Building a Community Asset

Photo: UNBC Office of Communications

"Spectacular!" *was the first word Godfrey Medhurst proclaimed when asked to comment on the Behlen Corr-Span Roof System that Colony erected for the University of Northern British Columbia's new sports complex in Prince George during one of the province's most difficult years weather-wise. "We had some very severe weather and we were 30 below with quite high winds which kind of slowed it down a bit, but it really accelerated towards the end" spoke Godfrey, the Director of Planning/Capital Projects for the University.*

The new Northern Sports Centre is expected to be a hub of activity and will be utilized as a Provincial training centre as well as an official training centre for the upcoming 2010 Winter Olympics. The future wasn't always as bright for the complex as initially there were struggles meeting tight construction budgets. "The Corr-Span Roof System was instrumental in bringing the project in on budget" spoke Brian Savage, Vice President of Western Industrial Contractors Ltd. out of Prince George, the General Contractor on the project as well as one of the new complexes strongest supporters. "Shawn was good enough to join the team late in the game when we were looking at a conventional structure. He proposed an alternate roof structure which enabled us to bring the project in on budget and ultimately get the project awarded by the Client." Shawn Lochbaum is Colony's Vice-President in charge of project development and was pleased to have been of assistance in seeing this project get out of the ground, but there was more.

"When we first saw the design it actually showed a series of columns down the centre" Godfrey reported."But Colony managed to do away with those and span the 62 metres with a single span, which has really allowed us more versatility. We can use it for football and all sorts of things now, which we wouldn't have been able to do, so everybody's just amazed at how it spans. A beautiful open span." The economical clear span capabilities of the Behlen Corr-Span Roof System made it possible to utilize the entire interior of the building, free of columns, an important feature for recreational facilities.

The Behlen Corr-Span roofing system creates a visually pleasing environment, with its unsurpassed reflectivity, phenomenal view, and clean finish. Godfrey noticed this right away and was also very pleased with the ceiling system incorporated into every Behlen Corr-Span Roof. "Actually, I like the inside of the building when you are looking up at it, instead of looking at all the girders and trusses you're seeing this nice white enamel finish that is really quite striking" he remarked. The Behlen Corr-Span ceiling not only provides a finished appearance to the building, it is also functional as an energy saver by allowing the blown in insulation to be lower in the structure providing less space to heat or cool. This resulted in less demand on the energy system designed to heat or cool the complex which allowed further savings in the cost for same system, not to mention the savings in the on going operational costs eventually enjoyed by the University.

UNBC's new sports complex in Prince George
Photo: Western Industrial Contractors Ltd.

Perhaps the greatest compliment came from Rob van Adrichem the Director of Media and Public Relations for UNBC when he said "I think it's a work of art and I really think it's been a magnificent thing to watch being installed over that building. I love it." Colony has now completed the work and the much anticipated facility is due for completion in the fall of this year. Colony is proud to have played a role in the very successful development of this wonderful community asset.