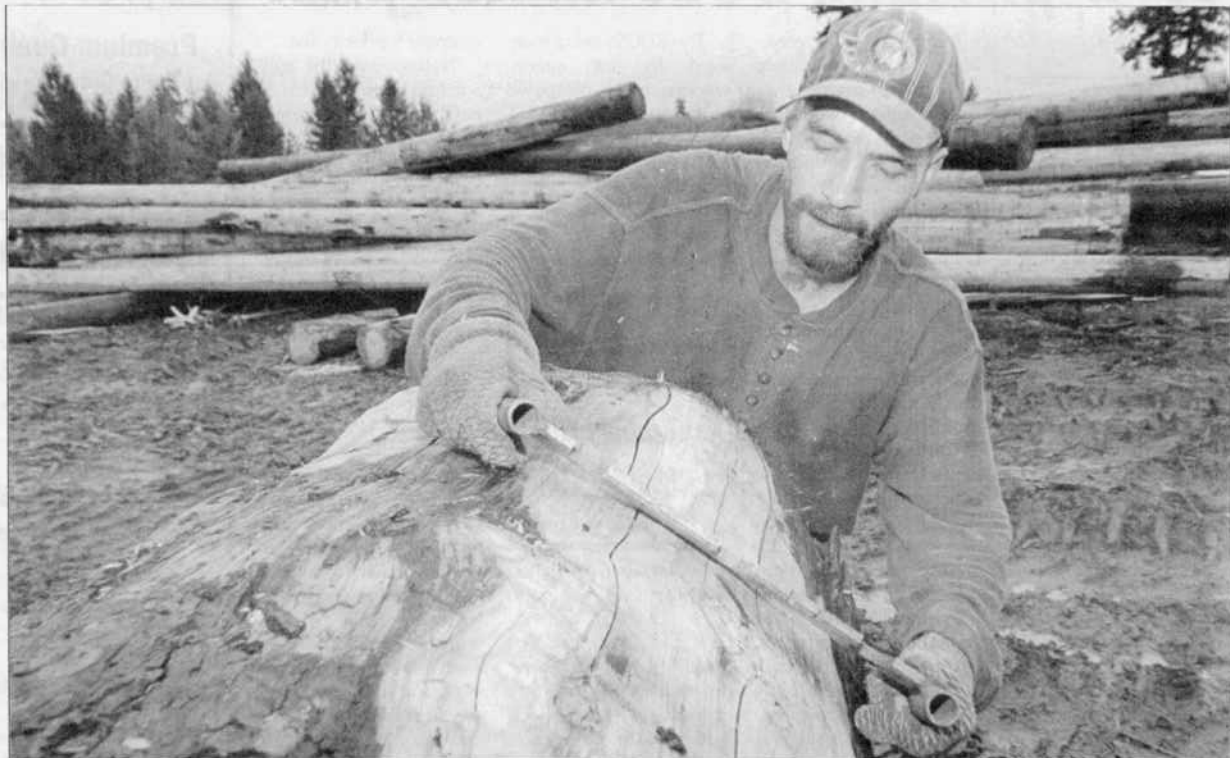


# NEWSBEAT



Heather Colpitts photo

Jon Wright is one of the Sitka Log Homes employees who will be involved in the construction of the day lodge destined for the Utah Olympics.

## B.C. logs used for an Olympic ski lodge

by Heather Colpitts  
Free Press staff

Sitka Log Homes has won what could be the gold medal of the building trade — the contract for the 2002 Winter Olympics ski daylodge at Snowbasin Resort in Utah.

The company has until next spring to construct and deliver the lodge which is equivalent to about 10 log homes.

"It happened quite quickly," John Johnson commented on how his company won the deal.

Two British Columbia firms and two American firms were selected by the Salt Lake City games architect then approached to bid on the

structure once land issues were resolved.

"We worked on it for basically four days," Johnson said of the bid.

The resort will be the site of the Olympic downhill and Super G races. Billions of television viewers around the world will see the B.C.-constructed lodge, which is 23,000 square feet and includes a lobby, offices, lounge, dining area and five fireplaces.

Working from architects drawings, Sitka will do the job in its works yard on Tatton Station Road. Deliveries of the estimated 20 truck loads of finished log work will take place between November and March.

The lodge will be con-

structed with a steel frame highlighted by 30-inch diameter spruce columns supporting massive log trusses in the main areas.

The company, which does mostly residential log home construction as well as some commercial work, sells mainly to an

American market but with sales to Japan as well. The most recent example of the firm's work in the Cariboo is the Mt. Timothy Ski lodge expansion. The firm has never constructed anything on the scale of the Olympic lodge though.

This prestigious con-

tract will allow Sitka to add to its workforce of 20 people.

"We will hire probably half a dozen people," Johnson said.

He will make a couple of trips to Utah during construction, but a contractor will build the lodge on site.