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July 13, 2005



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Italy Bound

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log building headed to Italy

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LOCAL NEWS

Hansen unveils Sitka log building bound for Italy

By Keri Langley

Minister of Economic Development and in charge of the 2010 Olympics, Colin Hansen, was at Sitka Log Homes' work yard July 5 to unveil a special log structure on its way to Turin, Italy for the 2006 Winter Olympics.

Mayor Donna Barnett, Cariboo South MLA Charlie Wyse, CRD Director Al Richmond, Councillor Mitch Campsall and a crowd of other community members were on hand for Hansen's announcement that Sitka Log Homes had been awarded the design/build contract for the building that will showcase BC and Canadian products at next year's Winter Olympics in Turin. The building, called BC/Canada House, will remain in Italy after the Olympics.

"This is my first opportunity to visit the Cariboo since taking over as Minister of Economic Development," Hansen told the crowd assembled in front of the log building. "In fact, this is my first opportunity to be anywhere outside of

Victoria (since the election)."

Hansen spoke of the tremendous opportunities the building could create for "the entire province" and said it could create a "chance to form new partnerships."

Sitka Log Homes owner and founder, John Johnson gave a brief address before Sitka's General Manager, Wally Bramsleven, took the Minister and the crowd on a tour of the inside of the building, built from beetle-kill pine. BC/Canada House is 4,200 square feet, with two levels, a loft and a main floor.

Hansen took part in a special event after his address. He announced that BC/Canada House would be branded before it made its journey overseas.

With the help of longtime South Cariboo resident Wendell Monical, the log building was branded with a brand that's been in the Monical family for over 100 years. Monical fired up the brand with a torch, a burned the brand onto a log that will remain in the building.

"That brand was regis-



Mayor Donna Barnett, Minister Colin Hansen, and Sitka owner Johnny Johnson.

tered in Oregon in 1900 by my Dad," Monical said.

"We couldn't register it in Canada until 1968 or '69. There's probably been a million cattle branded with that brand. It was nice to keep the brand alive."