

# Build: Construction a learning experience

## ■ Continued from A1

Beginning in September and continuing through mid-January, Jase and a class of 18 other students from across the city worked full-time on a project for Habitat for Humanity. What started as an empty lot is now a nearly finished 900-square-foot home. The keys will be turned over to a family any day now. The Grade 12 students did the framing and roofing, the wiring and plumbing, they did the whole works.

Jase was top shelf. At HCAP's recent windup banquet at Mount Royal Collegiate, his fellow students as well as instructors Don McDonald and Ray Morrison of Mount Royal and Al Dudley of Habitat for Humanity selected him as one of the carpenters of the year.

"That's a good thing to put on the resume," he says.

He can also refer to the 900 hours of experience he has as an apprentice. The HCAP students were on the job from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., Monday to Friday, from early fall to the black of winter. Jase was consistently one of the first to arrive each day, leaving his family home in Lakewood at 7:45 a.m. and driving across the city, getting to the site at the west end of 18th Street by 8:15 a.m. so he had time to shovel the front walk for the others if it had snowed overnight.

"I guess I was a keener," he says.

"I had to wire the breaker box one day. I'm standing there, 100 wires over my head, and they all have to be neatly labeled and bundled. I stood there all day — through lunch and over the breaks — but I got 'er done. I was proud of myself that day.

"You get home and you're tired and dirty. It's fun, though. I like fixing things, building things, getting my hands dirty. I'd rather be outside than in the classroom."

Says his father Rich: "He's a hard-working kid, a smart kid. He's a good kid."

Rich pauses.

"He still leaves his room a mess . . ."

Jase's parents were at the HCAP wind-up banquet. When Jase was honoured as carpenter of the year and received a \$500 bursary from Cameco, you could even say they glowed. Then again, the award shouldn't have come as a surprise to them. Hadn't Jase told his folks from the outset last September he planned on winning the bursary? Once he set a goal, wasn't it just like him to hammer away?

He has done construction before. He built a big dock at Emma Lake and helped dad

put a two-bedroom addition on the family's cabin. He has even built a house before, this dating back two summers ago to when he was 16 and he worked on a new home in Stonebridge. That same summer he joined a deck building crew: "Sawing, painting — we made 96 decks," he says. "I counted."

For work last summer Jase fixed taps and hauled appliances and did other property

management chores for his dad, who is a broker/owner with Coldwell Banker, dealing in both residential and commercial real estate.

So the things Jase learned during the semester with HCAP weren't totally new. Yet it was somehow different. HCAP not only tapped into his interests, it encouraged his talent. In trade work he found satisfaction. In framing and wiring especially he drew inspiration.

"What it did for his self-esteem, wow," says Rich. "He holds his head up a little more now."

Says Jase: "This has opened up so many opportunities for me. There is a whole world out there now.

"I've learned I can do more than I thought I could. I have more confidence for sure. Before, I always stood back, but with this, I was right in there."

Four months outside the classroom were, in a word, an education.

[bflorence@sp.comvest.com](mailto:bflorence@sp.comvest.com)

## ▼ HCAP AWARDS

### \$500 Cameco bursaries

- Russell Agnew
- Jase Jeanneau
- Garret Wiebe

### \$250 HCAP bursaries

- Keith Newnam
- Trevor Pettapiece