



ONTARIO MASONRY
TRAINING CENTRE

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BRICK & STONE MASONRY

BUILD A SOLID FUTURE...CREATE A PART OF HISTORY

What is Masonry?

Masonry, aka brick and stone work, is one of the oldest surviving crafts in the world. In fact, many of the world's wonders are masonry creations, including the Egyptian Pyramids, Roman Coliseum, Taj Mahal, and Great Wall of China, and are admired for their outstanding architectural achievements.

Today, everywhere you turn, lays the work of skilled mason—in homes, schools, churches, hospitals, and more. Since its inception, architects and builders have chosen masonry for its beauty, versatility, and resistance against the destructive forces of time and weather. Masons take pride in knowing that their creations will be enjoyed for centuries to come.

As a mason, what would I do?

Masons work with brick, concrete block, glass block, tile, terra cotta and stone. Work can be as simple as building a wall or as complex as installing an ornate exterior or constructing a skyscraper. No matter what the job, the skill and precision required by a mason has yet to be replaced by machines.

As with many construction trades, masonry work is primarily performed outdoors. Masons work in all weather conditions, and buildings are enclosed with protective sheeting during cold months. This allows masons to work year round, which provides stability in their income.

The work is very physical, involving the use of hand tools, power tools and material handling equipment. Every brick and block must be laid by hand, and requires the skill of a craftsman - a true artisan. A skilled mason knows the different patterns, textures and colours that create an attractive finished product. Masons must also be able to read blueprints, understand building codes and be knowledgeable of industry safety guidelines and rules for handling hazardous materials.

Will a masonry career sustain me?

YES! In general, the construction industry is very busy, but masons in particular are in high demand. Current shortages along with an aging workforce across Canada are fueling the demand for new apprentices to replace and add to the number of skilled masons in Canada.

The increasing popularity of masonry units will stimulate demand for brick & stone masons. The diversification of your masonry skills accumulated with career experience and knowledge will help to ensure continuity of employment.

What opportunities can a masonry career lead to?

Some masons are specializing in very specific skills such as refractory and restoration work. Along with providing skills for the job, a background in masonry can lead to positions such as site supervisors, estimators, self-employed contractors, and many other opportunities throughout your career.

What characteristics should I have to succeed in a masonry career?

This work is often physically demanding and requires healthy individuals with good stamina. Masons need to have good vision, spatial perception, hand-eye coordination and an ability to estimate size and dimensions. Because masons often work on scaffolds, they must be comfortable working at heights. Artistic skills are also a strong asset. You must be at least 16 years of age. A Grade 12 education or equivalent is recommended including a good command of written and spoken English and Mathematics. Apprentices must be able to work well, both individually and in teams under direct supervision.

How much will I earn?

Wage rates vary depending on the employer, the sector (industrial, commercial, institutional or residential), the type of work and whether the employer is a union or non-union contractor. Your “Contract of Apprenticeship” legislates that you will be paid a minimum of 40% of an employer’s journeyman wage to start, with the percentage increasing to 60%, 70% and 80% for every 1400 hours worked. An apprentice just starting out in the industrial commercial institutional (ICI) sector with a unionized employer will earn approximately \$17/hr (50% of the journeyman’s rate) which increases throughout the apprenticeship to the journeyman’s wage of \$34/hr (approx. \$68,000 annually for a 2000 hr year) before health and pension benefits. Exact wage rates and benefits vary slightly by region. Non-unionized rates are set at the discretion of the individual employer and will vary depending on the type of work performed. Typically, they will decrease slightly to \$11/hr for a first year apprentice to \$25/hr (approx. \$52,000 annually) for a journeyman with negligible benefits.

How do I become an apprentice and what does it involve?

As one of the most established forms of education in the world, apprenticeship is a sound method of teaching craftsmanship and quality skills. A **registered** Brick and Stone Mason apprentice requires 5600 hours of training, 80% on-the-job and 20% in-school. In-school training is divided into three levels - Basic, Intermediate and Advanced. Optimally, an apprentice will be in school for 2 months of the year and on the job for the remaining 10 months.

To register as an apprentice, you must have a mason contractor sign you to a “Contract of Apprenticeship” with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities (MTCU):

The employer - agrees to hire the apprentice, train on the job, allow the apprentice time off work for in-school training, and pay the scheduled apprenticeship wage rate.

The apprentice - must fulfill his/her work obligations, attend trade school, pass examinations and fulfill 5600 hours of training.

The MTCU - agrees to pay a portion of the apprentice’s in-school training. They also administer the Certificate of Qualification (Red Seal) examination once the apprentice has fulfilled their apprenticeship requirements and wishes to achieve their journeyman status.

How do I find an employer/sponsor?

Regardless of the demand for new masons, it can take a lot of hard work and determination to locate an employer who will give an inexperienced apprentice an opportunity. Typical of the construction industry, most jobs are found through networking (word-of-mouth) and job site visits, but some positions are posted on websites such as www.jobbank.gc.ca or www.apprenticesearch.com. Many apprentices also find opportunities by beginning as a mason tender (bricklayer’s helper) although any construction exposure will give you an advantage in finding a full-time employer. Don’t get discouraged too quickly if an opportunity doesn’t emerge right away; the benefits will far outweigh the footwork once you gain some hands-on knowledge of the industry.

How do I sign up for in-school training?

Individuals must have a registered “Contract of Apprenticeship” as mentioned above. Registered apprentices will automatically be placed on MTCU’s waiting list which will then be forwarded to the school the apprentices wishes to attend.

In this case, if OMTC is the school the apprentice has requested, they will send out a “Training Schedule Notice” which will indicate when classes are running and how to sign-up.

How much does the course cost?

The Government of Ontario, Ontario Masonry Contractors' Association, Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association, Cement Association of Canada, Hanson Brick Ltd. And Brampton Brick Ltd. fund the majority of costs associated with training new apprentices at the OMTC.

Apprentices are required to share in these costs by paying a \$400 classroom fee per in-school level as well as paying a one-time \$40 administration fee to the MTCU upon contract registration. Students are required to supply their own hand tools, and are offered an optional \$400 interest-free tool loan by the MTCU when their contract is signed to help fund tool purchases. OMTC supplies lesson notes, building materials, and use of power tools for classroom and hands-on training, not to mention our terrific instructors.

How do I support myself financially while in class?

Once deemed eligible by Human Resources & Skills Development Canada (HRSDC), an apprentice may collect Employment Insurance (EI) benefits while in training. Contact your local HRSDC office if you are unsure of your eligibility requirements. You can check out their website at www.hrsdc.gc.ca.

Do I have to join the Union?

Access to training is available to everyone in the masonry industry regardless of membership in an organized union. If you choose to work for a unionized mason contractor you can sign up with the local bricklayers' union office.

Are women suitable for a career in masonry?

YES! Although masons in the past have primarily consisted of men, many women have pursued their interest in masonry and enrolled in our school and even instruct courses. Women do need to be able to perform the physical duties associated with a masonry career, but gender should not deter them from pursuing this career path.

I'm from Northern Ontario. Are there any courses available at a college or training institution closer to my home?

Unfortunately, Northern Ontario's college system hasn't been able to sustain courses in Brick & Stone Masonry so options are limited to a few training providers in Ontario. The OMTC garners support from masonry contractors and manufacturers to maintain a balanced budget without having to charge excessive fees. Currently, OMTC has three campuses, our main campus in Mississauga, a satellite campus in Ottawa, as well as a program run through Conestoga College. Elsewhere in Ontario, we are aware of MTCU-approved programs offered by Labourers Union Local 183 in Vaughan and Cobourg, St. Clair College in Windsor, La Cite in Ottawa and by Bricklayers Union Local 5 in London. Although each of these institutions teach according to a common government standard for Brick & Stone Masonry, the programs will vary in content and quality. Employment Insurance supplements costs of living away from home for eligible candidates. Contact your local HRSDC office if you are unsure of your eligibility requirements.

I have some experience in bricklaying already. Can I get exempted from some of the in-class and on-the-job training?

Candidates with suitable skills will be assessed on an individual basis. If the experience level is extensive, the individual must complete a technical exam and hands-on assessment. Results are utilized to credit hours towards the apprenticeship and exemption from the basic level in-school component may be granted to aptly skilled candidates. To be deemed a certified tradesman, the Inter-Provincial Red Seal exam must be completed.

How can I find more information about masonry training?

OMTC also holds a **FREE** Information Session for the public once a month, where you can find out more about the trade and get tips and strategies for finding employment. Attendees at these sessions who demonstrate an outstanding aptitude for the trade, and complete a basic literacy/numeracy assessment and a personal interview, may be considered for an OMTC sponsored apprenticeship. Although this doesn't guarantee employment, it allows you to gain experience and knowledge through in-school training and access to employment referrals based on availability. Check out our website for the next scheduled information session date and time.

THE PROGRAM

OMTC trains its apprentices on content which exceeds the minimum requirements of the Ministry of Training Colleges & Universities Training Standard for the Brick & Stone Mason trade. Modules are introduced to the program as follows, but many modules are reinforced continually throughout the program.

BASIC (LEVEL 1)

Pre-requisites

- MTCU Contract of Apprenticeship
- Preferred 1400 hrs of relevant training (combined on-the-job and in-school)
- \$400 Classroom Fee

Content

Introduction to the OMTC	Mortar	Masonry Glossary
Measurement - System Internationale	Hand Cutting of Units Masonry	Cleaning Masonry Units
Tools and Equipment	Saws	WHMIS (CSAO)
Joining	Clay Products	Fall Protection (CSAO)
Bonds (Structural and Mortar)	Concrete Products	Basic Construction H & S (CSAO)
Simple Layout	Site Layout	Propane (CSAO)
Laying Units to the Line	Estimating Brick and Block	

INTERMEDIATE (LEVEL 2)

Pre-requisites

- MTCU Contract of Apprenticeship
- Preferred 2800 hrs of relevant training
- Successful completion of Basic (Level 1) program
- Successful completion of hands-on entrance assessment on first day of class
- \$400 Classroom Fee

Content

Blue Print Reading	Connectors for Masonry
Wall Systems	Arches and Decorative Bonds
Expansion and Control Joints	Introduction to Refractories
Flashing	Reinforced Masonry
Moisture Control	

ADVANCED (LEVEL 3)

Pre-requisites

- MTCU Contract of Apprenticeship
- Preferred 4200 hrs of relevant training
- Successful completion of Intermediate (Level 2) program
- Successful completion of hands-on entrance assessment on first day of class
- \$400 Classroom Fee

Content

Glass Blocks	Introduction to Stone Masonry
Fireplaces and Chimneys	Introduction to Restoration
Paving Stones	Communications
Hoisting & Rigging (CSAO)	Suspended Access Equipment (CSAO)

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Currently OMTC runs the programs above on a full-time, days only basis. Each level is 8 weeks (40 training days) in length and runs Monday to Thursday, 7 am - 4pm and Fridays 7 am - 1:30 pm. A typical training day is 80% hands-on - building projects at the supervision of the OMTC Instructor, and 20% in-class - learning the theory, mathematics and terminology needed to excel in the masonry trade. Apprentices must achieve a pre-determined skill level, based on on-the-job hours worked, before they return for their Intermediate and Advanced levels.

CONESTOGA CAMPUS

ONTARIO MASONRY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (OMCA)

The Ontario Masonry Contractors Association (OMCA) and Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning (Conestoga) have established a masonry skills training centre on the Waterloo Campus of the college, located in Waterloo, ON. This is a ground-breaking joint venture between the two organizations that will enhance the training of masonry skills in Midwestern Ontario.

Training at the college simulates a typical industry work day. A brand new facility has been designed and built for this venture.

CONESTOGA COLLEGE

Conestoga College believes in excellence in practical education, with the goal of contributing to economic growth and prosperity.

Conestoga has a productive partnership with local business and is a key contributor to regional growth. A 2003 study shows that Conestoga has provided education or training to at least **40% of the local labour** force and has a value to the local economy of at least \$1.3 billion annually.

For nine consecutive years, Conestoga has earned top overall ranking among Ontario colleges on the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) surveys, which measure graduate employment rates and satisfaction levels, and employer and student satisfaction.

To advance even further and offer more options to students in the future, Conestoga has joined with a number of other Canadian polytechnic institutes in a new national organization that will give rise to more shared academic programs and advanced learning opportunities.

For further information regarding this campus please contact:

Waterloo Campus

108 University Ave. E
Waterloo, ON N2J 2W2

Trades & Apprenticeship Office

Tanja Gancevich / Mary Sheppard
Tel: 519-885-0300 ext. 252

www.conestogac.on.ca

TESTIMONIALS

The Ontario Masonry Training Centre prepares students for the real-life challenges that will be encountered in a masonry career and equips them with the skills needed to excel in this trade.

Here is what some of our graduates have said about the OMTC:

"I found adjusting to bricklaying techniques challenging in the Basic course. It made me realize the diversity within the masonry trade." After having completed all three levels in only 3 years and writing his certification of qualification exam on the last day of his advanced class, Wes started masonry and '...hopes to grow slowly, and maintain an artisan level of brickwork and stonework. In the future I'd like to bring a couple apprentices up through the company. I'm grateful for my experiences at the Training Centre, and it's good that we are standardizing the trade.'"

- Wes Martyn, 2007 Graduate

"When asked if he would recommend the Ontario Masonry Training Centre, Mark was quoted as saying, 'Absolutely. The instructors were great...[they] give you a real view of what to expect at the worksite.' After signing off on Mark's rebar tying at Rose Cherry's Home in Milton, the Structural Engineer commented to [the] OMTC Instructor... on Mark's professional work and organizational skills."

- Mark Bertrand, 2004 Graduate

"Adrienne started her apprenticeship training in April of 2002 at the Ontario Masonry Training Centre, having had no previous experience. A Masters degree in creative writing...Hobby: writing poetry. Looking at her background and interests, this self-described "girly girl" doesn't seem at first like a perfect candidate for a career in the skilled trades. But her enthusiasm and success as an apprentice brick and stone mason just goes to prove that people from all walks of life find satisfaction in this type of work. 'I came to the orientation session at the Ontario Masonry Training Centre and I was...thinking well if it seems really scary I won't do it, but it didn't seem too scary. So I applied, and the wheels were set in motion before I knew it, and I was like Oh my God what have I done?' she remembers, laughing."

- Adrienne Barrett, 2006 Graduate

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

MINISTRY OF TRAINING COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (MTCU) APPRENTICESHIP OFFICES

Barrie	705-737-1431	Belleville	613-968-5558	Brantford	519-756-5197
Brockville	613-342-5481	Chatham	519-354-2766	Cornwall	613-938-9702
Hamilton	905-521-7764	Kenora	807-468-2879	Kingston	613-545-4338
London	519-675-7788	Mississauga	905-279-7333	North Bay	705-495-8515
Ottawa	613-731-7100	Owen Sound	519-376-5790	Pembroke	613-735-3911
Peterborough	705-745-1918	Pickering	905-837-7721	Sarnia	519-542-7705
Sault Ste. Marie	705-945-6815	St. Catharines	905-704-2991	Sudbury	705-564-3030
Thunder Bay	807-345-8888	Timmins	705-235-1950	Toronto	416-326-5775
Waterloo	519-571-6009	Windsor	519-973-1441		

INTERNET RESOURCES

Apprentice Search www.apprenticesearch.com

Government of Canada - Job Bank www.jobbank.gc.ca

Government of Canada - Youth Jobs www.youth.gc.ca

Government of Ontario - Youth Jobs www.youthjobs.gov.on.ca

Inter-Provincial Standard
"Red Seal" Program www.red-seal.ca

Ministry of Training Colleges
& Universities www.edu.gov.on.ca

Ontario Masonry Contractors'
Association www.canadamasonrycentre.com

Skills Canada - Ontario www.skillsontario.com

Skills Work! www.skillswork.com

BRICKLAYERS UNION

Hamilton (Local 1)
905-527-8418

Kingston (Local 10)
613-542-5950

Toronto (Local 2)
416-631-8340

Kitchener (Local 12)
519-744-2761

St. Catharines (Local 4)
905-227-3445

Sarnia (Local 23)
519-344-4865

London (Local 5)
519-455-8083

Thunder Bay (Local 25)
807-345-5078

Windsor (Local 6)
519-256-3070

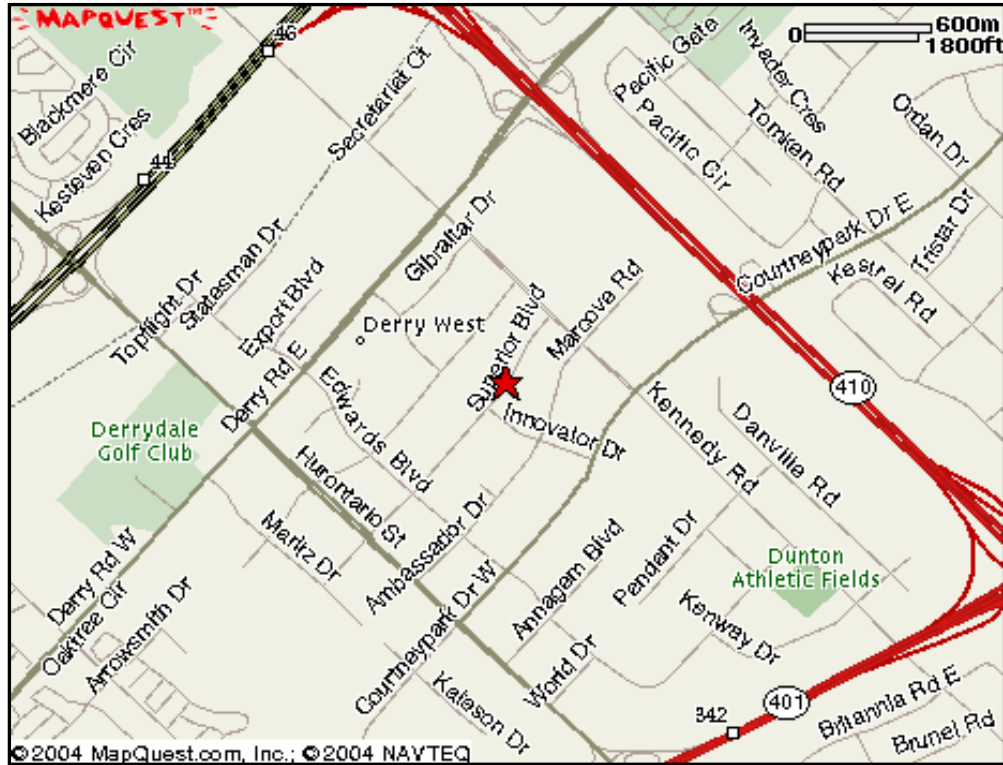
Sudbury (Local 28)
705-522-4140

Ottawa (Local 7)
613-739-5944

Sault Ste. Marie (Local 29)
705-949-2642

OMTC MAPS

Mississauga Campus & Head Office
(Hurontario & Hwy. 401)



Ottawa Campus
(Albert St. & Bay St.)

