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4 Seasons' Fantastic Four

Any large project spearheaded primarily by volunteers can develop a lull that, at times, is discouraging for those involved. The new Four Seasons Lodge on Spring Street has been immune from this dreaded hiatus, mainly because of a group of Madawaska men known as the Fantastic Four.

Leading this group is Cliff Ouellette, a retired management official from Fraser Papers. With a mechanical engineering background he has been instrumental in the planning and installation phase of the project. Beyond this welcomed expertise is the exceptional amount of time and effort he has personally committed to the endeavor. Day in and day out over the summer Cliff has been at the lodge to support the project. Precision cuts and installations are a trademark of Cliff's work and his desire to achieve perfection on the lodge is certainly evident. In addition, Cliff's wife, Tina, has helped monitor the project by taking photographs of the progress, which she is compiling into a special documentary scrapbook that will be on display at the lodge.

Madawaska residents know another Fantastic Four member, Jim Madore, as an ardent supporter of our military personnel. A veteran himself, Jim has provided many local people with metallic ribbons for their cars to show their support. As a Four Seasons snowshoe enthusiast, Jim usually brings along his tree clippers to help trim branches on the trail. During the past months he has traded in clippers for a hammer and broom. Working at his own pace, he has made a significant contribution to the progress of the lodge construction. Living on 7th Avenue allows Jim to closely monitor activity around the lodge much to the pleasure of club officials. As winter approaches, look to see him enjoying the lodge as a winter sport athlete.

When club members mentioned finishing the inside of the lodge, Jacques Lizotte had the answer: tongue and groove pine. Those who have visited the lodge and viewed the finished product know exactly how impressive his work is. From the onset Jacques took charge to determine the number of boards needed, their dimensions, and the pattern to be used. Jacques insisted the boards be stored inside prior to the installation to reduce the risk of shrinkage. He not only organized the preparation, but also personally installed the vast majority of the pieces over the summer. Covering the walls and cathedral ceiling of the 1,300 sq. ft. main room was a daunting task that he tackled with enthusiasm. A papermaker and master carpenter, Jacques was also looked to for assistance and guidance in many other areas of the lodge construction.

Ski or snowshoe the trail at Four Seasons and you'll most likely meet up with the trail master, Gil Roy, a retired Fraser pipefitter. Gil's endless knowledge of mechanics and machinery has served the club well over the past years and, this summer, that knowledge benefited the club once more. Instead of groomers and snowmobiles, Gil worked diligently on doors, insulation, and just about anything that went into the lodge. Living

next to the facility he, along with Madore, will be carefully monitoring the events that take place. In addition, Gil can be looked to for any information regarding the trails.

With the summer season winding down, everyone at Four Seasons is happy to have the Fantastic Four on the job and contributing to its completion. Although more work needs to be done, these fine men have given above and beyond to make the lodge a reality. Those who use the facility will forever be grateful for their efforts. Residents are encouraged to stop by the lodge to see their magnificent work.

