

# Port Moody scouts in the dog house

By Gary McKenna – The Tri-City News

Published: May 07, 2009

As a boy scout, Ian Russell knows how to put up a tent, build a fire and prepare for long trips in the woods.

But in the last few weeks, the 13-year-old Port Moody resident has picked up another ability: building doghouses... with green roof technology.

With the help of his dad and several other members of his Scout troop, Russell launched the project in order to fulfill a requirement for his Chief Scout Award, the highest honour a Scout can achieve.

"There is a whole bunch of things you have to do to get it," he said. "One of the parts is to think locally and act globally."

He also has to do a presentation, a requirement he will carry out on Tuesday when he presents the doghouse and his findings to Port Moody city council. Russell will be joined by fellow scouts Liam Shirley, Sean Deheer and Thomas Evoy.

The group hopes the city will get behind changing building codes to include information about green roofs and to encourage councillors and staff to promote the technologies use.

"We are hoping that they will try and get it on to the National Building Code," he said. "That will make it easier for people to build their own."

Russell, who belongs to the 1st Glenayre Scout troop, said the idea came from one of his Scout leaders after a visit to BCIT's Green Roof Technology Research Centre in Burnaby. After learning about the technology it did not take long for the group to build the doghouse, which is now home to Sydney, one of the Scout leader's dogs.

The builders used several different layers of lining, designed to withstand dirt and water. Plants grow on top of the doghouse and Russell said the roof works to reduce storm water run-off.

When green roofs are used in homes, they are energy efficient and work to moderate temperature fluctuations, he said.

The group will present their findings to council during the regular meeting on May 12.

