



Growth Rings 2016-17

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Schoen Custom Log & Country Homes

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We welcomed in 2017 as we racked up over 45 inches of snow, making it 20 times the amount of snow we had last year at this time. With more winter to come, it will help the water table, as the past summer was a very dry one with many drilling new wells. The election is over, and the winners may find it easier to get elected, than it is to govern. Alexander Hamilton was a great believer of this so let's see what happens.

We celebrated the first part of 2016 by completing the mechanicals and finishing touches



on Jim and Elva Martin's custom Real Log Home saltbox located just

south of Binghamton, NY. We offset the main girder from the ridgeline to give added space in the second floor for a bedroom and loft space. The open stairs were built using heavy timber frame construction. The



walkout Superior Wall Basement will be Jim's new office with views of the woods and nearby stream. The addition of a bay window to the main floor added to the feeling of being surrounded by nature. They had kitchen



cabinets and a counter that were salvaged from one of their homes that was flooded along the Susquehanna. A few modifications and it fit like a glove. The raised outside deck puts you into the trees and gives bird watching a whole new dimension.



We were able to visit Richard and Vicki Avery who are now settled in near Canandaigua. The home is performing and so loved by the

family, they couldn't be happier. Some of the landscaping has been started and there is much more to come.



In July, I was asked to visit a site just north of Brantling Ski Area in Sodus, NY. Al Beckens, a young man in his



80's had planted the orchards and also a hillside of white pines 40 years ago. He and Peggy dreamed of building their log home in the middle of their orchard overlooking the drumlins of

Wayne County. Respecting the Real Log Home Pre-cut Interlock System, they trusted us to custom design a home that would simply fit together, be tight to the weather, and perform for centuries to come. Al wanted to use his own logs for the garage so we took my 45 years of log home knowledge and developed a system to make it happen. Al cut over 60 trees and had a band saw come in and cut the

cants three sided. It was brutally hot in September, and the fourth side needed to be debarked so early in the mornings, Al used a planer that attached to his chainsaw. He worked like a 20 year old, but all his parts complained..... yet he persevered and came up with about 900 ft of materials.

The custom 28' X 48' 1344 sq. ft. designed ranch is built on a 9 ft Superior Insulated Wall foundation that was installed in about 3 hours. It also will provide an additional 1344 sq ft of living space with views though large windows and a sliding glass door facing south. We added a 10 ft. wide south facing gable porch featuring one of Al's logs for a collar tie and 5 ft. side porches on the east and west to enjoy all the breezes and views. The



open great room will feature a 17 ft peak, tongue and groove pine ceilings and old wood floors. An open stairway leading to the basement, a

fireplace, an open kitchen with island surrounded by views will make this a special place to live in. The master



bedroom suite will also have the high open ceilings showing off the fixed gable glass.

The 26 ft.

X 30 ft. log garage was a must and a steel roof will keep those lake snows from piling up.

Across from Hunt's Hollow Ski Area just north of Naples, John and Jamie Ketz found a small hill farm that resembles a New England farmstead complete with stone fences, deep stream gorges,

and waterfalls. We took the standard 28 ft. X 36 ft. Augusta floor plan - 1554 sq. ft. and modified it to look like an Adirondack Camp. The great room and master

bedroom suite are downstairs, and there are two bedrooms, a bath, and loft upstairs. We



are going to use 10" Swedish Cope logs. We added more glass to face



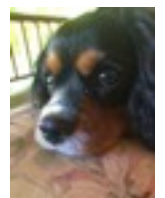
south-west, side porches, gable second story porch, screened in areas, and more sliders. This custom Real Log Home will be built on a 9 ft Superior Wall, as well, and this just adds to the amount of living space. The site has been staked for the home, well site located, the driveway is soon to be under way, and the final review of the plans is taking place. We hope to find enough open weather to be able to have the home completed by early summer.

A Beautiful Place, our rental outside Penn Yan had a spruce up - adding new tile and wood floors, greater driveway capacity, and more water storage for those lean years. We continue to share it with many who just enjoy each other, their pets, and the area.



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In 2016, we shared in Kari and Bobby's wedding at Keuka State Park, saw Dad turn 96, and added Ledl to our family. As we look forward to 2017 and add another "Growth Ring" to our "Tree of Life", we are thankful for our many blessings! Wishing you God's peace, and good health for 2017.



Shalom,
Ed &
Jean



"A Beautiful Place" Rental located just off Keuka Lake, 2 miles south of Penn Yan. Great Weekend!

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