

Alumni Newsletter

\$603,000 Raised To Date (\$192,000 Still To Go)



Tom Maki, Trustee of the F. Jean MacLeod Trust presents Gary Gray, Campaign Chair with a huge contribution from the Trust.

At a news conference in late February 2007, the total amount raised to date in the John Island Camp Redevelopment Campaign was announced by Gary Gray, Campaign Chair. The capital fundraising campaign begun a year ago has received donations from



Work on the replacement of the showers will begin in the spring of 2007.



YMCA Sudbury

more than ninety (90) donors, and now sits at approximately 70% of the total goal of \$895,000.

At the news conference two major gifts were received by Gary Gray. Tom Maki of the F. Jean MacLeod Trust presented a cheque for \$250,000 and Jamie

Wallace of the Clifford and Lily Fielding Charitable Trust presented a cheque for \$50,000. Other gifts have been received from individuals (many of them John Island alumni), companies and families. Five families have contributed a gift of \$25,000 or more, which will replace an individual camper cabin. Their gift will be recognized on each new cabin. Gifts can be given in cash or can be pledged over the 5 year period of the building project.

More than 20 campaign volunteers are continuing to work to raise the remainder of the money needed. Work is continuing on the Island in 2007 on three camper cabins and the replacement of the showers. Planning and design work will also begin on the renovation of the Dining Hall and the Kitchen.

There is still a great deal of work to be done. Volunteers are still needed to raise the remaining dollars. More donor prospects are needed to raise the remaining dollars. More donations and

pledges are needed to raise the remaining dollars. If you are interested in helping us in any way, please contact Gary Gray at 674-6171. On the next page you will find a list of the current donors. Please consider joining your friends and fellow campers or staff in supporting this worthy cause. Your gift of money or time will ensure that the magic of John Island Camp will touch new generations of children for another 50 years. Please help us — we look forward to hearing from you soon.



Mac Sinclair and Gary Gray receive a generous contribution from Jamie Wallace of the Clifford and Lily Fielding Charitable Foundation.



John Island Camp Capital Campaign Donors

THANKS TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS — SO FAR.....

Oak Level Donors - \$100,000 +

F. Jean MacLeod Trust

Red Pine Level Donors - \$50,000 +

Clifford and Lily Fielding Charitable Foundation

White Pine Level Donors - \$25,000 +

Gary Gray Hewson Family (Margaret Hewson and Ric Hewson)
Lougheed Family (Dale Lougheed, Margie Lougheed, Sean Lougheed, Sandy Lougheed, and Heather Lougheed)
Richards Family Thomson Family (Robin Thomson, Andrew Thomson, Katherine Thomas, and Judy Maki)
Bruce McCulloch Family Rainbow District School Board

Maple Level Donors - \$15,000 +

Laura and John Schmitt

Cedar Level Donors - \$5,000 +

Beppina Castellani	Dr Joel Andersen	Dr John Clarke	Breda Higgins
Ann & Garry Simard	Ian Sinclair	David Ward	Wendy Watson
Al & Pam Will	Jim Wilkinson		

Birch Level Donors - \$1,500 +

Dr Brian Clarke	Brent & Rebecca Coulas	Meredith Coulas	Millie & Primo Facca
Bernie Freelandt	Dr Robert & Helen Ghent	Marg Ghent & Pat Thomson	CTV
Glen Family (David Glen, Ian Glen, and Rod Glen)		Paul Kyle	Laking Toyota
Mary Ann Majic	Sadie Marr	Julia Robertson	

Juniper Level Donors - \$500 +

Erika Lougheed	Kay Balash	Ian & Carol Cook	Brian Coulas
Scott & Christine Crader	Jane Davey	In Memory of Katherine Harvey	
Ben Hewson	Elizabeth Hewson	Diane Merwin	Heather Patterson
Marlene Penttila	Lisa & Bill Riddle	Linda Robertson	Bill Rolston
Alison Strong	Brad & Pat Sutherland	Bill Taylor	WAT Supplies

General Donations

Joan Coulas	Paul Coulas	Peter Coulas	Margureite Evans
Frances Fisher	Bernadette Hardaker	In Memory of Jack Hawkins	Jennifer Larwood
John P Herrington	Peter Luce	Janet Lysyshyn-Guay	Corinne Matte Jane
& Miles Merwin	Lisa Proctor	Janna Ramsey-Best	Kathryn Reid
Chucker Ross	Jo-Anne Sarciron	James Sinclair	Angela Smith
John & Jennifer Starratt	Donna St. George	Stuart Strong	George Thorpe
Evelyn Townend	Ron Watt	Trudy Werry	Jean Wickstrom

Campaign Steering Committee

Chair—Gary Gray	Bernie Thompson	Colin Veevers	Dave Ward	Don Waddell
Ian Sinclair	Joel Andersen	John Schmitt	Lisa Riddle	Mary Montgomery
Robin Thomson	Scott Darling	Wendy Watson		

Campaign Volunteers

Joel Andersen	Meredith Coulas	Carolyn Crang	Millie Facca	Margaret Ghent
Gary Gray	Margie Lougheed	Marett McCulloch	Ann and Garry Simard	Ian Sinclair
Robin Thomson	Bernie Thompson	Colin Veevers	Don Waddell	David Ward
Wendy Watson	Al and Pam Will			

For information, or if you can help with our campaign, please contact Gary Gray or John Schmitt at 673-9136.

LOST LAKE — Yours To Discover

How To Survive Cook's Day Off

By: Don Waddell (1961-63-counsellor, 66-68-staff, 77-79-Camp Director)

It lies quietly somewhere on the main landmass of John Island. It's a good hour plus walk from the centre of camp or more depending on the purpose of your journey and the motivation of your hiking companions. Out past the playing field, along the pathway that takes you to the low water dock, past "The Good Ship Kismet" - the one that never went down... to the bottom of the sea, across the "Bridge Over the River Kwai (watch out for the troll that lives beneath, a.k.a. David TenEyke), turn left through the densest ground cover of poison ivy you can find, then down a meandering trail covered by a canopy of trees, past the old sawdust burner (the old witches house or spooks in general), to the west along the first of many rock outcrops and ridges, and you are well on your way to **LOST LAKE!**

A somewhat small pocket of water nestled into the Precambrian Shield. Probably partly spring fed, surrounded by sheer (good jumping) cliffs on the North side that give way to a shoreline of typically mixed forest of pines, birches, scrub oak and a beautiful flat camping site on the South side with a small sloping rock outcrop dipping into a refreshing backcountry lake. How did it get there - I don't really know? But whoever put it there made a pretty good job of it. Because every time I go looking for this refuge, it is still in the same spot. Trees might be taller or some of them have fallen down, but if you are quiet enough, and a light breeze is blowing, you just might be able to hear the wilderness singing to you. Try it the next time you are there.



The memories of this wonderful spot spring from my years at camp in the 1960's and 70's as a staff person. Actually, my first adventure to **Lost Lake** had a rather different side to it - far from a mystical encounter that you may have thought I was getting into. Back in those days as a camp counsellor, every Thursday everyone left camp for the day. Each cabin group, along with a C.I.T., headed out on a hike to a camping site along the shores of John Island for both lunch and supper. Destinations included 1st, 2nd, or 3rd Beach, the Dive, even Ivy Island if you were a 1st year counsellor and didn't know any better, and of course **LOST LAKE.**

It was the cook's day off. If the truth be known, we were really escaping for a chance to have a well cooked trail lunch and supper after having breakfast prepared by senior staff (Gary Gray and company) that morning. You know how it goes; the menu of dry cereal or porridge with

sour milk, followed by two slices of rubber toast with P.B & J. and maybe an orange that had one end smashed in. Speaking about 1st year counsellors, it took a few cookouts for we wise ones to discover that senior staff stayed in camp and dined on steak with all the trimmings! While we, of course, were filling our tummies with hot dogs and Kraft Dinner washed down with gallons of warm Freshie made with water straight from the lake, bugs and all - a protein supplement prescribed by the camp nurse (this stuff had to be mixed with at least 4 cups of sugar per gallon - 4 litres to most of you) - yummy! Or as Bill McCallum would so eloquently sing, "yummy, yummy, yummy I've got in my tummy, and I think that I'm doin fine!!"

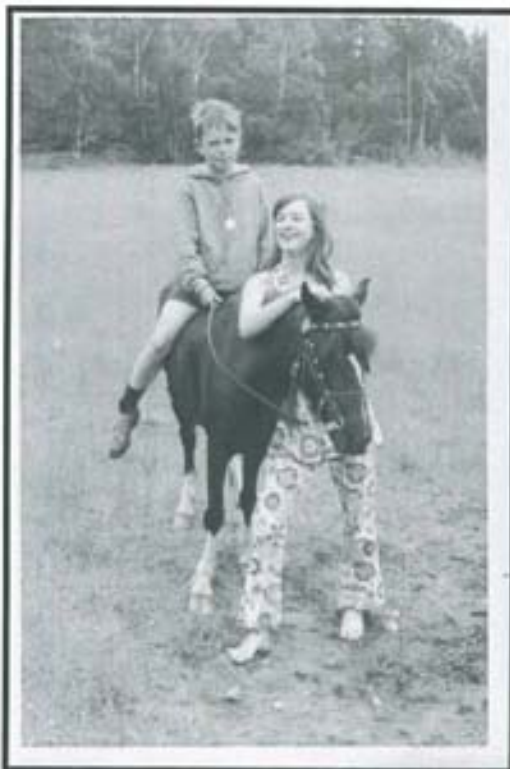
Why do we call it **Lost Lake**? You really don't need a map to get there and you don't need to follow your finely honed bush skills/instincts and wander around long enough until you do find it, 2 days later, or fall off the cliff while walking towards where you think it might be. Just follow the well worn and marked trail!

Really though, it is has a special spot in my heart, when I give it a chance to sneak in! My Lost Lake is symbolic of both a journey and a destination. The journey is a series of steps into a world of beauty, sometimes quiet and sometimes singing loudly as a thunder storm rolls by above me. The lake is a reflection of the natural world around me, which constantly reminds my soul of what I am a part of.

Until we meet or talk again:

May the rain fall softly on your face, May the wind always be at your back, May the shine warmly all around you
And, Until we meet again, May God hold you safely in the palm of His hand.

(Neat eh?, I think someone made this up, maybe a paddler or an Irish priest named Saint Brendan]



LEFT: An unusual John Island activity — can anyone identify the two people in the picture, (or the horse) the approximate year of the photo, or why there was a horse on the island?
ABOVE: The staff of 1989 !

Farewell—Old Friends

UPGRADING CONTINUES !!

BY: GARY GRAY (Camper, Staff, YMCA Sudbury CEO, Volunteer 1954—Present)

Many of us remember that final campfire before leaving camp. The embers start dying to a warm glow and a few tears start to flow as the sounds of "We're Leaving on 'Ole Ironsides" floats through the camp. Great memories for thousands of campers and staff - until the laws changed and both Ironsides and the Earl "M" were taken out of service during the past two years.

With major boating accidents in recent years in other parts of the Great Lakes, new regulations and marine laws have resulted in the camp selling Ironsides and Earl "M". New smaller boats have been obtained by the camp which not only meet the new legal requirements, but allow safe and quicker crossings between the mainland and the camp.

While both Ironsides and Earl "M" will no longer be part of the John Island experience, they will certainly be part of John Island history. Not only do we remember crossings in both calm and not so calm water, but boat swims in the channel, gathering on the bow or the cabin roof as a backdrop for cabin or group photos, and on and on.

As our old familiar camp boats retire from service and join their predecessors (Kismet, Maxie "M", Flora "B", and the Mohawk Maiden), we look forward to joining the 21st century with our new boats which have already started to create their own memories.



FAVOURITE RECIPES FROM JIC COOKS

IT WASN'T ALL COLD OATMEAL AND BURNT TOAST

We have delved back into JIC history and discovered John Island cooks from the past are often identified by a particular dish that they served. There was no doubt that Ma Strain (John Island's first cook back in 1954) was known for her raisin pies and Jean Wickstrom (John Island's longest serving cook having cooked many years starting from 1969 and returning for her last stand in 1986) for her lasagna. Jean served lasagna every Thursday and the popularity of her lasagna was so great that even the Coast Guard came in regularly to eat at the camp on Thursdays.

"Ma" Strain's Raisin Pie (from camp records)

1 cup raisins
1 cup white sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
2 tablespoons flour
1 cup water

Boil the above ingredients together until it thickens, then cool. Fill an unbaked pie shell and bake until brown.

Jean Wickstrom's Lasagna

(Jean is a classic cook and adds each ingredient until it "looks right". We have tried to describe her "looks right" amounts)

Lasagna Noodles (fresh are best, regular noodles next best, and oven-ready are OK)

Hamburg (amount to your liking) – cook, drain the fat, and add to sauce

Sauce (use your favourite spaghetti sauce)

Mozzarella Cheese (Low fat and freshly grated)

Parmesan Cheese (grated)

Water (if using oven-ready noodles)

Put a thin layer of sauce on the bottom of the pan

Add a layer of noodles

Add a thin layer of sauce

Add both grated mozzarella cheese and parmesan cheese until the layer is covered

Repeat this layers of noodles, sauce and cheese two or three more times)

Near the end of baking the lasagna, cover with a light layer of freshly grated cream-type or ball mozzarella cheese

Continue baking until cooked and top cheese melted.

If you are going to reheat the lasagna later for serving, add the top cheese only before re-heating.

If you use oven-ready noodles, pour a cup of water around the edge of the lasagna before baking.



In 1954, milk was picked up in large milk cans in Spanish and moved to the island aboard the "Kismet". (can anyone identify the driver?)



LEFT: One of the two Russian-built tractors that have worked on the island for decades. Both will be phased out over the next few years in favour of 4 wheeled ATV's. BELOW: Don Waddell on a visit to Japan, advising on camping in 1995.



JACK SMITH

87 Years Old And Still Clicking

By Gary Gray (Camper, Staff, YMCA Sudbury CEO, Volunteer 1954—Present)

When Jack "Smitty" Smith recently turned 87, little changed in his life. The exercise bike in the living room still gets its regular workout. He welcomes visitors and guests into his home. He still gets out and about to events and to do his shopping. And most important of all, Jack still maintains his deep involvement in art and photography. One thing though, has changed in his life – Jack has gone digital as evidenced by his Nikon D70 digital camera.

Back in 1954, Smitty was asked by YMCA Executive Director Lionel Burgess to work at John Island Camp with Camp Director Cec Woods. He remembers vividly going to the camp and selecting the site for the chapel, creating the Campers' Pledge, and setting up the crafts program in the Craft Shop (which was a large tent on the existing floor of the Craft Shop).

The craft program in John Island's early years was a very sophisticated instructional program in such crafts as leather tooling, copper hammering, woodwork, and copper tooling. Jack recalls with a twinkle in his eye the time when Ricki Gougeon decided to make a leather file holder for his father to put his papers in. He carefully selected a perfect, blemish-free piece of leather from a hide and was ready to cut out and start work on the project at the next class. Meanwhile, another camper was making a comb case and cut a beautiful piece of leather right from the middle of Ricki's carefully measured pattern. Both eventually completed their projects, but not without some disappointment. Alumni from "Smitty's" years at John Island will undoubtedly recall the sacks of cow horns that Jack managed to get that campers magically transformed into wonderful horns that we could blow into and make amazing sounds.



Jack Smith was the Director of Arts and Crafts at John Island Camp from 1954 to 1960. During those years, Jack had a major influence on the lives, careers and hobbies of hundreds of campers and staff.

Smitty has many memories of his John Island career. He recalls the time Elwood Mitchell was trying to convince everyone that he was immune from the vengeance of poison ivy. He tells of Elwood rubbing both his feet in PI, quite confident that nothing would happen. Of course, Elwood suffered for days from the effects of Poison Ivy and was, in fact, very allergic to the plant.

Smitty has had a very illustrative career and life. Among his students as a teacher at Sudbury Technical School (Sudbury Secondary) are Bruce Mau, a celebrated urban designer (www.brucemaudesign.com) and Robert Adetuyi, writer of the recent movie hit, "Stomp the Yard". As a photographer, Smitty has photographed such notables as pilot Billy Bishop and artist Robert Bateman. Smitty also won a gold medal for his animated film on cancer in 1968, did the drawings for the Medical Journal showing Dr. Fields revolutionary open heart surgery techniques, and has gained recognition as the First Architectural Design teacher in Canada. Today Jack "Smitty" Smith is busy with his daughters making prints of his extensive collection of art using his new Epson wide format professional quality printer and lives at his home in Sudbury.

Know These People?

The following are people who we have either lost track of, or who we are still attempting to locate. If you know how we can contact any of these alumni, please contact Gary Gray at ggray@sudbury.ymca.ca. We value all our John Island Alumni and would like to make sure we do not lose track of any of them.

Vicki MacCallum
Teresa Conlon
Sean Blenkinsop

Kylan Hawke
Jane Corkal
Michelle Bray

Fran Cooke
Rene St. Onge

Nick Haskin

We know there are hundreds of John Island Alumni that we are not reaching with our newsletters. If you have any contact information for staff from any years starting from 1954 through to 1999, please pass the information on to us so we can make sure we have them on our newsletter mailing list. Please do not assume we have someone on our list as we are missing the names and contact information for hundreds of well-known staff.

Summer Weather At John Island

THE GREATEST PLACE ON EARTH ON A SUMMER DAY

BY: JACK DECORBY (RETIRED MANAGER—SUDBURY WEATHER OFFICE)



Beach and boating activities at the YMCA's John Island Camp take place mostly on the south shore of the Island and at the extreme eastern end of that shoreline. John Island has a fair amount of vegetation and the shoreline is not particularly steep but the terrain gets higher towards the middle of the island. Terrain and vegetation always affect the weather. Steep terrain tends to cause very shifty winds, while vegetation tends to slow the winds and causes wind shifts.

John Island is on the north side of the North Channel. The North Channel is oriented in a west-east orientation. This means that all the prevailing winds in the area are channeled to westerly winds by the Channel. Winds that might ordinarily be Northwesterers or Southwesterers become westerly. Moreover, the channeling of winds causes them to be stronger and gustier. Other factors affect the winds. On a hot summer's day, the wind tends to blow towards the land area. At night, the situation is reversed and wind tends to shift toward the water. If you have canoed or sailed as part of John Island Camp activities, you will have encountered strong gusty winds that varied in direction as the wind speed changed. This actually has an added benefit since anyone one who learns to sail at the John Island Camp can sail almost anywhere! The staff at John Island is very aware of what the winds can do and are watchful and careful when planning canoeing and boating trips.

There are other weather factors that have an impact on campers too. Early in the camping season when the water is very cold, the area can be quite foggy particularly in the morning and late evening. Later in the summer there are more late night thunderstorms in the area and thunderstorms that would normally subside when the sun goes down are sustained by heat from the relatively warm water of the North Channel. This does not mean that there are not wonderful hot lazy days of summer on John Island. There are plenty of those for everyone to enjoy!

Family Camp Has Deep Roots

A JOHN ISLAND MAINSTAY SINCE 1954

Every year the summer at John Island closes with a week of Family Camp. The week has come to be known for its relaxing, family-oriented program and great food. It is not unusual to talk to family campers who have been coming for the past 15 or more years. It is a great opportunity for children to spend time with their parents doing things that they all enjoy. In 2006, a weekend Family Camp in the Spring got its start and quickly filled the cabins with enthusiastic families.

Seasoned family campers join with new participants every year to take part in traditional camp activities and relaxing together. While there are a number of activities for different age groups throughout the day, most families try to spend as much time together as possible. The session traditionally ends with a camper/staff volleyball game with a variety of non-traditional strategies by both teams.

This past fall, the families involved in the fall family camp committed to raising the \$40,000 cost of the new shower house at camp. As they approach the half-way mark, the campaign continues with a goal of producing the funds by the end of the 5 year pledge period.

But the history of Family Camp goes back much further than the last 25 years. In fact, in 1954 (the year John Island opened) the very first Family Camp took root and used a week in late August to hold its activities. The staff that year consisted of John Gray, Elwood Mitchell, Colin Hatcher, with "Ma" Strain as cook. Eight Families began a tradition back in 1954 that has lasted right through to 2007 – bringing family and friends together to enjoy and benefit from the same quality experiences that children enjoy all summer long. The roots of family camp run deep and it will continue to be a major part of the lives of families in the future as it has in the past.



Annual Work Weekend — May 11th, 12th & 13th

EVERYONE WELCOME — RAIN OR SHINE!

If you haven't been back on John Island for a while, here is a great opportunity to visit and do a little work to help improve our camp. This year's Work Weekend is May 11th, 12th and 13th. Everyone is welcome—young, old, alumni, non-alumni, husbands, wives, grandparents and friends. Come Friday night and stay the weekend, come Saturday for the day, or stay over Saturday night and leave Sunday morning—whatever fits your schedule. There are a great variety of jobs available for all skill levels. You can bring your own tools or we will supply what you need. Bring clothes for all possibilities of weather and sleeping materials. Bring work clothes and proper footwear for working. Remember you will be staying in camper cabins. Fabulous John Island food is supplied—and lots of it!

There will be time for tours (we have a lot of new things to show you), socializing with old and new friends, swimming if you are brave, and walks to all your old favourite places. Children are welcome to join in the work, or we will find supervised activities for the kids.

If you would like to join us for any part of the weekend, please call Erika Lougheed (Camp Director) and let her know your plans. She can be reached at 705-674-6171 or elougheed@sudbury.ymca.ca.

We hope you can join us!



Sydney Riddle Doing a Little Touch-Up



Brand New Docks!

Whatever Happened To

SEND US MORE NAMES !

"I wonder what Joe Smith is doing now?" "Remember Liz?" I wonder if she ever became a rocket scientist as she wanted when she was at camp? "Mike always said he was going to be Prime Minister some day". I wonder how far he got!" "Whatever happened to Mary?" Keeping track of friends we knew at camp is not always easy. As time moves on, so do people. We would like to help link people up again, even if it is just in thought. We invite all alumni to return the following information to us by e-mail (ggray@sudbury.ymca.ca) or regular mail, so we can help keep our John Island Alumni connected.

Name
City (or location) where you live
The years you were at John Island Camp (ie: 1967-72)
What you are doing now (job, volunteering, etc)
A sentence or two about things you would like us to print about yourself
Your e-mail address (if you would like us to include it in the info we print)

That's it! So simple that you could actually do it right now to get it done. Thanks for your help.



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