



## Woodlots helped BC 'own the podium'

Most BC woodlot licensees probably don't know it, but an example of their work was on display – front and centre in fact – when Alex Bilodeau won Canada's first gold medal on home soil on February 14.

If you watched the electrifying run that gave Bilodeau the gold in men's moguls, and then watched as he mounted the podium to the cheers of Canadian fans at Cypress Mountain, then you saw the contributions of one woodlot to the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

The podium Bilodeau was standing on during the flower ceremony was made from an Amabilis Fir tree cut, milled and donated by Spiketop Cedar and Woodlot 0071, two enterprises managed by the Burgess family of Port Hardy on Vancouver Island.

"I knew which tree I would use the moment I was asked," says Jim Burgess.

"I hope the athletes enjoy standing on our beautiful North Island wood," adds Jim's wife and business partner Karen.

The program was an initiative of the provincial government in support of the Vancouver Olympics. In total, 23 podiums featuring 18 different native wood species were sourced from around the province to use at the various venues around Vancouver and Whistler.



Rod Blake and his buddy Kotaro (above) helped build one of 23 Olympic podiums (below) with the donation of part of this Fir log. The remainder of the log was used for a curved beam in a log house.

In fact, the Burgess podium wasn't the only one to come from a BC woodlot. The podium that will be used for the medal presentations in Whistler during the Paralympic Games was built from Interior Douglas Fir donated from two woodlots operated by Rod Blake and Jim Brown-John in the Horsefly and Likely areas of the Cariboo.

"I am proud to be a small part of the Olympics," says Stephen Brown-John, who co-manages Woodlot 1577 in Horsefly with his father Jim. "It is an honour that champions will stand on the best lumber the Interior of British Columbia has to offer."

As the Burgesses, Blakes and Brown-Johns will attest, the podiums built from wood harvested by members of the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations comes from the heart.

"Well-managed family woodlot operations are a source of pride for our community and make significant contributions to the local

economy," said Port Hardy Mayor Bev Parnham. "Woodlots support the evolution of new business and aid in the diversification of our rural economies."

"In addition to employment and recreation access, woodlots offer communities the security that the forests near them are managed in a responsible manner," added Rod Blake.

British Columbia's Ministry of Forests and Range sourced the wood and coordinated production of the 23 podiums.

The rough lumber was converted to panels at Metro Vancouver's Bayview Millworks, and cut into complex shapes using sophisticated computer controlled machinery at the University of BC's Centre for Advanced Wood Processing.

They were assembled at RONA's Vancouver 2010 Fabrication Shop, a community-based training centre that teaches carpentry skills to new Canadians and at-risk youth.



# Cariboo celebrates Forest Capital title

As the Olympic torch crossed Canada, so did the Forestry Capital of Canada. On January 22, representatives from Norfolk County, Ontario officially handed over the Forest Capital of Canada designation to the Cariboo Regional District in BC.

This special designation awarded by the Canadian Forestry Association is part of a long-standing tradition of recognizing a Canadian community that demonstrates stewardship and sound practices toward sustainable forest development, management and conservation.

“The Canadian Forestry Association applauds the Cariboo Regional District’s positive, proactive approach in seeking ways to provide support to its forest industries in the wake of the economic downturn and the effects of the Mountain Pine Beetle,” says CFA General Manager, Dave Lemkay.

“This title truly represents the dedication, perseverance and faithful stewardship that are required by the forest industry, its forestry professionals and their families,” says Kamloops-Thompson-Cariboo MP Cathy McLeod.

One of the first major events for the new national forestry capital was participating in the interactive BC Street Pavilion at the Richmond Olympic celebration site, O Zone, a venue that showcases the best of BC.

The Cariboo Chilcotin’s 2010-2011 Forest Capital of Canada designation serves as the overarching theme of the region’s pavilion set amongst a “forest” made of trees transported directly from the region. Industry representatives along with UBC Forestry faculty and students joined the BC Street team to discuss



The great Cottonwood River valley is found in the Quesnel Forest District, the northernmost of three forest districts in the Cariboo Regional District. The CRD was named Forestry Capital of Canada for 2010/11.

forestry and forest health issues with visitors. There have been on average 7,500 visitors a day to the BC Street Pavilion, including NHL coaching great Pat Quinn, who dropped the

puck on a fun game of road hockey involving a number of CRD and Federation of BC Woodlot Associations (FBCWA) members. Some of the highlights of the CRD Forest

Capital of Canada display are a character log in the middle of the pavilion for all to sign, the interactive kiosk, complimentary biodegradable wooden cutlery (a great example of a value added product produced from aspen or birch found on BC’s woodlots), and many more promotions.

The FBCWA is a proud sponsor of this Olympic venue, helping bring the Cariboo Regional District to the 2010 Olympic Games as well as supporting reforestation in the Cariboo Chilcotin area.

## Wood Chips

The Cariboo Regional District (CRD) includes three forest districts: Central Cariboo, Chilcotin and Quesnel. The geography of the CRD is about 80,000 square kilometres mostly made up of grasslands and forest. Set amongst the large forest tenures held by mills, ranch lands and parks are 144 woodlot licences comprising approximately 212,000 acres of forest land managed by individuals, families, educational societies and First Nations.

About 21 percent of the labour force is employed by forestry/logging operations on family-owned woodlots, with larger firms or in the forest products industry. To put this in perspective, the agriculture, food and beverage industry employs five percent of the population and mining three percent.



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