



ROBERT J. WATT, President and General Manager, RJW-Gem Campbell Stonemasons Inc.

Bobby Watt founded RJW Stonemasons and imparted his individual values and beliefs to create a truly unique company. Born and trained in Scotland, he apprenticed to John Thomson on the Isle of Arran off Scotland's west coast. Bobby arrived in Canada in 1975 with the youthful ambition of a man who has twenty-one summers at his back and the tradition, history and training of six thousand years of masonry in his head, hands and heart.

One of his primary goals upon arriving was to fill the evident gap left by more than eighty years of inadequate stonemasonry training in North America. To accomplish this, Bobby created a company comprised of committed and hand-picked journeymen capable of completing anything requested of them. Bobby's direction and instruction has contributed to the considerable respect that his crews of stonemasons and restoration masons receive throughout Canada to this day.

Bobby was instrumental in establishing the stonemasonry training program at Durham College and later the Canadian Guild of Stone and Restoration Masons and its training facility, the Guild Institute. Bobby is also on the Board of Directors of the Stone Foundation, and is a regular contributor to Stonexus, the Stone Foundation's magazine. The Stone Foundation is an international organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, dedicated to promoting the use and mastery of stone in all its forms.

Bobby still finds time to deliver lectures to academic and trade conservation students and at tradeshow, conventions, trade workshops and seminars across North America. As a result of his unique approach and commitment to stonemasonry, Bobby enjoys an international reputation as a sensational instructor and trusted professional the world over.

His current project, the restoration of the West Block of Canada's Parliament Buildings in Ottawa is the biggest contract in North America and employs a small army of masons, carvers, technicians and laborers. He will give us a report on the project.

His company's website: <http://www.rjwgem.com/en/home/>

Here are three chapters of 'STONEHANDS' a video about the craft and the Parliament Building Project:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IdocYHQXKLw>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxXUKF1z2U8>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC\\_h4Ipf6A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vC_h4Ipf6A)

Bobby is also a skilled and charismatic musician: [www.bobbywatt.com](http://www.bobbywatt.com)