

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK 2012 A LOOK AT THE TOP PRIORITIES THROUGHOUT THE REGION 15
// TOP 120 EMPLOYERS THE TOP-RANKED COMPANIES BY NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES 32

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TOP

10

OUR 15TH
ANNUAL

**KOOTENAY
BUSINESS PEOPLE
OF THE YEAR**

MATT THOMPSON // GREG & ERIC LAPOINTE // JASON WHEELDON // AARON SEMINOFF // KERRY HOBBS //
DAVID RATZLAFF // DOUG MCMYNN // CHRIS-ANNE & LAWRENCE GILMORE // JUDITH JOHANNSSON // BRIAN SCHAAL



BRIELLE WILL PHOTOS

Elkford's new community centre is an impressive facility. (Above) Mayor Dean McKerracher stands below a series of cross-laminated beams. (Top right) Structural beams were produced by Structurlam Products. (Bottom right) The centre includes a space for children.

// ELKFORD //

A source of pride in Elkford

The new community centre, which received financial support from a number of sources, will be a facility the community can be proud of //by Breanne Massey

A fire that destroyed the community centre may have devastated the residents of Elkford, but it also sparked some positive changes.

In 2007 a fire burned the community centre in Elkford to the ground, and after months of negotiating a settlement, the District agreed to build a replacement facility. The new facility is approximately 16,700 square feet and it is currently being

constructed using innovative new technologies.

The new community centre will house a banquet hall, commercial kitchen, community meeting room and communal playschool, as well as a historical display that will showcase Elkford's history.

The building will feature angular curves and, according to [Gil Hui](#) with [Douglas Solows Architect Inc.](#), one of the project ar-

chitects, the roof will be heightened to imitate the linearity of rock layers in the Elkford area. Laminated wooden beams and posts produced by Structurlam Products utilize wood that is recycled product from pine beetle-damaged woods in B.C.

"(It's the) first application of cross-laminated timber in building design in North America," said Hui. "The structural design is integral to the aesthetics of the building."

The type of panels being installed in the new community centre were initially used in Europe several years ago, but this is the first time that a project in Western Canada will feature this design. The construc- >>



Elkford Community Centre

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Project showcase // Elkford Community Centre

» tion was delayed for two months, but progress quickly recovered. Hui anticipates that his company's portion of the project will be complete by spring 2012.

"It's the first building of this kind in North America," said **Dean McKerracher**, the mayor of Elkford. "It's unique in itself because there isn't a building that I know of in North America with both the CLT (cross-laminated timber) and SIP (structural insulated panels) panels in it."

A large team of contractors and subcontractors made this project possible, but each party agreed that nothing would have been possible without financial aid. A donation of \$1 million was given by Teck, \$45,000 came from the Canadian Wood Council, \$300,000 was donated by Columbia Basin Trust, \$400,000 came from the Province of B.C. Towns for Tomorrow grant and \$10,000 was contributed by Mike Sosnowski, the Area A director for the Regional District of East Kootenay.

"There were a lot of fingers in the pie," said McKerracher.

Douglas Sollows, the principal of Douglas Sollows Architect; Jon Medori, the engineering project lead of Associated Engineering Ltd. in Lethbridge, Alberta; and Mark Porter, structural engineer from Associated Engineering Ltd. in Burnaby, B.C., made critical contributions to this project. John Paone, a partner with Alfred Horie Construction Company Ltd. with offices in Burnaby and Fernie, B.C., is the project manager, integrating all aspects of the construction.

The new community centre is scheduled for completion by spring 2012. **KB**



BRIELLE WILL PHOTO

The outside design of the centre reflects the Elkford area landscape.

CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

ELKFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE BY ALFRED HORIE CONSTRUCTION



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