



# Peace Valley OSB

The Power of the Peace

## **SPECIAL OPEN LETTER To the Residents of Fort St. John & Area**

This Special Open Letter to the residents of Fort St. John and Area is to mark the official start of production at Peace Valley OSB. It took 18 months from the Official Ground Breaking ceremony on June 1, 2004 to complete the construction of one of the largest OSB mills in the world. The most rewarding aspect of this monumental task is that the project was completed without a time loss injury. Fort St. John will not only be known from this point forward as home to the world's newest, state-of-the-art oriented strand board (OSB) mill but also as the place where "they built it big and they built it safely". The commitment to safety on the part of mill employees, contractors and their employees has paid off with a construction safety record that is being noticed all over North America.

The team at Peace Valley OSB pressed the historic "1<sup>st</sup> Board" on November 21, 2005 at approximately 8:20 p.m. Dozens of employees, contractors and the media stood watching anxiously as the world's largest multi-opening OSB press shut tight on 12 large mats of strands. For about 15 minutes the press stayed shut as the wax and resin coated strands bonded together to form the very first boards produced by Peace Valley OSB. Once the press opened the boards were sent to the finishing line to be sawn into 4' x 8' and 4' x 9' sheets. The very First Board will be displayed in main office at the mill. Photos of this historic event are on the Peace Valley web site at [www.canforlp.com](http://www.canforlp.com).

### **Employees**

It took hundreds of highly skilled construction employees and specialists to build Peace Valley OSB. They battled rain, mud, snow, cold and occasionally high winds to construct the \$240 million mill that is large enough to contain 10 football fields or 27 hockey rinks in 18 months. Now it is up to the Peace Valley OSB employees to make it all work.

Over 900 applications were received and over 350 interviews were conducted to hire our top notch employees. The majority of our workforce started in August with a two-week mass hire training program. This comprehensive teambuilding and training program gave everyone the unique opportunity to come together as 126 people who didn't know each other, and begin to build a collaborative team-based work culture. The feedback from our employees was that they had never seen a company make such a strong commitment to training and team-building,

describing their new experience as fantastic, inspirational, excellent, awesome, meaningful, rewarding, perfect, monumental, incredible and fun.

Twenty-eight of our employees have OSB production experience while another 18 have maintenance experience in an OSB mill. Employees will soon begin operating the mill 7 days a week, 24 hours a day on four shifts.

### **Safety**

We at Peace Valley OSB can't say enough about how proud we are of our safety record during the construction phase that spanned 545 days. So here are a few more Safety Statistics for which we thank everyone who worked on the project during construction:

- 1,273,070 person hours worked without a time loss injury.
- 2,204 people participated in Safety Orientations.
- Only 182 injuries reported to First Aid.
- Only 27 of those required treatment or medication.
- ***None resulted in a time loss injury during 18 months of construction!***

### **Six Nations Ventures run log yard while Peace Valley OSB operates the cranes**

Peace Valley OSB has signed a contract with Six Nations Ventures to manage the yard operations. Six Nations Ventures is a company owned by all six of the Treaty 8 communities that are signatories to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Peace Valley OSB. The MOA includes provisions for education scholarships and training, harvesting and business opportunities. The development of Six Nations Ventures is an indication of the success of this cooperative approach to making area First Nations partners in Peace Valley OSB. The operation of our two large log cranes that unload logging trucks and feed logs to the log ponds will be managed by employees of Peace Valley OSB.

### **Logs, logs and more logs**

Residents of Fort St. John and Area have been noticing the increased number of logging trucks delivering wood to the Peace Valley OSB and nearby Canfor sawmill over the past several weeks. Winter is traditionally the time of year when the majority of wood is harvested and hauled to forest products mills in northern BC. At the end of November, we had approximately 200,000 cubic meters in the yard. Peace Valley OSB expects to receive 130 -170 loads of wood during a 20-hour period each weekday until the end of March. The massive log inventory will keep the mill running until log deliveries resume after spring break-up.

Eighteen months ago all that stood in a field off Swanson Lumber Road in Fort St. John was some stubble hay and survey stakes. What stands today is the most state-of-the-art, modern OSB mill in world. Now that the project has moved from construction to production we can't wait to show the world what we can do.

We want to thank the people of Fort St. John and area, service contractors and suppliers for helping make the construction phase of the project as successful as it was. Residents in the community adjusted to increased truck traffic along Swanson Lumber Road and welcomed our construction contractors' employees as some spent weeks and others months in Fort St. John helping build the mill. At the height of construction this summer there were over 500 construction employees reporting for work each day. The excellent working relationship between Peace Valley OSB and the City of Fort St. John and area continued through the 18 month construction phase. We are committed to strengthening the relationship as we move forward with production. Peace Valley OSB wishes everyone in the Peace River Region a safe and happy holiday season. Look for an invitation to attend a Community Open House at the mill sometime in the spring as part of our Official Opening Ceremonies.

Respectfully submitted,

**William (Bill) Hebert**

President

**Chris Baby**

General Manager

**Roger Latterell**

Project Manager