

# Travel



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Sechelt student Michael Fryer stakes out corners for proposed buildings on an eight-hectare parcel of land in Kampala, Uganda with Engineering Ministries International.

## ENGINEERING MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

# Local student on Ugandan mission

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STAFF WRITER

"Designing a world of hope" is what volunteers can do with Engineering Ministries International (EMI) to aid the world's poor while sharing their faith.

Coast-raised, Bethel Baptist Church parishioner and third-year engineering student Michael Fryer recently returned from a mission to the African country of Uganda.

"I always wanted to go on a mission, and do something that not everybody is good at or that your typical missionary could do," the University of Victoria mechanical engineering student said.

By the time Fryer graduated from Chatelech Secondary School in 2005, he had a generalized plan to use his mathematical skills on a mission in the future, but wasn't sure how that would come about.

While wrapping up his third year of university in November 2008, Fryer learned about EMI from a former pastor in Victoria. He contacted the organization, and two hours later had a call back from them that he could intern with them in January 2009.

"They needed a grunt intern like me," Fryer said laughing. "I completed my third year in December and that's as early as [engineer interns] go on a mission."

Fryer joined 35 others for orientation in Colorado Springs at EMI's U.S. head office.

He said very little of it was around engineering, but rather focused on cultural orientation and how to get projects completed in a community with very



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Michael Fryer, centre, with other members of the Engineering Ministries International group in Uganda.

different traditions.

"They told us to draw or sketch a design first, rather than use the computer. It makes them feel that they can change something," Fryer said, noting that computer designs could leave their Ugandan counterparts thinking that it was the final option because of the lofty technology. He said EMI works to include local people in the concept creation.

Fryer's group partnered with Connect Africa, which is a mission group working to provide internally displaced people living in refugee camps with the ability to build and sell biosand water filters, high efficiency stoves and interlocking, stabilized bricks made without being fired.

All the technologies use less firewood, something Fryer said Africa is in short supply of, and purify water that otherwise often makes people sick.

Fryer said northern Uganda has been under siege for years by the Lord's Resistance Army, a guerrilla faction that has a long his-

tory of forcing children to become soldiers, and most people live in camps for safety. But "the average age in Uganda is 15, so they don't know anything else. They don't have the skills to do anything" because of having to live in the camps.

Fryer stayed in rural Kampala in the south of Uganda where Connect Africa requested EMI to come in as a contractor. EMI worked to design a conference centre, dormitories for up to 60 students that would be brought from the camps, staff and guest housing, a natural amphitheatre for productions and preaching and a demonstration farm on eight hectares (20 acres) of undeveloped land.

Following EMI's site survey and documenting needs for electricity and other aspects, Fryer is now working at the Calgary office of EMI. He is putting together the final report about the group's design idea for Connect Africa and a budget so Connect Africa knows how much they must fundraise.

Though the mission was a short one, Fryer's interest in using his engineering skills to help others help themselves has been piqued.

"Absolutely. I'd go again," he said.



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## Ferry Schedule

TICKET SALES WILL END 5 min. before scheduled sailing time for vehicles and 10 min. before for walk-on passengers.

VANCOUVER - SUNSHINE COAST • 40 min. ride

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT SEPT 2, 2008 TO JUNE 29, 2009

Leave Horseshoe Bay	Leave Langdale
7:20 am	6:20 am
9:20 am	8:20 am
10:00 am Apr 10 & May 18 Only	10:20 am
11:20 am	11:00 am Apr 10 & May 18 Only
1:20 pm	12:20 am
2:00 pm May 14 & 15 Only	2:30 pm
3:30 pm	3:00 pm May 14 & 15 Only
4:00 pm Apr 9 Only	4:30 pm
5:30 pm	5:00 pm Apr 9 Only
7:25 pm	6:30 pm
9:15 pm	8:20 pm
11:00 pm May 18 Only	10:10 pm May 18 Only

Source: BC Ferries website. Subject to change without notice

SECHULT - POWELL RIVER • 50 min. ride

EFFECTIVE SEPT 2, 2008 TO JUNE 29, 2009 EXCEPT MAY 18, 2009 (SEE ALTERNATE SCHEDULE BELOW)

Leave Earls Cove	Leave Saltery Bay
6:30 am	5:35 am
8:25 am	7:25 am
10:25 am	9:25 am
12:30 pm	11:25 am
4:25 pm	3:20 pm
6:25 pm	5:25 pm
8:20 pm	7:20 pm
10:10 pm	9:15 pm

ALTERNATE SCHEDULE FOR: MAY 18, 2009

8:25 am	7:25 am
10:30 am	9:25 am
12:35 pm	11:30 am
2:40 pm	1:35 pm
4:45 pm	3:45 pm
6:45 pm	5:45 pm
8:45 pm	7:45 pm
10:35 pm	9:40 pm



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