

# High school student builds his future

COMMENTARY

He was 16 when he started building houses. At 17, Jase Jeanneau now owns one.

With an inheritance he received from his great-grandmother, Jase bought a house last summer on Hilliard Street, renovated it and has tenants renting the place.

"I could see myself moving there in a few years," he says. "Some friends at school say I should be moving in already."

He laughs.

Life in the bachelor pad can wait. Better to finish Grade 12 first, he says.

Jase is into his last semester at Walter Murray Collegiate. And though hunkering down in the classroom to study English lit or writing essays is a

struggle for him — always has been — he is determined to see this through and to graduate with the Class of '09.

"It's tough slugging every day," he says, the challenge not for lack of ambition or intellect but of interest. School simply hasn't engaged him. School is about thinking, while Jase is into doing. Of chalk he is bored.

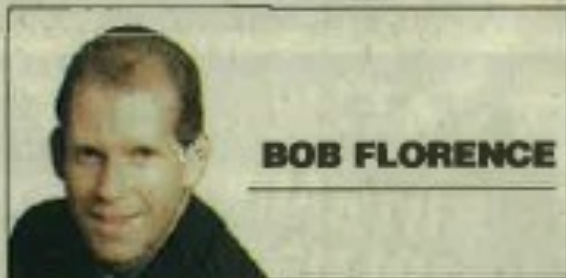
"I like hands-on," he says.

Give him some work boots and

a tool belt. Get him out of the classroom and onto a job site and holy hard hat, look at him go.

Jase spent the first semester this school year in the High School Carpentry Apprenticeship Program (HCAP), which is as hands-on as it gets.

■ CONT'D: Please see Build/A2



**BOB FLORENCE**



—SP Photo by Richard Marjan

**Jase Jeanneau helped build a Habitat for Humanity house as part of the High School Carpentry Apprenticeship Program**