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MASS TIMBER INSTITUTE

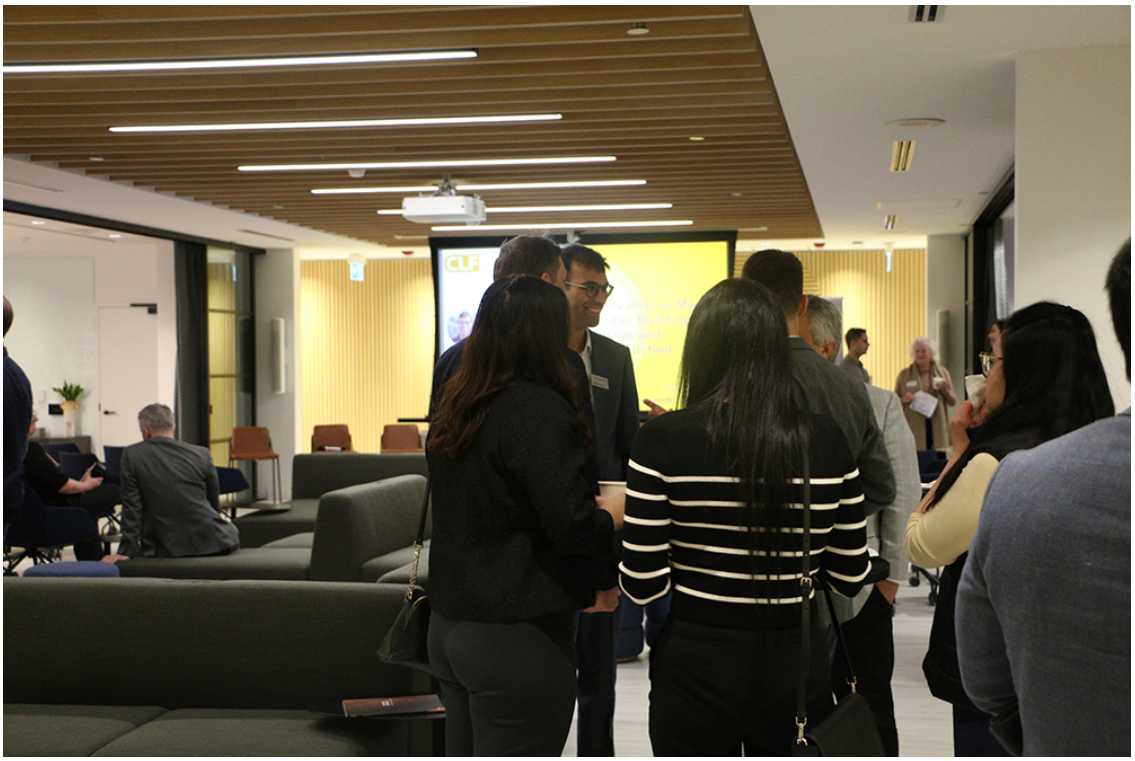
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
JOHN H. DANIELS FACULTY OF
ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, AND DESIGN

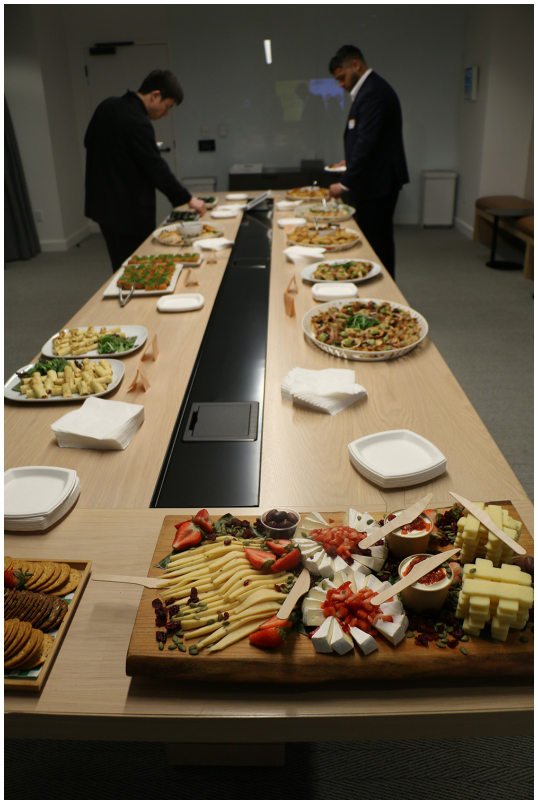
News from MTI

Hello Mass Timber Colleagues!

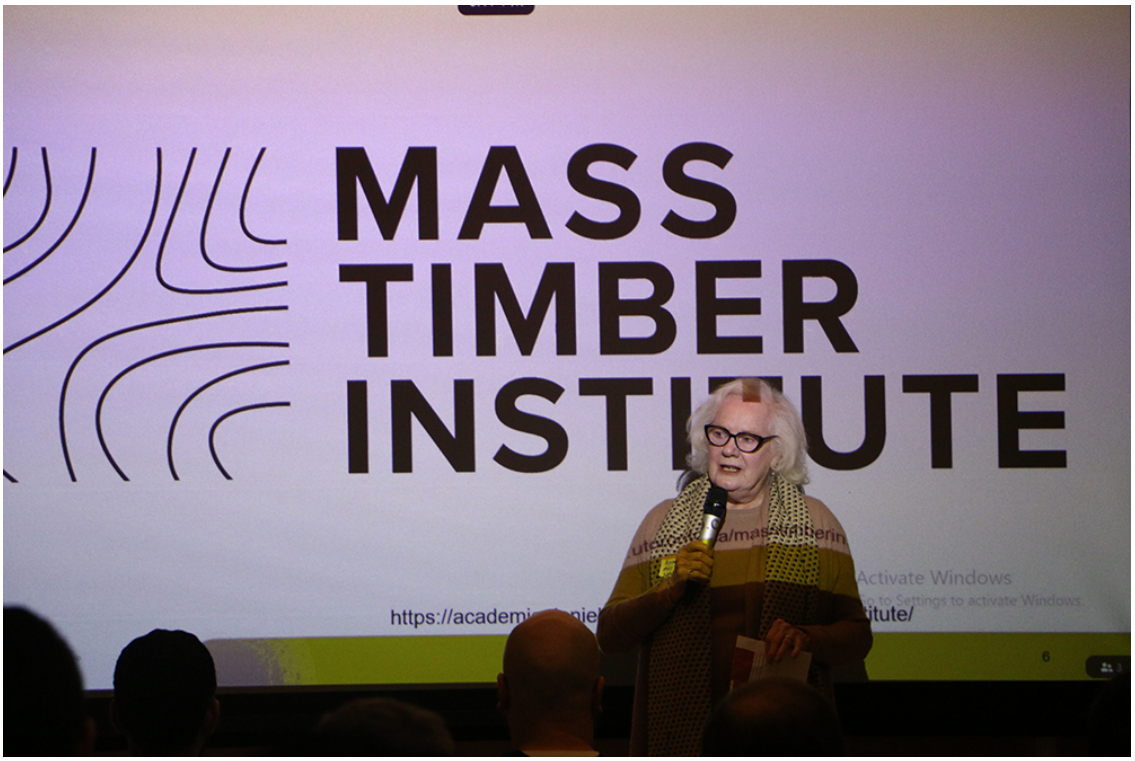
Feature: MTI x CLF Panel Discussion

On March 20th, MTI, the Carbon Leadership Forum (CLF), and DIALOG hosted the *Innovation in Mass Timber Building Design and Construction Panel Discussion*. It was a popular event that sold out two days after its announcement. The Mass Timber Institute's Director, Dr. Anne Koven, kicked off the event followed by presentations from the three panelists. Professor Aryan Rezaei Rad, from the U of T Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering and an MTI associate who talked about digital fabrication technologies and computational design for mass timber, which he is introducing in Canada. Craig Applegath, founding partner of DIALOG's Toronto Studio, talked about the Hybrid. Hailey Quiquero, an engineer with the Canadian Wood Council's Wood Works program who described their support for the mass timber sector. MTI's Robert Wright then moderated the panel discussion around key questions about mass timber demand, supply, and design through the lens of each panelist's expertise. The trajectory of the mass timber construction industry in Canada was contextualized by discussing local policies and current practices in Europe. The sustainability of the supply chain in relation to forest management practices was also discussed. Related to design, panelists brought out the opportunities of mass timber related to pre-fabricated construction and hybrid material assemblies.





Attendees mingle before the presentations.

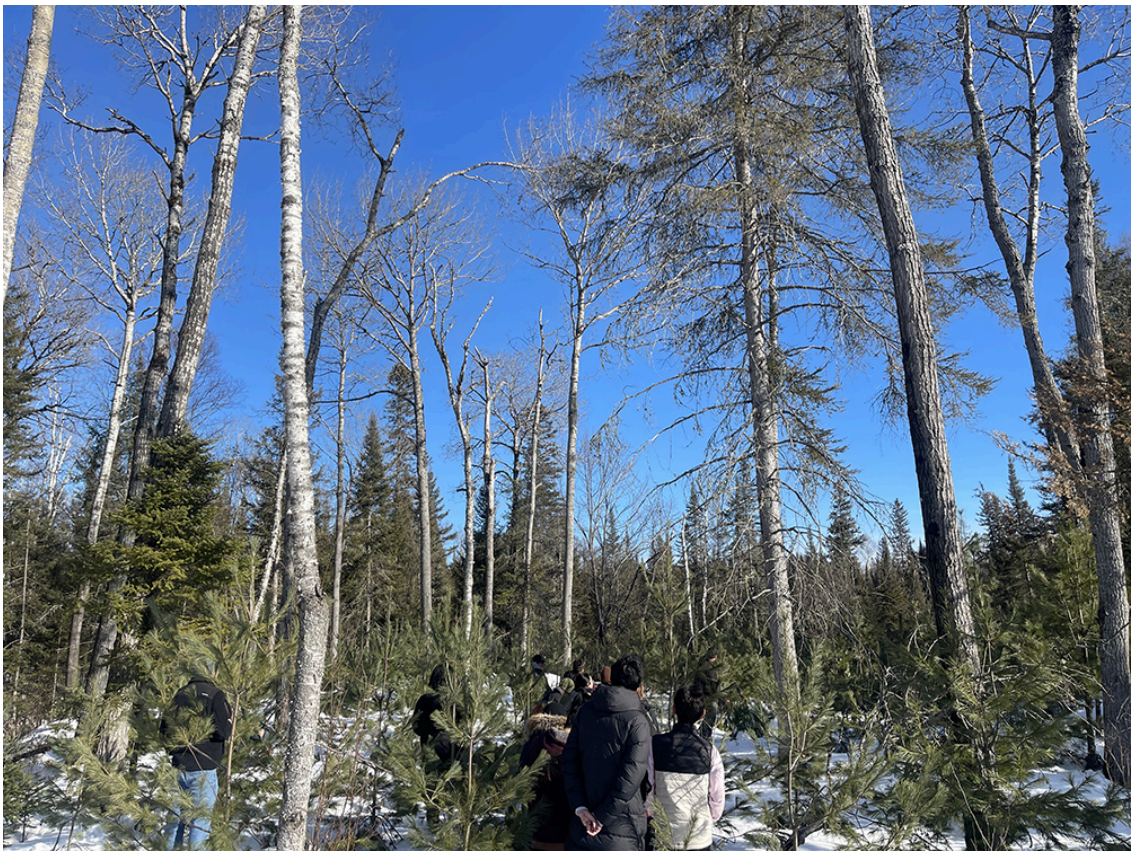


MTI Director Anne Koven introduces the institute as “advancing research and education, two crucial ingredients in the adaptation of mass timber as a building material. Some of us are foresters, some of us are architects, engineers and builders, we represent the story of mass timber from the trees harvested in the forest through the supply chain to the construction of a new building, typically a hybrid of mass timber, concrete and steel. I leave you with the question many of us are asking, ‘HOW CAN WE ENSURE THAT WE PERMANENTLY STORE BIOGENIC CARBON IN OUR CITIES IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A DURABLE HUMAN-MADE CARBON SINK?’”

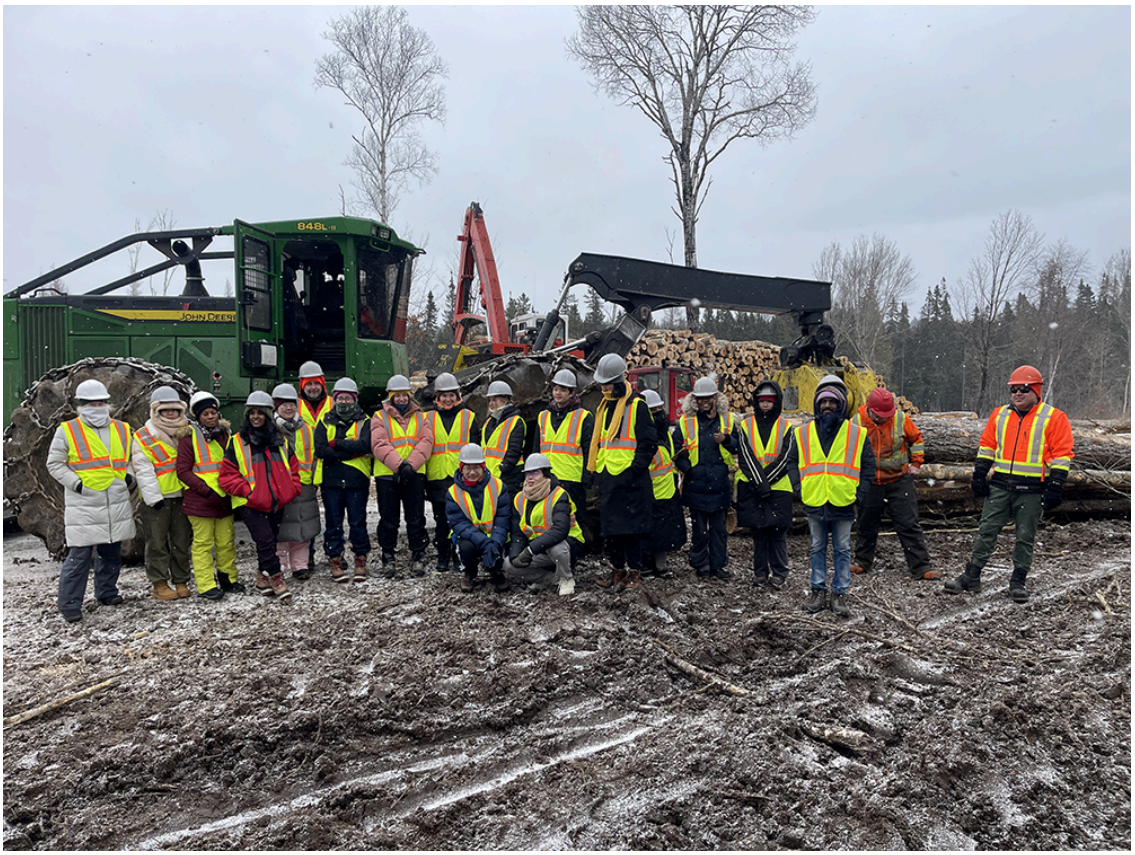
Panelists Craig Applegath, Aryan Rezaei Rad, and Hailey Quiqero discuss following the presentations.

Feature: Mattawa Field Camp

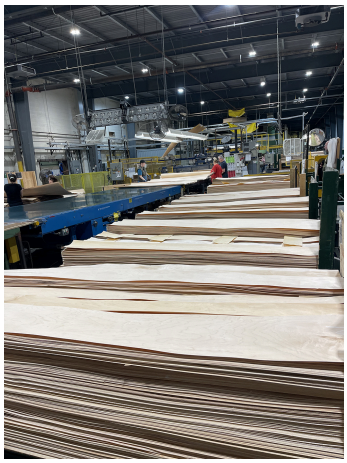
Master of Forest Conservation students from U of T visited the Canadian Ecology Centre (CEC) in Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park located near Mattawa, Ontario to begin an annual 4-day winter field camp which has been held since the 1990s. Students attended presentations by Nipissing Forest Resource Management, the CEC, the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, and the Ontario Woodlot Association. The trip included tours of the Petawawa Research Forest, Columbia Forest Products Veneer mill, Hec Clouthier and Sons Ltd. operations, Quality Hardwoods Ltd., private woodlots, Green Legacy Farm, logging operations, and a maple syrup operation at Sugarstone Farm.

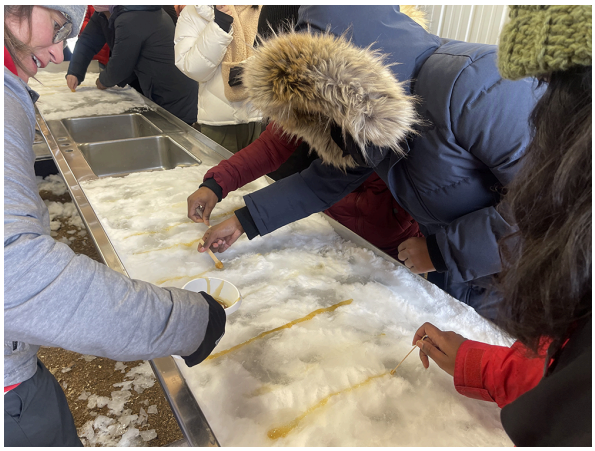


Students tour the Nipissing Forest



Students tour the Hec Clouthier and Sons Ltd. forestry operations area





Left: Students tour the Columbia Forest Products Veneer Mill. Image Credit: Tony Ung
Right: Students enjoy making maple candy on snow during their visit to the maple syrup operation at Sugarstone Farm. Image Credit: Tony Ung

Mass Timber Today Podcast Episode 11

Tune in to a new episode of the Mass Timber Today Podcast! In this episode, Craig Applegath speaks with Jeff Ranson, Director of Responsible Development at Northcrest Developments. He highlights the beauty and form of mass timber as a compelling aspect and its potential for creating good urban density. Ranson describes mass timber in relation to the development goals of the Downsview Airport Lands master plan, touching on sustainability, economic viability, and procurement methods. He discusses innovations in mass timber construction and the importance of considering the environmental impacts of different building materials as a system. Ranson emphasizes the potential for mass timber in addressing the housing crisis and the potential for hybrid structures and low carbon materials in the future.

Highlights from this episode:

"Spending a dollar tomorrow is a lot cheaper than a dollar today - which is the exact opposite of carbon. So the idea that you take embodied carbon, and you amortize that carbon over the life of the building every 50 years, discounts the fact that that carbon was emitted today, up front, which has climate forcing impact"

"By increasing the scope of what we can build using wood based products and other biomaterials, it helps address the overall sustainability of mass timber. You're using what you can structurally, but you're using byproducts in really productive ways as well"

Listen to Episode 11 | Jeff Ranson: Mass Timber in Master Plans

See this episode on YouTube

Other Updates

- Vancouver is encouraging mass timber adoption through changes in its zoning bylaw. Read the article here.
- Check out the Geosphere exhibit as part of the Lumiere: The Art of Light at Ontario Place! Designed by U of T faculty and students, the pavilion uses small robotically fabricated timber elements deployed in reciprocal frame construction. Lumiere runs until April 20, 2024.

Our mailing address is:

1016W - 33 WIllcocks St,

Toronto, Ontario M5S 3E8

Canada

You can reach us by phone at:

416-978-0561