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Winners of 8th Annual Ontario Wood WORKS! Awards demonstrate wood is versatile and sustainable

(Toronto, November 12, 2008) Ontario's leading architects, engineers, building owners and project teams were presented Wood WORKS! Awards during the 8th Annual Awards Gala this evening at the Toronto Congress Centre. Celebrating excellence and innovation in wood buildings, the awards recognize people and organizations dedicated to pioneering and preserving the use of wood (winners listed below).

"We received a record number of project nominations this year and we are thrilled to see more and more design and build professionals using wood in a wide variety of building types," said Marianne Berube, Wood WORKS! Ontario Executive Director. "This year's winners are diverse, demonstrating wood's exceptional versatility. Award winning projects this year range greatly in size and use and include, among others, an artisan cheese factory, a hotel, a multi-use community centre and a regional training and cultural centre."

"The award winners chose wood for its structural strength, lower cost and higher efficiency, the texture and warmth it adds to interiors, and for its sustainability as a renewable and recyclable material," said Berube. "Many people don't realize that wood is the world's only major renewable building material. Sustainable forestry practices employed in Ontario and throughout Canada guarantee that we can use wood with confidence and pride. Building with wood is an environmentally responsible choice."

Working with the design community, Wood WORKS! connects practitioners with resources related to the use of wood in non-residential construction, assists in product sourcing, and facilitates the delivery of education and training.

"These winning projects show that wood really works in all types of construction, and demonstrate how wood has an increasingly important role in Canadian Architecture," concluded Berube.

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For more information, to arrange interviews, or for digital photos of the winning projects, contact Marianne Berube at 1-705-471-1641, maberube@wood-works.ca OR Tina Siegel at 1-416-972-7404, tsiegel@huffstrategy.com

Wood WORKS! is a national, industry-led initiative spearheaded by the Canadian Wood Council and industry partners to promote the increased use of wood in commercial, industrial and institutional construction.

www.wood-works.org

2008 Wood *WORKS!* Award Winners

Award	Winner
<p>Green Building Wood Design</p> <p><i>Sponsored by OWL Distribution</i></p>	<p>Prince Edward County: <u>Fifth Town Artisan Cheese Factory</u> – Francis J. Lapointe Architects and Blackwell Bowick Partnership Inc.</p> <p>This 4,200 square foot facility is a mixed use building, employed in the manufacturing and retailing of artisan cheeses. Wood was used for this structure because it is the most sustainable building material choice. Life Cycle Assessment demonstrates that the environmental profile of wood offers a clear advantage over other building materials. It generates less air and water pollution, creates less solid waste, and has lower embodied energy. In addition, sustainably harvested timber is the only major construction material that sequesters carbon. When mature wood is harvested, the carbon it has extracted from the atmosphere is stored in the wood products for the life of the building and acts as a carbon 'sink'. There were many features that contributed to the buildings overall environmental performance. In addition to material choices, the building was designed to be durable, use far less energy and water than a typical design, minimize impact on the adjacent site, minimize transportation to and from the building site and increase indoor air quality for the occupants.</p>
<p>Interior Design</p> <p><i>Sponsored by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund</i></p>	<p>Apsley: <u>Eels Lake Cottage</u> – Altius Architecture Inc. and Blackwell Bowick Partnership Inc.</p> <p>Engineered lumber in an innovative steel-wood hybrid construction was used for this 3,000 square foot cottage. This allowed long spans with uncluttered floor plans and dramatic cantilevers with notably delicate roof and floor planes. The effect of a roof floating over a glass volume was achieved in a very cost-effective way due to the role that wood played in the design. As an exterior and interior finish, Douglas Fir as used exclusively on walls, ceilings, soffits and millwork. By varying the texture of the wood finishes to respond to light and shadow, varied spaces were achieved with a carefully restrained material palette. Generous openings with windows and doors tie the project together and make it a modern cottage.</p>
<p>Residential Wood Design</p> <p><i>Sponsored by Weyerhaeuser</i></p>	<p>Georgian Bay: <u>Shift Cottage</u> – superkül inc. architect and Blackwell Bowick Partnership Inc.</p> <p>This 2,000 square foot family cottage on an island in Georgian Bay was, from the initial concept stage, conceived of as a wood building, inside and out. The structural possibilities, constructability and aesthetic value of wood were primary drivers throughout the development of the design. The cottage is composed of two bar volumes linked by a glass bridge. The two bars are nestled into the water-washed granite of the island and against a line of trees, sheltering them against the strong winds off the lake. The textured modernist vocabulary of the exterior is continued on the interior, where cedar and painted pine board, glulam beams and cedar deck are the primary finishes, composed to create an elegant and warm home away from home.</p>
<p>Multi-Unit Wood Design</p> <p><i>Sponsored by the Ontario Wood Truss Fabricators Association</i></p>	<p>Barrie: <u>Ontario Mission of the Deaf</u> – Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc. and Blackwell Bowick Partnership Inc.</p> <p>Ontario Mission of the Deaf is an inviting collection of wood clad volumes reminiscent of the lake-side cottages that are characteristic of the area. In addition to the aesthetic appeal of the wood cladding it was found to be an extremely cost effective material when compared to brick and stone. Taking advantage of the large lot, the design is developed over one level with a variety of double-height spaces. This design is conducive to seniors who depend on a visually oriented environment by providing diffuse light from clerestory windows and skylights to eliminate harsh shadows and silhouettes. The communal spaces such as the house dining/ lounge/ activity areas are designed to be as open as possible (rather than separate rooms) to allow for long sight lines that assist signing as well as providing comfortable and spacious areas for residents to congregate. Throughout these spaces exposed wood columns minimize visual interference and add a warm, natural element to the interior. The resident areas are divided into smaller "houses" to create a more intimate and home-like atmosphere. Each bedroom has views to either a landscape courtyard or surrounding wood and parkland. These views establish a strong connection to the outdoors that is further enhanced by rich interior wood finishes. Wood is used within the community spaces and is combined with other natural materials to provide warmth and comfort and a residential feel. The careful application of wood finishes throughout the interior and exterior provide a familiar and uplifting environment for residents.</p>

<p>Commercial Wood Design</p> <p><i>Sponsored by Abitibi Bowater</i></p>	<p>Parry Sound: <u>Parry Sound Microtel</u> – Lowry Otto Erskine Williams Architects and Georgian Engineering</p> <p>Canada's first Microtel Inn & Suites was opened in Parry Sound in May 2006 by Ontarinn's, Inc. of Toronto. Henry B. Lowry, president of the company, franchisee and the project's architect, designed this three-storey building using wood for all structural framing. Prefabricated wood panels designed specifically for the project were used to complete this cost effective, high quality, and energy efficient wood building quickly. The framing for the 30,000 square foot building started in early October 2005 and was finished a short six weeks later. The project architect acted as his own cost consultant: "A steel-framed option was considered but found to cost approximately 30% higher for the materials alone." Upon completion of the project, the architect concluded that the land, wood-framed building, all finishes, development charges and labour worked out to be approximately 20% less than for a similar sized hotel built using alternative fossil fuel-intensive structural materials. The engineered and commodity wood products used in the building were approximately 12% of the total building cost.</p>
<p>Institutional Wood Design <10 M</p> <p><i>Sponsored by the Ministry of Natural Resources</i></p>	<p>Ottawa: <u>Beechwood National Memorial Centre</u> – Robertson Martin Architects Inc. and Cunliffe & Associates</p> <p>Wood was used throughout the design, both for structural as well as aesthetic purposes. The design of the multi-faith sacred space derives inspiration from the 'geometry of nature' versus the 'nature of geometry' and evokes the natural surroundings of the National Historic Site, with branching glue-laminated Douglas fir structural members evoking trees and upswept arms. Wood was used for structural wall infill at perimeters and engineered wood products for roof framing over sacred space. The material was desirable for its strength, modest weight and cost effective construction. As an expressive natural material, wood was used throughout to bring warmth and elegance to all areas of the facility. Due to the nine-sided circular shape, acoustic performance was of prime importance; in consultation with acoustics consultant, to both refract and absorb sound, clear finish stepped profile birch veneer plywood panels were designed for the sacred space upper walls and stained plywood slats with acoustic media were used for the ceiling areas. Wood types used include glue-laminated Douglas fir structural members. In the corridors and reception room panelling, black walnut, oak and pine wood harvested from the site was milled to serve as various trim elements paired with oak plywood. The use of this material was important in that wood products from the site are 'embedded' within the interior spaces and speak to the continuity and history of Ottawa's lumber barons interred at Beechwood. Furniture items were also constructed, including built-in cabinets, mantles, meeting room tables and desks.</p>
<p>Institutional Wood Design >10 M</p> <p><i>Sponsored by Natural Resources Canada</i></p>	<p>Brampton: <u>Cassie Campbell Community Centre</u> – Shore Tilbe Irwin Partners and Halcrow Yolles Inc.</p> <p>At this 175,000 square foot Community Centre, wood structural, architectural and cladding components were used for a combination of technical and aesthetic reasons. The City wanted architecture that was bold and modern but that would fit into a residential context and convey a warm and inviting atmosphere. The Fletcher's Meadow region of Brampton is home to many new immigrant families and is ethnically diverse. The Client and Architects felt the need to develop an architectural language that was uniquely Canadian and that would exemplify a civic presence for this community of new Canadians. Heavy timber, wood composite cladding and natural Warton limestone are used to create an architecture with a regional materiality and character. The Cassie Campbell Community Centre uses the transparency and openness of its architectural forms to market its programming to the greater community. Bold cantilevers are used to express the roof planes of the key program areas and to allow the flow of structural expression through large areas of curtain wall glazing. A wood structure was the natural choice for this architectural strategy as its material nature mitigates thermal bridging and allows structural members to pass through the envelope and express a continuity of space and form. The Aquatics Centre is located at the corner of the site and is positioned as the landmark component of the facility. Here, a wood structure was a natural choice as it is the most durable material to employ in the highly humid and corrosive environment of a swimming pool. Within the pool environment a wood structure is by far the preferred solution as it requires virtually no maintenance and will resist the corrosive environment indefinitely. In such an environment, even the most carefully detailed and coated steel components will begin to require extensive remedial work over time in the endless battle against corrosion. In this application wood provides excellent life cycle costing. The articulation of the structure and the material properties of wood also contribute to the control of noise and reverberation in the Aquatics Centre environment, an</p>

	important factor with regards to teaching and safety on the pool deck. The use of a wood allows for the expression of the structure of the building in a public building as heavy timber elements can be exposed without fire rated coverings or coatings. This creates honesty and directness of expression that allows the design of the Cassie Campbell Community Centre to be rich in form and materiality.
Northern Ontario Excellence Award <i>Sponsored by FedNor</i>	Dryden: <u>Dryden Regional Training and Cultural Centre</u> – Peterson + Habib Consultants Inc. "We took the opportunity to celebrate one of our greatest natural resources by giving it renewed life outside the order of pulp & paper production, Dryden's main industry. Wood was specified for all architectural and structural elements to reflect its beauty, warmth, structural capabilities and green aspects. Large overhangs were designed to create a welcoming entrance, provide shelter, protect elements from weathering, and create an exhilarating sense of space that continues through to the 20,700 square foot interior. The centre is used for adult education/training, and has a multipurpose hall for cultural events and activities.
Jury's Choice Award <i>Sponsored by Tembec</i>	Woodbridge: <u>The Rock Community Church</u> – C.Y. Lee Architects Inc. and Blackwell Bowick Partnership Wood was used extensively for this 7,800 square foot project because wood is sustainable, natural, environmentally friendly, durable, strong but still flexible, and most importantly, beautiful. The exposed wood structure makes the building a warm and inviting place for this place of worship. The cedar siding on the exterior walls blends beautifully into the densely wooded site. The solid mahogany entrance doors and the wood flooring give a welcoming and positive experience to the members and the visitors of the church.
Engineer Wood Advocate Award <i>Sponsored by LP Building Products</i>	Toronto: <u>Read Jones Christoffersen Engineers Inc.</u> Read Jones Christoffersen has consistently shown a keen solution based approach to engineering using various wood products. Their breadth of wood projects across Canada and specifically Ontario is a testament to this fact. As explained for their work at the Blue Mountain Village they were "Fuelled by a team-oriented approach, have shown that complicated shapes can be accomplished, based on the widest possible choices resulting from informed educated decisions" These key elements are core fundamentals making RJC proven winners.
Architect Award <i>Sponsored by Grant Forest Products</i>	Toronto: <u>Altius Architecture Inc.</u> Wood use comes easy for Altius. Their design approach to using wood comes in various forms. Aesthetically, both interior and exterior applications provide warmth and richness as well as an expressive structure. Sustainably through wood's naturally low eco footprint and renewability and by varying the texture of wood finishes to respond to light and shadow creating dynamic spaces. Recognizing the history wood plays in architecture in Ontario, Altius is committed to revitalizing wood architecture and craft. By maintaining and creating a 'new' wood culture, Altius is well deserving of this award.
Wood Champion Award <i>Sponsored by OFIA</i>	Toronto: <u>Diamond + Schmitt Architects</u> From large scale international buildings to local gems, Diamond Schmitt Architects have established a solid commitment to wood and wood products. Ontario Wood <i>WORKS!</i> award winning projects by this firm include Four Seasons Centre Opera House, Cawthra Community Centre, Caledon Private residence and the Haliburton School of Arts-Fleming College. A track record second to none makes Diamond Schmitt the Wood Champions for 2008 with many more inspiring design to come!

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