



Lakeland Mills Ltd.

July 22, 2013

Lakeland Mills starts construction on North America's newest sawmill

PRINCE GEORGE — With the dumping of a load of ceremonial sod, Ed Langan signaled the official start of construction on the new Lakeland Mills sawmill in Prince George today. Langan was among a group of Lakeland employees helping to celebrate the happy event for the company and the community.

“I’m glad I got to be here today to help kick off this project,” said Langan, a loader operator who will celebrate 40 years of employment at Lakeland on July 30. “It was a terrible thing that happened last year, but it feels good to be getting on with construction. I’m looking forward to the new mill opening next year.”

The sawmill at Lakeland exploded and burned to the ground on April 23, 2012. Two employees, Al Little and Glenn Roche, lost their lives and 22 employees were injured. Lakeland announced in March that it would rebuild the mill.

“We wish this tragedy had never happened, but we are committed to learning from the experience,” said Greg Stewart, president of Sinclar Group Forest Products, of which Lakeland Mills is a division. “This new sawmill will be a specialized, future-looking mill that will meet the needs of our employees from the perspective of health, safety and a welcoming working environment.”

Foundations are already being poured for the new mill, which marks the start of construction. The mill is expected to open by late summer 2014.

“We committed to our employees, their families and the community that we would rebuild, and today is a significant milestone in making that happen,” said Stewart. “Lakeland has been here for 50 years, and I look forward to the day a little over a year from now when we can celebrate the start of the next half century.”

The mill will continue to produce stud lumber, with the ability to manufacture metric lengths in addition to the American Lumber Standard. It is expected to have a capacity of approximately 200 million board feet. It will be integrated with the existing planer mill, which is still operational, and the energy system Lakeland operates in partnership with the City of Prince George.

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