

# Jeff Lumby's view from the country

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## Aren't we crabby!

So, I'm driving home last Thursday night after an especially busy day which began in Toronto, went to Burlington and was about to end in Beersville. I turn up my laneway and what do I find laying right in front of me? No, not the Doublemint twins. A 100 year-old maple tree has snapped off and landed right on the lane making it impassable. Welcome home honey!



Anyone got a toothpick?

Normally I would have done what any leisure maverick would do. Abandon the car, crack open the pop and order up some dynamite the next day. But I was expecting a bunch of people the following morning and sadly all answers pointed to the chainsaw in the drive-shed. You know, there isn't a better way to end your day than with a sunset hack through an angry century old maple. So, I vault the tree and head for the tools of ignorance. On my way I pass two 35 year old pines that have been toppled by the wind and right next to the shed, another even older maple had met it's untimely end.

What did I do to upset Mother Nature so much? Surely she doesn't remember the time I emptied everyone's garbage cans when I was 9, does she? She's not calling in the marker from the day I turned all of that plastic into a large fire ball or the time my buddy and I set all of the alarm clocks in The Bay to go off at the same time. She can't punish me for the Halloween when I tossed eggs into the drive-in; the cops already scared the crap out of me for that one. So what is she so ticked off about? Why me? No one else around me lost 4 trees, not to mention the screens she snapped in half. Ok, so next year I promise to go to Earth Day.

Anyway, with about an hour and a half of daylight left I grabbed my saws and headed down to the new lumberyard on my lane. Not only was there the obvious grunt work to do, but I had to begin by extricating a portion of the tree from the power line which had stretched down to where I could touch it. I chose not to, by the way, I'm a bit of a wimp that way. Two hours later, by the light of my truck, I finally cleared away enough to allow vehicles through the carnage.

Sunday, my buddy Eric and I took a run at the other monster maple. That bad boy took both of us pretty much the entire day to clear and there are still huge chunks left over. Then I got a brainstorm... or at least a brainsquall. Instead of painstakingly sawing all of this timber into firewood, I'm thinking about getting some of it milled. That way I can build something to finally put my feet up on. Hey Ma Nature, bet you didn't see that coming!



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