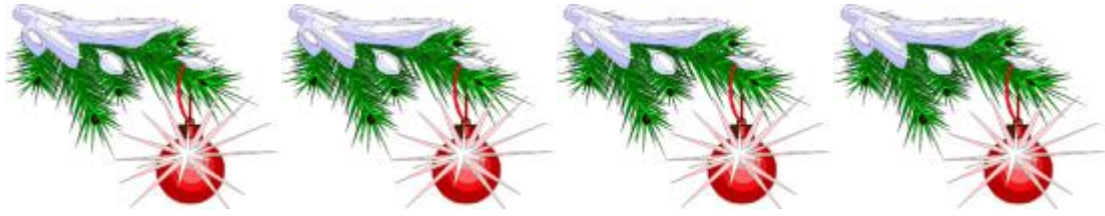


# Friesen's Custom Cabins



December 2005 Newsletter



## ICE ROADS

Winter has definitely set in and we are going at full capacity. Winter is as busy as summer if not busier some years. We can finally get access to many of the off-road sites that are difficult to get to in summer.

Years ago winter spelled the end to the construction season for most contractors. These days you have to work year round or go out of business.

We like to see a minimum of twelve inches of good ice before driving pickups and passenger

vehicles and thirty inches for heavy equipment. Ten to twelve inches is also sufficient for light planes. You can definitely get by with much less ice but who wants to?

It is wise to check the ice in several places before driving your new Hummer or Excursion on it.



## A Word about Frost

Contrary to popular belief, we can generally dig all year long. Snow cover is our friend when it comes to excavating. If we get some snow and it is not disturbed it will insulate the ground and help keep the ground from freezing too deep. Organic material also is a good insulator and shouldn't be disturbed if you plan to dig after freeze-up. Most of our projects are on undisturbed ground which makes it workable even in winter.





## How cold is too cold to build?

This is a question that we get asked often and the answer depends on the task you are trying to accomplish and who you ask? I have personally done metal roofing down to  $-53\text{F}$ , however I don't recommend it.

Obviously you aren't going to paint when it gets cold, but you can frame and roof until it gets *real* cold. The problem is not the human body as much as it is the tools we use for building.

Air tools start to give you problems when it gets below zero but there are measures you

can take to avoid that problem. A factory skill saw will not even turn over at  $-20\text{F}$  without putting synthetic oil in it. I would say that workers start complaining between  $-10$  and  $-20$  depending on how bad they need the money. If the wind is blowing and it is below zero, it is just plain miserable. If we get to the jobsite and throw a cup of coffee into the air and it vaporizes, we will probably go back home and sit in front of the fire.

You have probably heard people say that once it gets below zero it all feels the same. I can tell you they haven't worked at  $-40$  or  $-50$  because it definitely is not the same as working in zero but with proper equipment and some careful planning you can be very productive in cold weather.

*We at Friesen's Custom Cabins*  
*would like to wish everyone a*  
*Very Merry Christmas Season*  
*and a Happy New Year!*

