

VENUES GEARING UP FOR THE OLYMPICS

THE PROVINCE | The 2010 Winter Games are three years away and all projects in Whistler and the Lower Mainland are on schedule and on budget, Vanoc says



WHISTLER CREEKSIDE

Sports: Alpine skiing
Type: Renovation
Original cost: \$23.1 million
Updated estimate: \$26.2 million
Original (new) start of construction: June 2005 (June, 2006)
Original (new) completion date: November 2007 (October 2007)

Contractor: Whistler Blackcomb

Scope change: Originally the alpine technical events were to be held at Blackcomb, but Vanoc and the IOC agreed to combine all events at Creekside. Vanoc says 90 per cent of the course grading and 50 per cent of the snowmaking pipe work is complete, with the majority of high-voltage electrical work also done. This year the rest of the snowmaking equipment will be installed, with the venue ready this fall.



WHISTLER NORDIC (Callaghan Valley)

Sports: Biathlon, cross-country skiing, ski jumping, nordic combined
Type: New
Original cost: \$102 million
Updated estimate: \$115.7 million
Original (new) start of construction: April 2004 (June, 2005)
Original (new) completion date: June 2007 (October 2007)

Project design team headed by: Sandwell Engineering
Scope change: This venue underwent massive changes to rein in rising costs. The ski jumps, once planned to be permanent, are being made temporary. The trails have been scaled back and some of the buildings reduced in size or made temporary. Vanoc says it will complete the competition venues this year, although a federal government report indicates it won't be finished until August 2008.



WHISTLER SLIDING CENTRE

Sports: Bobsleigh, luge, skeleton
Type: New
Original cost: \$55 million
Updated estimate: \$99.9 million
Original (new) start of construction: March 2005 (June 2005)
Original (new) completion date: May 2007 (December 2007)

Master Designer: Stantec Inc.

Scope change: This had perhaps the single-biggest increase in venue costs because of the rising price of steel and concrete and shortage of workers. It also had an inadequate contingency fund. Vanoc says 35 per cent of the track is complete, and work will be finished this year when snow melts.



WHISTLER BROADCAST AND PRESS CENTRE

Event: Main mountain centre for broadcasters and media
Type: Renovation
Original cost: \$7 million (Vanoc: \$3 million)
Updated estimate: same
Start date of construction: 2005
Completion: 2005

Scope change: Vanoc says following the Turin 2006 Games, it became clear it needed a broadcast and press centre in Whistler. The upgrade, including increasing space, had been planned by the municipality for years. Vanoc's amount was capped as a contribution.



ATHLETES' VILLAGE WHISTLER

Event: Accommodation and amenities for Olympic and Paralympic athletes
Type: New
Original cost: \$98 million (Vanoc: \$32.5 million)
Updated estimate: \$131 million (Vanoc: \$31 million)
Original (new) start of construction: August 2004 (March 2007)
Original (new) completion date: September 2009 (no change)
No. of beds (now): 2,050 (2,400)
Project Manager: Whistler-owned Whistler 2020 Development Corp.

Scope change: Originally planned for the Callaghan Valley, it was moved to Cheakamus Valley and boosted in size at the request of the IOC. Whistler did design work and cleared the land last year. Post-Games most of the units will be used for resident-restricted housing to help Whistler's tight housing market.



ATHLETES' CENTRE

Event: Accommodation, training and administration service for athletes
Type: new
Original cost: \$19 million
Updated estimate: \$16 million (Vanoc: \$16 million)
Original (new) start of construction: April 2006 (May 2007)
Original (new) completion date: September 2009 (October 2009)
Contractor: Vanoc

Scope change: The facility will be a permanent Olympic legacy to Whistler, as accommodation for athletes in training. During the Games it will house 360 athletes and will have a high-performance training facility.



WHISTLER CELEBRATION SITE

Event: Nightly celebrations
Type: Permanent
Original cost: Unknown
Updated estimate: \$3.5 million
Start of construction: 2007
Completion: 2009 (estimated)
Contractor: To be determined

Scope change: Last August, Vanoc scrapped a planned sledge hockey arena in Whistler because of rising municipal costs. It paid Whistler a \$2 million cancellation fee, and also pledged a minimum of \$3 million more to help build a permanent celebration site near the once-proposed arena. Originally Vanoc planned nightly celebrations for a temporary site at the golf course.

THE DAILY SPECIAL



PACIFIC COLISEUM AND AGRODOME

Sports: Figure skating, short-track speed-skating
Type: Renovation

Original cost: \$23.1 million
Updated estimate: \$25.7 million
Original (new) start date of construction: September 2007 (May 2006)
Original (new) completion date: March 2009 (December 2007)

Contractor: To be determined.
Scope change: Vanoc has scrapped a temporary training facility but has finished most work on the Coliseum. It hopes to scrap plans to use the Agrodome, a designated figure skating training facility, in favour of new arenas at Killarney and Trout Lake. The early replacement of Coliseum seating for the 2005 World Junior Hockey Championships allowed Vanoc a head start on renovations. Vanoc says refrigeration, dehumidification and renovation works are under design and the goal for this year is to finish refrigeration, electrical and lighting upgrades.



BC PLACE

Events: Opening and closing ceremonies, and nightly medal presentations.

Type: renovation
Original cost: \$2.5 million from Vanoc, with undetermined amount from BC Pavilion Corp.
Updated estimate: \$3.8 million (Vanoc: \$2.5 million)
Start of construction: June 2007 (no change)
Completion: December 2008 (no change)

Contractor: To be determined
Scope change: The accidental deflation of the roof in January hasn't deterred Vanoc. But it has sharpened debate over the building's post-Games future. Vanoc's capital contribution is mostly for the Paralympic ceremonies. It is renovating access and washrooms for people with disabilities. B.C. Pavilion Corp is undertaking renovations as well but hasn't released a cost estimate.



UNIVERSITY OF B.C. WINTER SPORTS CENTRE

Sports: Hockey and Paralympic sledge hockey
Type: New and renovated

Original cost: \$35.8 million
Updated estimate: \$47.8 million (Vanoc: \$37.6 million)
Original (new) start of construction: August 2005 (April 2006)
Original (new) completion: October 2007, (April 2008)

Contractor: Bird Design Build
Scope change: Originally slated to be a two-sheet arena, the project was increased to include three arenas, including the refurbishment of an existing facility and the construction of a main 5,500-seat arena (7,500 seats at Games-time). Discovery of deep permafrost because of a leaking ice plant forced the excavation of more dirt, raising costs, mostly for the contractor. The site will now also host Paralympic sledge hockey, saving Vanoc nearly \$20 million. Two of the rinks will be ready this year, with erection of structural steel for the main arena now underway.



CYPRESS MOUNTAIN

Sports: Freestyle skiing, snowboard
Type: Renovation

Original cost: \$10.9 million
Updated estimate: \$14.6 million
Original (new) start date of construction: June 2005 (May 2006)
Original (new) completion date: November 2007

Contractor: Cypress Bowl Recreation
Scope change: Vanoc sourced the contract to Cypress's operators, who finished the freestyle moguls course last fall. This year Vanoc says all other parts of the venue, including snow-making, snowboard half-pipe and snow cross course will be finished.



VANCOUVER CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

Use: Broadcast centre (new building), main media centre (existing Five Sails building)
Type: New building, renovations to existing

Original cost: \$565 million (federal, provincial, tourism funding)
Updated estimate: \$615 million
Start of construction: November 2004
Expected completion: End of 2008. Vanoc moves in: Fall 2009

Construction manager: Stantec Consulting Inc.
Scope change: Although this new centre isn't part of Vanoc's construction budget, the committee in 2004 saved \$23 million by cancelling a promised International Broadcast Centre in Richmond. It agreed to move broadcasters into the new Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre expansion project, which was already under way. The existing Five Sails centre was always destined for print media use. Construction cost pressures have increased the new project by \$50 million so far. Steel fabrication of building is being done this year.



GENERAL MOTORS PLACE

Sports: Ice Hockey
Type: Renovation

Original cost: \$5 million
Updated estimate: No capital costs, only Games-time renovations
Original (new) start of construction: October 2007 (no change)
Original (new) completion date: August 2008, (no change)

Contractor: To be determined.
Scope change: The cost of changing the arena over to international-sized ice ballooned to \$14.5 million, but last fall the IOC and the International Ice Hockey Federation agreed to play on NHL-sized ice, saving Vanoc all of its capital construction costs. Apart from some minor upgrades, the facility is essentially ready.



ATHLETES' VILLAGE

False Creek South

Event: Accommodation and amenities for Olympic and Paralympic athletes
Type: New

Original cost: \$167.3 million (Vanoc: \$30 million)
Updated estimate: \$315 million (Vanoc: \$30 million)
Original (new) start of construction: March 2004 (March 2006)
Original (new) completion: September 2009 (September 2009)

No. of beds: 2,400
Contractor: Millennium Properties Ltd.
Scope change: The village is one part of a major redevelopment of the city-owned south side of False Creek. Millennium paid \$193 million for the rights to the Olympic village. As a result of the strong sale, the city says its property endowment fund will gain \$64.5 million instead of \$4 million originally projected. Infrastructure work began last year. This year development permits are being issued and foundations will be built. Buildings will rise up in 2008, and Vanoc takes over in November 2009.



VANCOUVER TRAINING VENUES at Killarney and Trout Lake

Event: Training for short-track speed-skating and figure skating.

Type: Replacement
Original Vanoc cost: \$5 million
Updated estimate: \$26.5 million (Vanoc contributes \$5 million)

Start of construction: March 2007 (Killarney), December 2007 (Trout Lake)
Completion: Aug. 2007 (Killarney), July 2009 (Trout Lake)

Contractor: To be determined.
Scope change: Last month Vancouver's park board agreed to delay closing Trout Lake until late 2007 to help minor hockey players affected by the temporary closure for reconstruction. The work includes the replacement of both rinks, two large community projects that have long been on Vancouver's books. Vanoc reduces its exposure by handing the Trout Lake project over to the city, and capping its contribution at \$5 million. It also allows Vanoc to scrap plans for the Hastings Park Agrodome, a figure-skating training facility.



HILLCREST CURLING VENUE

Vancouver

Sports: Curling, wheelchair curling
Type: New

Original cost: \$28.2 million
Updated estimate: \$49.15 million (Vanoc: \$38 million)
Original (new) start date of construction: April 2007 (February 2007)
Original (new) completion date: August 2009, (December 2008)

Construction manager: Stuart Olson Inc.
Scope change: Last fall Vanoc convinced Vancouver to chip in \$11.15 million because of extra construction costs, assume \$12.35 million in post-Games conversion costs for a new community centre, library and curling facility and pay for any additional cost overruns. Vanoc says this year "foundations and shell will be developed followed by majority of outer walls and roof."



SPEEDSKATING OVAL Richmond

Sports: Long-track speedskating
Type: New

Original cost: \$60 million
Updated estimate: \$178 million (Vanoc: \$62.4 million)
Original (new) start of construction: January 2005 (September 2005)
Original (new) completion: April 2007 (August 2008)

Construction manager: Dominion Fairmile Ltd.
Scope change: One of the first venues to be relocated, it was moved to Richmond in 2004 after Vanoc concluded the original bid site at Simon Fraser University was too costly and problematic. Richmond broadened the scope to include redevelopment of a city-owned tract on the Fraser River, including a waterfront plaza, park and parkade. A future commercial and residential development adjacent will help pay for the increased costs. Vanoc says this year "the entire building envelope will be completed. Work will be ongoing on the interior finishing."