

Growth Rings 2004-2005

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The year of 2004 was an intense one as rigorous campaigns were waged and finally - the elections were held.

It was a wonderful year to build as interest rates continued to be the lowest in many years and there were almost enough materials to meet the demand. The east coast hurricanes, the efforts to rebuild war ravaged countries, and the short oil and asphalt supplies (due to the expanding world economy), kept the material costs high and the availability of such materials in question from time to time.

Abe Cleason of Palmyra built a mountain around his 2000 sq. ft. saltbox Real Log Home by digging a large pond. Ledge rock was added to the walkout basement face and to the full length fireplace on the exterior. Abe's master bedroom is on the first floor next to the open great room. The loft overlooks



the living room and is flanked by bedrooms. Finishing touches were added to the log stairs and railings. The locally built interior doors add to the uniqueness of this home to share with family and friends.

Ken Warner and Kay Burkin/Warner contracted their "one of a kind" Real Log Home to be built on high "hunting ground" close to Nunda. Ken, an avid hunter, and Kay are real "people" persons. Their home reflects the grand combination of the "outside with style". Ken built the front oak door and the Dutch door that leads into the breezeway from the kitchen. Kay's kitchen is "balanced" and full of the extras that make working in it a great time to unwind. Of course, two of Ken's buddies are overlooking all the household activities. The master bedroom suite wing has a south facing multi faced sun-



room that not only picks up the sun

but is a great area to view the visiting wildlife.

Dave Beith had the day, the hour, and the minute figured till retirement. The move from New Jersey to the old home town of Wolcott was well orchestrated. Dave spent the 2003 summer clearing the wooded lot, getting the well drilled and making final changes on his custom designed Real Log Home. The package was delivered in the early winter and was pretty much completed for his move in late spring. The 1700 sq. ft. ranch's great room featuring a stone fireplace, is orientated to take in the wooded surroundings. The study loft adds another dimension to the cathedral living space. The side master bedroom suite wing is roomy as is the dining room and extra bedroom wing.



South of Branchport's Knotty Pine Restaurant on Keuka Lake, Milt and Alice Hanas built a 2600 sq. ft. custom Real Log Home high overlooking the water and bluff. Milt is a "hands-on" kind of guy who brought his military training to the test. The site was a challenge in itself as it was perched in a pine wooded area alongside a deep gully that has it's share of gushing spring water flowing into



the lake. The great room view takes in the lake and back wilderness areas. A side porch wraps around the master bedroom suite wing and looks down on the gorge. The den/study wing invites a good book and is a secluded spot for some R&R. The open loft overlooks the great

room and is flanked by two large bedrooms with gable dormer windows on the lake side.

Carl and Joan Haggmann had a winter fire that resulted in the loss of their family farm home. We visited several homes to gain ideas for their custom designed Real Log Home in East Eden (close to Morrisville, NY). The burned-out site was cleared and readied with the help of neighbors and friends for their Superior Wall Foundation. It was set in a little over



three hours. Contractors assembled the sub floor deck, logs, and roof. The 1,700 sq. ft. home has a cathedral great room with log rafters cut from the woods behind the house. These logs were harvested and then hand peeled and notched for the home and 10 ft. full length porch. Carl said, "the peeling and cutting of the rafters was a great experience but was a lot more work than we had anticipated." The large open loft covers the three bedrooms below.



Bob and Sandy Ahnert were living in Connecticut but owned land just south of Dresden very close to Seneca Lake. Their dream was to retire in a log cabin and set up a small farmstead complete with a Ford tractor, six chickens, a cow and a calf. We designed their 2,400 sq. ft. custom Real Log Home and it was delivered



in late winter ready for their contractor to start as the weather broke. Their great room is enchanting with views toward the lake and woods, a stone fireplace built by Paul Shoots, and a one-of-a-kind set of log stairs. The red cedar materials were harvested from the



hollow out back then Mark Mitchell put his talents to work. The open ceilinged master bedroom suite has plenty of space. Two additional bedrooms and a bath are located in the other wing. A local newspaper did a feature article on Bob and

Sandy and confirmed that dreams do come true.

Vern and Amy Miller built in Millville, west of Albion. Vern started with constructing a pretty classy outhouse on the site that had a well worn track to it as the building project progressed. A Superior Wall was set, then the rains and soaking season started for western New York. The sub-floor came from California and allows the in-floor heat to be applied on top of the floor, ready for the covering finish. Vern and Amy hired an Amish crew to assemble the log package and apply the roof system. Their 1,700 sq. ft. custom Real Log Home has a cathedral living room that wraps into the open kitchen and dining room wing. Next to the living room is the master bedroom suite wing. The loft overlooks the living room and is flanked by an additional bedroom on each side.



Back in the early 90's, Clay Ogden and his dad built a rustic log hunting cabin out of local materials in Scio, NY, next to Wellsville. Since then, a pond has been built and a large pole barn was erected. Clay and Barbara decided to make it a more year-around residence looking toward retirement. We incorporated the existing structure into a custom design that utilized a Real Log Home addition for their main daily living space.

The new additional 1,000 sq. ft. has a full basement, a great room with two 8 ft. sliding glass doors that look toward the pond, and the master bedroom.



Tom Finewood of Palmyra purchased an older log home and needed an entry and master bedroom suite. We designed a 500 sq. ft. single level with a cathedral ceiling and fireplace to be added on the back of the existing home. His rustic Real Log Home addition matches the existing home especially after adding the green metal roof.



Back in the hills of Prattsburg, Pete and Donna Scheid contracted their Real Log Home 1700 sq. ft. cape chalet family retreat/retirement home. Pete and Donna, as well as most of their children, are working on their higher education degrees and this project will provide a great place to re-create and continue

their family experience. The walkout Superior Wall was set in a little over two hours. Two 8 ft. Andersen Sliding Glass Doors and the gable glass look off to the southeast and on to many of the ponds in the area. The downstairs dining room can be con-



verted to a bedroom if needed in the future. Upstairs, the loft overlooks the living room and there are two additional bedrooms. The home is to be completed mid-spring '05 but will leave several projects for the family to finish later.

After a devastating fire which originated when a microwave decided to start on its own, Dan and Fran Treible of Walworth, NY, were able to rebuild on the existing foundation. The fire consumed several cherished family antiques. The super-structure of the Real Log Home



“Shire with cavendish extension ” was built in late 1977 and was power-washed then disassembled log by log with the help of neighbors and friends. It will be reassembled later on family owned ground in the Adirondacks. The new Contour 8 Real Log Home was designed with our in-house CAD System to better utilize the space. The stone fireplace was saved and will again flank the open cathedral living room.

We designed a 1,700 sq. ft. Real Log Home for Sal and Sandy of Pittsford, NY that was built in Pittsford, VT. Our Real Log Home representative in the area GCed the project. The mountain view is spectacular.



The Town of Webster has started on the foundation of their new “LIBERTY LODGE”. This Real Log Home will be a gathering place for all kinds of events and celebrations. The main section can be divided for several meetings at one time. The focus will be the stone fireplace and the 60 ft. X 10 ft. front porch.



Josh and Christine Allen dreamed of their log home and so their foundation was built 10 years ago to accommodate not only the double wide, but also their future home. Josh has a sawmill but felt it was important to be sure the log walls and corners were pre-cut and the structure was going to be tight. This will be a spring of '05 project and the site is ready.

Plans are drawn for projects in Seneca Falls, Lyons, Geneva, Marion, and south of Keuka College.

Our full-season log home rental, www.abeautifulplace.us outside Penn Yan and overlooking Keuka Lake was very busy this year. We had lodgers from North Carolina, to Arizona, and several from Pennsylvania and even New York celebrating anniversaries, weddings, “a weekend alone” and family outings. We added a fireplace, new heating and central air, resurfaced the



driveway, and gave the home a good treatment with Woodguard.

The grandkids seem to be getting older, but Jean and I decided we are not. We have had some sadness but many blessings to share and be thankful for. We know this has been a difficult year for many. As we navigate through 2005, they will be in our thoughts and prayers knowing the hope and promise God gives through His Son will strengthen all of us.

As we look forward to 2005, thank you for being a part of the family and helping us add another Growth Ring to our “Tree of Life”.

Blessings,
Ed & Jean