

# Southampton

Our cottage/retirement home:  
The house construction phase  
-- rough-in work!



**With the completion of the frost wall in July 2004, construction began in earnest!**  
Top left: Sue and I spread 70 bales of straw in November 2004. Above: Our creek winding through the winter's snow. Left: Removing straw in early April 2005. This was a cold, wet job!



**A week later**, I took advantage of some warm spring weather to dig the hydro trench! Our friend Val Grieve and Sue inspected the first of the rough-in plumbing which went in just before a layer of insulation and the in-floor heating coils were laid by the Nickason crew in mid-April.



**The concrete slab** was poured after that and framing started on April 18 – a warm sunny day! Prestige Construction owner Steve Stuempfle (white hard hat) set the first wall in place at about 8:45 a.m.

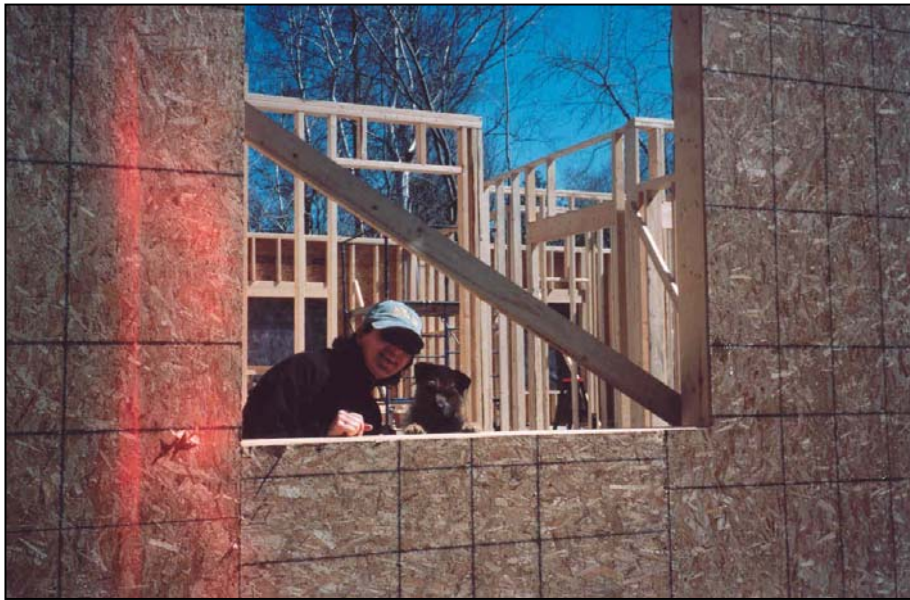


The Prestige Crew was extremely efficient in spite of my occasional assistance. By the end of the first framing day the shape of our cottage was already apparent. It looked just like the drawing said it should!



**Pictured above are some shots of the house after construction ended on day 2 (April 19). Early on day 3 the landscape bricks (below) arrived. More work for me! Each stone weighed 90 lbs before they were split in half. The weather turned cold but the first set of roof trusses were installed by April 25.**





**Sue and Charles** enjoyed the view from **Nikkie's window** at the end of week one, This was a busy time for deliveries including our showers, trusses, and shingles, though obviously not all on the same day!





**By May 4, roof sheathing was finished.** We laid snow and ice shield on May 5 and began shingling. In the lower left photo, I'm the one sitting on my butt in the green hard hat. Our neighbour Barb took this picture. Fred and Barb have been extremely helpful during our construction phase especially by providing water, hydro, and security services! Shingling was essentially complete by May 6.





**After the crew left for the day, I began distributing landscape stone around the yard. By the end of the summer the flimsy wood retaining walls should all be replaced by stone! I started with the driveway in order to stabilize it over the summer. When we arrived for the weekend, Sue, Nikkie, and Charles admired our windows which were installed on May 9.**







**With the house effectively sealed from the elements, interior work began.** We did most of the insulation by ourselves. Sue especially loved the black goop used to seal walls and windows! Charles found other uses for the insulation which was surprisingly non-itchy! He laid beside our newly arrived, but yet-to-be installed address stone! Our neighbours Don and Maureen helped our cause by donating some new, unused insulation.





**This picture of the great room**, taken from the kitchen and looking into the back yard, came out better than expected; we thought it would be back-lit. It provides a nice perspective of the vaulted ceiling.

Sue got pretty good at installing insulation bats into our vaulted ceilings (the second vaulted ceiling is in the loft)! We later had insulation blown into our flat ceilings.



**Back to the exterior!** The exterior stone arrived on May 27 and Robert Bradfield (on scaffolding in red hard hat, below) and his crew began the masonry work the next week. We like the brick!



Above left:  
Here's a picture of our car (Sally the Saturn) sitting for the first time (this year) in our driveway. Prior to this point it was always full of snow or building materials!





**Final steps before the drywall crew arrived:** I got some welcome advice and assistance from our friend Paul Grieve who brought his nail gun and helped install strapping on the first weekend in June. We spent three intense weekends doing insulation, strapping, and vapour barrier.

Nikkie got pretty adept at stapling vapour barrier and gluing things together, but she spent most of that weekend at the beach!

