

Ron and Sheila's May 2023 Cabin Workbee

Here's a little report about our accomplishments during our Cabin Workbee from May 11 - 24, 2023.

1. West wall of living room -- sanded, vertical strips added where diagonal boards meet (plus spaces in the channels between the boards under the vertical strips blocked to prevent them from harbouring dust, dander etc...), moulding installed where wall meets ceiling, baseboard installed, varathane finish applied to all surfaces (two coats). There were a lot of water stains on this wall that I hadn't even been aware of! (See photos attached) Ron is very particular about his work and I believe that everyone will be very pleased with this "feature wall." We did not re-install the fishnet, due to lack of time, but it is washed and ready to go -- stored on the coat closet upper shelf at the East end of the pantry.

2. Baseboards -- This is a delightful story in that we found a big bundle of 8' lengths of moulding for doors up in the rafters of the boathouse. I don't know if Mom and Dad bought this intending to use it for baseboards, but it is perfect!!! Ron installed, stained and varathaned baseboards in each of the kitchen, living/dining, hallway and entryway. It looks so finished, now! Ron priced them online and believes there was about \$300 worth!! Great forethinking, Mom and Dad!!!

3. Log Slab Wall in Hallway -- Ron dove-tailed Mike's fabulous sculpting of the laminate along the base of the slab wall by inserting "Backer Rod" into the space between the laminate and the bottoms of the slabs, where possible, (very flexible, styrofoam-like, to allow for expansion and contraction of the laminate) and then finishing the space using brown caulking that doesn't harden too much, also allowing for expansion and contraction. Now dust and dander will not get trapped in those cracks. Easy to vacuum and wipe clean.

4. Heatalator Switch -- Using PVC conduit, Ron ran wiring from the heatalator plug at the back of the fireplace down under the floor and over to the pantry where he installed a switch for the heatalator inside the pantry on the wall next to the fireplace. Ron will bring a cover for this switch in July.

5. Vacuuming and Using Leaf-blower on Walls and Beams -- We used a combination of vacuum and leaf-blower to clean all walls and ceiling in the living/dining area, above the pantry, above cupboards in kitchen, along the upper and vertical beams, cedar shakes and log slab wall in hallway and rustic wood in entryway. We believe that this should be done yearly.

6. Varathane Finish on Cedar Shakes -- varathane applied to cedar shakes in hallway.

7. Log Slab Wall in Hallway -- we only applied varathane to the first "section" of this wall from the west wall to the door of the third bedroom. The varathane did not absorb the way we would have liked, leaving a bit of milky residue, so we did not apply further varathane to the remaining sections of the log slab wall in hallway. Perhaps the lack of absorption is due to the age of the wood and perhaps it is due to the finish that Mom and Dad had applied back in the '70s. Yearly cleaning with leaf-blower and vacuum will have to do, unless someone has another idea.

8. Rustic Wood in Entryway and around to Main Bathroom Door -- similarly, we did not even attempt to apply varathane to this rustic wood as we suspected that it would not absorb, due to age and present finish. Yearly cleaning with leaf-blower and vacuum will have to do.

9. The 8-ft ladder we had purchased was a life-saver for getting to "high places." Very safe. Very convenient. Not too heavy for moving around. We are hoping that it will be adequate for trimming the cedars on the East side of the property down by the lake. (Cost \$220.49 – saved \$38.00, Canadian Tire)

10. Carson helped out by purchasing a second "fatigue mat" for the kitchen to protect the floor in front of the stove. (spills and water drips) He also purchased some sanding discs for our outdoor cedar siding staining projects. These were on sale for less than half price! They only had 2 pkg in Kelowna, when I was there, but reported that there was more inventory in Vernon, so I grabbed those 2 and asked Carson to pick up 4 more in Vernon. If we don't use them all this summer, they will keep! Carson is always so accommodating and eager to help make things happen!

We are so very lucky to have so many family members in the next generation who are now very capable adults and who are so generous with their time and talents!



Many thanks to all of you!

11. I am delighted to report that Carson also installed a motion sensor light down by the storage and it is fantastic, lighting the pathway in both directions! Carson also thoroughly cleaned the thermocouple in the furnace, yet again, and installed a new thermostat that has an "air only" setting. We were simply AMAZED at how much sanding dust got trapped in the new furnace filter we installed. This, despite the fact that we were vacuuming and sweeping more than once daily during the whole sanding process. Even though we were basically "on top of the dust," an incredible amount remained airborne.....and found its way to the furnace filter. This is a testament to what will happen with pet dander and hair this summer.



BTW we purchased the following furnace filters from RONA. Family can decide whether or not the MERV rating is high enough for the thorough filtration that we desire. It is supposed to take care of pet hair and dander. There are filters with higher ratings available.

Brand: 3M

Filtration Level: 1,000

MERV Rating: 11

Product Code: 689330148288

Size: 16" X 25" X 1"

Cost: Pkg of 3 for \$42.99 plus tax (BC price, may be cheaper in Calgary)

12. I spent about 8 hours digging out dandelions in the backyard since it was overridden and I thought this might put a bit of a halt to their spread. I believe it is very important that the dandelions not be allowed to let their flowers mature and turn to seed which spreads in the wind. For this reason, I highly recommend that the "lawn" be mown regularly. Personally, I do not want to use herbicide for weed control.

I raked part of the lawn out by the road, the East section that borders Murray and Sharon's. We are benefitting from their lush lawn in that their grass is spreading into our lawn area. I believe that with regular watering, this lawn could come back. I also believe the other lawn closer to the cabin should be watered and cut regularly. It is full of native plants and could easily come back, in my opinion.

13. Dripline – there are a couple of "spouts" on the dripline which need repair (just beside the utility trailer) as they send out tall plumes of water. As a result, less water reaches the trees on the West border of the property.

Is someone able to repair these nozzles?

14. Renovation Debris and Recycling – Please be aware that there is debris and recycling that we weren't able to take to the Waste Transfer Station:

-pieces of linoleum that were left on "sticky" parts of the floor in the entryway and bathroom until the laminate was installed

-large pieces of cardboard from the boxes for the recliners

-cardboard inserts that protected contents in boxes

-the 2 blue recliners and the armchair that are being discarded. They are presently sitting on the deck.

Suggestion: these could be left out by the road as freebies with a sign that their structure is great and they just need to be reupholstered. They may disappear.

Anyone is welcome to take care of the disposal of any of this debris and recycling. The waste transfer station hours are online.

NOTE: The waste transfer station does not take furniture, and likely not the linoleum. Those items would have to be brought to the dump.

15. The propane tank is turned off since there will be no need for the furnace in the summer. The furnace fan was left on and there is one replacement filter left. These seem to be of good quality. If someone wanted to purchase a bulk pack in Calgary (cheaper), I believe that this would be a good idea. It will be important to change the furnace filter frequently in the summer, especially after the presence of pets. Please continue to take readings of the propane tank gauge so that we can monitor possible leakage.

Note: There was some use of the furnace in April and early May, so the propane gauge reading will be lower than it was last fall.

16. I gathered a LOT of sticks and pieces of wood that came up on the beach due to spring run-off. I propose that this wood be used for beach fires rather than the firewood we purchase. (until there is a fireban, of course...) Carson will store this beach firewood under the cabin, if he has time.

17. Ron and I also rescued a lovely birch log which washed in. It is secured on the shoreline and we will keep an eye on it, as well as the other one we secured last year, to ensure they do not become infested with ants. Both logs are destined for Ron's woodshop.

18. Utility Trailer – is now parked at the cabin. The registration and keys for the two locks (tongue and wheel) are in a ziploc in the closet of the main bedroom to the right of the water heater.

19. The two area rugs from the main bedroom (with the animals around the perimeters) are stored in the boathouse, as we discussed, in case they may be of use in the future.

20. Circular mat from west wall – I have brought this to Calgary and will donate it to Women in Need, as discussed, unless someone prefers to dispose of it elsewhere.

21. Generator – Mike has suggested that the generator always have gas in it in order to prevent rusting on the inside. **This has not been done. Could someone please take care of filling the generator with gas?**

22. Gas for Lawnmower – The small jerry can has a bit of gas left, enough for a couple of mowings, then **the jerry can will need to be filled again.**

23. Propane for BBQ – I will ask Carson to check on how much propane is available in the present tanks in the boathouse.

24. Inventory of Staining Supplies – I made a list and will share this with everyone in the next little while. Everything needed to stain the siding is there. **Stay tuned.**

25. Paint for Window and Door Outdoor Trim – Carson and I are consulting about colour since there is no paint left. I am happy to purchase it so that it is available for summer staining projects. **I will keep everyone posted.**

26. Inventory of Shared Commonly Used Products – I have asked Carson to prepare this as we usually try to stock up at the beginning of the summer season. **Stay tuned.**

Submitted by Ron and Sheila (May 29, 2023)