

GIBSONS RCMP FACILITY

LOCATION

Gibsons, British Columbia

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Weiler Smith Bowers

SIZE

470 m²

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

RCMP Project Management

COMPLETION

2012

PROJECT OWNER

Town of Gibsons

ARCHITECT

Mobius Architecture /
RBM Architecture

PROJECT OVERVIEW

This 470m² community-based RCMP facility has been designed to accommodate future expansion to full detachment status. Completed in November 2012, it was undertaken as a design/build project that needed to fulfill the requirements of the RCMP's facility program within the capital budget set by the Town of Gibsons.

The program includes a secure bay/garage bay, exhibit storage space, police equipment rooms, a breath test room, secure and 'soft' interview rooms, an office area and a community multipurpose meeting room.

Located on a prominent site planned for a new town centre, close to the Gibsons and District Community Centre and Sunnybrook Mall, the new building gives the RCMP greatly increased visibility in the community, as well as quicker access to the highway.

The design of the new facility is intended to reflect the character of the Town of Gibsons. The extensive use of wood makes the building warm and inviting, and the large glazed areas present an open and transparent façade to the public. On the east elevation three freestanding natural western red cedar posts form a portico, supporting the beam and purlin structure of the overhanging roof. These posts, sourced by local craftsmen, symbolize the cooperation between the RCMP, the Town of Gibsons and the community.

The building is also built to LEED Silver standards with sustainable strategies including geothermal heating, provision of ample natural light, a green roof and storm water management.



Photo courtesy Alan Burns Photography

“The new RCMP facility is an attractive building that incorporates design themes and materials from the Gibsons area, including locally harvested wood products. Though working under safety and security constraints, features were incorporated such as street-fronting windows, a varied roof line, and a building form that provides visual interest.”

Paul Gibbs, Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Gibsons

WOOD USE

The ‘Wood First’ policy adopted by the Town of Gibsons is integrated into all aspects of the structure and exterior finishing. Wood provided a quick and economical building system that met the budget and scheduling constraints while utilizing locally available materials and trade skills.

As a renewable resource, wood was considered the appropriate choice for both the building structure and exoskeleton. Wood affected by the mountain pine beetle was used for the structural roof decking which, along with glue-laminated (glulam) roof beams, is exposed in feature areas of the interior. The wood provides a warm complement to the bright colours used on accent walls.

Externally, western red cedar is the predominant material. In addition to the exterior posts, it was also used as the primary cladding material and for lining the sloping soffits of the extensive roof overhangs. On the exterior walls, the texture and pattern of cedar shingles complements the smooth surface and horizontal lines of the tongue and groove boards. The cedar gives the building an overall warm appearance, and serves to tie it to the surrounding landscape.



Photos courtesy of Alan Burns Photography

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

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