



## MILLAR WESTERN FOREST PRODUCTS LTD.

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### **Canada's largest Christmas tree delivered from Whitecourt to Edmonton**

*Whitecourt, Alberta-* For the fourth year in a row, Millar Western will harvest and deliver Edmonton's "Tree of Lights," a Christmas tree that will serve as the centerpiece of the city's winter holiday celebrations in Churchill Square. Sourced from the Athabasca Flats near Whitecourt, an area selectively harvested by Millar Western in the 1930s and again in the 1990s, the tree chosen for this year's event stands 104 ft. (32 m) tall in the forest and, once trimmed for display, will measure about 85 ft. (26 m) high. According to the Downtown Business Association, Edmonton's Christmas tree will be Canada's largest and may even rival New York's Rockefeller Center tree as the tallest in North America.

The tree will be felled near Whitecourt on the morning of Saturday, November 8, by a team led by Millar Western forester Max Matthews. Assisted by Shawn Prokipchuk of Ron Prokipchuk Trucking, the Millar Western crew will load the tree onto a flatbed trailer and wrap it in preparation for the trip to Edmonton. To avoid traffic congestion, the tractor-trailer unit will depart Whitecourt after midnight and arrive in Churchill Square at about 2:00 a.m. on the morning of November 9.

The tree is by far the largest Millar Western has delivered to Edmonton. "I had originally chosen this tree for last year's festivities, but the tree-stand available then wasn't big enough to accommodate it," said Mr. Matthews. "Over the summer, EPCOR and other partners engineered and built a new, much larger and sturdier stand that has allowed us to provide this giant tree, which we hope will be a spectacular addition to Edmonton's holiday celebrations." Once delivered, the tree will be adorned with thousands of lights in time for the city's "Christmas on the Square Holiday Light Up" on November 15.

The Tree of Lights will be harvested from publicly-owned forest lands managed by Millar Western. In keeping with provincial regulations, international certifications and the company's own environmental standards, harvesting in the forest is managed at a rate that is sustainable, and conducted in a manner that protects soil and water quality, wildlife habitat, trapping, traditional uses, heritage interests, recreation opportunities, and other forest values. To replace this year's Christmas tree, and all conifers it harvests, Millar Western will plant three seedlings and monitor their growth to ensure forest renewal. All operations conducted in the company's management area are subject to extensive stakeholder consultation and detailed planning by foresters, scientists and other experts, to protect forest health and biodiversity and to maintain the benefits of a multiple-use landscape for all Albertans.

Millar Western is an Alberta-based, family-owned forest products company that has been active in the province for more than 85 years. Headquartered in Edmonton, the company operates sawmills Whitecourt, Boyle and Fox Creek, and a totally chlorine-free, bleached chemi-thermo-mechanical pulp (BCTMP) mill in Whitecourt.

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#### **For more information, contact:**

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## **2008 Tree of Lights Fact Sheet**

- Origin – Athabasca Flats in Millar Western Forest Products Ltd.’s Forest Management Agreement (FMA) area, near Whitecourt, about 200 km northwest of Edmonton
- Species – white spruce
- Age – estimated at 130 years old
- Height in forest – 104 feet (30 metres)
- Height trimmed for stand – 85 feet (26 metres)
- Height of 2007 Tree of Lights – 60 feet (18 metres)
- Height of 2007 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree – 84 feet (26 metres)
- Weight in forest – about 16,000 pounds (7,264 kg)
- Number of seedlings Millar Western will plant in place of the tree - 3
- Tree disposal – after the holidays, the City will mulch the tree for use in gardens or trails
- Log-end use – to prepare the tree for secure installation and display in the tree-stand, a 15-20 foot log will be cut from the bottom end of the tree. That log will be delivered to Millar Western's Whitecourt sawmill, where it will be converted into lumber for housing, wood chips for pulp and paper, and shavings for panelboard, with the remaining wood residues transferred to a local power plant to fuel the generation of green electricity.
- Advantages of natural vs. artificial trees – natural trees are a renewable resource, harvested locally from sustainably managed forests and completely biodegradable; artificial trees are made from energy-intensive, non-renewable products, transported vast distances and not biodegradable.