

Oval roof raising marks milestone

The Richmond Oval marked a major construction milestone on July 6 with the completion of the first roof span. When completed, the Oval's roof will be a massive 6.5 acres in size, feature one of the longest clear spans in North America and will be almost entirely constructed from BC wood.

The first of the Oval's 15 roof spans was completed in a special ceremony attended by representatives of the Government of Canada, Province of BC, VANOC and the City of Richmond.

Manufactured in Penticton from BC wood and using a glulam process, the spans are nearly 100 metres in length. Once completed, the spans will be linked by a one-of-a-kind "wood wave" design that was developed in BC and features arched trusses and rafters, and a curvature in the surface panels that will give the roof a rippled appearance. The Richmond Oval, home of speed skating for the 2010 Olympic

Winter Games, will be the first building in the world to include a roof of this exportable new design, which is built exclusively from wood and will use more than one million board feet of pine beetle kill wood from BC forests.

The Government of Canada and Province of BC have each contributed \$30 million to the Oval through the \$580 million capital budget for the 2010



Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. is contributing \$1.5 million towards the engineering and design of the roof in order to support and promote the use of BC wood.

Artist selected for Oval public artwork

Internationally-acclaimed Boston artist Janet Echelman has unveiled her



Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. In addition, the Government of Canada and Province of BC funded the Games Operating Trust, which will provide significant ongoing funding toward the operating costs of the Oval.

proposed design for a Water Works and Pedestrian Bridge public art feature at the Richmond Oval site. The design, which is part of the overall landscape design plan for the Oval site, was presented to General Purposes Committee on July 16 and will be considered by City Council for final approval at its meeting on July 23. To see the proposed plan, visit our website at: www.richmond.ca/_shared/assets/Richmond_Oval_Landscape_Design_and_Integrated_Public_Art_Concept18004.pdf

Echelman is internationally renowned for her sculptural works that respond to environmental forces like wind and water. Her recent commissions include an award-winning \$1.6 million (USD) waterfront wind sculpture in Porto, Portugal, and a September 11th Memorial for Hoboken, NJ. Her work in Porto was honoured by the Public Art Network as one of the highlights of the 2004 Year in Review. In 2005, she was elected to the National Council of the Public Art Network through 2008.

Oval in the Community

The Richmond Olympic Business Office and Richmond Spirit of BC Committee are visiting many community events this summer to provide information on the Oval project and the City's plans for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Watch for the Richmond Oval display at Richmond Kidsake Day this weekend at the Richmond Auto Mall and look for the Richmond Spirit of BC Committee's information display at the Richmond Maritime Festival in August at Britannia Heritage Shipyard.

Community update offered

Richmond Oval Update is a monthly report to the community on City initiatives related to the Richmond Oval project and to the community's preparations for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. For more information on the Richmond Oval visit the City's website at www.richmond.ca and click on the Olympic Oval link on the home page.