

Ministry of Forests and Range
Government of British Columbia

WOOD CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN DELIVERS GOLD MEDAL PERFORMANCE AT 2010 WINTER GAMES

Communities around the world are rediscovering wood as a renewable, climate-friendly material for institutional, commercial and recreational construction. Wood is good. During the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, British Columbia shines a spotlight on the world's largest set of simultaneously constructed, low environmental impact facilities in history – a showcase for wood construction and design.

- Wood products have a 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.
- Wood design is a central feature of the Vancouver Convention Centre, with more than two acres (about 1 hectare) of walls decoratively finished in British Columbian wood, as well as approximately 52 kilometres (32 miles) of wooden beams covering the ceilings.
- Using wood in the Convention Centre instead of more greenhouse gas-intensive materials resulted in a total carbon offset of 1,600 metric tonnes. This amounts to removing over 290 cars from the road annually or to the energy used to power 145 homes for one year.
- The GLOBE Foundation and World Green Building Council recognized nine Olympic facilities for Excellence in Green Building Practices: Vancouver Convention Centre; Richmond Olympic Oval; Killarney Ice Rink; Vancouver Olympic Village; Vancouver Olympic Centre; Whistler Sliding Centre; Whistler Olympic Park; and the Whistler Athletes' Centre.
- 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.
- 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.

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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 and Vancouver Convention Centre, and arenas, airports, libraries, churches, lodges and hospitals worldwide.

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.

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.
- Short video features posted at <http://www.naturallywood.com/links.aspx?id=448>:

- **The World of Wood** - learn how the vast sustainable forests of British Columbia supply the world with a wide variety of wood products and construction materials.
- **Performance of Wood** - learn how modern wood construction uses the latest technology for safe and comfortable living and working spaces.
- **Building With Wood** – this video demonstrates how British Columbia wood building materials and construction technology offer versatility and value.
- **Building Green** - wood products are an excellent choice to reduce the impact on the environment. This 10 minute video demonstrates the environmental benefits of building with wood.

WEB RESOURCES

- www.naturallywood.com contains profiles of the 2010 Winter Games venues, factsheets on British Columbia's world-leading forest industry and sustainable forest management, and guides to buying and building green.
- Vancouver Convention Centre Case Study, detailing with facts and photos, the Centre's architecture, interior design, and sustainability.
<http://www.naturallywood.com/uploadedFiles/General/Header/Vancouver%20Convention%20Centre%20Case%20Study%20Final%20Web.pdf>
- Vancouver Convention Centre Factsheet
http://www.naturallywood.com/uploadedFiles/General/Header/Media%20Backgrounder_Venues%202_Vancouver%20Convention%20and%20Exhibition%20Centre_Mar%202019,%202009.pdf
- Richmond Oval Case Study, detailing with facts and photos, the award winning building 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)

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>

For assistance or more information:

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