



GREEN BUILDING HABI-FACT

IN 2012, WE EXPECT 90% OF OUR 250+ HABITAT HOMES BUILT ACROSS CANADA TO BE CONSTRUCTED TO RECOGNIZED GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS



BUILT GREEN

Raymond and Jo-Anne's home is part of two energy efficient duplexes Habitat for Humanity Mid-Vancouver Island has planned for Nanaimo.

Teresa Pring says that in an area where green-built homes are almost exclusively high-cost and custom-built, that they want to showcase that energy efficient and affordable can and should be synonymous.

"Not only will the homes reduce environmental impact, but their increased efficiency means that they'll be less financially burdensome on homeowners," she added.

Jo-Anne plans to use the savings in energy costs towards Raymond's college fund.

Support received through Habitat for Humanity Canada's 360 Built Smart Partnership enabled this Habitat Mid-Vancouver Island build to be energy efficient. The 360 Built Smart Partnership is made possible by its supporters, including title sponsors The Home Depot Canada Foundation and Holcim (Canada) Inc.



Pitching In

At age 14, Raymond Graham isn't old enough to volunteer on a Habitat build site, so instead he's contributing to his family's Habitat sweat equity requirement by working with the local food share program and animal shelter in his home town of Nanaimo, British Columbia.

Sweat equity is a requirement of all new Habitat families and is completed as part of the repayment of their home. Most of the time this takes place on a Habitat build site, but like in Raymond's case, exceptions are made based on age or physical ability.

"Sweat equity allows families to set roots in the community," said Teresa Pring, Habitat for Humanity Mid-Vancouver Island CEO. "It also gives them a greater sense of pride in their home, having worked hundreds of hours as a family to achieve it."

Between Raymond's efforts and those of his mom, Jo-Anne, they expect to complete all 500 hours required well in advance of their December move-in.

Raymond says he's enjoyed helping out, but looks forward to the day he can volunteer on a Habitat build site.

For now, he's happy to finally be getting his own backyard. Jo-Anne's anticipating the greater safety and security the home will provide for her and her son.