

Mass timber gaining popularity

BY BOB REID
Ontario Farmer

Stratford – A trend in building construction components established in British Columbia has emerged in construction sites across the country.

“The use of mass timber with laminated wood material in preconstructed panels made in a factory can reduce on-site traffic at building sites by 90 per cent and reduce labour requirements by 75 per cent”, said Patrick Chouinard, founder and Vice President at Element5. The company’s St. Thomas factory is the most fully automated mass timber manufacturing facility in North America.

“Virtually every major college and university in Ontario is building a mass timber academic building”, said Chouinard, speaking to building contractors attending the recent Canadian Farm Builders Association annual conference in Stratford.

The on-site construction requires no cutting of material, as it is designed at the factory to fit together and be fastened in place. This allows construction to be completed 25 per cent faster.

The largest structure to date in North America using mass timber construction is a 25-storey office building in Milwaukee.

Prefabricated, panelized building solutions address the urgent housing needs of communities. The first affordable housing YWCA building in Kitchener was completed in 2022. After tremendous success with the first YWCA building, a second building for the YWCA in Kitchener was also completed in 2022. Thoughtfully designed using energy-efficient modular construction, the two buildings feature mass timber elements including CLT floor, roof, and wall panels that maximized material efficiency and minimized the installation time. The mass

timber elements were exposed to create a sense of warmth and well-being.

“Concrete and steel production are responsible for 12-15% of global CO2 emissions. When building with wood, we’re leveraging our forest’s natural ability to absorb CO2 and store carbon in beautiful mass timber buildings”, said Chouinard.

“The cost is the same but there is less environmental impact. The exposed wood has more aesthetic appeal”, he added.

All wood materials used in manufacturing the mass timber building components are sourced in Ontario.

Chouinard said the mass timber construction is applicable for large farm buildings.

“The life expectancy of mass timber buildings is conservatively 100+ years. However, once a mass timber building reaches the end of its useful life, the components can be disassembled and used in future buildings”, said Chouinard.

Evolving building code penalties much less severe than those in Babylonia

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Stratford – The push for accelerated construction of homes and commercial buildings of all types has focused attention on building codes to ensure building standards are not overlooked.

Building codes are not only a result of standards required by our modern society in the form of the ‘Building Code Act’. Over 4,000 years ago, the Code of Hammurabi, named after the ruler of Babylonia at the time, was decreed with very specific penalties for building infractions that resulted in death or injury.

One of the articles in the Code of Hammurabi stated that in the event of the collapse of a house

in which the homeowner was killed then, “the builder shall be slain.”

If the collapse of a house were to kill the son of the owner, then the son of the builder must also be slain – guilty by association. The same rule unfortunately applied to slaves owned by both parties.

No similar harsh penalties for those building infractions were included in the first building codes established for Ontario in 1974 in the Building Code Act or in the updated versions in 1984, 1997, 2006 and most recently in 2012, noted John Lane, vice president of the Ontario Building Officials Association, speaking to building contractors at the recent Canadian Farm Builders Association conference in Stratford.

His warnings to contractors were less dire, informing them that even if there is no construction taking place, a change-of-use of a building requires a Building Permit according to the Building Code; the placement of a shipping container used as a building requires a building permit as do some signs and building mounted solar panels over 5 sq. meters, and retaining walls adjacent to public property that are over 1 meter high.

Showing some leniency, Lane announced an increase in the size of residential garden sheds not requiring building permits to 15 sq. meters and that no permit is required to demolish a building on a farm.

Cardinal Meat founder has died

Ralph Cator, who founded Cardinal Meat Specialists in Toronto, has died. He was 87.

He was the first Canadian to be president of the North American Meat Institute in 1992 and three years later was given the North American Meat Processors Angus Award.

He was the first Canadian inducted into the institute’s hall of fame.

Cardinal processed hamburgers and he was the first to use cryogenic freezing.

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<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2009 JD 6230</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">40K PQ LHR, DUALS, WEIGHTS, 540/1000 PTO, 1190 HRS\$94,850</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2014 JD 7290R</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">E23 42K, 9L ENG, 59 GAL PUMP, MICHELINS, 1232 HRS\$299,000</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2021 JD 6120M</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">40K PQ, LDR JOYSTICK, SUNROOF, 540/1000, 448 HRS\$156,695</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2014 JD 569</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">PREMIUM 5X6, 1000 PTO, NET, LOADED, 22,932 BALES\$34,950</p>
<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2012 JD S660</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">PRWD, 2250/1685 HRS, 22' UNLOAD CLEAN & SHEDDED, FALL HARVEST READY\$218,500</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">1995 CASE IH 110</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">CRUMBLER, 29.5 FT, HYD CYL, VERY LITTLE WEAR\$11,950</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2018 JD 9370R</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">E18 PS, PTO, PREM LIGHTS & CAB, 520X46 MICH, 1920 HRS.\$439,000</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2012 JD 2720</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">4WD, HYDRO, 62" DECK, LDR & BKT, 711 HRS\$23,400</p>
<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2016 JD 1785</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">15 ROW 15", VAC, PNEUMATIC, SEEDSTAR, UNIT CLTRS, LOW AC\$88,000</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2002 JD 467</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">NET, WIDE P/U, PUSH BAR, BALETTRAK PRO, 23,400 BALES\$16,950</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">2005 JD 9560 STS</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">2WD, YIELD, GRNSTR READY, LEVEL LAND, 1951 SEP HRS\$89,000</p>	<p style="background-color: green; color: yellow; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">JD 630 MOCO</p>  <p style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 5px;">IMPELLER CONDITIONER, 540 PTO, 9'9" CUT WIDTH 2 TO CHOOSE!</p>

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