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**Matt Kachel, Capital Projects Supervisor**



# Big Beams and Big Dreams

Anyone who has walked by Westsyde Pool and Fitness Centre lately may have noticed things are looking a little bit different. On Friday, October 14, the pool's roof was lifted off, meaning that demolition is almost complete and reconstruction is underway.

From the start of this project in April 2016, the City has been looking for opportunities to make sustainable choices and salvage reusable materials. When the pool's roof was removed and it was determined that nine of the 70 ft. glulam (glue laminated timber) beams were salvageable, the decision to repurpose the beams was an easy one.

Prior to their removal, the glulam beams supported the pool roof. Over time, the ends of the beams had started to rot, compromising their structural integrity.

Because the beams played such an important role in the structure of the building, their removal required the complete demolition of the pool's supporting structure.

City Capital Projects Supervisor, Matt Kachel,

explains, "we have to rebuild everything: the super structure, which is the part you see; and the sub-structure, which is the concrete footings and foundations in the ground."

The new Westsyde Pool roof structure will feature steel support beams similar to the beams at the Tournament Capital Centre.



**Above:** The original roof of the Westsyde Pool, prior to its removal on October 14, 2016.

## What are Glulam Beams?

Glulam beams are both strong and durable and can be used for everything from bridges to open ceilings. They are found in residential and commercial builds. While they have the potential to last hundreds of years, they can also be impacted by their environment. In the case of the Westsyde Pool, the beams

were exposed to a damp environment for over 40 years. Consequently, they started to break down.

Kachel emphasized that the rotting that had occurred was mostly contained to the ends of the beams. This means the majority of the beams can be salvaged and repurposed.

amenities. For now, the beams are in storage, but plans are in the works to repurpose them. Barb Berger, the City's Recreation, Social Development, and Cultural Manager, is imagining a second life for the beams and explains, "they will be ideal for creating a number of new amenities in our parks: post and beam structures, picnic areas, covered



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sites, all of which will enhance enjoyment within our parks."

Stay tuned as we bring you updates in the weeks to come.



## Westsyde in the Weeks to Come

As the Westsyde Pool and Fitness Centre renovations continue, PRCS staff encourage Westsyde residents to consult the Winter Activity Guide for programming in alternate venues and look forward to working with the Westsyde community to determine programming for the reopening of the Westsyde pool and fitness centre in late winter, early spring.

There was a tremendous response to a survey conducted this past fall, which will help form the operational priorities of the facility.



**Above:** Glulams in the main structure.



**Above:** The building after demolition.



Canada's Tournament Capital

### Construction Updates:

<http://www.kamloops.ca/capitalprojects/16-WestsydePool.shtml>

### Construction Photos:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/city-kamloops/albums/72157672265914882>