

Hackberry Heckler

XXX

2. February 2022

Hackberry Men's Shed, Ontario.

***** FIELD REPORTS *****

John Peters, March 13th, 2022

While we enjoy breakfasts and zoom gatherings and getting a Sopwith camel assembled, there are other things happening in the world of Men's Sheds beyond our doors. In fact, we enjoy these things not only because we work to make them happen, but because others got the ball rolling for us in the first place. And reaching out to help others benefit from the things we enjoy is ongoing.

I've shared before some of the work being done to get the CMSA organized and incorporated with two basic purposes: (1) to support existing Sheds to strengthen what is already happening and (2) to extend Shedding to communities where it does not yet exist. In none of this is there any desire to control Sheds across the country. In fact, it is written into the constitution that we "will not have any direct control over or responsibility for any individual Shed." This is to safeguard the fact that Shedding is a grassroots phenomenon, not a top down organization. We can share experiences and ideas with other Sheds, but we each run our own show according to the interests and abilities of our members.

So, to get the two purposes of CMSA further implemented, I have gathered together, by zoom (thanks to the *Naismith Shed* for letting us use their Zoom account), representatives of seven Ontario Sheds. Doug Johnson is the representative from the *Hackberry Shed* at these zoom meetings. Kevin Ford of *Men's Shed, Ottawa Centre* has reserved a domain name for this provincial group (likely to be called MEN'S SHEDS Ontario or MSO) towards the establishing of an Ontario website. Darrel O'Shaughnessy of the *Arnprior and McNab/Braeside Men's Shed* is working with me to make presentations to other communities.

To date These are some of the outreach efforts that

have been made or are in process:

- ~ Darrel O'Shaughnessy has made a webinar presentation to the International Federation on Aging;
- ~ Doug Mackie of CMSA and I made a zoom presentation to two interested people in Brockville. These people have already sought a grant to help with the expenses of establishing a Shed there;
- ~ this March Doug, Darrel and I will be making a similar presentation to a group interested in sponsoring a Shed in Sudbury and Darrel and I will make a road trip to meet with these people in April;
- ~ Darrel and I will also be working in cooperation with the *Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario (OACAO)* to present a webinar to a cluster of their 200 community members towards the end of May. At that webinar there will also be a presentation from HelpAge Canada on how communities can tap into a \$1,000 start up grant to help get a Shed started in other communities;
- ~ and I have made contact with a representative of an 8th Shed in Centreton, Ontario (non functioning during the pandemic) which we hope to rejuvenate in the spring.
- ~ Oh, and did I say that for our *Hackberry Shed*, as an existing Shed, there is a grant of up to \$10,000, also through HelpAge Canada, for a project of our choosing. If anyone is interested in my wacky ideas, just corner me at a breakfast and ask how we might spend such a grant.

Do some of our Ontario Sheds have problems exacerbated by the pandemic? Definitely! The same is true in Alberta and BC and in other corners of our world. Things like (1) developing leadership and transferring leadership, (2) attracting new members and retaining ongoing members, (3) maintaining interest and momentum are just a few of the challenges before us. But through it all we continue to find ways to maintain connections and benefit from supporting each other as we stand together, Shoulder to Shoulder.

***** TOOLS *****

Here are a couple of Table Saw exhibits both used to feed your wood.



Item 1 is around 9" long so your fingers are about 3.5" away from the blade minus the height of the blade. This one has been pushed THROUGH the blade; not a good idea! Maybe use a thinner stick or move over to the band saw. Someone should cut off the damaged end and reform the two hooks. Item 2 is meant to push sheets through the blade. It too shows damage but in this case the safety margin was only 1/2". When in use this item should not be anywhere near the blade.

What's with the saw marks on the fence?



*** PROJECTS ***



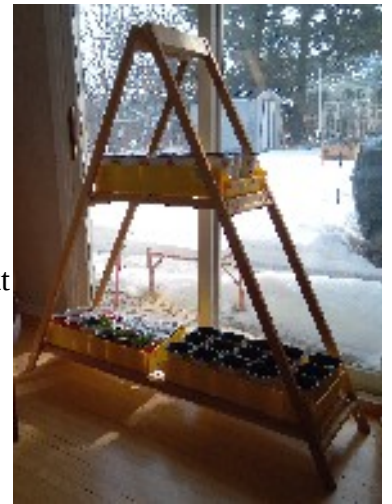
Al has made this lovely model of our Shed and that old truck looks pretty good parked outside. At the moment he has a couple of firetrucks on the go.

Terry has been busy with software for both the Sopwith Camel sound and the Sopwith Simulator control box. In his 'spare' time he's managed to assemble this impressive looking A-Frame which he

called a Foldable Seedling Tray Stand. Ah but will it fly?

The Sopwith Camel is now ready to deliver to the Museum. A notice will be sent out early next week re logistics!

Before leaving for Costa Rica, Doug worked feverously on the gun mountings, leaving me but to stain and varnish the bits. Since his return they've all been re-assembled, installed, and tested!



Here is the jig he and Tim assembled to cut out the grooves:

Also in the works is a **Sopwith (Cockpit) Simulator** which was off to a good start when Terry gotten a SOPWITH computer game working on a



RaspberryPi Zero and I swapped an old Apple II display into a KAL car ignition analyzer. It was



originally controlled from a keyboard but Terry soon had a box of switches put together (Beta) and a Pi-Pico converting pushbuttons to keystrokes.



A few weeks later we have a Mk-I assembled but a yet untested.

Not only do you get to fly with guns and bombs but recent upgrades include Missiles and Flares. None of which stop me from taking out the 'cow' at the end of the runway (again)! If all else fails you hit HOME and autopilot takes over to land you back at the airstrip.

Ed has taken on the job of the 3/4 scale cockpit frame and sent this picture from his workshop:



We've also a couple of Engine Braces pending delivery:



***** FACILITIES *****

The dust extractor hose has been reunited with the mitre saw.

Most of the firewood has been removed.

***** OUTREACH *****

We might have a short steps rail to build for our neighbour Janet and a some Fascinator Stands for the Horticultural Society?

The Hackberry Hustlers Band (in-need of a name) has now played a couple of times at the Station on a Wednesday morning. This last week we had five instrumentalists including Terry's neighbour Rob on guitar. There was even more in the audience!

***** MISCELLANEOUS *****

***** WEB *****

<https://www.32auctions.com/birdhousebonanza2022>

***** MEMBERSHIP *****

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With thanks to those who've seen fit to send in photographs, articles etc.

♪ se non è vero, è ben trovato ♪

