

2016 Year End Report

From a property perspective, the year has been a good one for the A-Frame Association, seeing us cross quite a few items off of our to-do list.

In March, we started off with our usual list of about 25 things we were hoping to do. We sensibly reduced that to six. Given wintry weather overstaying its welcome, sub-contractors taking vacation at inopportune times, and the usual slings and arrows of annoying fortune, we finally found we only had time to do 3 items before the time the first writer moved in, in April. Still, they were 3 pretty important things! We managed to install a new high-efficiency fireplace insert, to re-wire the electrical for the writing shed, and replace the old taps in the bathtub, which had been threatening give out for some time. The push for the fireplace insert was particularly crucial to us, as the first writer was bringing along his brand new baby and as Jean aptly put it *nobody wants chilly poets, and we want chilly babies even less!*

Although we didn't get as much done in March as we had initially intended, we were fortunate to end up with a total of three weeks available to use in August to do additional work. Our projects included: rebuilding the rear curvy deck that Eurithe's brother had built; insulating the ceiling and walls of the writing shed; re-paneling the interior of the shed which had been removed to do the electrical; building a firewood shelter; and constructing a ladder and railing for the A-Frame loft. We were fortunate to have the help of three volunteers at various points during the build. A big thank-you is owed to Tim Alamenciak, Larry Scanlan, and Todd Lukan, without whom things would not have come together.

Starting planning in July allowed us to begin sourcing materials well in advance, which is always helpful, and we made a number of lucky 'finds' that helped the process along in an economical and efficient way, and in a way typical of how the A-Frame was originally constructed. Our ingredients included: a wood slab from a Toronto maple leveled to make room for a power line (they were nuts to take it down); a leftover awning window from the dusty warehouse above Hermano Pereira's store on Dundas Street; an old brown glass drum light removed from the ceiling at Jim Addison's place off Sorauren; and a couple steel culverts from a drainage outfit in Napanee.

We used the maple slab to fashion offset steps for the ladder to the loft in the A-Frame (together with some pine from the hardware store and a small dory of wood glue). The window replaced the smaller, less thermally efficient window that had been in the writing shed. The new light was also installed in the shed, and the culverts, turned on their sides and founded on a concrete slab, made for some pretty handy and easy-to-construct firewood shelters.

While Matti Kopamees, our sterling contractor, handyman, property manager, and caretaker almost died from the itchiness of working with mineral wool insulation and

trying to build a deck during an oppressive heat wave, he pulled through in the end. By the end of September, we were able to declare the whole effort a real success. There's still a lot to do, of course, but we're getting there one season at a time.