



*"Together We Learn"*  
School District No. 23  
(Central Okanagan)

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

# News Release

October 22, 2007

### **Residential Construction Completion Ceremony**

Kelowna, BC – On Tuesday, October 23, at 3:30pm, graduates of the Residential Construction program at Rutland Senior Secondary (RSS) will celebrate the sale of the house they built from the ground up. The 1,467 square-foot, 5-bedroom house, located at 447 Stetson Road, recently sold for \$495,000 to an RSS alumna. Revenue from the sale paid for the construction costs as well as providing funds towards this year's project home.

Joining the students will be Rick Oliver, the Principal of RSS, Bob Boback, the Residential Construction Instructor, Board of Education trustees who approved the funding for the program, Mike Roberts, Superintendent of Schools, Larry Paul, Secretary - Treasurer of School District No. 23, John Haller, Dean of Trades from Okanagan College, and Larry Sawchuk from Sawchuk Developments, who were the major partners in the project.

Twelve RSS students worked on this project, 92% of whom completed their Carpentry Level One certification. "That success rate is unheard of in high school partnership programs or even regular programs at training institutions," says Oliver. "Students were enthusiastic about the work, including homework, because they could see how it applied to the project – it was real life." The students were participants in the joint RSS–OC Residential Construction/Framing Technician program. Instruction was provided by Bob Boback, a journeyman carpenter and teacher from RSS, with support from OC and Sawchuk Developments. Students took regular courses at RSS from September to January and then participated in the construction project full work days Monday to Thursday (and some Fridays) from January to June, earning 16 graduation credits, as well as Okanagan College credits. This career training program allows students to complete their Grade 12 diploma as they gain valuable, marketable skills and credit towards their apprenticeship.

The house itself is a very attractive one-storey bungalow with a finished basement. The open-plan kitchen/living room has a breakfast bar and gleaming hardwood floors. Carpet and tile are used throughout the other rooms, which are designed to maximize the view of the attractive landscaping.

Close to 40 organizations and individuals donated building materials and expertise to the project. Their contributions played an important role in the success of this first effort and their continued support will be required to ensure the program's continuation. In particular, the BC Industry Training Authority provided a grant for tools and equipment, Okanagan College provided instructor support and testing; and Sawchuk Developments shared their expertise, safety program and underwrote the home warranty. RSS/BCIT electrical students installed the wiring with the guidance of a contractor.

"It was a bold move by the Board of Education to approve Rutland Senior's proposal, which required that the school district extend a line of credit to the school to undertake the construction project," says Oliver. "Now that we have a successful completion and sale, and we can look forward to a new project in the coming year."

---

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:** Moyra Baxter, Chairperson, Board of School Trustees, 767-6153  
Mike Roberts, Superintendent of Schools, 470-3256  
Rick Oliver, Principal of Rutland Senior Secondary, 765-1407  
Lisa Harrison, Communications Officer, 470-3284