



# Growth Rings 2010-2011

[www.loghomeguy.com](http://www.loghomeguy.com)



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"May you live in exciting times", would pretty well capture 2010. We were all glued to the drama of the Chilean miners finding their way back to family and a future, truly a miracle. The economy, while very difficult for many, did provide opportunity for others as the stock market rebounded and banks reset their practices. Politics had many sounding boards and yet the need to find common ground is the largest challenge to move policy ahead.

Curt and Patti James began dreaming of a log home 20 years ago; then last year, their daughter was married at Garrett Chapel on the Bluff just below Penn Yan. The family staged the preparation for the family celebration at "A

Beautiful Place" log home rental overlooking Keuka Lake. It was also the site of their reception on a beautiful day in July.

Curt and Patti had purchased some land on Garfield Rd. in the Town of Naples. The site, similar to ABP, had a wooded entry that provides privacy, and then opens to a southern exposure to an area known as, "Little Switzerland". The high ridge is dotted with wind turbines



standing very stately and each slowly waving their arms to the horizon.

Curt's commute from Rochester to teach in the Prattsburg High School

was in much contrast to Patti being able to walk out of her front door and onto the Strong Memorial Hospital Campus to work in the Emergency Ward.

The new site gave Patti the opportunity to "be in the country" and then have some "winding down time" before getting home.



Curt's well driller hit an artesian well which created an additional continuous source of water for the stream just behind the proposed construction site.

We worked on their design and actu-

ally went to contract for a custom 28X44 cape footprint. Later, it was determined that all they really needed was a 28X36 cape with an open loft. Final plans were prepared and delivery was set for August.

Excavation took place for a driveway and the foundation was erected before the truck from Real Log



Homes arrived. Bundles were sorted on the deck and on log laying day, Curt's dad, Charles, showed up as well as "JJ", Jimmy Johnson. "JJ" wanted some experience in assembling the logs before he

started his project in 2011. Mitchell Construction was the official builder on site and I included my 14-year-old grandson, Jason, in the labor force. The first course laid down in a snap and soon there was a rhythm starting to develop as everyone found



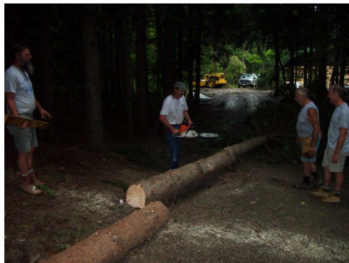
his or her job. Curt got a chance to be a part of building their "dream home" and by day's end; we were into the window frames and starting the 5th course.







The following day the process continued and Patti joined the crew, and by the end of the second day, the logs were starting to go over the window frames. Shortly after, I returned to the site to check on the progress and found the driveway blocked as



Curt was cutting a tree that was going to be used for some interior posting to support the second floor girder and joist system. The logs were trimmed to rough length and loaded on a pickup for the short ride to the building deck. I showed Mark how to square



the ends for a nice finish cut against the girder. We decided to place the jack under the post for adjustment later to level the second floor as the walls settled. Curt was directed to put the finish pocket into the J course for the girder and soon we were ready to lift

the pre-cut 8x12 into place. Once Curt's homegrown post was in place, pre-cut log floor joists were dropped into the wall and girder pockets and secured. Another three courses of logs were added for the knee-wall before the gable ends could be con-



from inside between the rafters to keep any air from entering the roof system and to provide an R-40. Recycled bluejean batts were used to provide the insulation for the first floor before the fire-code drywall was added to the basement garage area ceiling.

An open house was held the middle of December and another will



be scheduled for spring as the finishing touches are added. Curt is trying his hand at tiling the shower and installing the kitchen and finishing the floors. Move-in will be sometime in January/February.



Jim and Sue Johnson raise and sell Christmas trees when Jim isn't working in the landscaping business and Sue isn't working for

Wayne County. Their site is another Christmas Tree farm Jim located north of Newark next to the Zurich Bog and just east of Brantling Ski area. Sue plays autoharp in a bluegrass/gospel band, "Loose Canons".

We custom designed their 1164 sq. ft. semi-retirement Real Log Home ranch to include two bedrooms and the washer and dryer on the main floor. The Great Room will catch the view and southern exposure. A bump dining room was added to the south to catch even more sun. They will have a walkout basement and Jim is currently researching outside wood furnaces as the main heating source. Delivery will be scheduled for mid-summer.

Several other projects are in the works and design.

A Beautiful Place [www.abeautifulplace.us](http://www.abeautifulplace.us) continues to be enjoyed by

many a traveler and their pets to the Finger Lakes. We are amazed how many people are from out of state, and yet we have several who use it as a ground base to visit family and friends.



Jean will be traveling to Grand Junction, CO early in January with our oldest grand-daughter (17)

Chelsea to see grand-daughter 2 (15) Carissa take the role of Liesel in the community's "Sound of Music" Production. The first performance was viewed by over 900 paying patrons and a good time was had by all.

In August, we were able to take a day and travel to Niagara Falls with visiting Carissa to share the experience with her eastern cousins. The Maid of the Mist was a big highlight as well as the Cave of the Winds.

We got doused and loved every minute of it.

As we look forward to 2011 and add another Growth Ring to



our "Tree of Life", we recognize there are many families that have lost loved ones this year; and I guess if I had a wish, it would be that they find some hope and peace. It would be great to use Christmas to give hope to those who are hungry so they need not be hungry again, to give hope to those who face medical uncertainty and those who need healing of both mind and soul. Then there are those who are in other lands in harm's way. Stores just have a hard time wrapping the real gifts.

Thank you for your Blessings and we wish you God's peace and good health for 2011.

Shalom,

*Ed & Jean*