



MASONRY WORKS

Council Of Ontario

BRICK BLOCK STONE

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES & MASONRY

Sustainable development plays an integral part in community growth. As civic leaders plan for the future, the link between the aesthetics and durability of a neighbourhood and its appeal plays an important role in the character and vibrancy of such spaces.

Masonry's Role In The "Built Environment"



Sustainable Communities - Infrastructure built with masonry not only looks better, but also lasts longer. Masonry requires less maintenance compared to most traditional materials and utilizes by-products that are re-usable and recyclable. Buildings made of masonry stand the test of time.



Healthy Communities - Masonry built communities are also healthy places to live. Masonry lowers the risk of health and environmental problems that may arise from other non-masonry building materials such as toxic mould, out-gassing of volatile organic compounds or VOC fumes that inhabit the air from other materials.



Fire Safety - Masonry construction is highly non-combustible, fire-resistant and helps prevent the spread of fire from neighbouring buildings, minimizing the devastating impact fire can have on a community. Its inherent strength and integrity helps resist damage from high water pressure streams used by firefighters and impacts of collapsing debris. Masonry protects neighbourhoods and saves lives.



Extreme Weather Protection - Masonry resists impact and makes the ideal protection for buildings in extreme weather. Past studies have shown that a 2 x 4 piece of lumber hurled at a wall in hurricane force winds will seldomly affect a masonry structure, which is the opposite effect for other building materials.



Energy Efficiency - Masonry communities use less energy and emit fewer greenhouse gasses. A masonry building is proven to be more energy efficient than those built with other materials because masonry absorbs heat, stores it, then gradually releases it. Masonry cladding remains warm or cool long after the heat or air-conditioning has been turned off, reducing heating and cooling loads and therefore energy consumption.



Resale Value - Masonry raises and maintains property values. Characteristics such as aesthetics makes a home more desirable because curb appeal makes a powerful impression. Even more compelling is the proof of economic return. The real estate industry estimates that masonry homes sell, on average, at a price that is 6% higher.



LEED Points - Masonry's characteristics contribute significantly to sustainable construction design. LEED green building ratings are determined by the following categories:

- ✓ Site-related sustainability
- ✓ Indoor environmental quality
- ✓ Innovation and design process
- ✓ Energy use and atmosphere
- ✓ Water efficiency
- ✓ Innovation and design process

Masonry products contribute to point ratings in every category.

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HOW MUNICIPALITIES BENEFIT

Municipalities can have confidence in masonry to produce and enhance communities that last. The benefits for communities include quality of life for residents and increased revenue for the municipalities. A study done by the A. Alfred Taubman College of Architectural and Urban Planning showed that the adoption of masonry ordinance (planning policy) results in:

- Increased property values for homes in a community;
- increased revenue generating capacity for communities both through property taxes and sales tax, and;
- continued population and housing growth.

The research also concluded that the adoption of a masonry ordinance “does not significantly increase the owner cost or rental burden for residents and does not make housing in the community any less affordable.”

A sustainable, vibrant and beautiful community attracts residents which in turn, increases the value and desirability of such communities. Masonry contributes to sustainable communities with compelling benefits in durability, safety, aesthetics, and energy efficiency. When compared to alternative cladding choices, and considering resale value and maintenance costs over the life of the home, choosing masonry makes even more economic sense. When it's all said and done, home is really where the heart is so why settle for less?

