

Masonic Lodge Transformed into Ultimate MANTuary

Projects: In The House, a new 13-episode television series will feature the former Masonic Lodge, Great Village as the backdrop to renovation projects constructed by Kevin and Andrew Buckles. (Harrington Photos)



Andrew and Kevin Buckles have moved into the neighbourhood! After purchasing the former Masonic Lodge earlier this summer, they have been busy working on renovation projects for their television series *Projects: In The House*.

By Linda Harrington

New owners have moved into the Masonic Lodge in Great Village and the three story structure is having a renovation like no other.

The Lodge has become the working set for *Projects: In The House*, a new 13-episode half-hour television series featuring brothers Andrew & Kevin Buckles, as they construct one of a kind projects.

This is the third season for the *Cottage Life* series, *Projects*, produced by Farm Life Productions, a film, television and digital media Production Company based in Toronto, Ontario. The first two seasons were filmed here in Nova Scotia, at the

Buckles' family cottage, where projects such as solar heated showers, water ski jumps, wood fired pizza ovens and floating hot tubs were featured.

Projects: In The House will certainly not sway from originality. Since the crew started filming on August 25th, the Masonic Lodge has already begun a transformation into the ultimate man cave. "The first project was of course a bar," says Kevin Buckles, "We didn't have bathroom or bedroom but this was top priority!" Constructed out of salvaged lumber, from a stage on the second floor in the Lodge, the wine rack even has the Masonic symbol stencilled on one of the boards.



First "broject" at the Masonic Lodge was an impressive bar, built out of recycled wood products.

So how did a Masonic Hall in Great Village end up the focal point of a television series? "This is one of the first questions we are always asked," laughs Andrew Buckles. "The short answer is we needed lots of square footage, to build projects for multiple seasons, and the Lodge is perfect. Great Village is a good hub for us, with Kevin living in Halifax, and being near the airport to fly in the crew."

The brothers knew little about the community when they decided to purchase the Lodge, but Andrew says they have been pleased by the hospitality shown since they moved in. "Great Village is amazing, it couldn't be better. We have met some very interesting people, who often drop by for a visit. We enjoy watching the gorgeous sunrise and sunset from up here on the hill and have checked out the swimming hole and antique shops."

The Buckle family was originally from New Glasgow, but Andrew and Kevin grew up in New Brunswick, with the family cottage located in Guysborough County. Andrew graduated from Dalhousie with a degree in Biology and then took different jobs around the world, doing everything from Bird Research to Construction. Kevin graduated from UNB, Fredericton with a BA, taking a job with a newspaper initially and he now works for Bell Aliant.

Both brothers were long-time friends with Kent Sobey, owner of Farmhouse Productions, and they were often plotting TV shows and movies together. "We threw around the idea for *Projects* for quite a while and then decided to shoot a pilot episode constructing a beer cart," says Kevin. "We were completely surprised when *Cottage Life* picked it up."

Two years later, the creative construction has moved indoors and the brothers are busy turning the vast open floor space of the Masonic Lodge into an ultimate "MANTuary". With an impressive bar and a half pipe skateboard ramp already constructed, they are well on their way.

Not all their ideas are finalized but work has begun on a climbing wall and there is talk of mini-golf, while they are currently sidetracked on a special project for their neighbours. "Kathy & Steve have been fabulous neighbours here in the Village and we noticed they did not have a BBQ table," says Andrew,

"You can't have a BBQ without a table, so we decided to build them one." Of course, when the brothers set out to build a table of any sort, it is not just an ordinary table!

Eleven people are working on the set in Great Village, including a cook, production assistant and film crew. Filming began on August 25th and will go straight through until March.

Projects: In The House will be featured on *Cottage Life* in the Spring of 2016. Shorter webisodes will be available at <http://brojects.tv/video-extras/>

Masstown Community News

By Christine Urquhart

Sorry as I am to say this but autumn is upon us! Soon we will be raking leaves and gathering up the lawn decorations to be put away for another winter. Remember, those leaves make great garden cover and wonderful mulch, so don't bag them or burn them but put them to another good use. Be sure to clean out your bird houses so they will be ready for next spring. If you don't have a heated bird bath and are putting it away, clean it with a mixture of vinegar and hot water before storing it. That will keep any diseases from sticking around to affect birds next spring. It's also time to start thinking about suet for the birds. Once it starts getting cold in the evenings the birds need the extra fat to help keep them warm. If you haven't been feeding the birds all summer it's time to start filling up your feeders again as well.

Masstown UCW meets on Thursday October 1st at 7pm at the home of Gail Hines on

G. Porter Road. All ladies welcome.

The DGM Men's Club will meet on Saturday October 3rd at 8am at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men welcome! The DGM stands for "Debert Glenholme Masstown", just so you know!

A few folks did some visiting this past month. Nancy Lee-Own and her daughter Samatha from Calgary visited Nancy's mother Carol Nicoles and Lloyd Marshall. Granddaughter Samatha is in training to become a nurse. Joy and Rodney Reid visited their daughter Krista Dease and family in Ottawa.

Condolences go out this month to: David Dickie and family on the death of his father Peter Dickie; Carl Green and family on the death of his mother Ester "Pearl" Green and Desiree McCulloch and family on the death of her grandmother Doris McCulloch.

May your days be filled with joy and your nights with good dreams.

The Deadline for the November issue of
The Shoreline Journal is October 20
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Kevin and Andrew wanted to show their appreciation to neighbours Cathy and Steve Mazur by building them the ultimate BBQ table.



Lights, camera and lots of action! The former Masonic Lodge has provided lots of space for Kevin and Andrew Buckles, and their film crew, as they complete some one-of-a-kind renovation projects.



Kevin and Andrew enjoy watching James Barnett, a gaffer on the set, putting their newly built half pipe skateboard ramp to good use.

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