



YMCA JOHN ISLAND

Summer 2020

ALUMNI

NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the John Island Camp Alumni and
Friends of John Island

SPECIAL EDITION #2
WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?



The old Directors Cabin reclaimed from carpenter ants
Swimming area made more friendly
Tripping equipment made ready for 2021 season



Several Things You Will Want to Know

YMCA John Island Camp has been busy this summer, despite not having a camp with campers. In this special edition we will highlight several of the required maintenance and other improvements to the camp that have been undertaken.

First of all, we have been a small group of 6 with occasional small numbers of volunteers helping. All activities have followed the guidelines given to us by our local Health Unit.

Support from our Alumni and Friends of YMCA John Island Camp have donated over \$30 000 to help cover the costs of keeping a security and maintenance presence at the camp over the summer. They have also aided in helping the Y accomplish a few important improvements as we have started getting prepared for the 2021 camping season.

So read on and discover what the Alumni and the 2020 camp staff have been able to accomplish - so far.

2021 Camper Registration Scheduled to Begin January 2021

Its been a disappointing summer for hundreds of John Island Camp campers, parents and staff. All camps are being very cautious to ensure they do not end up cancelling camp after a number of campers have already been registered. So a later registration start than most years will help give enough time to anticipate the future of summer overnight camping in 2021.

How will camp be different in 2021 in response to Covid-19? There are a lot of things we can not predict, but here is what we do know.

- all activities and daily routines will be in accordance with the Algoma Health Unit
- extra high standards of cleanliness and sanitation will be undertaken
- the same standard and principles of operation will still be here to make sure that YMCA John Island Camp remains a favourite family tradition and summer camper activity. The John Island magic will continue.

Keep your eyes open for more information as the fall gets under way.

Old Director's Cabin Reclaimed from Carpenter Ants

It was originally built as a Cabin for the Camp Director and family, later changed to become the Health Centre and then more recently back the Camp Director's Cabin.

During the past several years, both carpenter ants and mice had laid stakes on this prime piece of property, making it a most undesirable place to call home - except for the ants and mice.

This summer our skeleton staff managed to renovate and repurpose this building into a very attractive and clean multi-purpose and staff activity center.

Cost? Under \$500. thanks to the hard work and determination of our skeleton staff.



New Deck and Steps for the Dining Hall

These front steps are used for far more than posing the staff for the annual staff photo. Thanks to our generous alumni and the work of Jody Waddell and Zack Mitchell (as volunteers) we have a much better looking and safer staging area for our staff photo.....and entry into the dining hall. This is the second major rebuilding of the deck and main stairs into the dining hall since the building was erected by the Sudbury Y's Men's Club in the early 1950's. They were all volunteers. Alumni are responsible for this 2020 improvement.



Our Flag Flies Proud
As mentioned in our early summer update edition, our flag pole was on the ground when we returned to camp after the winter. Thanks to a group of determined volunteers, our flagpole is now standing tall and proud to fly our country's flag; Thanks again to our volunteers for this uplifting task performed early this summer.



Canoe Repairs Restore Many Boats



Using many canoe parts on hand, the JIC summer staff has managed to restore many well used canoes to like-new and very useable condition. The camp's fleet of well over 50 canoes are ready for a busy 2021 camping season.

Canoe tripping is an integral part of John Island Camp's program and having boats that are in good shape is integral to the program.

WORK BEGUN ON BUNKIES

The former tent platforms which were used as accommodation for staff are being replaced with small cabins called "Bunkies". While this is a multi-year project, work began this summer as we see here with the demolition of the tent frames and old flooring .



SNIPE HUNT YIELDS 3 NEW SAILBOATS

A few John Island Camp volunteers learn how to set up one of the three new Snipe sailboats recently donated to the camp.

The boats have been cleaned up and rigged after being used by their previous Owner.

The addition of three New sailboats to the John Island fleet for use in the Camp's popular sailing Program.



Donations exceed \$30,000 for Summer

Thanks to the generosity and love of camp, John Island Alumni and Friends of the Camp have made donations over \$30,000.

This help has allowed the YMCA to protect the camp over the summer and ensure that regular operating maintenance is accomplished.

In addition, new construction has been supported by the alumni to provide funds for a new deck and steps for the dining hall, a new waterfront presentation, and other small items to give the staff a head start on the 2021 season.

We are all extremely grateful for the support of the alumni and friends of the camp. Capital donations are still needed as there are several items to be worked on in 2021. Donation can be made on the website of the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario by going to the "Donate Now" button and specifying John Island Camp for the donation.

THANK YOU ALUMNI

.....for providing the resources we needed to maintain and protect YMCA John Island Camp this summer

THANK YOU VOLUNTERS

.....for helping by volunteering your skills and time to get work done.

A Floating Dock, Sun Shelters, and Lots of Water

The back of our beach swimming area will be lined with seven newly built sun shelters (with benches and wooden deck) for hanging up towels, putting on shoes and staying safe in the sun,

Thanks goes to the Gibb Family for supplying the materials and for our small but energetic summer staff for the construction. These shelter units can be moved for the winter and ready for every spring and summer swimming activity.

This is another project made possible by the alumni and friends of YMCA John Island Camp.



OUTTRIPPING EQUIPMENT REPAIRED READY FOR 2021



Thanks again to very dedicated volunteers, many repairs have been done to our out tripping equipment from canoes to packs. Our canoes are now trip ready with new thwarts, seats, and other minor repairs. Our pack have been carefully inspected, sewn where necessary, and new parts added to make them ready for our campers and staff. Thanks to Max Aton, volunteer, for stitching up a number of packs and tents ready for more good use.

This is another project made possible by the support of our alumni . Thank you to our alumni and volunteers!

Alumni Online Silent Auction - Begins Week of Aug. 17

Excitement has been growing all summer for the greatly anticipated JIC Alumni (and friends) SILENT AUCTION which will begin late in the week of August 17th. Here is your chance to bid on a Bernie Poulin signed and numbered lithographed print of the original JIC dining hall. Or what about a specially prepared map of John Island professionally printed with all of our own John Island trade mark sites and locations. There is a framed photograph of Ole' Ironsides leaving camp with a load of campers with the words or that favourite camp song "Leavin' On Ole' Ironsides" superimposed on the photo. There is so much more worth bidding on so YOU can have your own JIC treasure.

HERE IS HOW IT WILL WORK.....

- we will put notices on the YMCA John Island Camp Facebook page to officially announce the starting date and time. The ending date and time for all bidding will also be announced at that time.
- Each item will be shown on the page with the latest bid price. You just add your bid and keep watching.

JIC General Manager Jenny Groom Would Like to Say.....



I wanted to reach out and say thank you. Without you we would not have been about to make any improvements or regular maintenance and supervision on the camp this summer. The position the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario is not an easy one. Things are hard right now but I know that what will allow JIC to continue for the next 65 years and beyond will be the ongoing support of those who care about what we do. I love JIC more than just as a job and I am personally touched by your ongoing support.

The YMCA John Island Camp Alumni Newsletter is published 2 times a year with occasional Special Editions.

For comments or to submit articles or content ideas: gary.gray@ymcaneo.ca
Visit the John Island page on the website of the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario

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www.ymcaneo.ca/john-island-camp/

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