

Hand crafted log building capital of North America

By Keri Langley

100 Mile House is officially the "Hand Crafted Log Home Building Capital of North America" and it's no wonder.

At last count, there is an estimated 11 to 13 log building companies in 100 Mile House and District, and they pride themselves in their workmanship, and the fact that log homes produced here are, indeed hand crafted.

When Mayor Donna Barnett was asked what she would tell a visitor about our log building industry, she replied: "I would tell them that we have claimed ourselves at the Hand Crafted Log Home Building Capital of the North America. I would say that we have the finest builders, the finest logs and we have the resources to get the product out there."

Barnett said council had been thinking about the new status for a while.

"I think council has been looking at this and they've seen the benefits of this industry and the development they've done," she said.

"When Sitka Log Homes built three buildings for the winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, the whole world was looking at us."

One of the long-established log home companies here is Original Log Homes, which was started by Brian Gardner in 1976. The Original yard, just off Exeter Road, is building their 15th home already this year.

Last year, many people drove by the yard to check out a sprawl-

ing log home being constructed that was the equivalent of 18 semi loads of logs. The home was shipped to the United States.

Original Yard Manager Dave Robinson said what sets our local log building companies apart from the rest of the world is that homes built here really are hand-crafted. From the log peelers to the master builders, "everything here is hand crafted," he said.

"Log building is booming right now," Robinson said. "Everyone needs workers. On Tatton Road, there are probably 40 guys working. There's probably 300 guys employed (in the log building industry) in this town."

When asked what he thinks of 100 Mile's new status, Robinson replied: "100 is the log building capital of the world. It all started in this area. For sure, we do better work here. We all do pretty much high quality here."

Robinson said about 80 to 90 per cent of Original's homes are exported to the United States, and many go to Germany and Japan. One home was sent to England last year.

PICTURED IS ORIGINAL Log Home's work yard just off Exeter Road. They're one of several log home building companies in the 100 Mile House and District, which is now officially the Hand Crafted Log Home Building Capital of North America.

