

Log home

Built with a feeling for the past, old fashioned ingenuity

When Shirley Whittington walks through the century old doors of the Arthur Pike home at the Northwest Basin, you step into Canadiana. The home is of log construction, with a roof of cedar shingles, and although it's less than a year old, it looks as if it has been sitting in its pine grove site for a hundred years.

The front door is a particular treasure, with its stained glass window. The back door is 140 years old, and is intricately hand carved. It's from Quebec, and Pike thinks it may be from a convent.

The wide planked floors downstairs came from an old cannery. "I used \$75 worth of sandpaper cleaning them off," says Pike. Now pegged together, and varnished, they gleam in the firelight from the huge stone hearth in the livingroom.

"I tried to build this place as if there weren't any hardware stores around," says Pike. "I wanted to have as much wood as possible." Even the ventilation louvres are made of wood.

In the bathrooms, Pike has built wooden vanities in the style of early French Canadian washstands, complete with towel racks at the end. The wood is protected against water spotting with varnish and several coats of wax.

The kitchen is large and friendly, with a plate rail filled with mellow old china, and a Pike-built dining nook, illuminated with an antique hanging lamp.

A decorative pot-bellied stove sits on a semi-circular brick hearth in the family room and between it and the fireplace, Pike hopes to keep his heating bill down this winter.

The stairs leading to the four large bedrooms are made from halved logs mortised together and the

bannister is a huge tree trunk, felled from their lot.

Even the sundeck has a distinctive touch. "I wanted a sundeck," says Pike. "But I asked myself why it had to be the same as everybody else's." It isn't. The railing planks are decorated with a cut out leaf and flower design.

Most of the furniture is antique. Other pieces have been made by Pike himself, using old wood which gives a mellow look. Even the curtain rods are wooden, and throughout the house there are handmade quilts, crocheted throws and cushion covers - all adding to the warm feeling of old fashioned comfort and hospitality.

Why does a man build himself a log house? "I always wanted something different," says Pike. "I used to be fascinated by the old stone houses down around Elmira, but there's not enough stone up here to do anything like that, so I started thinking about a log house."

The old originals, which many people are buying now, dismantling and rebuilding, are out of sight price-wise, according to Pike. "So I bought a lot, designed my house, and got 52 hundred feet of red pine logs from up around MacTier."

In true pioneer tradition he and his boys cleared their land and manhandled the logs into position. "Nelson Robillard helped us," says Pike. "He helped with the building Black Creek pioneer village. Andrew Pilon did the stone work, and we got a lot of very valuable advice from Herb Mailloux."

Building began in April and by September, the Pike home was completed. Still on the planning stage is a

workshop made of round logs. "I want to build some furniture, and possibly work with other log house builders in a consulting capacity," says Pike.

"I'm quite happy about the way this worked out," says Pike, who retired from the dry cleaning business three years ago. "I designed this home for my family, and I hope that it will stay in the family. I really hope that one of my children will want to live here some day."

The Pike home was built with a feeling for the past, and a lot of sweat and old fashioned ingenuity. No wonder it has such a warm personality.



Arthur Pike's home - a step into Canadiana

OPP attempt to find man responsible for shooting

Officials of the Midland Ontario Provincial Police are working in conjunction with the Minister of Natural Resources in an attempt to find a man responsible for the ac-

cidental shooting of a Victoria Harbour youth, The youth was injured over the weekend when he was grazed on the forehead by a bullet while

hunting just east of Victoria Harbour. He was treated for the wound at St. Andrew's Hospital and then released.

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Waubushene firemen making door to door visits

by Charlotte Gerdes To celebrate Fire Prevention Week the Waubushene Firemen have been making a door to door visit leaving each home owner with a large telephone sticker with the number of their fire department on it and a litter bag for the car.

Congratulations go out to the former Emma Thompson of Waubushene, on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. Dalton Brown, on October 4, at Devon Baptist Church, Fredrickton, New Brunswick. Rev. Bruce Moores officiated.

President's Ball

Saturday, October 16

Midland and District Shrine Club Presidents' Ball at The Country Mill. Dancing at 8:30 p.m. Music by The Varritone Four. Draw will be made for an R.C.A. colour television an R.C.A. stereo and a Motorola 8 track tape deck. Limited number of tickets are still available from members of the Shrine Club or from Orr's Jewellers.

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