

By Keri Langley

It's no secret to South Cariboo residents that we live in the hub of the log home building industry. With about five large log home building companies in the area belonging to the Log Building Industry Association of B.C. and international interest in our skilled builders steadily rising, it's clear this is an important industry to health of our region, the province and the country. Combined, local log builders employ about 300 people directly

Sitka Log Homes Inc. was founded by local John Johnson after he built himself a log home in 1969. When impressed people started asking Johnson if he'd build them a log home, what started out as a personal project developed into a well-respected custom log home company. Sitka incorporated in 1985.

Exposure to B.C.'s log building industry is expected to grow dramatically as the 2010 Olympics draws near. Sitka will likely have a role in the construction of

Sitka a winner in a growing industry

a building(s) created in Whistler's Olympic Village showcasing B.C.'s value-added timber products. Olympic projects are nothing new for Sitka. It was Sitka Log Homes who built three lodges for the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympics.

"We got a lot of international exposure from that," explained Sitka's general manager Wally Bramsleven. "Our company is very innovative. We've tackled some of the most difficult log structures out there."

That's evident from just a casual glance at some of their brochures. Featuring log homes of breathtaking beauty and original design, Sitka takes pride in their custom service.

"Everything we do is custom, that's part of our service," said Bramsleven.

Sitka is the third largest log home builder in the 100 Mile area, and during the high season, it



WALLY BRAMSLEVEN IS the general manager at Sitka Log Homes Inc. on Tatton Road.

employs about 30 people locally, with another four or five at their Vernon yard. The company produces from 50 to 60 log homes annually. Bramsleven said 75 to 80 per cent of their market is in the United States, 10 per cent in Asia (particularly Japan) and another

10 per cent in Canada.

"The majority of the logs we use are standing dead," Bramsleven explained. "Most of our logs are harvested locally, within a 50 mile radius."

For enquiries or to book a consultation, call Sitka Log Homes Inc. at (250) 791-6683.