



BC Log Builders & Timber Framers NEWSLETTER



Connection, Craft, and Community: A Conference Recap

What an amazing conference! The learning extravaganza drew members from far and wide, creating an atmosphere full of energy and enthusiasm. The weather held beautifully, allowing us to gather along the shores of the Shuswap and share ideas late into the night. A huge thank you to all whom attended!!!

The resort did not disappoint—keeping us well fed with gourmet meals that fueled both body and mind as we absorbed new insights and inspiration. Sessions were well attended, and the sounds of laughter, camaraderie, and the hum of powerful tools added to the unique and lively experience.

This year's AGM and survey results generated thoughtful feedback, which will play an important role in guiding our planning and goal setting for the association moving forward. Key priorities emerging from these discussions include improving fibre access for our value-added industry, fostering collaboration

across wood building disciplines—such as log building, timber framing, and mass timber—and advancing education, training, and innovation within our sector.

As we look ahead to our next AGM and Conference—our 30th and a significant milestone—we invite all members to share their ideas and input for session topics. Your feedback is invaluable in helping shape an event that reflects the interests and needs of our community.

We are also excited to be planning a pre-conference building project for 2027, offering members a hands-on opportunity to participate, collaborate, and showcase their skills and craftsmanship.

If you attended this year's conference and enjoyed the experience, we encourage you to share that experience with other builders and suppliers in your

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SUPPORTING OUR UNIQUE BUILDERS

Our seasoned Log Builders and Timber Framers all share one thing in common: a true passion and dedication to their craft. They have recognized the benefits of integrating traditional methods with computer-cutting technology and continue to embrace new technologies moving forward.

BCLTBIA Newsletter

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Who We Are

The BC Log & Timber Building Industry Association (BCLTBIA) is a self-funded organization dedicated to improving business opportunity, craftsmanship, and profitability for British Columbia's log home and timber frame building industry.

Since British Columbia's first pioneers, tradesmen from throughout the world have built a tradition of excellence in wood craftsmanship throughout British Columbia. Our province is home not only to vast renewable forests, but also a wealth of talented Timber Framers, Handcrafted Log Builders and Machine Profile Log Manufacturers.

The log home and timber frame building industry is vital to the rural BC economy, and our goal is to not only foster appreciation for their contribution, but also promote job stability, skill development and healthy industry growth.

A Conference Recap... continued from page 1

network. By spreading the word, you help highlight the many benefits of being part of this community.

Together, we can promote job stability, skill development, and professionalism—strengthening our industry while supporting sustainable building practices and ensuring we continue to meet the highest standards.

The BCLTBIA Board of Directors for 2026 was determined at the AGM and includes the following directors: Chiara Durfeld, Maik Gehloff, Max Glanz, Brad Johnson, Laura Kandall, Luke King, Sigi Liebmann, Rauvin Manhas, Kelly Marciniw, Peter Sperlich, Oli Tritten and Sam Zirnhelt, with Max Clozen appointed as Advisor to the Board. Looking forward to working with all for another productive and creative year.

We encourage all members to consider joining a committee—because many hands truly do make light work. Getting involved is a great way to contribute your expertise, connect with peers, and help shape the future of our association.

Our current committees include:

- Building Code, Energy and Carbon
- Education
- Fibre
- Procurement and Payments
- Insurance and Risk
- Health and Safety

Your participation and input are both valuable and appreciated. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact the office today for more information on how to join.

AGM Recap: Wood Recommend

Aria Hahn | arhahn@deloitte.ca

It was genuinely great to see people in person at the AGM, swap real conversations, and confirm that this sector still shows up strong, steady, and well rooted.

The big theme throughout the day in the grants and incentive's session was resilience. The practical kind that comes from planning ahead, spreading risk, and building things that actually hold.

One message came through loud and clear. Do not stack all your logs on one truck. Market diversification is no longer optional. It is how you keep your footing when tariffs shift, policies change, and markets get windy.

We spent time talking about why Europe and Asia continue to be attractive for mass timber, prefab, and sustainable construction. Demand is growing, competition is often thinner, and early movers tend to get the cleanest cuts. If a new market is even on your radar in the next year or two, now is the time to start shaping the plan. Funding rewards forethought, not panic sanding.

On funding, the takeaway was simple. This is real money, if you approach it the right way.

CanExport SMEs came up often as a strong starting log for companies testing international markets. It supports travel, trade shows, marketing, translation,

and IP, with a clear 2026 push toward non US markets. The advice here was consistent. Pick fewer markets, go deeper, and apply early or risk getting left in the wood pile.

For BC companies feeling tariff pressure, the PacifiCan Regional Tariff Response Initiative is a big one. Forestry is a priority, non repayable funding can be meaningful, and projects tied to productivity, automation, and long term competitiveness tend to stand tallest. Showing clear tariff impact and moving early helps smooth out the grain.

For those moving up the value chain, IFIT and GCWood stood out. These programs back first in kind manufacturing and mass timber projects. They are designed for step change investments, not light trimming. The common advice was to think transformation, line up engineering and commercialization cleanly, and make sure the joints actually fit.

One point kept coming back throughout the day. Funding works best when explored early. Grants look forward. Tax credits look back. If you remember one thing, remember this. Plan the project first. Then see what funding fits. Do not build around the grant and hope it holds.

Always happy to have a conversation!

Discounts for Individual Health & Dental Plans for BCLTBIA Members

Laurenne Willis | service@cdwbenefits.net

PBC Individual Health & Dental Link + 10% Discount

We have some exciting news for our members! CDW Benefits, the insurance advisors you may recognize from our recent annual conference, teamed up with Pacific Blue Cross (PBC) to provide a 10% discount to BCLTBIA members for individual health & dental plans. This is ideal for members who do not have a group benefits plan in place and want coverage for health & dental expenses/services.

There are 2 kinds of plans, and multiple coverage options within both to choose from.

The most basic is the **Guaranteed Acceptance Plan**. This plan is ideal if you have any pre-existing conditions or medications, as there is no medical underwriting and anyone who applies can get coverage.

The other option is the **Health & Dental Plan** that does require medical underwriting. This plan also includes a small Life insurance amount of \$10,000 that terminates at age 55 and \$10million of travel coverage for up to 5-days trip duration. If your child needs braces, that will be covered under the Silver and Gold dental options (Gold includes adult braces as well) with a lifetime maximum of \$2,000.

By purchasing the plans above, you will be saving 10% on your monthly premiums for being a BCLTBIA member. Memberships will be reviewed annually, and if you are no longer a member you will no longer receive the 10% discount. However, the coverage will remain in-place.

For the online version of the newsletter you can click on the highlighted plans above for direct details. Members may also contact CDW Benefits directly at the email address above for further details.

bclogandtimberbuilders.com/resources/newsletters

COMING SOON THIS SPRING!

Attend our 30-minute webinar on the 10 common mistakes business owners make when it comes to insurance, which can lead to unintended costs. For more information and to RSVP contact us at service@cdwbenefits.net



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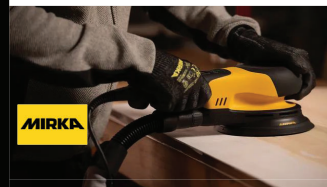
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Building Relationships at Conference

Chiara Durfeld | chiara@durfeldlogandtimber.com

As a child many of our family vacations were tied in with work; travelling to job set ups, going for road trips to the coast to look at house logs, etc. While most kids would ask “are we there yet” our question was always “can we go yet” because being self employed meant there were always loose ends to tie up before heading out on these “holidays”.

Now I find myself a mother, attending the BCLTBIA Conference with my family in tow—in fact, it’s become something of a mini reunion for us. Bringing them into this professional environment added a new perspective to the experience. It was especially meaningful to see and meet others’ families as we navigate a similar balance of work and family life. It was both reassuring and inspiring and it served as a reminder that our work is not just about the structures we build, but about the lives they hold and

families they support—including our own.

I admit I was fairly distracted this year however, the sessions that I was able to attend were both relevant and insightful. Each offered valuable takeaways that we will bring back into our work and business. Equally valuable were the informal discussions between sessions. This opportunity to take a break from the daily grind and connect with peers, build relationships, exchange ideas, and hear firsthand experiences from other builders is what makes this event so impactful.

Being fairly new to this industry and as a new board member it is very encouraging to see such strong engagement and commitment from across the log and timber building community. This event is such a great opportunity to come together to share knowledge, challenges, and innovations within our industry. We have a strong future if we continue to foster this collaborative and supportive approach to business.



Durfeld family at 2026 BCLTBIA Conference shows that it’s all about the people.

Our Newsletters are a great way to connect with the best builders and suppliers for our industry.

What's New This Year?

Warren Senkowski | warren.senkowski@international.gc.ca

CanExport SMEs is now accepting applications for projects taking place in the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The official deadline to apply is May 29, though I encourage you to apply as soon as possible and include a detailed and thorough export strategy. It is a competitive program and approval is not guaranteed.

To qualify, project expenses must be incurred between April 1, 2026, and March 31, 2027.

Retroactive expenses are not eligible.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss your application!

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

Greater focus on trade diversification

- Only 10% of the program's total funding package will be allocated to projects in the US. The remaining 90% will support non-US markets.
- Companies may apply for the US, or other international markets, but not both. If you are considering entering markets beyond the US, you are encouraged to prioritize those this year and leave the US out of your application.

New eligibility requirements

- Applicants must have at least 3 full-time employees and \$300,000 in annual revenue
- No more segmentation of large markets
- For the US, Brazil, China and India, each country now counts as one market. Thus if you exceed the revenue threshold for any region of those countries, the entire country will be ineligible for CanExport funding.

Processing times

- Projects outside the US will receive application decisions within 60 business days
- Projects in the US will receive decisions within 90 business days

Defence sector priority

- Projects targeting the defence market will receive priority while being reviewed

Changes to eligible expenses

- Per diem rate of \$600 per traveler, up from \$400
- Travel costs for training (e.g. product presentations and demonstrations) are eligible
- Use of a personal or company vehicle is eligible
- Expenses related to the creation of a business contract are eligible
- See link above for more details on expenses

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The CanExport – SMEs program is designed to help Canadian companies develop export opportunities in new markets.

You can use this funding for activities such as:

Travel: expenses such as flights, hotels, parking, ground transportation, costs for mandatory visas or ETAs

- NOTE: you must ensure the country you wish to visit does not have an advisory stating “Avoid all travel”. Please refer to our Travel Advisories site for the most recent information.
- You may travel to destinations that are not your target markets if you can explain how the activities there (e.g. trade show) will support your business development in the target markets.
- Expenses can be claimed only for 2 travelers per trip, and each trip a maximum of 30 consecutive days.
- Per diem expenses are limited to 90 days total per project.

Events: Participation in in-person trade shows and events, including exhibitor booth registration and rental, shipping of products, room rentals. Travelers must be Canada-based employees and the event must take place outside Canada.

Marketing and translation: creating or adapting brochures, flyers, pamphlets, banners, videos and websites, translating materials, and advertising in online magazines & publications and banner ads.

Interpretation services: to facilitate meetings with contacts in target markets

Contractual agreements and supplier diversity certification: creating, adapting and translating contracts, NDAs and similar agreements, and obtaining a supplier diversity certification

Consulting – business advice: expert advice for legal, tax or business matters, regulatory issues (such as market access and certification)

Consulting – market development: purchase of market research, feasibility studies, identification of key contacts, B2B matchmaking, contact lists, market research software or subscriptions (but not CRM systems)

IP protection and certification: fees paid for patents, trademarks, copyrights, IP professional services from a consultant or legal firm, IP documentation filing

THE GUIDELINES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Eligibility: CanExport is open to for-profit companies with 3 to 500 full-time employees in Canada, and between \$300,000 and \$100 million in annual revenue declared in Canada in the last fiscal year.

Funding: The program reimburses 50% of your expenses for new business development activities in a new market, on a project size of \$20,000 - \$100,000.

New markets: You must select a target market where your company has had less than \$100,000 in sales (or less than 10% of your total global sales) in the past year (or past 12 months).

You can choose a single country, or multiple countries up to a maximum of 5 if part of a coherent strategy where strong market potential exists and you can demonstrate having the resources to successfully pursue each of the target markets.

Markets where Canada has imposed economic sanctions are not eligible.

If you select the US as your target market, you cannot include other markets in your application.

I suggest you read our Applicant’s Guide and Tips for submitting a strong application for more details. If you have any questions about the program, you can email canexportsmes@international.gc.ca.

Hope for the Future with BCLTIA Members

Denise Tinline | denisetinline@gmail.com

My love of the forest started very early. Riding through the Poco trails, long before bike seats and helmets were standard, my mom created her own solution: a simple 2x4 stretched across the frame of her bicycle, softened with a scrap of foam. That little makeshift seat carried me through the forests of Port Coquitlam. I knew that network of trails like the back of my hands.

My grandparents had a 2 ½ acre lot up on Burke Mountain, full of huge Western Red Cedars, Douglas Fir, and Western Hemlock, with groves of sword ferns and tangles of salmonberry bushes, bramble and huckleberries. We tried to pick the berries to make a pie, but mostly ended up eating them, leaving only enough for a tart. A crystal-clear creek ran through the back of the property, and huge old stumps were often set afire by my grandfather, with us gathered around to roast wieners. The old shed at the top of the hill, overlooking the creek, had been their home at one time, as my grandfather had built their house. They were not rich by monetary standards, but they were rich in forest. I can still picture looking out their huge kitchen window looking out at their forest.

When I was eight, my two older brothers, my older sister, and I climbed into our station wagon for the drive to the new property my parents had bought at Deka Lake, about 45 kilometres north of 100 Mile House. I'll never forget arriving at the lot, though it felt like it took forever sitting in that hot car with the windows rolled up to keep out the dust from the gravel road after we turned off at Lone Butte. Me with my sticky brothers crammed in the back seat. There was no driveway when we arrived, just a stand of skinny Lodgepole Pines, Subalpine Fir, White Spruce, and a few Trembling Aspen. We had to get out and start clearing for a makeshift driveway. Later came a tent trailer and a 17' trailer to sleep in, with a structure we called the "Panacake House," framed of Lodgepole pines. We discovered an old, abandoned mill where we found the slabs of wood. We peeled logs and my uncle installed a large tarp for a makeshift roof. Old kitchen cupboards and a Klondike stove were installed; where we dried our jeans, that stiffened like the stove pipes when they dried out. Many years later, a cabin was built on the property with a small view of the lake. No running water, an outhouse and no electricity til much later. The only thing allowed was a radio. I traipsed through the forests of that region, often cutting off corners to

remove kilometres of walking to Sulphurous Lake, the closest store, about 10–15 km away. The best memories were around the campfire; guitars, the harmonica, the occasional fiddle and beautiful voices singing all the old songs. My father and mother both had beautiful singing voices.

An embedded memory is the smell of Cedar with a touch of Old Spice, my father's scent, carried from the mill. He had worked as a saw filer, millwright and superintendent for Huntington and Merrit and S&W Shake and Shingle at different times. He took me on Saturdays. When he came home from a long day at work and I would untie his work boots and ease them off. The smell would linger, wrapping me in the fragrance of Cedar dust, worn leather, and that hint of Old Spice, a scent that has stayed with me all my life, capable of bringing me to tears even all these years later.

Some of my favorite shows growing up were This Old House, The New Yankee Workshop with Norm Abram, and The Woodwright's Shop. I loved watching skilled hands at work, cutting joinery, shaping wood, and building something from nothing. I also had a soft spot for any cooking or baking shows.

My first encounter with the BCLTIA was in 2014. I had started cold-calling members; my job was to get them to move away from using lag bolts that had to be pre-drilled and teach them about self-tapping wood screws, as well as lifting anchors that allowed them to lift logs in the yard, load trucks, and assemble without damaging the logs appearance or the challenge of cutting off straps. The graciousness of these people was extraordinary. You must understand, I had never worked in this industry, I had worked in the restaurant industry, Riverview Hospital, a Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, across North America implementing software, and had owned and operated my bakery cafe. Who was I to teach these guys anything about their industry? They had been building incredible structures for years. Their talent and artistry were far beyond anything I had encountered.

I'll never forget Mark Deagle, who bought lifting anchors from me. He called one day from an installation site in the US and said, "Denise, I never call anyone when I'm doing an install, but these anchors are saving us so much time." He explained how, usually, they had to unload trucks in the yard before assembly, but now they could go straight to assembly using the lifting anchors. I asked if I could share his story with others, and as with the

generosity and knowledge sharing in this industry, he said yes. I called everyone in the BCLTIA at that time and shared the story, helping log and timber builders benefit. I remember visiting Artisan Log and Timber Homes to film a video of flying logs with Josh, Jordan, and George. And visiting Oliver Tritten at his yard on one of my road trips to visit all the builders, Oliver let me peel some logs as I came with some experience. John Boys deserves a special mention, from the very beginning, he has always spoken to me as if I already understood, patiently guiding me and never ever talking down to me. He has taught me more than I can put into words. He has a generosity of spirit with a willingness to share his knowledge; he's nothing short of extraordinary. Time and again, he gave his time, insight, and encouragement without hesitation, and that generosity has had a lasting impact on me. I am deeply grateful for everything John has shared and for the respect he has always shown. Dai Ona, a true master, has always show me a courtesy and respect I haven't ever deserved. It has been my honour to serve the BCLTIA members, though I can't mention them all here.

I have attended many BCLTIA conferences over the years, and I would always leave with a feeling of passion, excitement, something I struggled to describe, but it bubbles up in me. I've had the same feeling at International Mass Timber conferences in Portland, Oregon. After a year away from the industry, I joined the Simpson Strong-Tie team, a story for another time, and encouraged Simpson to attend the BCLTIA conferences. This is the third year we attended and it was at this one, during Sigi's presentation, it finally hit me what it is that gets me every time: it's HOPE. Hope for the future, hope that there are still genuinely good people in this world, hope for future generations and for our planet. The members of this organization aren't driven by money, power, or greed. They care deeply about their families, their workforce families, the community, the next generation, and the planet, and they use all their talent and gifts to make a difference. All of this resonates deeply with who I am. Attending feels like coming home. I have such profound love and respect for these people, and now, with significant family members no longer with me, that feeling reaches to the marrow of my bones. I'm excited for the future of Mass and Heavy Timber. I know many of you helped John Boys install some of the very first projects in Mass Timber, as you were the only ones who knew how to move heavy timber. You are all pioneers of this industry. The projects I've viewed on your websites blow me away. I want to humbly thank you all for your generosity and kindness extended to me over these years. I didn't come to the table with much to offer, but you never made me feel like I didn't belong. Thank you, from the very depths of my heart. It's so good to be back. Can't wait to see you all at the 30-year BCLTIA conference in Harrison Hot Springs.





BCLTBIA 2026 Conference Gallery

Where Wood and Craftsmanship Come Together

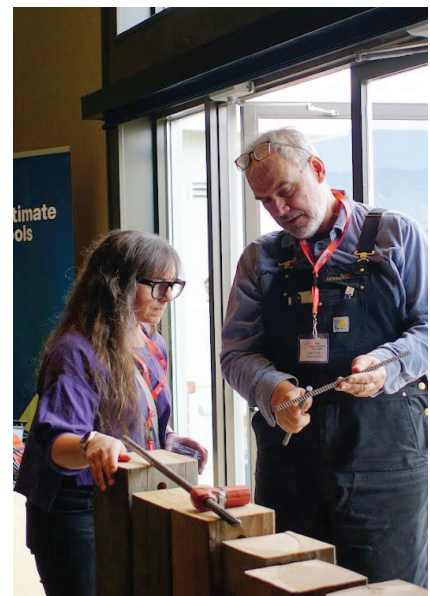


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BCLTBIA 2026 Conference Gallery

Where Wood and Craftsmanship Come Together



Our Newsletters are a great way to connect with the best builders and suppliers for our industry.

Where Innovation Meets Tradition

Darla Norman | darla@dltimbertech.com

For the past five years, D&L Timber Technologies Ltd. has proudly embraced a vision where innovation meets tradition. Since taking ownership, Kirk Forbes has guided the company toward new horizons, driven by a passion for craftsmanship and forward-thinking development.

With a fully integrated production line and the creative freedom to explore new ideas through research, development, and collaboration, our team continues to push boundaries. This evolution is enabling us to introduce new tools and solutions to the log and timber industry—an industry that continues to inspire us with its blend of skill, artistry, and precision. There is nothing more rewarding than stepping back and admiring a finished project built with pride and expertise.

This commitment to innovation and excellence has opened new doors, including invitations from several valued customers to join the BCLTBIA group. This opportunity fosters meaningful discussions and collaboration, strengthening connections across the industry.

A highlight of this journey was our recent experience at the March 20–22 conference in Salmon Arm, BC. We were honored to be invited by Artisan Log and Timber Homes, where Josh and Jordan generously hosted a tour and demonstration at their impressive facility in Tappen, BC.

The tour showcased innovation in action. Their expansive workspace features a full overhead log lifting hoist system, allowing for efficient handling of large materials. One of the standout demonstrations highlighted a custom lathe working seamlessly alongside our D&L Timber Technologies 180° 1020 Ultra Body SwingBlade sawmill with their planer setup. This integration enables precise angles and transitions that would otherwise require extensive manual labor—an inspiring example of how technology can enhance craftsmanship.

The conference itself was equally enriching. We attended a range of presentations and witnessed live demonstrations of mortise and tenon joinery techniques, each using different connection methods. One of the most memorable moments was watching teams test the strength of their joints against a powerful hydraulic press—an event filled with energy, laughter, and friendly competition.

The experience reinforced a simple but powerful philosophy: “A day without learning is a day wasted.” The knowledge gained—from innovative practices and procedures to meaningful networking within the log and timber community—was invaluable.

This was more than just a conference; it was a weekend of inspiration, education, and connection. Experiences like these continue to fuel our passion and commitment to advancing the industry while honoring the traditions that define it.

We look forward to what lies ahead.





Our Newsletters are a great way to connect with the best builders and suppliers for our industry.

Where Brute Force and Craftsmanship Collide

Maik Gehloff | mgehloff@gehloff-consulting.com

The 2026 Salmon Arm Connection Workshop

The 2026 conference provided a comprehensive look into timber joinery, perfectly reflecting our theme: “Where Wood and Craftsmanship Come Together”

This journey allowed members to move from theoretical engineering on Friday to high-stakes, hands-on testing on Saturday. The exploration began on Friday, March 20, with the afternoon session “Connection Engineering - From Heritage to Contemporary” presented by Robin Zirnhelt. This session offered a vital overview of how timber connections have evolved. It provided the necessary engineering context, spanning from heritage wood-to-wood joinery to modern, high-capacity fasteners. Even some inventive testing had been showcased “cowboy engineering”, when a little extra confidence or convincing was required.

This theoretical background set the stage for Saturday March 21 and its journey from creation to destruction, which was dedicated to hands-on building to our own version of “cowboy engineering” or joint busting to be more specific. The morning kicked off with the “Connections Hands-on Workshop”, where members prepared a diverse array of samples. The workshop featured a mix of connections built on-site using materials provided by association members and tools provided by our conference sponsor, Ultimate Tools as well as other association members.

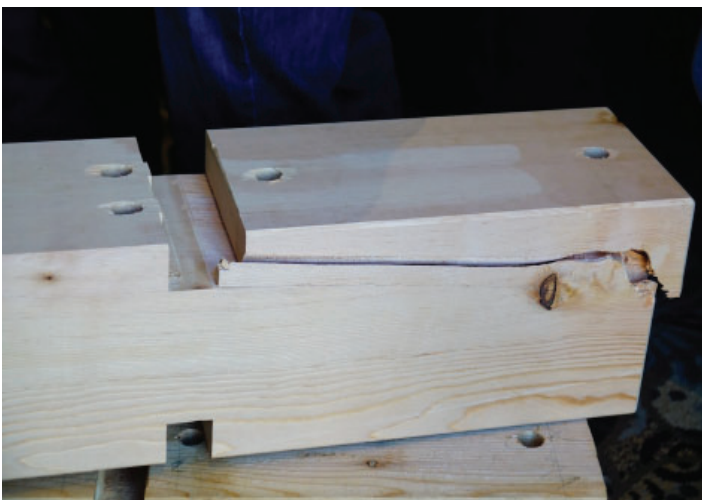
Other attendees brought prefabricated joints they had built in their own shops, following strict dimensional requirements to fit the testing rig and destined to meet their fate alongside their conference build counterparts.

The day culminated in the “Connection Testing in Action” session. Using a custom-designed vertical rig with a maximum capacity of ~178 kN (~40,000 lbf), we applied hydraulic pressure to 14 different connections until they reached their ultimate failure points.

Engineering Analysis: Insights from the Rig

The results from the day provided more than just raw numbers; they offered a lesson in engineering rigor. It is important to note that direct comparisons are only possible between like samples, for example, comparing the performance of threaded rods versus rebar within the same embedment length and number of embedded rods. While we cannot compare a screw-based connection directly to a through-tenon in a competitive sense, the data clearly showed that engineering principles must be strictly followed to ensure proper bolt and dowel spacing are followed to ensure the integrity and safety of the connection.

However, the testing also proved that traditional wood-to-wood joinery methods have a powerful place in modern design. When designed and built correctly, these time-honored and proven



techniques can exhibit incredible strength. This was most evident in Test #8, where a 2" through tenon outperformed, every other connection tested, showing the enduring value of precision craftsmanship.

With engineering and ultimately building bolted/doweled connections the principal of bolt and dowel spacing are critical because they determine whether a joint fails predictably or catastrophically. The results from the workshop provide clear examples of how these distances, specifically end distance and edge distance, impact structural integrity.

Splitting and Tension Perpendicular to Grain can also cause issues as was evident in Test #14, the connection reached only 36.0 kN (8,093 lbf) before failing due to lower beam splitting. This failure mode is a classic example of what happens when engineering rigor for edge spacing or

fastener grouping is overlooked. When dowels or reinforcement screws are placed too close to each other or to the edge of the timber, they can act like a wedge, causing the wood to split along the grain long before reaching its theoretical load capacity.

The Critical Nature of "Relish" (End Distance) is something to keep in mind when designing traditional mortise and tenon connections. The most impressive performance came from Test #8, a 2" thick through tenon with two 2" diameter oak pegs, which reached 132.0 kN (29,674 lbf). However, it eventually failed due to shear in the tenon relish. "Relish" is the timber material between the peg hole and the end of the tenon. This failure proves that no matter how thick the tenon or how strong the pegs, the connection is ultimately limited by the amount of wood left to resist the "shear-out" force. If the

continues on page16



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pegs are placed too close to the end, the wood will shear before the full strength of the pegs are even tested.

Peg size on the other hand does play a role as we also witnessed in a couple tests, where the pegs themselves failed in shear. In short, mortise and tenon joints are a balancing act between tenon size (length and thickness) as well as peg size, wood species and placement.

When it came to glued in systems we got to observe the three main failure modes; embed element failure in tension, withdrawal of the element, as well the failure of the retaining washer when only one side of the element is glued in. We tested a large diameter threaded rod glued in on one side and secured with a large malleable iron washer on the other side. This resulted compression perpendicular to the grain and ultimately a complete failure of the brittle washer. When comparing a ½” diameter glued



in threaded rod with a ½” diameter glued in rebar, both embedded 5”, we saw the threaded rod itself fail in tension at 45.5 kN (10,229 lbf) while the rebar withdrew from the wood at 51 kN (11465 lbf). When it came to self-tapping screws, the failure we saw during our tests was the eventual withdrawal of the screws.

In addition to the specific joint test results, it is important to note that the custom vertical rig applied load to the vertical timber member in shear in order to generate the required force. During testing, some failures were observed in the wood at the loading points rather than at the connections themselves. Similar behavior was noted in another set of glued-in rod samples, which used 1/2” threaded rod and rebar. In this case, two rods were embedded to a depth of 7 inches, and wood failure again occurred at the loading locations instead of at the connections.

These failures were often caused by pre-existing splits in the timber, which clearly demonstrated that the rig’s maximum theoretical capacity of ~178 kN (~40,000 lbf) cannot be reached if the wood quality is compromised. This underscores a vital lesson for every builder: a trained and keen eye, combined with a deep understanding of how forces are transferred through the wood, is essential to ensure a connection is truly sound. In several tests, the quality of the wood meant the shear connection “had no chance” against the brute force of the rig, proving that the strength of a structure is always limited by its weakest point. Or, to say it with the words of the title of this very article; **Where Brute Force and Craftsmanship Collide.**

While this article provides a summary of the Connections Testing during our last AGM and Conference in Salmon Arm, stay tuned for a future newsletter going into a few more specifics of each test.

BCLTBIA NEWSLETTER Welcomes Advertising

Deadline for Summer Issue is June 1st
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Amendments to Parts 8 and 31 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation

Michael Paine | Michael.Paine@worksafebc.com

Amendments to Parts 8 & 31 of the OHS Regulation, relating to safety headgear and respiratory protection standards, take effect on April 1, 2026.

In addition to our industry communications, information about the amendments will be distributed more broadly through our website, Health and Safety Enews, and WorkSafeMagazine.

For more information on these amendments, see the Board of Directors decision document on our website.

Effective April 1, 2026

Amendments to Parts 8 and 31 of the *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulation* come into effect on April 1, 2026. These amendments update references to selected safety headgear and respiratory protection standards.

• Respiratory protection (Parts 8 and 31)

References to older editions of CSA Z94.4 are updated to CAN/CSA Z94.4-18, the most current fully published and validated edition of the standard. Updates apply to sections 8.33, 8.41, 8.44, 8.45, and 31.26.

The amendments are to:

- Bring the OHS Regulation in line with OHS guidelines
- Reflect standards already widely used and accepted in practice
- Provide greater clarity and consistency with current practices across workplaces in B.C.

These amendments do not introduce new obligations or additional requirements for employers or workers.

What's Changing?

The amendments update references to the following standards in the OHS Regulation:

• Safety headgear (Part 8)

Two additional acceptable standards are formally adopted under section 8.13(1):

- ASTM F1447-06 — Defines minimum performance requirements for recreational bicycle and roller-skating helmets, focusing on impact protection, stability, and strap strength.
- Snell B-90A — An enhanced version of Snell's 1990 bicycle helmet standard, adding stricter testing and additional performance requirements.

Technical standards evolve over time. WorkSafeBC reviews updates through subject matter experts and typically accepts newer standards first through OHS Guidelines. When appropriate, the Regulation is then updated to reflect those accepted standards.

For more information:

- Board of Directors decision: Amendments to Parts 8 and 31 – Standards Updates
- OHS Guidelines Part 8: Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment
- OHS Guidelines Part 31: Firefighting
- OHS Regulation Part 8: Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment
- OHS Regulation Part 31: Firefighting

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2026 Grand Champion of the Chainsaw Standoff

The 2026 Grand Champion of the Chainsaw Standoff was Gardell Bauman of Diamond B Builders, outlasting the competition in an impressive display of strength and endurance!

Several members participated in this fun-filled event on Friday evening. We look forward to seeing who will take home the 2027 Championship at next year’s conference.



Rafael Bieler (L) and Eric Smith (R)



Josh Littler (L) and Kevin Simoes (R)



Sam Zirnhelt (L), BCLTBIA President, congratulates Gardell Bauman (R) Grand Champion of the Chainsaw Standoff

We are not launching to the dark side of the moon!...



...BCLTBIA is launching UPDATED WEBSITE sometime this Spring... stay tuned.

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