

Ministry of Forests and Range
Government of British Columbia

RICHMOND OVAL INSPIRES WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND DESIGN AWARDS

Communities around the world are rediscovering wood as a renewable, climate-friendly material for large-scale institutional, commercial and recreational construction. Wood is good. The Richmond Olympic Oval showcases the importance of wood in sustainable modern architecture, resulting in international awards for function and design, and inspiring communities worldwide.

- The Richmond Olympic Oval is one of the world's largest speed-skating facilities, with a massive wood wave roof encompassing 6.5 acres (about 3 hectares) and more than two million board feet of British Columbia wood.
- The Richmond Olympic Oval beat out Beijing's famous Bird's Nest national stadium, the new centre court roof at Wimbledon and the Elephant House in Copenhagen, Denmark in winning a gold medal for engineering excellence from the [Institution of Structural Engineers](#), the world's largest membership organization of its kind. The Oval also received commendation as a project that demonstrates outstanding commitment to sustainability and respect for the environment.
- The GLOBE Foundation and World Green Building Council recognized the Richmond Olympic Oval and eight other Olympic facilities for Excellence in Green Building Practices.
- The Richmond Oval also won awards from the BC Wood *Works!*/Canadian Wood Council and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.
- Wood is a renewable resource and has a much lighter environmental footprint than steel, concrete and plastic. Using a cubic metre of wood in place of steel or aluminum can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to one tonne.
- Using wood instead of more greenhouse gas-intensive materials in the Richmond Oval resulted in a total potential carbon offset of 8,800 metric tonnes. This amounts to removing over 1,600 cars from the road annually or to the energy used to power 800 homes in a year.
- The Richmond Oval amazes visitors with its stunning style, inspiring athletes, public and organizers alike:
 - "To me the roof is the most spectacular part. From the inside, it's like looking up at the stars," Kristina Groves, 2008 1,000-metre World Cup champion.
 - "I love it, it is the most beautiful – hands down, it is the most beautiful oval in the world," Christine Nesbitt, winner of 12 World Cup medals in 2007-08.
- British Columbia is the world's largest supplier of softwood lumber, shipping to markets around the world – Asia-Pacific region, Middle East, Europe and across North America.

- About 95 per cent of British Columbia's land base is publicly owned and managed by government on behalf of all British Columbians.
- British Columbia is a world leader in third-party forest certification, with over 54 million hectares (134 million acres) certified to at least one of three globally recognized programs.

CONTACTS

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BC WoodWorks!

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WoodWorks! provides resources that allow engineers, architects, general contractors, developers and others to build non-residential structures out of wood more easily and at less cost.

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BC Wood is a not-for-profit trade association dedicated to growing British Columbia's secondary wood-products manufacturing industry.

StructureCraft Builders Inc.

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StructureCraft Builders developed the Richmond Olympic Oval's WoodWave panel roof system as well designing components of schools, science centres, and residential and commercial buildings.

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Structurlam Products Ltd. is a British Columbia company that uses B.C. wood to provide timber construction materials for commercial applications worldwide, including the Richmond Oval, Vancouver Convention Centre, and arenas, airports, libraries, churches, lodges and hospitals worldwide.

VISUAL RESOURCES

- Over 1,000 searchable pictures of wood used in institutional, commercial and residential buildings including Olympic venues and overseas markets such as China, Japan, USA, UK and Norway are posted at: <http://imagelibrary.bcfii.ca/>.
- HD Video clips of the building of the Richmond Olympic Oval as well as footage of wood use in both domestic and overseas markets, is available by contacting **Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.** at 604-685-7507 or info@bcfii.ca.

WEB RESOURCES

- www.naturallywood.com contains profiles of the Olympic venues, factsheets on British Columbia's world-leading forest industry and sustainable forest management, and guides to buying and building green.
- Richmond Oval Case Study, detailing with facts and photos, the award winning building's and roof's architecture, structure, and sustainability.
[http://www.naturallywood.com/uploadedFiles/General/Header/Richmond_Olympic_Oval_Case_Study\(1\).pdf](http://www.naturallywood.com/uploadedFiles/General/Header/Richmond_Olympic_Oval_Case_Study(1).pdf)
- Richmond Oval Factsheet
[http://www.naturallywood.com/uploadedFiles/General/Header/Media%20Backgrounder_Venues%201_Richmond%20Olympic%20Speed%20Skating%20Oval_Mar%202019.%202009\(1\).pdf](http://www.naturallywood.com/uploadedFiles/General/Header/Media%20Backgrounder_Venues%201_Richmond%20Olympic%20Speed%20Skating%20Oval_Mar%202019.%202009(1).pdf)
- Richmond Olympic Oval Technical Case Study
<http://www.naturallywood.com/uploadedFiles/General/Header/Richmond%20Oval%20Technical%20Case%20Study.pdf>

MEDIA COVERAGE

- **Olympic Venues Awarded for Environmental Impact**, Vancouver Sun, Sept. 21, 2009
<http://www.vancouversun.com/sports/Olympic+venues+awarded+environmental+impact/2021651/story.html>
- **'Crown jewel' draws praise, awards. Architects impressed by unique green design of the Richmond Oval**, Vancouver Sun, Sept. 22, 2009
<http://www.vancouversun.com/sports/Crown+jewel+draws+praise+awards/2023113/story.html>
- **Richmond skating oval wins international engineering award**, The Province, Oct. 12, 2009
<http://www.theprovince.com/sports/2010wintergames/Richmond+skating+oval+wins+international+engineering+award/2093810/story.html>

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