

Soon to be standing tall and proud, logs from Western Forest Products will form the new masts of the San Juan Bautista, a Japanese ship that survived the 2011 Tsunami.

Western In the Community

San Juan Bautista Mast Donation

May 2012—Western Forest Products will be assisting the Miyagi Prefectural Government in their efforts to repair the San Juan Bautista replica sailing ship. Five logs from Western's Coastal BC tenure have been donated to be used to form two replacement masts for the ship.

Reconstructed in 1993, the new San Juan Bautista is a replica of one of the country's first Japanese-built Western-style sailing ships. Located in the town of Ishinomaki, the ship is considered to be one of the major tourist attractions in the area. Originally built in 1613, this ship was commissioned by the Shogun to transport an envoy to the Pope in Rome to open trading lines. Crossing the Pacific Ocean, she successfully completed this mission in 1614.

When the 2011 tsunami struck the Sendai region, the replica somehow remained intact. The ship received minor damages; however, the fore mast and main mast were swept into the ocean. Choosing to use the ship as a symbol of the town's recovery, the local government has initiated an effort to restore the replica as soon as possible. Western is excited to assist in this project.

It was during their latest trip to Japan that Lee Doney, Western's Vice Chairman and Bruce St. John, General Manager, Whitewood Sales for Western learned of the Miyagi Prefectural Government's plan to repair the San Juan Bautista. "As soon as we learned of the damaged ship we were hoping to support the recovery program wherever possible," says Doney. The two met with the Canada Wood Group and discussed the surrounding details of this donation. Doney adds, "It required some planning to get the appropriate logs to the project and couldn't have been done without the support of the Provincial and Federal governments through the Canada Wood Export Program."



Western is proud to supply the high quality logs that are required for the masts of the San Juan Bautista. The logs come from sustainably managed, certified, forests on Vancouver Island. Shipping is scheduled for April, due to arrive in May at the Ishinomaki Port. It is here that the logs will be dried, peeled, debarked and in order to meet the required dimensions of the masts.

Western's ties to Japan go back almost 100 years and Japan remains a key market segment for our company. Western has 60% of Japan's coastal market share because of our long commitment and high quality products. We operate two offices located in Osaka and Tokyo to better serve our customer base. In addition to the donation of masts for the restoration of this important heritage vessel, Western has also contributed to a joint industry – government rebuilding fund which will showcase our products in specific public projects in the impacted region. The Japanese market and community is extremely important to Western and we are pleased to support this reconstruction program. "We will all be looking forward to seeing Western Forest Products' masts standing tall and proud on the resilient San Juan Bautista ship".

