



## TRAGEDY LEADS TO THE FIRST LANEWAY HOME IN THE TRI-CITIES

September 19, 2014

When a brutal car accident seriously injured Michael McCann, Jr. in February 2010, significant questions arose regarding his long term health, the possibility of recovery, and way of life.

Fast forward four years and you realize this young man is an exemplary example of the human form and spirit. Michael's exuberance and unrelenting hopefulness has led him through many transitions and down the long path of recovery.

One such transition began in 2012 when his father Michael Sr. applied to the City of Port Moody to build a laneway home. Enter Stefan Walsh, Project Manager and Designer, at Iredale Group Architecture. Stefan worked with the McCanns to create the application and was at the Port Moody council meeting to present their ideas. It was envisioned that the detached 900 sq ft, two-level, home would be situated at the back of his father's oversized lot. It would provide opportunity and independence for Michael's healing, but would also keep him close so that the family could support his recovery whenever and however required.

Once the City of Port Moody approved the McCann's application to build the home, Stefan met with the family to design and construct it. The home's design parameters were to meet the City's local heritage standards and included various sustainability measures like permeable paving and a reduction in light pollution. The home also includes various accessibility features and private outdoor and veranda space for Michael.

Now completed, the home is considered a breath of fresh air in the community and within the McCann clan. Helpful in the healing process, the home is providing an example of how increased density and efficient land use planning can bring families and generations closer to one another.

Walsh's take away was insightful, "This process has impacted me profoundly; meeting Michael and being able to help his family in such an impactful way has helped reinforce my own hope in the human condition. The outcome has provided a new affordable, efficient way to live in the Lower Mainland, it has drawn this family closer together and there is even a great opportunity to increase sustainable concepts using this model."

The McCanns are hosting an open house Saturday, September 20th from 2pm to 4pm. For further information: <http://longroadbackandforward.blogspot.ca/>

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