



Fall 2022

# ALUMNI

# NEWSLETTER

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

## ALUMNI SUPPORT KEY TO FACILITY UPGRADES

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## JIC ALUMNI BURSARY HELPS 35 GO TO CAMP

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# Alumni and Friends - a Major Support during Covid

Whether by cash donations or hours of donated skilled labour, alumni and friends of John Island ensured that the camp facility would be ready for the reopening of overnight camping this past summer.

Construction work included the completion of a new Bunkie as we start replacing tent platforms with longer lasting facilities, major renovations to Eagle-Talon cabin (known to older alumni as the "Senior Cabin", renovations to the Cabin on the Hill (also known to some as the Health Centre) including a new deck and stairs) and a new ramp at the front of the Dining Hall are examples of accomplishments. See the back page to learn how Alumni and Friends of JIC can help



- Clockwise -
- New "Bear" Bunkie
  - the Cabin on the Hill
  - inside Eagle Talon,
  - outside Eagle Talon with a new steel roof!



# UPCOMING

## AT CAMP

### 2023 Women's Wellness Weekend - June 16-18

When it comes to popular John Island Camp events, the annual Women's Wellness Weekend would have to be near the top of the list. Details on the 2023 event will be released soon on the John Island Camp website ([www.ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-camp](http://www.ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-camp)) and the John Island Facebook page (YMCA John Island Camp).

### Camp Staff Applications for 2023

Applications are now being accepted for staff at John Island Camp 2023. For a complete run down of the details of positions available and the application process, go to [ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-staff-employment](http://ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-staff-employment). Positions will be available for counsellors, program staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff. A large percentage of the John Island staff are relatives of our camp alumni. If there are potential summer staff candidates that you would like the camp administration to contact or send more information to, contact by e-mail at: [johnisland@ymcaneoc.ca](mailto:johnisland@ymcaneoc.ca)

### Spring Work Weekend

An opportunity to contribute your skills and time as the staff prepare the camp for its 69th year of operation. There is always lots of work to be done with the final stages of getting camp ready - clean-up tasks, painting, carpentry, program area set up, and so much more. There are tasks for all members of the family! This is a great opportunity to get together with other alumni and friends of John Island for an invigorating weekend of work, fellowship and good food. Let the camp know by e-mail at [johnisland@ymcaneoc.ca](mailto:johnisland@ymcaneoc.ca) for more details as time draws closer. To get information on the weekend, including dates, contact: Julian at [julian.haayen@ymcaneoc.ca](mailto:julian.haayen@ymcaneoc.ca)

### Camp Visitors' Day - Sunday, July 9th

YMCA John Island Camp is looking forward to a pre-camp Visitors' Day. Details are currently being planned, but it is anticipated that visitors will have an opportunity to see the camp, meet camp staff and get an opportunity to get acquainted with the camp and its operation for 2023. Details will be outlined on the camp website ([www.ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-camp](http://www.ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-camp)) as summer approaches.

### Plaque to Commemorate Murray Low to be Unveiled

A plaque is planned to be unveiled on the wall of the Greenway Bush cabin this coming spring. Murray was our camp supervisor working with the students from LaSalle Secondary School for over a decade. He passed away in 2017. Murray was a true John Islander and gave his heart and soul to the camp by working on construction projects. His work can be felt in every building at the camp. The unveiling will take place during the time LaSalle Secondary is at camp this coming spring at a definite date to be announced.

### Summer Camp Registration Begins Jan. 4, 2023

Work is still being done on finalizing the camp dates for 2023, but will be available soon. To get up to date information on dates, ages, and all other information, visit the John Island Camp website at: [www.ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-camp](http://www.ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-camp)

# How The Great Chicago Fire Spawned the John Island Lumber Mill (and Camp)



The problem with wooden buildings is that they are susceptible to fire. On October 8th, 1871 it is alleged that Mrs. Leary had a cow in her shed that kicked a lantern over and started a fire that destroyed over 17,000 buildings, covered roughly 2112 acres of Chicago, and caused over 300 deaths. For years a favourite camp song was “Old Lady Leary” but I doubt that anyone realized at the time that the events in the song were largely responsible for YMCA John Island Camp coming into existence.

The City of Chicago was resolute in its decision to rebuild despite the amount of clean up work and re-building required. According to many historical documents, a large number of residents were of German descent and they were largely committed to building with wood. Buildings up to five stories in height used wood as their basic building material.

The Moiles brothers, John, James, George and Bart had built and operated a lumber mill in Detour Michigan and the demand for lumber at the time was high. Due to operation and management problems, the mill fell into serious debt and to avoid losing it to the mortgage holders, they moved it to John Island. It became one of eleven lumber mills in the North Shore area that were still responding to the colossal need for lumber for rebuilding Chicago .

Much of the logging for the mills was done in the area around Sudbury (leading to clear cut areas becoming eroded which was later exacerbated by mining and smelting in the area) and areas along the Spanish River. The John Island Mill , also known as Moiles Mill and as “the stolen mill” cut about 17 million board feet of lumber a year during part of its existence, most of which ended up in Chicago. About 100 men worked at the John Island Mill and 300 residents lived in a small community on the island during the mill’s existence from 1885 to 1917. The mill was destroyed by fire itself in 1917.

Lumber baron, Wm. Bell, bought the 278 acres of land on which the mill and community had existed and his wife later sold it (for a nominal sum) to the YMCA in Sudbury for a future children’s camp. To this day, campers still sit around the campfire singing as one of their songs.

*“Late one night when we were all in bed,  
Old mother Leary lit a lantern in the shed,  
And when the cow kicked it over,  
She winked her eye and said  
‘There’ll be a hot time in the old town  
tonight’ Fire! Fire! Fire!”*

without realizing the ties that exist between the Great Chicago Fire, Mrs. O’Leary and JIC



1871 illustration from *Harper's Magazine* depicting a shocked Mrs. O'Leary seeing her cow kicking over the lantern while she is milking

# WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH CAMP?



By Kendra MacIsaac  
YMCA Vice-President of Health and Wellness

Happy Fall JIC Campers, Alumni, Participants, Volunteers and Staff,

After not running traditional overnight camp since 2019, we once again welcomed campers back this past summer! We welcomed over 400 campers over the course of the summer, many of whom this was their first overnight camping experience. We also had some returning campers from near and far, many with long histories at John Island. Summer 2022 also presented some challenges. From staffing to mental health concerns (in both staff and campers) our camp team had to navigate the post-pandemic world with no instructional book to guide their way. While there were challenges, we do look back on the summer with great success.

Camp partnerships and programs also resumed a few of those being the partnership with Lasalle Secondary School, Rotary Club of Sudbury and Amatol. The much-anticipated Women's Wellness Weekend was re-introduced. We also introduced a new partner to the Island. Camp Quality brought their camp offering to JIC with plans to continue this collaboration for years to come.

This fall we also had the pleasure of touring around 2 board members. It was a great opportunity to showcase the island, share our vision and some of the work that is coming up in the near future. These 2 board members are part of our Funds Development Committee, and we know that camp is an area where many of you donate.

On November 17th, the Y was the charity recipient of Pay for Play with the New Hot 93.5!. It was a day dedicated to song dedications- you pay, and the radio station played! All funds raised that day were matched by the Laking Group of companies (up to \$50,000) and are all going to sending kids to camp. A few of our JIC campers were featured throughout the day and the day and was kicked off with Gary Gray delivering some of his famous oatmeal to the station to keep the team fuelled for the 12 hour radio marathon. We exceeded our goal and raised \$101,277 (with that amount growing every week as the Fill the Bus Campaign runs until the end of December). For more information and to give a kid a camp experience, please visit [fillthebus.ca](http://fillthebus.ca)

## Looking ahead!

In the spring, we shared with you the new structure in camp, and I am pleased to let you know that both Finn and Tanner are working year-round, just not directly in camping. Finn has taken on the role of Branch Manager at the downtown Sudbury Y and Tanner has taken on Aquatics Supervisor. By retaining them both, albeit not directly in camping, they continue to develop their skills, have the flexibility to support some of the year-round camping work (under Julian's direction) and build connections with potential staff and campers in their everyday work.

Staffing continues to be an area of concern, and the team is working hard to address this challenge. We have amended program schedules to allow for staff time off, are addressing wage disparities and hiring in the coming weeks to allow for staff training and connections to be built over the next 6-8 months.

Camper wellness was also a challenge for us this year- and not the physical health piece. We are also looking to support both our campers and staff's mental wellness in the summers to come with hiring key positions to better address these needs.

Lastly, some of our physical assets at camp are showing their age. A detailed capital plan is being confirmed and plans are in place to start working on some buildings in the spring. Interested in supporting this work? Please reach out! Or if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

We are so excited for what is to come and can't wait to see you all at camp in 2023.

## STEPH KLEIN (GRENKO) APPOINTED TO Y BOARD

**Steph Klein (Grenko)**, that some of us know as the popular and enthusiastic JOC staffer including as Assistant Camp Director in 2010, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario. We asked Steph for a few comments about herself and her appointment.

*"The YMCA in Sudbury has been a part of my life since I attended preschool in the old building on Lloyd St. I grew up participating in all kinds of Y programs, including John Island, which has had a positive and profound impact on my life. I was fortunate to be a camper (1995-98), a Greenway, Norquay, and staff member (2001-2007, 2010), and have come full circle to return as a camper this year at Family Camp.*

*I'm looking forward to serving on the board of directors for the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario and supporting all of the great programs offered by the Y. Thank you to all of the JIC alumni who encouraged me to pursue this new role (but don't expect the Yellow team to go easy on you next summer!). See you at the Y!"*



## Questions we get

It is interesting to follow the changes at camp and when things happened, when there were acquisitions and when some things started.

Our current generator was installed with some electrical upgrades in 2012

Camp depends heavily on all terrain vehicles  
Our newest 'red' quad was purchased in 2017



In 2007 LaSalle Secondary Students began, as part of their program, 3 weeks of construction work every spring. This work still continues.



Earl "M", Science North, Ironsides

Our camp boats are most interesting - here are dates:  
Kismet - 1947 to 1971      Ironsides - 1964 to 2004  
Earl "M" - 1991 to 2006      Science North - 1995 to 2000  
Garoo - 2000 to present      Panther - 2005 to present  
Barge - 2007 to present

One of our most valued spring groups is the Women's Wellness Weekend. This group started in 1990 and is still going strong.

Construction supplies, facility equipment and other major purchases are supported by funds raised by the John Island Camp Alumni. Ways of helping the alumni raise funds for the continued success of the camp are found on page 15.

# JIC ALUMNI BURSARY HELPS SEND 35 KIDS TO CAMP

It was 3 years ago when Alumni David Horne suggested that the camp establish bursary fund for potential campers. It would be a project of the John Island Camp Alumni to financially support this venture. The Covid-19 hit and camp was closed for overnight children's camp for 2 years. This past summer, camp resumed and 35 campers were able to attend camp due to support from the JIC Alumni Bursary Fund.

An average of \$238 helped pay the fees of each of these campers for a total of \$8,155. This support resulted in 5 or 6 campers attending each of the summer sessions in 2022. Camp has been recognized as an important part in the growing up process of children, especially after 2 years of isolation due to Covid at both school and camp.

To keep the Alumni Bursary alive for 2023, Alumni and Friends of John Island Camp are asked to consider their continued support. Our goal is to help the YMCA ensure that all children have the opportunity to attend John Island Camp with dignity, regardless of their financial situation.

To donate specifically to the JIC Alumni Camper Bursary Fund, donations can be made online: go to webpage for John Island Camp and move through the steps to "donate" and an option to donate to the bursary fund will appear near the end of the process. When "Greatest Need" appears, the bursary fund shows up in the drop down box.

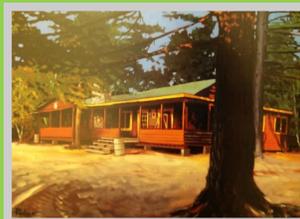
**Lets keep the Bursary Fund Active!**



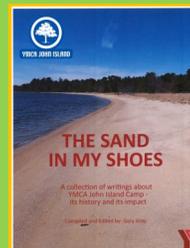
## Holiday Season Excitement!

*Gifts to give from the*  
**From the John Island collection**

**DINING HALL PRINT**  
 Original painting by  
 renowned Canadian artist  
 Bernie Poulin



All donors of \$250 or more to the John Island Capital Fund in December will receive an unframed signed and numbered copy of this outstanding print. Donations can be made and prints picked up at the YMCA in Sudbury or by contacting Gary Gray at [gary.gray@ymcaneoe.ca](mailto:gary.gray@ymcaneoe.ca)



**"THE SAND IN MY SHOES"**  
 A soft covered book of John Island history, and its impact



This book is available at the YMCA in Sudbury or can be mailed by contacting Gary Gray at [gary.gray@ymcaneoe.ca](mailto:gary.gray@ymcaneoe.ca) \$25.00 +tax

An assortment of stocking stuffers (camp badges, shirts, etc) can be picked up at the YMCA in Sudbury

# GIFTS FROM THE ISLAND

- by Matt Perpick

Camper 1989-1998, Staff 1999 –2001

My first trip to John Island was a bit rough. It was 1989. I was seven years old and away from home for the first time. I didn't know anybody. The walk from Rainboth cabin to the dining hall felt so long and night time was spooky. Campers would get plucked from the dining hall benches and thrown in the lake for reasons I couldn't quite understand. Was I next? There were whispers about a real witch's grave hidden somewhere on the island. Despite being a bit smitten with my counsellor Nadia, I was firmly resolved. I'd never go to John Island ever again.

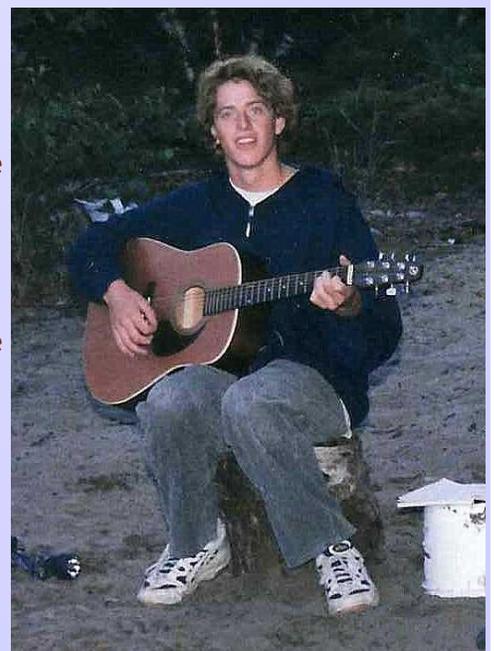
I begged to stay home all winter long. When my folks didn't budge, I appealed to a higher power. Surely my grandmother Janet would set my parents straight. But alas, she was on their side. They were sending me back to that camp.

Despite my best intentions to not have any fun at all, I slowly realized that John Island wasn't half bad. I made a few friends. I learned how to strike a match and light a campfire. The beach was awesome and the woods were full of cool places to play hide and seek. Capture the Flag and Sticks had an animal frenzy that playing baseball back home couldn't match. And my counsellors seemed so unbelievably cool. They had boom boxes and played Pearl Jam and wore cool clothes and had guitars and canoed us to the Dive.

Within a few years, I was hooked. No more pleading to stay home, I was now spending winter begging to spend more time on the island. My school books were covered in drawings of canoes and paddles and pine trees. I sent letters and mixtapes to camp friends. I didn't want to play for the Leafs or the Jays anymore. I had a new dream. When I grew up, I wanted to wear a John Island shirt with "STAFF" on the back. Camp felt like my real life.

I'd like to write about a few of the gifts that John Island gave me.

John Island gave me my love of canoes and the places only they can go. Canoes have a steep learning curve. They're hard for kids to carry and paddling is hard work. They seem to want to go anywhere but straight. In my last year as a Senior camper, our counsellors Mac and Marty announced we were going on a big trip - 4 days on the Mississagi River - and we needed to practice at the docks before shoving off. Out on the water Marty yelled at me "You have a goon stroke. You need to learn a J-Stroke!" and then showed me to keep one face of the paddle pushing through the whole steering stroke. It was smooth, efficient and elegant. I diligently practiced over those four days and when I realized I had a rudimentary J-stroke in my hands, 14 year old Matt briefly transcended the mortal form and for a fleeting moment experienced enlightenment. Alas, why don't these moments last? Memories of the Mississaugi are still etched in me though - the cliffs towering over the river, camping on a beautiful river bend with great friends, the highway brushing against the river and truckers honking for the kids in canoes. What a life to live. These little John Island camper trips - to the Dive, Third Beach, Mary's Cove and the Mississaugi - pushed me to do Greenway and Norquay Trips and then my own expeditions as a "grown up". So thanks to John Island for the canoes and to Marty for cleaning up my goon stroke.



Matt performing at campfire - 1999

(continued on next page)

John Island also gave me a sense of adventure and possibility. For better or worse, kids in my suburbs lived relatively benign lives. We had to stay between this street and that street and come home when the street lights came on. The adults of this generation, from what I gather, keep their children even more cloistered. At John Island we had a bit of space, a bit of freedom to roam and find our own way. Before dinner I'd have an hour to build a fort in the woods with my buddies or practice a guitar song on the Eagle Talon steps. Or maybe Scotty Keown, Matty D and I would hike to Ivy Island to talk about life and our dim romantic prospects. Our counsellors were there keeping us safe on the Mississauga but it was us who paddled our canoe. Our shoulders hurt on the portage. I think this changed me a little bit. It gave me the tiny ounce of courage I needed to try new things, live in new places and take some chances.

But maybe the real treasure was the friends we made along the way. My JIC friends have been with me since my earliest days on the Island, from Gowan Cabin through Greenway and Norquay and then our amazing summers as JIC Staff. Believe it or not, but my fellow counsellors and I even managed to find ways to enjoy ourselves on our time off the Island. We've stayed in great touch as the years went by. As university students we gathered in great numbers for spirited debates on the significant ideas of our time. With John Island friends, I've had a pint in Dublin and cracked a bottle of wine in Paris and dipped my toes into quite the Pacific, the Atlantic and Arctic oceans. They celebrated at my wedding and I held their newborn babies. When I come home to Canada, they make time to catch up and even though it feels like no time has passed at all. They've stuck with me when I wasn't an easy friend to have. They are my closest confidantes. They get me and I get them. Thank you John Island friends for the uncountable laughs, memories, songs, real talks, concerts, jam sessions, debates, trips, adventures, concerts, days on the river and nights on the town. Can't wait for whatever is next.

Last summer I had the real pleasure of taking my three-year old son to family camp. We live in Brooklyn, so he's a real city kid from a different world. On the drive up he asked me, "How many subway lines are on John Island?" It was amazing for him to see the trees and dig on the sandy beach and swim in that truly great lake. He doesn't know it but he was getting to commune with nature. He's still talking about his counsellors Maddie, Tate and Jonah and all his new friends.

I hope this is the start of a great journey for him.

For me, it was wonderful to come back and see the island. Things have changed a little bit but not too much. The island is still incredibly beautiful and the dining hall steps are still a great place to have a cup of coffee and chat with a friend. The staff were talented, hard-working, kind people. I believe they'll do an even better job than we did. They are savvier than my generation in some important ways and they'll make John Island an even more welcoming, inclusive place for everybody. The Island is in great hands for years to come.

Thanks so much to everybody who has kept the camp thriving all these years - in the cabins, the office, the kitchen, the maintenance shed, everywhere. We all owe you a debt of gratitude. Thank you to all my amazing counselors for showing me the ropes. Thanks to my grandparents Merv and Janet Gribbons for always dropping me off and picking me up at Lily Creek and being part of the adventure. And most of all thanks to my parents for not listening to the scared little seven year old who just wanted to stay home.



Back: Nick Chapman, Emma Chapman, Matt Perpick, Brian O'Neill, Rebekkah Bateman  
Front: Charlotte Chapman, Kiyoshi Perpick, Lizah O'Neill, Evie O'Neill, Maible O'Neill, Avalyn Chapman

# CAMP STAFF AT JOHN ISLAND RUNS IN FAMILIES

We notice it more and more every year. John Island Camp grows in our blood. One of the ways we feel the effects of this is in the explosion of both campers and staff each year whose parents (and close relatives) are John Island alumni. With the camp basically closed to regular camp and leadership programs for the last two years, recruiting first year staff has become challenging. The influence of family ties in both staff and campers this past year has been very significant.

Finn Thomas, our John Island Director, has put the requirements for camp staff in 2023 on the John Island website. Finn will be looking for staff in all areas critical to the operation of the camp, including cabin counsellors, trip leaders, kitchen staff, maintenance staff and program leaders.

If there are youth from 17 years and over within your family who are interested in one of the best jobs of the summer, steer them to the John Island Camp webpage where they discover all of the positions, with descriptions, that are available for this coming summer. It may seem early, but the first deadline for staff applications is December 9, 2022.



The 2022 John Island Camp Staff

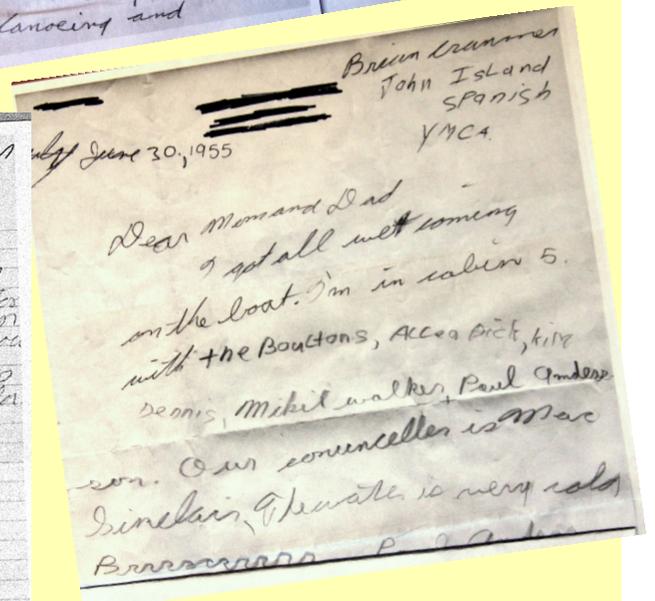
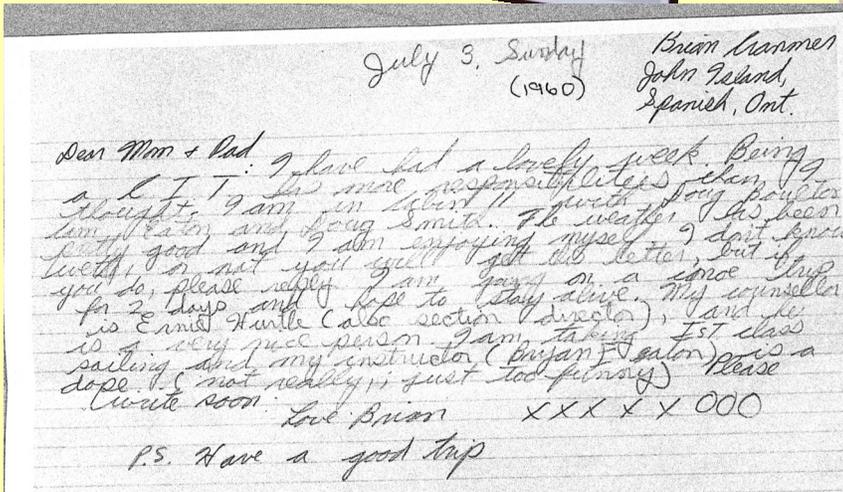
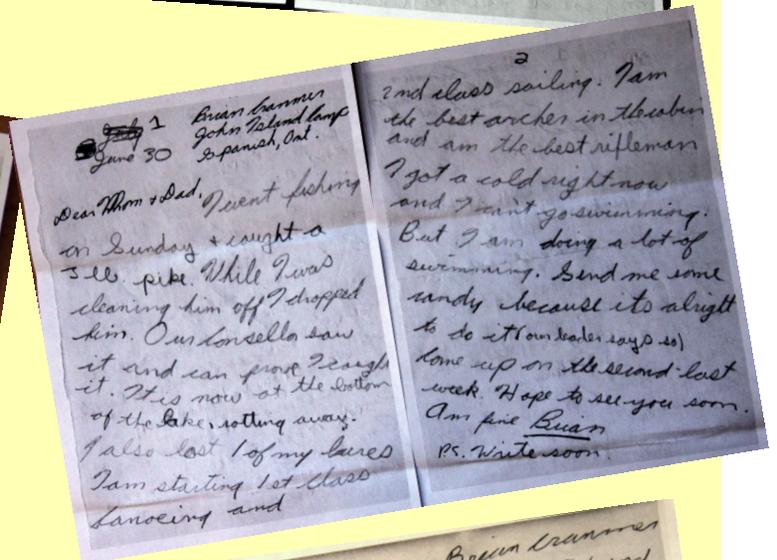
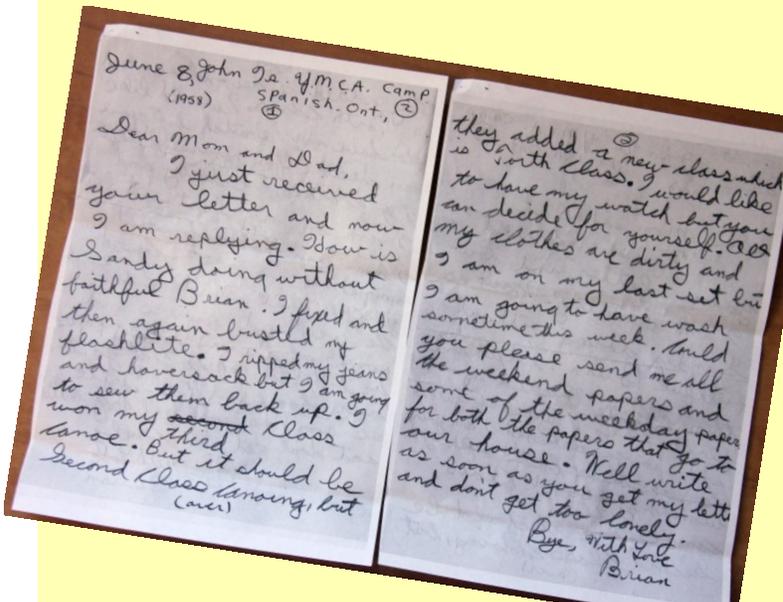
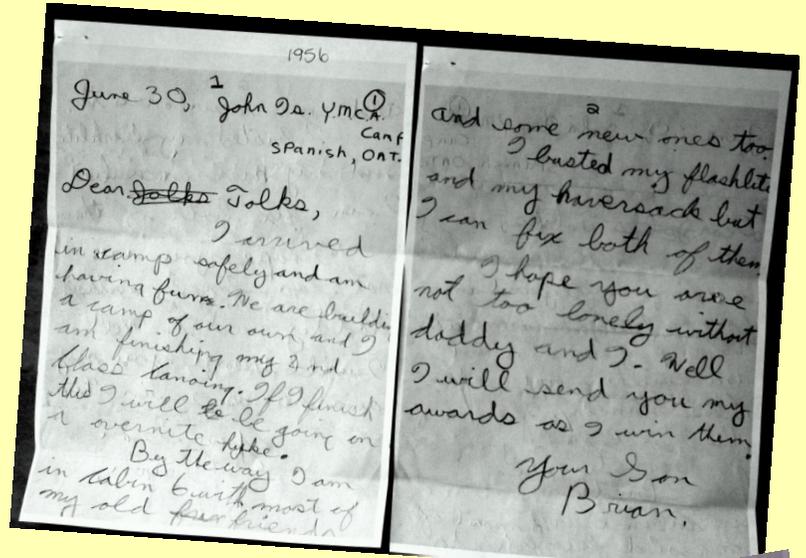
## Did you know? ? ? ?

The Moulthrop Lumber Company, which bought the John Island lumber mill from the Moiles Brothers in 1900, used timber marks "GUY" and "SX1" on their logs, primarily from the Lake Pogamasing area. The cut logs were floated down the Spanish River to John Island. In 1903-04 the mill cut about 17 million board feet of lumber per year.

# Letters From Camp...

Once upon a time, snail mail actually flowed between the homes of campers and camp. A letter from Sudbury would actually reach camp the next day (or at least it would reach the Spanish Post Office. Every day the Kismet would embark on a voyage from camp to Spanish and return with fresh milk, food, visitors and most important—a bag or two of fresh mail. And campers wrote home as well

Several years ago, Brian Cranmer's mother sent us a few of Brian's letters home from camp. The first was in 1955 and they progressed from there. The year is on each of the letters so you can follow the progression. If you have trouble reading these on line, you can magnify them to make them clearer.



# From Citizen Band Radio To Satellite Phones, Camp Communication Has Come A Long Way



C.B. radio similar to the one used at JIC

A back room in the male staff cabin in the mid 1950's housed a radio telephone that was the camp's only means of communication with life on the mainland. It was quite unlike the radio telephones used by the camp in later years as it worked on one frequency. Those familiar with the early radio phone system will recall that only one person could talk at a time. You pressed a button on the phone to talk and released the button to hear the other party. Later we were allowed to use the radio phone much like a city landline when they switched from one frequency to two which allowed voice transmission to be sent on one frequency and voice reception on the second. Progress for sure.

Once phone communication was established, John Island was requested by the United Church, the owners and operators of Aird Island Camp, to help them with their communication needs by adding a C.B. radio station in our communication room. Their thought was that if they required emergency communication that they could radio to John Island and John Island could then use their radio phone to aid Aird Island.



Bag cell phones used  
in the 1980's

After being in use for a few years, it was decided that reception was poor for our radio phone and the CB system, so a radio tower was erected and was the host to the antennas for both systems. It also became the host for the antenna for the new marine radio system. The marine radio system was installed as a requirement allowing us to stay in contact with Ironsides and later Earl "M" for emergency use. The marine radio also allowed us a fall back communication system as the marine frequencies are constantly monitored by the Ministry of Transport.

In the 1980's cell phones became more common, starting with the bag phone. As there were no cell towers close to camp, they were not viable for use at camp. As mobile communication systems improved, cell phones were used for communication with all of our boats as the Whalesback Channel is well covered with cell service. However, it was not until the mid 2010's that the radio telephone system was slowly replaced with the use of cell phones. Today cell service is the main communication system for both land phone contact and marine use.

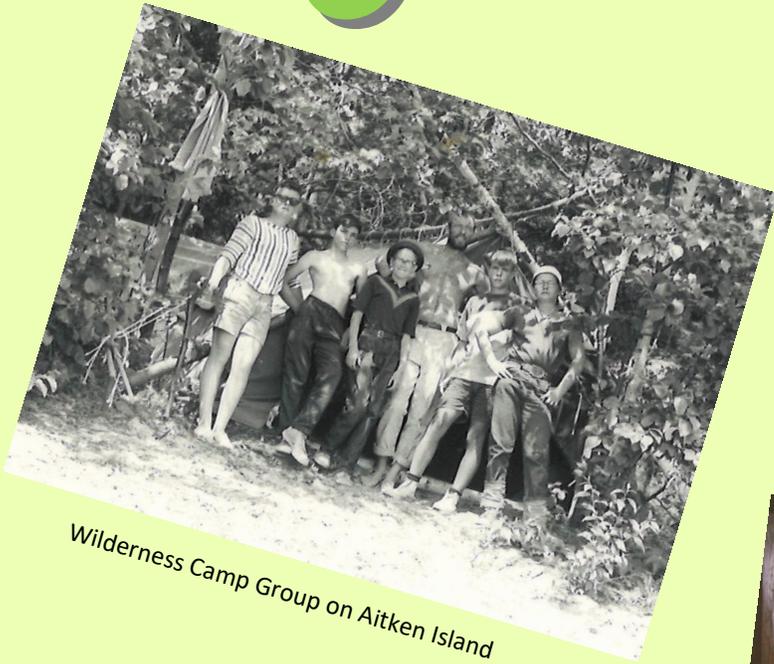


Satellite phones used today  
in tripping programs

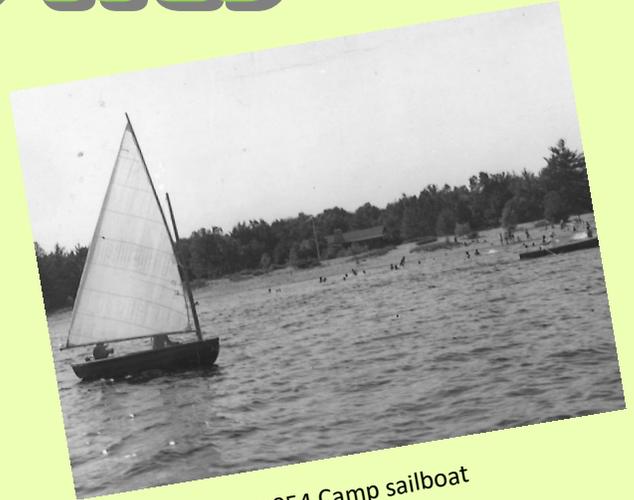
But wait! There's more! Just before the turn of the century satellite phones became effective for camp use, but were quite expensive to use as our main communication system. However, the camp began using satellite phone for its major canoe trips in area where there is no cellular service. For the first several years that the camp used satellite phones for its Norquay and other remote trips the camp rented phones for the summer. Today, the camp owns its own satellite phones for trips and constant communication is now a reality.

The tower still stands behind the office building (previously the male staff cabin, office and most recently the outtrip building) but serves no purpose other than to act as a reminder of how far our communication has come.

# Memories



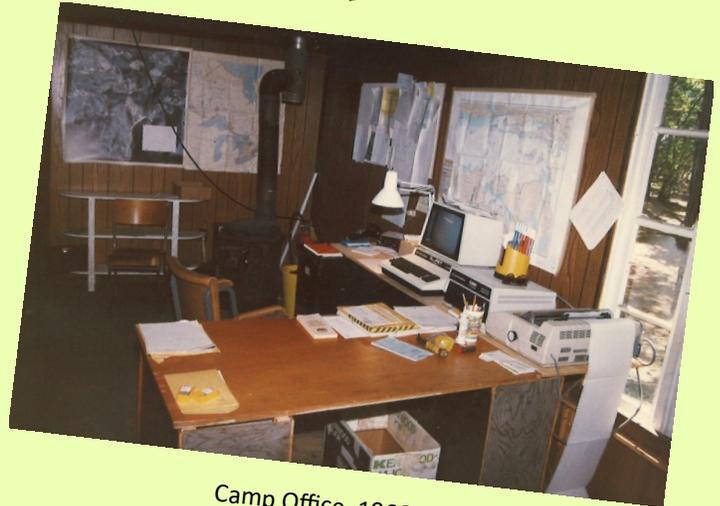
Wilderness Camp Group on Aitken Island



1954 Camp sailboat



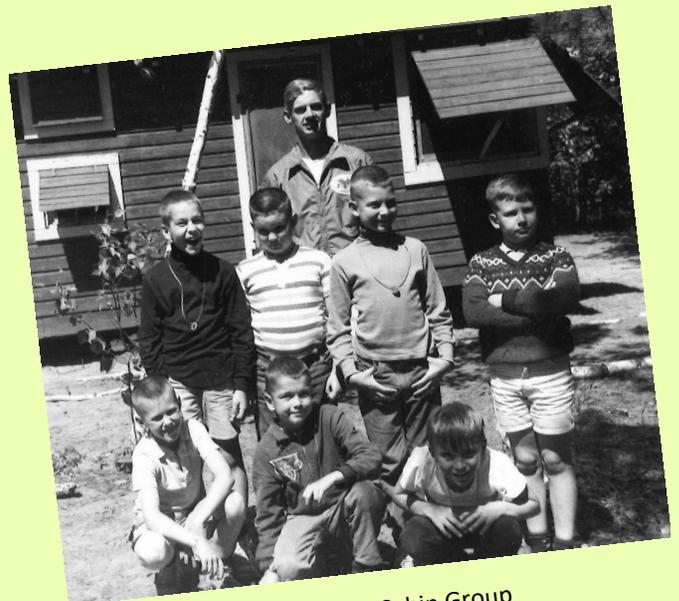
Kitchen as in the 1950's-80's



Camp Office, 1966



1959 Honour Campers at JIC and Y'Land



1965 Boys Cabin Group

# NEW JOHN ISLAND CAMP BOOK IN PRODUCTION

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

### DON'T LEAVE YOUR CAMP MEMORIES IN A CLOUD SOMEWHERE - SHARE THEM!

What are some of your favourite  
camp memories?

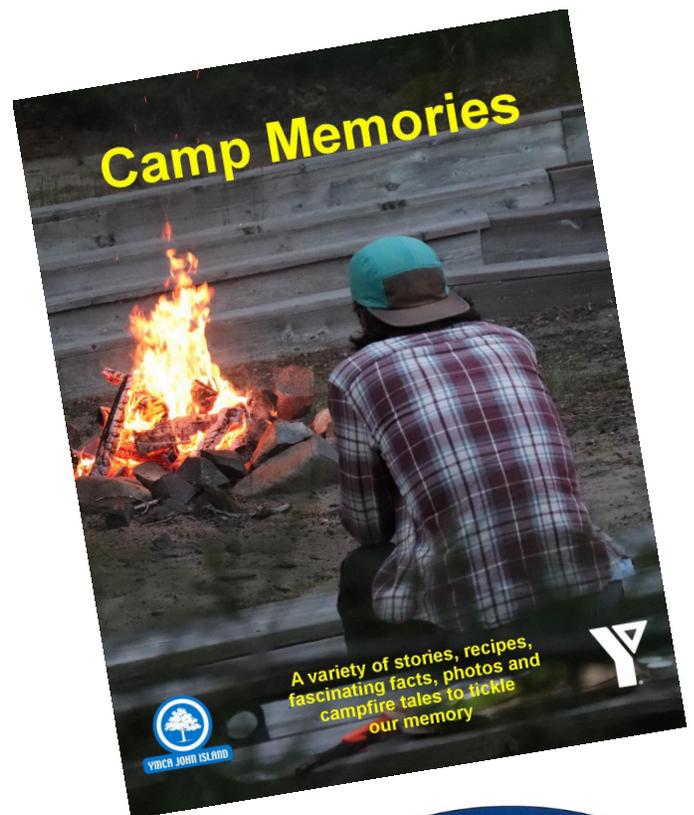
How did camp have a “positive  
and lasting effect” on you?

What did you learn about yourself  
at camp that helped you become  
who you are?

Share your stories . . . You will be  
amazed in how many ways camp  
has affected us all.

For more information  
or  
to share your story,

[gary.gray@ymcaneo.ca](mailto:gary.gray@ymcaneo.ca)



Another  
YMCA  
JOHN ISLAND CAMP  
Alumni  
INITIATIVE

## FAMILY CAMP VOLLEYBALL REFEREE RETURNS

Longtime family campers, George and Laurie Walinga, returned to John Island Family Camp this past summer after a 15 year respite. For years during the late 1900's and early 2000's, the Walinga family were popular campers.

One of the family camp activities that became an institution at the camp were the Family Camp vs. Staff volleyball tournament on the final night of camp. One of the reasons for the popularity of the annual event was the antics of the game referee, George Walinga. Of course in 2022, after a 15 year absence, George returned to his spot at the end of the net to referee the games. Of course, George had an impeccable reputation for his fairness and competency as a referee.

Family camp was at capacity this past summer with 15 cabins filled with enthusiastic campers, anxious to recapture the fun and enjoyment of a week on the island with both friends from the past and new.

Alumni are encouraged to continue their relationship with John Island by attending spring work weekends, family camp and all events planned for alumni.

Alumni are the lifeblood of the camp—just ask all those who were part of the annual volleyball games this past year with George Walinga making the calls.



George and Laurie Walinga

## IF YOU WANT TO HELP, HERE'S HOW!

On the back cover we list several ways to help. We are fortunate that we have a very dedicated alumni at YMCA John Island Camp and they want to help camp continue for years ahead.

**FINANCIAL HELP** - to assist with **capital improvements**, the easiest way is to donate on line at [ymcaneoc.ca](http://ymcaneoc.ca). At that site, hit the "donate" button and when asked where you want your donation to go, choose "John Island Camp Capital"

- to assist with the John Island Camp **Alumni Camper Bursary Fund**,

- to assist with the **camp operation** or to generally help the camp, go to the camp website as above and when asked where you would like your donation to go, choose camp operation.

**VOLUNTEER HELP** - There are **Work Weekends** - contact [julian.haayen@ymcaneoc.ca](mailto:julian.haayen@ymcaneoc.ca)

- There are **Newsletter stories** to be written—contact [gary.gray@ymcaneoc.ca](mailto:gary.gray@ymcaneoc.ca)

And most important, be a **Camp Ambassador** by telling your family members and friends about the great opportunities at an outstanding YMCA overnight camp for youth. Information will be on line at [ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-camp/](http://ymcaneoc.ca/john-island-camp/)

**YMCA John Island Camp—an important part of growing up**



### The John Island Baseball team (circa 1912)

There were a number of lumber mills along the North Shore owned by Americans due to the need for lumber to rebuild Chicago after the great Chicago fire (see page 4). Each mill had a ball team. The John Island ball field is reportedly one of the first baseball fields in Ontario.

## JIC ALUMNI

Alumni and friends of the camp are the life blood of John Island Camp. Our goal is to provide support to the ongoing life of the camp and to provide a means for alumni to keep engaged with the camp. There are several ways alumni can support the camp and keep it part of their lives.

- Annual Spring and Fall Work Weekends (no special skills required)**
- Write for the Alumni Newsletter (Your story will be read)**
- Bring your family to Family Camp (Many already do)**
- Contribute to the JIC Capital Fund (Help keep OUR camp in great shape)**
- Sponsor a camper (Any amount helps)**
- Contribute to the Alumni and Friends of JIC Bursary Fund**
- Be a John Island Camp Ambassador**
- It is easy to donate on line - see page 15 for details**

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

For comments or to submit articles or content ideas: [gary.gray@ymcaneo.ca](mailto:gary.gray@ymcaneo.ca)  
Visit the John Island page on the website of the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario to access all past issues of this newsletter.

[www.ymcaneo.ca/john-island-camp](http://www.ymcaneo.ca/john-island-camp)

on Facebook: YMCA John Island Camp

