

Community

Finishing touches donated to recreation centre

by Arlene Jongbloets
Free Press staff

The keepers of the new arena are pretty pleased about the latest improvement made to the facility. They're also pretty pleased about the price tag.

A trio of massive hand-crafted pine log picnic tables were recently donated by area businesses and installed in the front lobby of the South Cariboo Recreation Centre.

Mary Hunter, office manager for Canlan Ice Sports Corp., explained that Canlan had been interested in acquiring a few of the tables and had approached Sitka Log Homes about the cost.

Wally Bramsleven, general manager at Sitka, added that someone from the Pharmasave caught wind of it and before he knew it, had arranged for both Pharmasave and Central GM to donate one apiece.

"Then we offered to donate the third one," said Bramsleven.

He said each table is valued at about \$1,000, and are built out of local pine and spruce logs. The massive pine logs are salvaged beetle kill wood which carry the blue stain on their rims. It's currently a popular feature in the eco-conscious corner of the log home industry.

Extended seats on either end of the tables makes them measure up to an overall four-metre length, and Bramsleven said they probably weigh in at about 356 kilograms each.

Canlan operations manager isn't about to argue over the great size of the tables.

"We had to bring them in piece by piece, and it took two guys to carry each piece. There's no doubt about it. They're heavy," Josh Dickerson said. "They're a great addition to the front lobby, and it was really nice of the companies to donate them."

Dickerson has been brushing all surfaces of the

tables with a protective clear coating and sheets of Lexan plastic will soon be installed on each to preserve the tops.

Other areas of the arena finally saw more finishing touches as well. A proper sealant on the concrete seating stands somehow avoided inclusion in the original plans, and Dickerson and his crew

just recently cleaned and sealed all of that cement work. Spills were beginning to mar the surface as the porous concrete made cleanup difficult.

People sitting in those stands next hockey season will be able keep track of time a little more easily as well. Pharmasave has committed to donating a large wall clock to be

installed on one end of the arena. The present time clock only displays the correct hours and minutes when not in use for timing hockey games.

Canlan also promises to make a few unexpected improvements, beginning with installation of an overhead television in the lobby. It will feature a sports channel.

Hunter said they're also planning to replace some unattractive old blue benches with sturdy log ones, and establish some sort of outdoor seating and a granite refuse container.

The South Cariboo Spinners and Weavers group also plans to make a contribution with a large piece of specially designed and handcrafted fibre art.