

# REVELSTOKE SECONDARY SCHOOL & BEGBIE VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## LOCATION

Revelstoke, British Columbia

## SIZE

Revelstoke Secondary 5,950 m<sup>2</sup>  
Begbie View Elementary 3,985 m<sup>2</sup>

## COMPLETION

2011

## CAPACITY

500 students in Grades 8-12  
80 kindergarten and  
250 elementary

## ARCHITECT

DIALOG

## CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Graham Construction

## PROJECT OWNER

School District 19 (Revelstoke)

## B.C. GOVERNMENT MINISTRY

Ministry of Education

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

School District 19 (Revelstoke) started planning two new schools before January 2011 when the city signed its Wood First policy to promote the use of wood in government-funded buildings.

But that didn't stop Anne Cooper, the district's superintendent of schools at the time, from calling for designs that used as much wood as possible for Revelstoke Secondary and Begbie View Elementary schools used – structurally and architecturally.

“We wanted to demonstrate to students, staff, visitors and our community the aesthetically pleasing attributes of wood, while gaining the environmental and economic benefits for Revelstoke and our region,” Cooper says.

Both construction projects also supported local labour and materials; saluting the region's historical ties with the forest sector. The fir decking used for the roof was harvested,

purchased and milled by local people, and structural wood beams came from the Okanagan.

The schools were designed to meet LEED gold certification, expected to reduce operating costs by as much as 40%. In addition to the use of wood, other environmental features include high-efficiency windows and lighting, low-water plumbing fixtures, use of recycled construction materials, and emphasis on avoiding construction waste. Exterior sunshades reduce glare and solar heat gain while allowing for abundant daylighting.

Revelstoke Secondary School was one of the first in British Columbia with a Neighbourhood Learning Centre, which features a 275-seat performing arts centre and co-ordinated health services for youth, including mental health services and substance prevention programs. Begbie View Elementary School also houses early learning, literary and health spaces, and a community gymnastics facility.



Photo courtesy of Revelstoke School District

*“Building with wood has generated a distinct British Columbian architectural heritage. Its natural grain and colour is warming and it reminds us of our connection to nature. Incorporating wood in our new schools was a natural fit for these magnificent facilities.”*

*Anne Cooper, Superintendent (ret), School District #19, Revelstoke*

## WOOD USE

### LOCAL JOBS, LOCAL BENEFITS

Many of the 20 subcontractors working on the two projects were local, including Lortap Architectural Millwork whose craftsmanship is featured in the lockers, display cabinets, trims, stairs and wall paneling, classroom and lab countertops, book cases, casework and much more.

**BIOMASS HEAT** – Both schools use renewable energy from Revelstoke Community Energy Corp. for heat and hot water. The energy comes from a 1.5-megawatt biomass boiler at the nearby Downie Timber Ltd. mill, which burns 10% of the mill’s wood residue, offsetting more than 3,700 tonnes of greenhouse gases and reducing air pollutants and particulate matter.

**RELAXED LEARNING Environment** – The interior ceilings of the classrooms have glulam T-bar roof

beams supported by structural steel. They hold up an exposed wood deck made with Douglas-fir, and much of the wood is exposed as part of the design. Wood trim and panelling throughout both schools provides a tangible connection to nature, something that cannot be matched by other building materials. Wood creates productive and high-quality learning spaces for students and teachers, and research has concluded that wood interiors reduce stress.

**BEST CHOICE FOR COMMUNITY SPACE** – Wood is hypo-allergenic and, unlike carpeting, prevents the build-up of dust. It is easier to clean, making it a great choice for buildings like Revelstoke Secondary and Begbie View Elementary, which house neighbourhood learning centres and are open to community activities after school hours.



Top and bottom right photos courtesy of Revelstoke School District  
Left bottom photo courtesy of Lortap Architectural Millwork

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

This profile is published by Forestry Innovation Investment, the Government of British Columbia’s market development agency for forest products.

For more examples of innovative wood building projects throughout British Columbia, visit:

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