

Education

Students help build house in Norval

Standing in one of the three bedrooms, Kyle Jones looked around and couldn't help repeating the same thing.

"I can't believe we built this," he said several times as he and his classmates looked around the house in Norval. "Before we started, I thought, 'How are we ever going to build a house?'"

The home, located on Old Pine Crest Road, was the first project of Educational Construction Limited. The company purchased the land from Julian Reed at a reduced rate and then used the property to build a home that would allow students to gain valuable experience.

Seventeen students from Mississauga's West Credit Secondary School worked alongside trades people who taught them the necessary skills throughout the construction process. Through their experience, students found out what they liked and what they were good at.

"One student wanted to do framing but he

was too detail oriented," said Heather Welner of Educational Construction Ltd. "They got him doing trim, where you have to be more precise, and he loved it."

Because of the students' involvement, many companies supplied or discounted materials for the home.

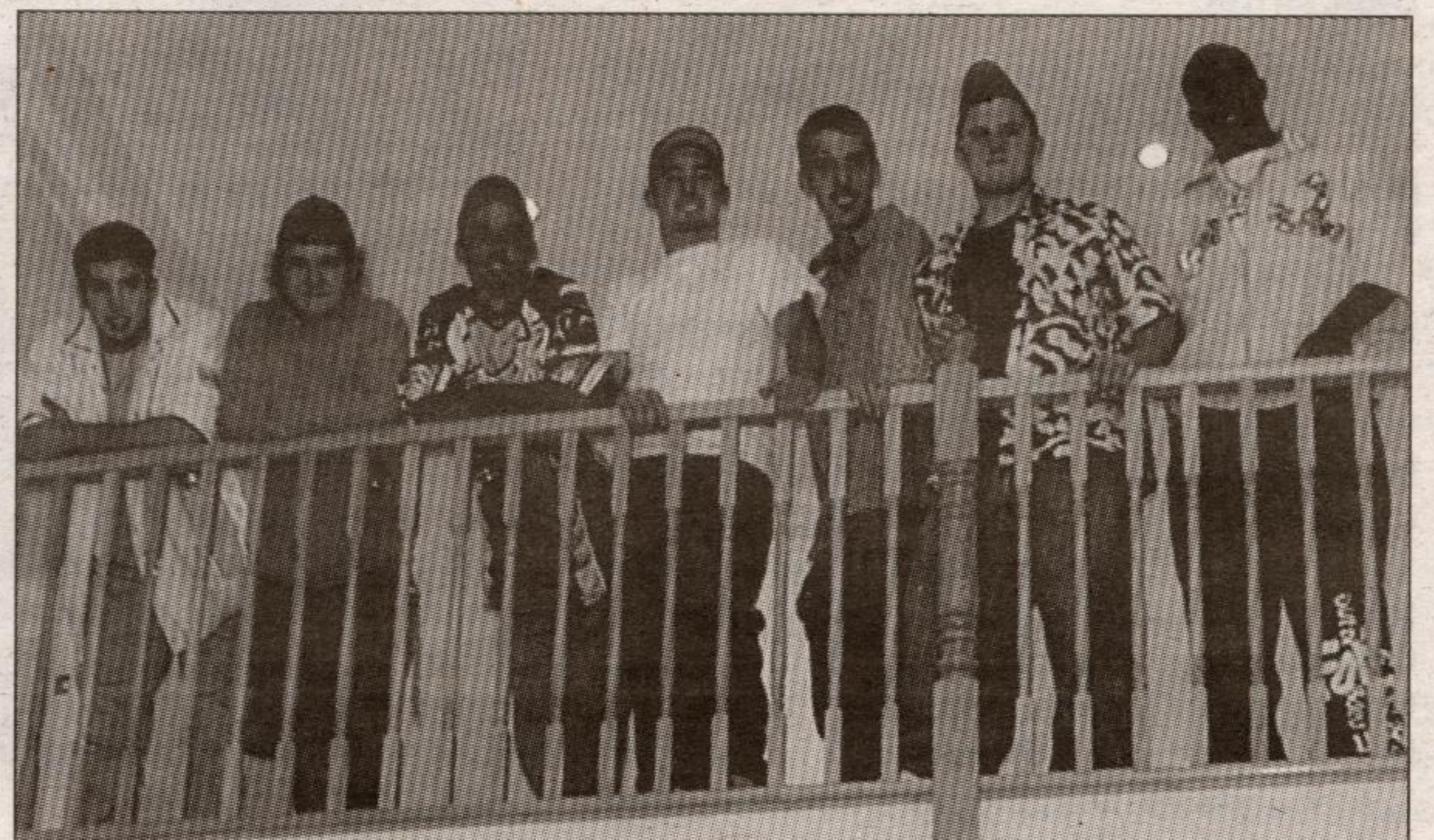
"If you look at the (home building) industry, the average age is getting older," said Debbie Cribb of Emco Building Products. "When you bring young people in, it helps renew interest in the trades."

That's exactly why Welner would like to see more developers get involved in similar projects.

"If developers dedicated one house in every development to a project like this it would help the entire industry."

Student Shane Littlejohn landed a job with the heating and air conditioning he worked with on the house while others can apply the hours toward an apprenticeship.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Mississauga high school students helped build this Norval home with the help of trade professionals. It was the first project of the Educational Construction Ltd. designed to introduce and train students in the building trades. Herb Garbutt photo



AHS graduation honours

Acton High School honoured the 2003 graduating class Friday night at its annual commencement exercises. Valedictorians Zoe Glass and Thomas Wilson were congratulated by AHS principal Greg McPherson (left) and acting principal Bill Taylor (right), as well as vice-principal Heather Stewart (far right).

Photo by Ted Brown



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