

The Fastest Trowel at the CCE

The Canadian Concrete Expo (CCE) is an annual event that continues to grow. This year's show, held Feb 6 – 7 in Toronto, featured over 300 exhibiting companies, 26 educational sessions, 6 large equipment demonstrations, and 6 stage presentations. One of the special events at the Expo was the Fastest Trowel on Block Competition, sponsored by CCMPA and Spec Mix. It was the Canadian finals, and the teams gave it their all. CCMPA proudly presented the first-place team with a cheque for \$5,000. Congratulations everyone for your skill and enthusiasm.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

1st place: Dakota Bezemer – mason
Jonathan Ferrara – labourer
Monumental Masonry, Hamilton, ON

2nd place: Fillipe Orfao – mason
Joe Orfao – labourer
Res Group Masonry, Cookstown, ON

3rd place: J.C. Wilhelm – mason
Clay Wilhelm – labourer
Professional Masonry, Sarnia, ON



A Tribute to John Grimo

MAY 8, 1931 – JANUARY 15, 2019

To call John Grimo a pioneer in Canada's construction industry is an understatement. John was the cornerstone (pun intended) of Niagara Block, the family business founded by his father in 1931 that John ran successfully for decades. CCMPA would like to take this opportunity to call out John for the leader he was – he will be sorely missed at CCMPA meetings and many other industry events. Our sincere condolences to the entire Grimo family and the team at Niagara Block. You can read [more about John here](#).



Upcoming Events

- **CCMPA Members Meeting** | Mar 20 2019 | 360 Superior Blvd, Mississauga
- **Canadian Masonry Contractors Association Annual Meeting** | Mar 31 – Apr 2, 2019 | New Orleans | [See details here](#)
- **CCMPA Mid-Year Meeting** | May 2 – May 3, 2019 (**NOTE DATE CHANGE**) | Montreal | May 2 @ 7pm, dinner | May 3 @ 8:30am, breakfast, followed by meeting & luncheon
- **NCMA Mid-Year Meeting** | Aug 6 – 9, 2019 | Seattle | [See details here](#)
- **CCMPA Annual General Meeting & John Grimo Classic Golf Tournament** | Sep 12 2019 | Niagara on the Lake

CCMPA in the Media

Firefighters know concrete block will keep them safe.

Do you?

Fires today burn hotter and faster than ever before. Lightweight floor assemblies can now collapse 10 minutes into a blaze — just when you may be arriving and entering the premises.

Concrete block helps preserve structural integrity under conditions that often reduce other materials to ashes. We're working to raise awareness of the need to build with more fire-safe materials like block.

Learn more. Contact the Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association
 ccmpa.ca info@ccmpa.ca
 416-495-7497

CCMPA continues to maintain a strong media presence through various outreach efforts focused on durability, safety and resilience.

Left: A firefighter ad running in the upcoming Ontario Firefighters Safety Magazine.

Introducing a concrete approach to sustainability

Climate change is uppermost in the minds of most Canadians — and it's a concern for the construction industry too. In fact, concrete masonry producers are using new ways to manufacture their product in a more planet-friendly manner.

In 2017 alone, one Toronto-based producer sequestered more than 1.2 million pounds of CO₂ — emissions that would otherwise have been released into the environment.

These producers are now able to sequester CO₂ within concrete block. Through the use of advanced curing technology, every block can absorb half a pound of CO₂.

This kind of innovation, combined with Portland Limestone Cement (PLC) and supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs), are helping to build a future for Canada that's both more resilient and sustainable.

To learn more, contact the Canadian Concrete Masonry Producers Association.

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Right: This sustainability ad, which focuses on carbon sequestering, will run March 25 in the Green Economy edition of the Hill Times.

ICON-Xchange Virtual Plant Tour

One of the highlights of ICON-Xchange, held Feb 14 – 16 2019 in Orlando, was the Virtual Plant Tour. Including several concrete masonry and paver production facilities around the globe, the tour ‘walked’ attendees through the facilities to enable them to learn about innovative new processes and technology.

The three Canadian facilities in the tour were:

- **Barkman Concrete Ltd.** | Steinbach, Manitoba | presented by TOPWERK AMERICA LTD.
- **Basalite Concrete Products LLC** | Dixon, CA | presented by Columbia Machine, Inc.
- **Santerra Stonecraft** | Windsor, Ontario | presented by Besser Company



A warm thank-you to the companies who led and supported this highly informative event. You can learn more [about the virtual tour here](#).



Don Gordon of CarbonCure & Atlas Block receives Hall of Fame award at NCMA annual conference

Don Gordon, retired VP Sales of Nova Scotia-based CarbonCure Technologies and former owner of Atlas Block is now a member of the NCMA Hall of Fame. Don first joined Atlas in 1978 in a sales role, and eventually became owner and president. Throughout his career, he advocated and invested in the use of recycled material in concrete manufacturing. And in fact, Atlas became the first concrete block plant in North America to receive an environmental product declaration (EPD). In later years, Don worked as VP Sales of CarbonCure.



Read more in this [NCMA news release](#).

STUDY SHOWS COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF BLOCK IN BUILDING FIRE SAFETY INTO RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION

A recent study on residential construction in Canada shows that concrete block is a cost-effective way to increase the fire safety and durability of a multi-family dwelling. The study disproves the long-held assumption that it's more cost-efficient to build with less fire-resilient materials and instead rely fire detectors and sprinklers. In fact, the study shows that in initial building construction, it's just as cost-effective to use more durable material — masonry — which contains the fire, prevents it from spreading, and keeps the building standing so people can get out. Learn more [about the study here](#).

Have a comment? Question? Story idea? We welcome your input.
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