

# Outlook on Halton Hills

## Log cabin restored for rehearsing studio

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The pair tore out the plaster interior of the 12 by 16 foot cabin and cleaned up the exterior. Two truckloads of junk later, the cabin sat as a skeleton, barely resembling what it was later to become.

Edgar is not sure how old the cabin is. The beams have all been neatly hewn and the dovetail joints still grip tightly, but the knowledge was there to build round logged cabins in that time period, Edgar said.

While excavating the interior, they found some relics of turn of the century journalism. Copies of the Globe and Mail dating back to 1907 were unearthed. "There is a Globe and Mail article which had a photograph of the CNE in 1910. (There was) an old stencil that a farmer used to paint his apple boxes with," Edgar said.

"It had to be built before the turn of the century because the house has been here for that long," said Edgar.

He suspects it once served as a milk storage house. "That's why they plastered it," he explained.

Edgar set to digging a foot and a half deep trench around the outside of the cabin to get a look at the foundation. It was still sitting on the original stone, but the cabin had sunk well into the ground. "You had to duck to get through the door," he



Edgar Thatcher (left) and Jamie Campbell lean on the fruits of their hard labor. The log cabin is estimated to be 100 years old and said.

The pair consulted a few people, including John Brander, a local knowledgeable farmer to get advice on how to go about the project.

They slid two 25 foot long timbers underneath the building and raised the entire structure on four hydraulic

jacks. The trick was to raise the whole cabin at the same time, Edgar said.

Once, while enlisting the efforts of some friends, the cabin slipped about six inches sideways because one of the jacks was settled in mud

and began sinking. "You've never seen seven guys move so fast in your life," Edgar said.

The cabin sat on jacks for the day while they set to clearing away old stones, raking the foundation dirt even and pouring an eight inch slab of concrete for new foundation. To that, they added eight inch dynder blocks to help raise the cabin even higher.

The pair began to work well into the nights, utilizing lights to see. They put on windows, the door (which Edgar found completely intact in a garbage), used the wood from the drop ceiling to help build a porch, brought power in from the house and installed a pine wood floor.

In the second week of December they began rehearsing their songs in the cabin and Edgar christened the loft by sleeping there for the first time on Christmas Eve. Jamie took over that spot on a more permanent basis two weeks later.

It's heated entirely by one baseboard heater. "Which is a testament to how well insulated it is," Jamie said.

The roof itself is simply galvanized tin - now patched with wood wherever necessary, Edgar said.

The whole project cost between \$1,000 and \$1,500 plus countless man

hours, Edgar said. "I always had an image of what I wanted. (Some people) including Doug said why don't you just build a new building? That wasn't really what I had in mind," recalled Edgar.



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## Guides learn fire safety

Thank goodness March came in like a lamb and stayed that way for most of the month because the Brownies, Guides and Pathfinders of Georgetown West District needed the good weather to carry on all of their activities.

On March 11, some of the older Brownies and a few Guides visited the Georgetown Fire Hall to learn about fire safety and prevention. Seven Guides earned their Fire Safety badge, and wish to thank Dave Ford for being so patient in answering the numerous questions put to him. The girls really enjoyed the outing.

The next evening (March 12), the 2nd Guide Company and 1st Pathfinder Unit participated in "Operation Snowman" sponsored by Red Cross. The girls were victims in the mock disaster and had all kinds of imaginary illnesses dealt with by the efficient volunteers.

March 20th, saw the Brownies of the 4th and 6th Packs at the Library/Cultural Centre. The Brownies sang songs and danced in the aisles to the music of Glenn Besset and the Magic Dragon Band. The girls really enjoyed the show. A pot-luck parent and daughter banquet was held at Knox Church by the 2nd Guide Company on March 24. The food was absolutely delicious and a good time was had by all.

Congratulations to Roberta Diachok, Kristy Johnston, Cindy Squire and Charla Rutherford who were enrolled as Pathfinders on March 28.

Good luck to the Brownies of the 4th Pack who are entering 'Sing Ontario Sing'.

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