

Building a log house

This is a short summary of our log house building project.

After many years we finally faced the fact that we had to establish our own farm. At first we considered to transfer an old log house to our forest. But then we came to the conclusion to build everything from the scratch. Then we would have a place, which exactly meets our needs.

The house has been done with hand tools, mainly axe, saw and chisel. An experienced builder recommended me not to do it. He said I would be an invalid after that. Thanks to him, I spend a lot of time observing how to work kindly with my body.

Still alive and feeling well!

Lasse, Maria & Aamu & Justus

Start in summer 2012

Clearing the area for our log house. We had to bring all stones from elsewhere with this cart.





Beginning of
winter.
Making logs.
Cutting trees,
peeling and
transporting.





Work finished in end of
December!

2013



Spring:

Building the foundation
with stones and sand.



Foundation of
oven.

Floor-
construction.





That's how logs look from downside.

The red device I modified from a car's lifting-jack. It's helpful, when I put the moss between the logs for insulation.





That happened right in the beginning! The axe-blade fell off from the handle. Stupid accident, but not serious. I'm glad it happened to me and not to you!

Aamu's invented bar-are you hungry or thirsty?





Maria is still happy, Lasse tries to smile. He is longing for winter.



2014

Yes, I managed to relax! This year I decided to take care of myself and not to get exhausted.

In order to prevent us from running out of logs we did some more. All in all we prepared about 100 logs in two winters.



In January we transferred a sauna from a neighbours place. I build a sledge under it. We had an exciting trip home and the sauna got stuck several times in deep snow. Now it's near to our yard.



Three kilometers from here was an abandoned fox farm. The owner gave us the roof for our house in exchange for demolishing the fox farm. We got also the planks. Everybody was happy and I could build some shelters to store windows and other stuff at our building site.



In June we were bringing recycled bricks from another place.



Finally I could start with the ax work. This year I worked mostly alone. This guy is not me.



December: 3 meters are done. It's about the half of our house with two floors. Next year I can concentrate more on log work. Will I reach the roof? (I suppose not)



Now I will stop for this year. I kept my promise: I feel much better than last year. In March I will be back!



Last but not least: in April we got a baby!
Here I am, Justus, 8 months old!



2015

I continued with building in mid of March. This year was not easy. Justus is still very much disturbing our sleeping. Maria had some kind of burnout and so I didn't got so far as I expected. Hopefully we get the roof up next year. Otherwise the logs start to suffer too much.



This is the profile of the log,
which closes the gap above
the windows and doors.



The holding construction of the first floor. Because I was daily jumping over and creeping under these beams for two months, my knees got irritated. Also my wrists were this year near to get sick because of the axe work.

This log is crossing the wall and holding the balcony and the first floor. The gap on the upper side of the beam gives space to the logs to settle.





This way heavy logs can be lifted easily. The rope is fixed to the wall. The rope turns around the log and returns back to my hands. This arrangement makes the effort of pulling two times lighter. The ramp is also making it lighter.



2016

I started in the end of February, because I had the goal to get the roof done before the autumn. Getting up the logs got more and more heavy.



With the pulley I placed the posts, which are holding the long roof beams: each 12 meters and about 350 kg. I had to turn them into the right direction. The lifting device looks very light, doesn't it?



In order to build the roof construction, I had to climb to places I normally don't enjoy being. Sometimes I felt almost paralyzed when I was looking down: 8,5 meters!



It's raining,
everything is
getting
slippery.



When I put the last sheets, snow started to
fall. It's done!



So far this year. Now I can continue inside even it's raining. Next year there will be lots of masonry: chimney, stove. Hope that we can move in next winter!