



Media Information

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March 7, 2008

Ground-breaking Event to Celebrate New Home Construction

Kelowna, BC: Due to the success of the first home-building project through the Residential Construction program at Rutland Senior Secondary, 12 students, including one female student, will have an opportunity to learn valuable job skills again this year. The ground-breaking ceremony will take place on March 10 at 9:30 am at 160 Hardie Road. Joining the celebration will be Principal Rick Oliver, instructor Bob Boback and his students as well as key representatives from School District No. 23 and Okanagan College.

The Residential Construction program is a joint undertaking by Okanagan College and School District No. 23. This career training program allows students to complete their Grade 12 diploma as they gain marketable skills and level 1 technical credit towards their apprenticeship. Students take regular high school courses from September to January and then begin the construction project. Students receive instruction from January to March with Bob Boback, a RSS teacher and Red Seal Carpenter with extensive construction experience. On-site work takes place from March to July. Once the project is complete, students have the opportunity to attain the last three levels of technical certification at Okanagan College. This college training is supported by School District No. 23 through scholarships and bursaries.

"The dual-credit Residential Construction program is something we are very proud to be able to offer our students," says Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education. "It is a wonderful chance for them to explore career interests and gain practical job skills."

"Through innovative programs such as the Home for Learning and with a strong partnership between Okanagan College and School District 23, we are able to provide a diverse range of programming to address the changing needs of our students," said Jim Hamilton, president of Okanagan College. "The College is a proud supporter of Rutland Senior Secondary's residential construction program and we are pleased to be able to offer first year training credit from our institution to the participating high school apprentices."

Eric Dack, a Grade 12 student and a participant in the first construction project in 2007 was very happy with the experience: "It was amazing that we could build a house in school. I will do my second year and carry on to get my apprenticeship in carpentry."

"I thought it was really good, as I got to do hands-on and actually build a house," says Charlotte MacBeth, another former participant and a Grade 12 student. "I might take carpentry at Okanagan College"

The property for this year's project was purchased in December 2007 and architectural plans were recently finalized. The two-storey, 2400-square foot home will have four bedrooms and three bathrooms. Program organizers gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance of community businesses that contribute materials and expertise.

Agenda

9:20am: Guests and media arrive

9:30am: Welcome and introductions by Rick Oliver, Principal, Rutland Secondary School

9:35am: Comments by Jim Hamilton, President, Okanagan College
9:40am: Comments by Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education
9:45am: Comments by Mike Roberts, Superintendent of Schools
9:50am: Comments by Sean Holmes, a student in the program
9:55am: Official ground-breaking (a 'golden' photo opportunity)
10:00am: Media questions and additional photo opportunities

For comments, please contact:

Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board (250) 767-6153

Mike Roberts, Superintendent of Schools (250) 860-8888

Christine Ulmer, Public Affairs, Okanagan College (250) 862-5616

Norman Bradley, Director of Instruction (Career and Transition Programs) (250) 860-8888

For background information: please contact Lisa Harrison lharriso@sd23.bc.ca or 470-3284.
