



The Central Nova Coin Club will host their Annual Coin Show on Sunday, May 22 from 9am to 3pm, at the Best Western Glengarry Trade and Convention Centre, Truro. Discussing the upcoming event on the far left is President of the Coin Club, Mike Durning, club member David Green and on the far right club member, John Surette. (Contributed)



The painting, "Strawberries" by artist Lyndia Baird Wellwood reminds us of the warmer weather and growing season to come. Lyndia will host a gallery showing in May and June. Follow her on Facebook. (Contributed)



# The PAINT CORNER

by Richard Crawley

## Everyone on deck!

Here are some tips to remember when applying a coating to new or old wood. If you are building a new patio deck using lumber, it's always best to apply a coating to all 6 sides of the board before you build. This is a great step in stopping moisture (both ice and water) from finding bare spots of the wood to penetrate. Especially where two pieces are joined together. If you decide to build and want to apply a coating at a later date, the best decision is to always wait a year and let the wood weather naturally.

Whenever you purchase new lumber, a mill glaze from the manufacturing process will cover over the surface. This glaze stops a coating from penetrating into the wood, especially a water or waterborne based product. The good news is mother nature will naturally break down this glaze over the course of a year.

But if you can't wait a year, first apply a water based coating that will chemically break down a mill glaze and using a stiff bristle brush, you can really scrub it into the wood. When that dries, sand with an 80 grit mesh drywall screen on all the horizontal surfaces. These steps will allow for the best adhesion and penetration into the wood which means a longer term success for the product.

Is everyone still on deck? If so, now let's discuss the only coating I would ever recommend applying on any horizontal

wood surface in our maritime climate. STAIN! Either an oil, waterborne and/or a hybrid product works well in our maritime weather. Some will last longer than others but all of these products will protect the wood. I don't ever recommend using a water based product on any horizontal wooden surfaces.

Just like a good foundation for a house, the first coating on a wood surface will enable long term success or unfortunately a quick failure. It's important to always start the process right so less preparation is needed for maintenance. Stain leaves very little mil thickness (if any) on top of a surface. Weather, foot traffic, shoveling work away at any coating and by using a stain it will only wear away. A paint will eventually peel away, leaving remaining pieces that needs to be sanded. That's why I never recommend homeowners to use paint on horizontal surfaces of their decks.

A few choices of stain are solid, semi-transparent and translucent. If you want to use a solid stain on horizontal surfaces and if it's possible, try to always use an oil /hybrid or waterborne based product. These products work well with our climate and conditions such as pooling of water. My favorite for maritime conditions is to apply and maintain a semi-transparent oil. Again, in a semi transparent, I always recommend an oil /hybrid or waterborne product. All will work well if applied in

## EXTERIOR PAINT & STAIN TIPS

### The Patio Deck

the recommended conditions. Check-in with your local paint store and ask for advice on how to apply the products they carry. If you want to use a translucent be prepared to apply it every year. Stain in the best of situations will only last so long. I almost always get 3 years out of a solid and about 2 years out of a semi-transparent on horizontal surfaces. But the good news is that when I need to refresh my 12 x 15 patio deck, it only takes me an hour at most to do so and that makes for less work and more play.

So if everyone is on deck, light up the barbeque and bring out the guitars and let's have a hootenanny!

Remember to shop local as it always benefits your friends, neighbors and community.


Next time we'll feature garage and basement floors. Until then, take care.

Richard




Richard Crawley works with all types of coatings and resides in Truro, Colchester County. Contact: tnswof@gmail.com

# Tom TAGGART



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Use the lower level entrance - Look for the Entrance Sign in Parking Lot



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