

FOCUS ON ENTREPRENEURS

Young builder keen on green

By **STEVE MacNAULL**
The Daily Courier

At age 22, Andrew Gaucher is the youngest home builder in Kelowna. "It can be a bit of an issue," said Gaucher, owner of Green Solutions Building and Developments.

"I get subcontractors asking me if I really am the general contractor and if I'm able to make these kinds of decisions."

Gaucher also gets the other side of it too.

"Because I'm on a huge learning curve, other subcontractors are very helpful, don't expect me to know everything and are willing to explain things to me," he said.

Gaucher acted as general contractor on a home in the Mission subdivision of Southridge that he sold for \$499,000 in July 2006.

Construction is underway on three more homes in Southridge that he will put up for sale when they are complete.

And he's about to start construction on his first Built Green home, also in Southridge, that will eventually sell for about \$699,000.

Built Green is the provincial program that recognizes homes constructed to strict energy-efficiency and environmentally friendly guidelines.

"My conscience wants to have a company that is environmentally friendly," said Gaucher.

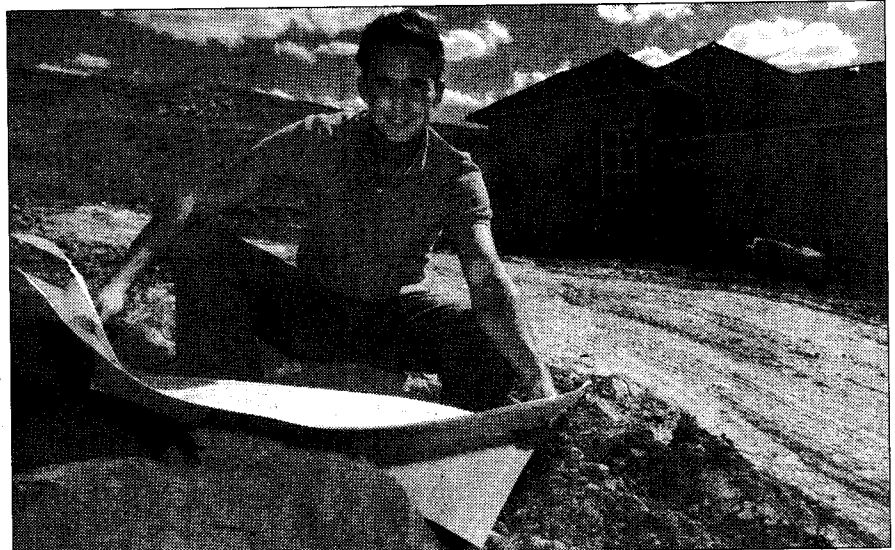
"But it's also a huge competitive advantage because this is what the consumer wants and what will eventually be legislated and become the norm."

Gaucher will graduate at the end of the year with a business degree from Okanagan College.

He's been going to school full time and building homes at the same time over the past year-and-a-half.

"I am very focused on what I want to do, so I'm making sure I get my degree while running my own business at the same time," said Gaucher.

It certainly helps that Gaucher's dad is Grant Gaucher, the established



GARY NYLANDER/The Daily Courier

Andrew Gaucher, 22, of Green Solutions Building and Developments is going to college and building homes at the same time.

and successful developer behind the G-Group of Companies.

G-Group is well underway with its 7.5-acre Southwind at Sarsons community of 252 townhouses and condominiums in the Lower Mission.

And it is in the final planning stages for Kinnikinnik, the 870-acre master-planned community in McKinley Landing.

Gaucher has received help from his dad to secure financing, but has found his own subcontractors and been left on his own to act as general contractor.

He's not a rich kid barking orders. He's hands on where he can be, lay-

ing steel, cleaning up sites and landscaping.

Gaucher names the retired Ed Kennedy of Kennedy Homes, which did a lot of building at Quail Ridge Golf Resort, as a mentor who has helped him learn the business.

When he graduates from Okanagan College, Gaucher's Green Solutions will join his dad's G-Group to continue building homes and partner on Kinnikinnik and other projects to incorporate Built Green principals.

■ **Green Solutions can be reached at 212-1759. Its website can be found at GreenSolutionsInc.com.**