

Creuzot Homes a leader in Built Green

By Goody Niosi Writer

PRINCE GEORGE - In the city of Prince George, Creuzot Homes & Construction Ltd. is a leader in the Canadian Home Builders Association - British Columbia's Built Green™ program.

Company president Allen Creuzot attended the training session in December and received his certification shortly thereafter. He is now completing his first Built Green™ home and breaking ground on his second.

Creuzot says that Built Green™ is the wave of the future and because his passion is building, he plans to be on the leading edge of the industry. Creuzot is a fourth generation builder. He recalls that even before he graduated from high school he was going to his father's construction sites in a new Prince George subdivision and pestering him to let him help.

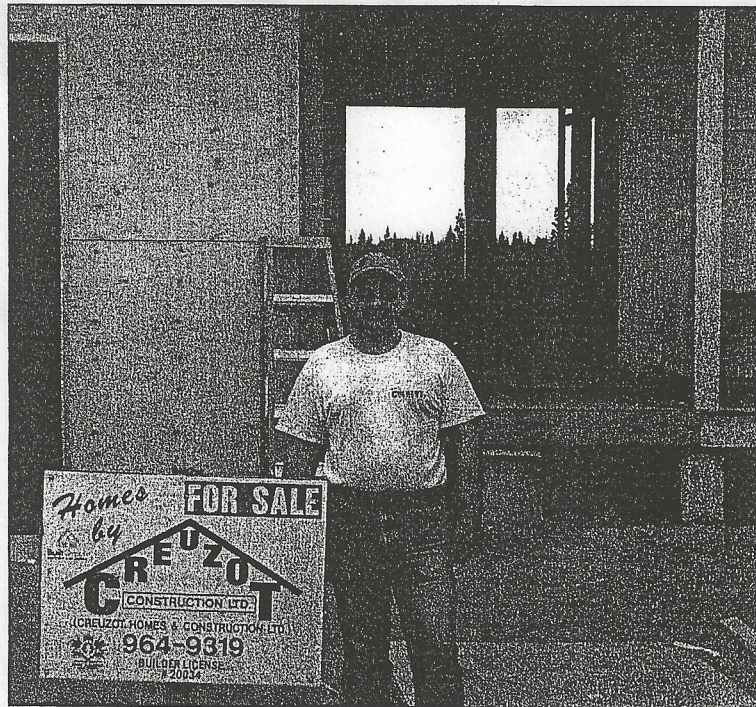
"My dad tried to get me to go and do other stuff but I just wanted to be around construction," he says, noting that he was 17 years old and just out of high school when he began his apprenticeship.

"I liked the machinery and the noise and the smell of wood. In our family there's a standing joke that it's in your blood. It just seems my whole family is in this business."

Creuzot worked for his father for several years and founded Creuzot Homes and Construction Ltd. in 1995. As with any new business, he admits there were some early challenges, but generally he did well just because he had been working in the business for years and he knew it from the ground up.

"I was one of those who started right from the bottom digging in drain tiles and so on," he recalls. "I did all the labouring and worked my way up to supervisor and getting my trade ticket and finally going out on my own."

In the last few years, the building business has been good in Prince George he says, and while his speciality is cus-



Allen Creuzot at a Creuzot Construction Ltd. home

tom homes, he also does a spec home now and then.

"We don't build houses, we build homes," he says. "We build to the customer's lifestyle using energy efficient and green products. Green building is in the forefront now everywhere - and it certainly is very much in the forefront for us."

He adds that any builder can say that he uses green products, but it's also in how you use them. Creuzot was the first registered Built Green™ builder in Prince George.

"It's the way of the future," he says. "The people I build for, if they're going to sell their home in 10 years, they'll probably be selling their home to people who have grown up with green awareness so when they go out to purchase a home, energy efficiency and green initiatives are going to be a primary concern."

Some of the environmentally friendly options Creuzot is putting into his homes include air source heat pumps, high efficiency furnaces without standing pilot lights, tankless hot water systems and electric ignition fireplaces.

"So unless there's a demand for the energy and water, you're using zero gas," Creuzot says. "So there are no emissions and no greenhouse gases being sent out into the atmosphere."

He adds that he also uses low VOC paints glues and flooring materials. And that makes an enormous difference to indoor air quality.

"Most people spend 70 or 80 per cent of their time in their home so you want to have clean air," he says. "It makes for a healthy environment."

Creuzot says he aims to be 100 per cent Built Green™ stressing that Built Green™ is

a far more stringent standard than the new Green Building Code.

"It doesn't go nearly the route that the Built Green™ program does. If you want a true green home you have to do this program."

Creuzot admits that the initial cost of a Built Green™ home will be slightly more than a standard home. However, he says it's more than worth it in the long run.

"Eventually you'll be spending less money. Your house is being insulated and sealed up far better than in the past, you'll be using less to heat your home and your energy costs will come down. And the resale value of your home will be better in the long run."

Creuzot says that he's looking forward to constructing more Built Green™ homes. He also predicts that the future for

his industry is bright in Prince George despite the downturn in the forest industry.

"There are a lot of bright things on the horizon," he says. "We plan on going ahead and pushing the Built Green™ homes and being a leader in that regard."

www.creuzothomes.com

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