

Steel house turning heads in White Rock

by **Paula Baker**

MetroValley News

Passersby are taking a long look and shaking their heads at a home being built in White Rock.

That's because Martin McLeod has foregone traditional home construction to make his castle out of steel and concrete.

"My company [Power MBS Structures Inc.] builds steel and concrete frame buildings like condos or hotels. Constructing a house the same way is far superior to the usual wooden frame," McLeod said.

Half way through construction, the sturdy 4,500-sq.ft fortress at the corner of Oxford Street and Hardie Avenue, will have multiple benefits over the standard wooden houses.

"It'll be non-combustible for one thing because concrete can't burn," he said.

"And wood has certain flawed characteristics, like when wood dries the nails can pop through the drywall. Or often wood is not straight so your walls can come out crooked or warped.

"Steel is flat, so my floors, walls, ceilings

"It'll be strong and durable, plumb and true."

Martin McLeod
Home builder

and loading and non-loading bearing walls are all made out of steel with 9 centimetres of concrete on top with steel joists. It'll be strong and durable, plumb and true."

Touting more superiority and strength, McLeod's home—the first of its kind in White Rock—will also be more

expensive.

"To an average home, say 3,000-sq.ft, it would add another \$30,000 to the price tag," McLeod said.

"But then you'd have a greater resale value too."

The steel and concrete framed home, which is targeted for completion in January 2003, will have a conventional acrylic/stucco exterior.

McLeod isn't counting on his unique style of home building to catch on and cause a surge in business though.

"No, although we build these types of structures, it's nothing we're looking to promote," he said.

"We'll just stick to the commercial and multi-family building market."