



SUMMER
2025

YMCA John Island Camp Alumni

NEWSLETTER

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



Numbers of Campers Increasing

Numbers of campers that we have not seen in years have been increasing steadily again and are expected to approach 900 this year. Due to a heavy demand for our youth camps, waiting lists are being experienced with staff attempting to accommodate as many youth as possible.

With covid having put a two year break in our leadership training programs it has been refreshing to see 42 youth register for this year's leadership training programs before June, with a few more spots available. Seven leadership campers were awarded an Alumni Leadership Bursary this year as part of the program.

John Island Alumni play a huge role in keeping John Island a vibrant and popular camp by volunteering their skills and camp knowledge, considering the camp for their own children and friends, and by donating funds to help finance special projects. To all our alumni, THANK YOU!

New Low Water Dock in Use

Anticipating the need to require a new low water dock this summer a new low water dock and bridge over the Kwai were constructed last year. Both structures are in full use this year.



LaSalle Secondary Program at JIC Builds a New Bunkie

It began as a five year trial program with Lasalle Secondary School with students in their carpentry program back in the early 2000's. It has resulted in the grade 11 students being involved in the reconstruction of most camper cabins at the camp.



This past spring, the three week session at the camp with the students resulted in the construction of a new Bunkie, used for non cabin staff accommodation. The new bunkie will be named "Lancer Lodge" in honour of the LaSalle Lancer name.

Funds for the Bunkie came from a combination of special grants, the JIC Alumni and the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Fill the Bus Campaign Makes John Island Available to Most Youth

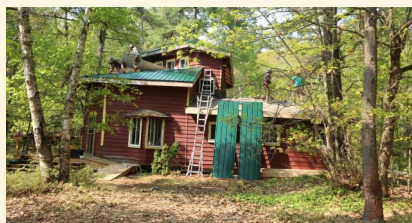
A very successful Fill the Bus Campaign raised over \$150,000 to help make an exciting camping experience possible for youth at John Island Camp and YMCA Day Camps. The YMCA is excited that no youth is ever turned away from registering for camp due to a genuine inability to pay the fees.

More Buildings Moving to Steel Roofing

With many of the camp buildings now several decades old, repair work and upgrading is becoming more and more necessary.

This past spring, the camp office was dealt a new steel roof thanks to the work of students from Lasalle Secondary School. Brian O'Neill and his crew did an amazing job installing a steel roof on the building now used as the main outtripping building.

Thanks to the alumni whose donations have assisted with this work being possible.



Outtripping building (previously the camp office and Fox/Fisher)



Camp office (previously outtripping)

Dining Hall Repairs Completed

The John Island Dining Hall has character! After 71 years of thousands of feet walking, jumping and even dancing within its walls, the dining hall has stood up to just about every imaginable type of activity. To ensure many more years of use are in the building's future, work was completed this year to upgrade some of the beams under the building and modify some of the structure. The work was done quickly but thoroughly by a construction firm and is now ready for the summer of 2025.

Thanks to the John Island Camp Alumni whose donations during the year with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation make upgrades like this at camp possible.

Fireplace Repairs

An integral part of the John Island Dining hall is the fireplace. Until recent years, the fireplace was used without an insert. When the safety of the stonework became questionable, a medium sized firebox was inserted into the fireplace. This year, work began on the stonework and the fireplace will soon be ready for a chimney insert to bring it back to full use. Alumni financial support as well as the Ontario Trillium Foundation has been playing a role in having this important work done.

Camp Alumni Volunteer for Work

With camp still in its early stages for 2025, a number of our camp alumni have volunteered to help at camp this year.

Margie Loughheed - helped in the kitchen for both our work weekend and Camp Quality

Brian O'Neill - installed a new roof on the Outtrip Building

Dave (Carney) Ethelston - assisted Brian on the roofing

Nigel Roedde and Kim McKone - helped with sailing program and with the camp Wellness team

Pat Carriere - cabin painting and mechanical repairs

Kim Caruso - camp supervision and between session cleaning

Yukon 1000 Race Includes a Team of John Island Alumni

Hundreds of applicants applied to be part of the Yukon 1000 race this year, but only 27 were selected. Amongst this group was a team calling themselves "Outlaws" consisting of Lauren Andersen and Sean Loughheed, both John Island Camp Alumni. Sean and Lauren finished a very respectable third.

This 1000 mile race starts in Canada at Whitehorse and ends in Alaska at the Dalton Highway Bridge. Complete information can be found on the internet on Google.

Update: The Gary Project

By Scott Thomas

This spring we set out to raise funds to complete a renovation of Chapel Point in recognition of the immeasurable contributions Gary has made to John Island.

We are happy to report that not only is the work complete thanks to The Rotary Club of Sudbury, but thanks to Alumni contributions, we have now surpassed our initial goal and are looking at another project for next spring.

It is only fitting that this next project also be one near and dear to Gary, and we are now looking to construct a stand alone Museum space to capture not only the Old Mill history of JIC, but the history of camp itself to share with generations to come!

These projects have been made possible because of the support of Alumni and volunteers. There is still time if you'd like to contribute to 'The Gary Project', please reach out to Scott Thomas at Scott.thomas@ymcaneo.ca for more information.



New chapel set up in use this summer for reflections

We Would Like Your Story

We are starting to work on the Fall Alumni Newsletter and we would like your camp story. If you are interested contact Gary at: gary.gray@ymcaneo.ca