

Southampton

Our cottage/retirement home:
The house construction phase
-- finishing touches!



Exterior trim was completed sporadically in late summer: Top left – Mark cutting soffit, bottom left – Paul Grieve trimming the last piece! Above – Mark and Nikkie installing soffit at the back of the house.



The grey phase! For a week in June everything was white and grey after the drywall crew had done their thing. Top left – the great room prior to taping; bottom left – ice-block windows in the master bedroom. Above – a unique view of the backyard from the en-suite bathroom after primer!



The transition from white to bright was swift and painless! Lynn, Doug and Kristine arrived from Michigan on Canada Day 2005 and we spent the long weekend functioning as an efficient six-person paint crew. Doug, having honed his painting expertise on Habitat builds, served as crew boss.

Above: Sue snapped a shot of Doug, Lynn, Kristine and Nikkie preparing to start in the loft. We selected a relatively low traffic room for our practicing! Left: Doug demonstrates his technique near the walk-in closet.



More painting perspectives!

Left: Sue took a photo of Lynn taking a photo of Nikkie and Kristine applying the first coat of orange to the loft wall in the great room!

Right: Lynn looks bored as Mark works on the kitchen.





The end is in sight!

Left: Mark and Nikkie installing laminate floor in the dining room.

Above: Rebecca and Nikkie set up shop in the garage to paint floorboards.

Right: Finished floor looking toward the great room from the front entrance.





Rest and relaxation was in short supply during the summer of 2005, but we slowed down a bit over Labour Day weekend!

Left: Sue, Charles, Gigi and Papa took in the sights from the dunes overlooking the beach and Chantry Island. Those aren't UFO's in the sky, just smudges on my camera!

Bottom: Charles, Gigi and Papa watched a bit of the US Open Tennis Championships.



The good-old out-of-doors! In September, Mark's attention turned back to the yard. Top right: Gerry Gottwald provided some expertise and elbow grease on the front retaining wall which (bottom) soon curved its way from the driveway toward the creek.



Likewise, the backyard retaining wall (above) soon took shape and framed the patio. The stone sure looked a lot better than the temporary plywood retainers which were retired after 18 months' service!



More stone work! Above: Mark used Bradfield's saw to cut cap-stones to shape. Top right: An October view of the completed front wall after the raised part of the yard was re-seeded. Bottom: The last of the wooden pallets await shipment to the landfill.



Pavement! Top right: Charles guarding the driveway prior to pouring of the exposed aggregate. Bottom: Newly poured driveway on a mid-November day. Above: An ash tree and the back door frame the new patio.



Some interior views:

Left – The new corner unit framed the TV and fireplace and finished-off the great room.

After years in the basement, our Audubon print is home!

Bottom – Looking to the kitchen from a spot near the fireplace.

Right – An “artsy” view of the stairs to the loft from “Nikkie’s wing”.





Some “artsy” winter scenes:

Top left – A morning view of snowy branches from our bedroom window after a late November storm.

Bottom left – Snow-covered garden snail, a gift from the Latimers, pokes through a December snowfall.

Bottom right – Just as we envisioned this room with a view! Looking north from our dining room window toward the Albert Street bridge over “our” creek.





In the bleak mid-winter!

Top – A late December view of the cottage from the back corner of our lot near the creek.

Bottom left – A view of the dining room window and the back of our cottage looking south from Don and Maureen's driveway.

Bottom right – Digging out from a heavy February snowstorm; still a long way to go! Curse those snow plows!

