



May 28, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Mount Hope Student is Builder for a Day
Dream Home Includes Helicopter Pad, 25 Bedrooms and Fire Pole**

HAMILTON - A nine-year-old from Bell-Stone School in Mount Hope is Hamilton's youngest home builder, beating out more than 500 entries to become the Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association's first "Builder for a Day."

Nikolaus Todd Martindale will spend today on the job site with fourth-generation builder Brandon Campbell of Starward Homes, learning first-hand how a house is built. He also wins a prize pack with tools, work boots, gift certificates and more.

In response to the contest invitation to draw and describe his dream home, Nik took the project one step further and made a model home of papier-mâché. He took photos of his model and included them in the entry form, along with a "blueprint" pencil sketch of the floor plan.

"Nik went above and beyond other entries in his imaginative approach to describing his ideal home, because he literally built a house to demonstrate his ideas," says Adi Irani, president of the Hamilton-Halton Home Builders' Association (HHHBA). "His description of the home's features was very interesting, and he even included a section called, 'What I Learned,' which described some of his challenges in the building project."

Nik's dream home included 25 bedrooms for his friends, a fire pole to get from the second floor to the first floor (but a stairway for his grandmothers to use), a helicopter pad, bowling alley, and a kitchen complete with chef. In his entry form, Nik noted, "If I can afford a house this big, I shouldn't have to cook my own food."

"We know many children are fascinated by building and of course we want to encourage young people to consider a career in our industry," Mr. Irani says. "This is a fun way for us to promote construction and design to the 'next generation' of builders, engineers, architects and skilled tradespeople."

-more-

The HHHBA worked with local school boards to distribute the entry forms in Grade 4 classrooms across the city. "We couldn't have done this project without the enthusiastic involvement of Hamilton's school boards," says Doug Duke, executive officer of HHHBA.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation is a sponsor of the event, which is believed to be the first in Ontario.

-30-

Backgrounders attached: More details on Nik's entry, runners up and honourable mentions, judges and unusual dream home amenities suggested by contest entrants.

For more information, please contact Cynthia Janzen, Hellingman Communications, 905-527-2985, ext. 16, or 905-516-7788 (cell).