

Vancouver Olympic Centre – Curling

The Interior Douglas-fir Podium

Likely and the Xat'sull First Nation
Likely-Xat'sull Community Forest

The podiums of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games
18 wood types. 23 podiums. Hundreds of stories.

The Interior Douglas-fir podium is used at the Vancouver Olympic Centre for curling events. It is 619 centimetres long, 185 cm deep, 60 cm at its tallest point and assembled from 227 pieces.

Xat'sull First Nation – Where the Mountain Meets the Valley Likely – Gateway to the Cariboo Mountains

The wood for the podium came from a rainforest near the 377-member Xat'sull First Nation and the 350-resident community of Likely. The area is a playground for outdoor enthusiasts and home to caribou, wolves, 250 bird species, and the deepest glacier-made lake on Earth. The area also delights visitors with the award-winning Xat'sull First Nation's Heritage Village and Quesnel Forks, a restored ghost town that was the first non-Native community in northern B.C. and, from 1870 to 1920, was populated almost entirely by Chinese mine workers.

Likely-Xat'sull Community Forest

The Likely-Xat'sull Community Forest began in 2002 as an equal partnership between two communities committed to sustainable harvests, forest health and local values. Operating profits support local services such as a community ambulance, health clinic and family centre. The forest provides year-round recreation including an annual kayak festival, snow-golf tournament and historical days. Local school children packaged the Douglas-fir with best wishes for its journey to the 2010 Olympic Games.

Interior Douglas-fir

In the Cariboo region, Douglas-firs reach up to 45 metres and its wood is exceptionally hard, stiff and durable. Its strength and large dimensions make it outstanding choice for heavy-duty construction such as wharves, trestles, bridges and buildings. In addition to several species of Northwest Douglas-fir there are other varieties unique to China, Japan, Mexico and Taiwan.



Robin Hood, Manager, Likely Xat'sull Community Forest Ltd. After growing up with the name, English-born Robin Hood decided to run with it, and named his company Sherwood Forest Contracting Ltd.

"The community forest is our neighbourhood. We don't just work in community forestry, we live it."



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Brian Giesbrecht, local historian, chair of the Likely Cemetery Society, a director of the Likely Chamber of Commerce, Park Board, helped with the restoration of the ghost town of Quesnel Forks.

"I'm proud that, as a member of such a small community, we have this unique opportunity to tell our story to the world. The Olympic Spirit after all, is not to win, but to take part, and the podium project allows a community of 300 to do just that."

Alfred Hillary has worked in forestry for 35 years, teaches value-added sawing, competed in a 1970s Golden Gloves boxing tournament, and carried the 2006 Turin Olympic torch in B.C.

"I believe Community Forests are the future for small communities. Being part of what goes on in your back yard instils pride and hope and creates opportunities for families, employees and communities."

Thomas Phillips, Economic Development Coordinator, Xat'sull First Nation

"The podium connects the Xat'sull First Nation and the community of Likely with the world, just like our Heritage Village immerses international visitors in the culture and traditions of the Xat'sull."

Podium Production

British Columbia's Ministry of Forests and Range sourced the wood and co-ordinated podium production. The rough lumber was converted to panels at Metro Vancouver's Bayview Millworks, a high-end wood product manufacturer and distributor, and cut into complex shapes using sophisticated computer controlled machinery at the University of British Columbia's state-of-the-art Centre for Advanced Wood Processing. They were assembled at Canadian hardware retail leader RONA's Vancouver 2010 Fabrication Shop, a community-based training centre that teaches carpentry skills to new Canadians and at-risk youth.

British Columbia's Forest Sector

The wood podiums highlight the importance of forestry in British Columbia. The province is a global leader in sustainable forest management and the world's largest exporter of softwood lumber, paper and bio-energy products that help mitigate climate change and provide innovative solutions to green building and energy needs.

Contacts

Robin Hood
Likely Xat'sull Community Forest
250 790-2458
www.xatsull.com
www.likely-bc.ca

Ministry of Forests and Range
Province of British Columbia
250 387-8482
PABFOR.MediaRequests@gov.bc.ca

Short documentary on the Likely-Xat'sull Community Forest is at www.bccfa.ca/resources/the-community-forest-film.html.

All 23 podium profiles, high definition video, and more information about British Columbia's forest sector are available at www.gov.bc.ca/for and www.naturallywood.com

