointly with the Canadian Masonry Contractors Association (**CMCA**) Annual Conference. With **170 Abstracts** submitted and a technical committee of **100+ experts**, this symposium is setting up to be one of our most successful.

This will be the penultimate gathering of masonry design professionals, researchers, students, professors, contractors, manufacturers and suppliers in Canada.

More Information Available

[Click Here](#)

Upcoming Important Dates

- * CMCA's Annual Masonry Conference in Ottawa, ON - May 31 - June 3, 2025
- * 15th Canadian Masonry Symposium in Ottawa, ON - June 2 - 5, 2025
- * SMI's Annual Golf Tournament - August 2025

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