

Laura Moreland – tinyhouseontario.com

Basic Stats:

- What is your name? **Laura Moreland**
- What do you do for a living? **Writer**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **Up To ? 2 or perhaps 1 plus four dogs**
- What part of the country do you live in? **Ontario, Canada**
- How many square feet is your house? **110 + loft + 108 square foot cloth porch**
- When did you start your build? **2011**
- Is your house complete? **No**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? **Yes Background: tinyhouseontario.com**

Background:

- Why did you decide to build? **It is near Kingston which is home for me, I wanted a place to stay at home and through a series of events which are all building code related, I decided to build Tiny.**
- What was your life like before your tiny house? **My life is always been metamorphic. THO has not changed this.**
- Were you fairly active, have you always had 'projects' going on? **Yes, I lead an interesting life.**
- Were you fairly sedentary and looking for a change? **I am always**

seeking change.

- Did you tend to work too much? **Sometimes/sometimes not.**
- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and get started? **Searching the internet for little houses in 2010, I found a Jay Schafer interview on YouTube.**
- What is/was your design inspiration? **I thought a lot about my dogs, storage, light, view, and the height of the structure combined by the restrictions of the Ontario Building code.**

Technical:

- How do/did you find the time to work on your house with a job, kid(s), relationships, AND building a house? **Some natural deadline pinches. Having a husband that is not interested in living in a Tiny House is my most definitive struggle.**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **Yes, I wanted to build 300 square feet from Timberframe and strawbale on one level. This did not happen.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? **I have tools, bought a couple of small things and hired a man with a generator to do work that took power and skills that I do not have.**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **I have spent two summers on it so far. Still not finished the kitchen, stairs, heat source, running water or floors.**
- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **What schedule?**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **Design took a long time but the actual building is slow too because I can only move forward as I get money to get materials.**

- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Money.**
- Is your house on a trailer? If yes, how do you attach to the trailer? How do you move your tiny house? (Do you have a truck, do you hire it done?) **No**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **I live a little less than half the year in a 1000 square foot house. I plan to build a shed and also to do quite some modification to THO.**
- Where did you get your plans? **I designed my own plan.**
- Have you consulted any ‘professionals’? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **I spoke to the building inspector, hired out some framing, and all the steel work.**
- Are you insuring your house? **Would if I could.**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? **No**

Specifics:

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **BBQ, and a small propane camp stove.**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **100% off grid. Solar and propane.**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **I have these. In my case they are a scrub-board and a clothesline.**
- Where does your water come from? **I carry this in from neighbours and friends and family’s places.**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **I have a self-built composting toilet with a urine separator.**

- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **Propane for now but I want to put in wood.**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **I tucked the kitchen under the stairs and built in a wall of bookshelves on the other end, this leaves me with a 8.5x8.5 empty room. I also had a 2 foot by 8 inch coffee table built that opens to a nearly full sized table that seats four. Some furniture doubles in duty.**
- What do you have for insulation? **Mineral**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **I own ten acres and the house is built there on a cement slab.**

Personal:

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? ? **So far perhaps 20 K.**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **The land.**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **I crazy glued myself to the counter top and it took me over an hour to free myself.**
- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **Bettering my writing and painting skills as I built my home.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **Jumping off the consumer vortex and surviving.**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? **Studio space.**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **The bear who lives in the area.**
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it

be? **I wish instead of putting it on a cement slab I would have built THO on a shallow root cellar.**

- **Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? Pay as I go – BUT I still have a land debt loan, so this is a semantic answer really.**
- **Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? Some think it is nuts, some think it is cool; there are not many in the middle.**
- **Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? If I won a million dollars in the lottery, I would still want to live at THO, but I would buy a Kimberly wood stove and finish up everything that I want to do ASAP.**