

College construction project in high gear

MELISSA JAMESON
Times Review

It looks like any other construction site, but the house being built on Park Drive is also a place for learning. It's part of Okanagan College's first residential construction program in Revelstoke and the students taking part are learning a new set of skills.

"The idea is they'd build to lock up," said program administrator Janet Lemieux.

The students are working on a two bedroom house with a full basement. Currently they're close to the post and beam application.

"They have to figure out the calculations," said instructor Bob Reed. "I don't do that for them."

The program, which involves extensive cooperation with local businesses and School District 19, involves both adults and senior high school students. Through the program high school students taking part receive dual credit.

"They're training for their level one apprentice-

ship," said Lemieux.

The program is 30 weeks long, with 10 weeks of in-class instruction.

"It's all hands on," said Reed. "They do all the practical and the theory, they're not coming out here totally green."

Because the students have been involved with the building of the house from the ground up, they have been exposed to many different trades. And, the entire experience is one big learning process.

"Even the most basic mundane thing, it's all practical," said Reed. "From tying rebar to where we are."

The program wraps up Sept. 14, however, the house will be finished regardless.

There is also a desire to run the program again.

"We're hoping to run another project next year in Revelstoke," said Lemieux. Tentative dates set for that program are set from Feb. 4 to Aug. 29, 2008.

For further information about this program at Okanagan College call 837-4235.



Student carpenters work on Okanagan College's first residential construction project. *Melissa Jameson/Times Review*