

Whistler Olympic Park – Biathlon and Ski Jumping

The Coastal Western Red Cedar Podium

Sechelt

The Sunshine Coast Community Forest

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



The Coastal Western Red Cedar podium is used at Whistler Olympic Park for team biathlon, Nordic combined, and ski jumping events. It is 619 centimetres long, 185 cm in depth, 60 cm at its tallest point and assembled from 227 wooden pieces.



Sechelt – Blessed by Sun and Seas

Scenes of forested mountains, waterfalls and driftwood on pebbled beaches make Sechelt a photographer's dream. The community of 8,500 sits on a sandbar on the Sunshine Coast. One in three residents rely on forestry, with tourism and a strong service and retail sector rounding out the economy. Sustainable forest management ensures long-term economic opportunity while protecting the natural beauty of the area for future generations. Sechelt is also a bedroom community of Vancouver with 600 people commuting daily.



The Sunshine Coast Community Forest

The second-growth Red Cedar used for the podium was donated by the Sunshine Coast Community Forest.

The community forest covers 10,790 hectares and is managed by a volunteer board

of directors to benefit local residents and support community projects. The local forest has some of the fastest growing trees in British Columbia and is guided by a 250-year management vision, which ensures continued economic benefits and environmental protection for future generations.

Ron Casey, Owner, Ron Casey Contracting Ltd.
Ron harvested the trees for the podium project.

"It was a pleasure to go into the forest and help hand pick the trees that we harvested for the podium project."



Coastal Western Red Cedar

British Columbia's official tree grows to massive size, often exceeding two metres in diameter and 60 metres in height, and can live for more than a thousand years. The Western Red Cedar is often called "the cornerstone of Northwest Coast aboriginal culture" as it holds great spiritual significance. The wood is naturally durable and lightweight. Coastal people used cedar for canoes, house planks, tools, masks and paddles. Because it is resistant to decay and insect damage, the wood of large, fallen trees remains sound on the forest floor for more than 100 years. It is most commonly used today for house siding and roofing, interior finishing, furniture, decking and fencing.



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Tom Dolker, Owner, Sunshine Coast Forest Products Ltd. Tom milled the logs into the lumber for the podium project.

"The cedar used for this podium showcases the high value products that can be made from sustainably harvested wood from the Sunshine Coast Community Forest. Our company is proud to have supplied the lumber for this podium."

Mayor Darren Inkster, District of Sechelt

"Our Community Forest is an important economic driver to the District of Sechelt and the entire Sunshine Coast, providing jobs for our local workers and businesses while operating the forest in accordance with the values of our community. It is an honour to have Olympians standing on wood harvested from our community!"

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.

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Documentary on the Sunshine Coast Community Forest
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

