

Alumni Newsletter

John Island Renewal Continues

Earlier this year we began fundraising for a renewal plan that actually began in 2005. The redevelopment plan would touch more than 20 buildings over the next 5 years and would cost more than 1 million dollars. Cabins will be replaced or renovated, new toilets will be installed, the shower house will be replaced, the Dining Hall will be renovated and the kitchen will be upgraded. As you can see from the pictures on the back of this newsletter, we are well on our way.

This past spring we completed the second new Rub-A-Dub building, and this fall we began work on the first new camper cabin on the island in 30 years. Next spring we will begin work on a second new camper cabin and the much-needed replacement of the shower house. Next summer our two youngest boys cabins will live in new L-shaped cabins, and the entire camp will enjoy individual

shower stalls in a new shower house. In the past two years we have spent more than \$120,000 on the John Island site, and next year we will spend another \$75,000 to finish the current projects.

But we need John Island alumni to give generously to our capital fundraising campaign.

Since last January, 19 volunteers have been working to raise the goal of \$895,000. With commitments of more than \$450,000 we are looking forward to some exciting announcements this spring. But we have more work to do to make this project a success!

We are still looking for more volunteers to help us approach and identify more potential donors. If you feel you could help, please email Gary Gray (ggray@sudbury.ymca.ca) and let him know you would like to be involved. **And of course, we are looking for more donors.** For information on donating to the "Share the Treasure" campaign



check the "donor page" at www.sudbury.ymca.ca or the John Island site at www.johnisland.ymca.ca, and please read Ann Simard's article in this newsletter.

Your gift 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.

On October 12, 2006, Gary Gray (JIC volunteer) and Carney Ethelston (JIC Assistant Director) made this snowman after a snow squall visited the island.



**Happy
Holidays
from**



John Island Camp

**Please pass the 2007 brochure on
to a family member or friend!**



"It's Funny How Small The World Really Is."

EVAN'S TALE & AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT A SONG

BY: EVAN DUFF (JIC CAMPER & STAFF 1986-1998)

Hi there. My name is Pte Evan Duff or simply Evan. I was a part of the John Island Camp Experience from 1986 until 1998 as a camper and staff member. After I left John Island I moved on to both the Greater Victoria and London YMCA's camping branches. John Island has a very special place in my heart. I remember easily going on swamp walks, the "announcements" theme song after meals, the Bug Hut, hikes to Lost Lake and avoiding poison ivy on Big John when exploring the ruins.



Today, I am a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. I am an infanterier...a soldier. I belong to the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Edmonton, Alberta. Do any of you past and present campers and staff remember the campfire song "Princess Pat" or "Ric-a-dam-doo"? Its funny how small the world really is. I remember singing that very song as a camper and today that song holds special significance for me. The Ric-a-dam-doo was made by Princess Patricia for the Regiment when it went off to fight during World War I. I always liked to sing that song as a camper because it was catchy. While I was training and preparing to head overseas I was humming that song to myself and realized that the song I was humming was about my very regiment and I knew the song from John Island. It had me laughing out loud when I made the connection and a couple of my fellow soldiers looking at me a little funny.

In January of this year I headed overseas to Kandahar, Afghanistan with the 1st Battallion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. If you ever read or saw anything about the "Red Devils" in the papers or on TV, that was my company. To say the very least, my time in Afghanistan was one that I will never forget and it taught me how truly great it is to be a Canadian. We are all so lucky to be Canadian, to have a great country to call home. Afghanistan is the warmest country I have ever been to. In July and August the temperatures soared to the mid sixties and I do mean Celsius. It was like living in a sauna all day long. Afghanistan has a harsh climate and the land itself is very unforgiving. In Kandahar Province you will find either desert like conditions or mountains. I spent time in each of these kinds of environment. The Afghan people are tough and cautious. The kids were friendly and with the aid of interpreters I was able to talk to the youth and teach them about Canada and to give aid or help when we could.

In the middle of August my tour came to a close and I headed home. I am now back in Edmonton, Alberta; safe, sound and thankful. While I was in Afghanistan I thought of my time with John Island and the YMCA with fondness. Some day I would like to come back to John Island for a visit. I sure do miss the place, I'll never forget it. I hope you are all well and good. I am home and completely enthralled with all things Canadian. We live all live in such a great country. Cheers.

Editor's Note: The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was formed in 1914. The "Ric-A-Dam-Doo" are the Regimental Colours of the unit which were handmade by Princess Patricia of Connaught, granddaughter to Queen Victoria and daughter of our (then) Governor General and Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment.

"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.



FAR LEFT: Marie Hurtubise (Nurse)
& Scott (?) 1966
LEFT: Cabin #7 (Rainboth) Session 2 — 1967
BELOW: Hawaiian Night — August 1966

Do you know
any of
these John
Islanders?



The Family Camp Challenge

LET'S BUILD A BETTER SHOWERHOUSE !

BY: ANN SIMARD (FAMILY CAMPER 1996-2006)

Family Campers Unite!! Family campers have risen to the challenge of fundraising for the John Island Camp Capital Campaign. As explained by Dave Ward, the Sudbury YMCA has embarked on a five year plan to renovate, rebuild and make new, what is now 50 years old at John Island Camp. The site development plan includes the replacement of 10 camper cabins and refurbishing of another 4, replacement of existing outhouses with compost toilets, renovating and expanding the dining hall and kitchen, and replacement of the shower building. The project is well underway, with two new compost toilets on site, complete with "touchless" faucets rub-a-dubs, and two camper cabins scheduled to be built this fall, replacing outdated existing units.

So, what is the Family Camp Challenge? The Family Camp Challenge is to raise funds equivalent to what has been estimated to replace the shower facility...\$40,000. As family campers know, the shower building is in a desperate state. Dave explained that the concept of 'group showers' are a thing of the past, and yet working showers are a very necessary component of camper hygiene.

\$40,000? Can the family campers really raise that kind o' dough? You bet!! Initial efforts have already brought in over \$8000. The family campers are a generous lot, and creative too. Some families have organized their own charitable fundraisers with all proceeds going to JIC! Other families have preferred to simply give a donation. The Y has made it easy to give a significant donation through monthly or annual installments.

What's in it for the family campers? You mean other than a working shower facility? Well, of course family campers are genuinely altruistic in their goal. Their only intent is to "share the treasure", as the campaign slogan goes, to ensure the magic of the island is there for generations to come. Oh yeah, and they get to name the new shower building. That's right! Even though the showers were not initially included as a 'naming opportunity' on the donor recognition schedule, by raising the \$40,000 the family camp community will be given the privilege of naming the new shower building (which incidentally, Dave says will be up next spring). Creative minds have already come up with some possibilities...The Sud Hut...The Cleanation Station...The Wash and Whistle, to name a few. With enough pledges made, Naming of the Shower Building will be on the activities board at the 2007 Family Camp!

All donations towards the Family Camp Challenge are welcome. Whether you are a family camper from years gone by, a current family camper, or a family camper wannabe, your contribution to the Family Camp Challenge is greatly appreciated. If you would like more information about the Family Camp Challenge, or would like to make a contribution, please contact Ann Simard by email at annsimard@yahoo.ca or by phone (705-856-2529).

Reach for the Rainbow

A JOHN ISLAND MAINSTAY SINCE 1990

BY: DAVID NEAL—REACH FOR THE RAINBOW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

This is the first summer since 1990, when I began as Reach for the Rainbow's Program Director, that I have not visited John Island Camp from Toronto at least once. That was our second year of partnership with JIC. RFTR's venture of integrating children and youth with developmental and/or physical disabilities had been rolled out to a cautious public a few summers earlier, but with the active support of Gary Gray CEO, and Rick Wise, JIC's Director, Reach for the Rainbow put down roots in the Sudbury Region.

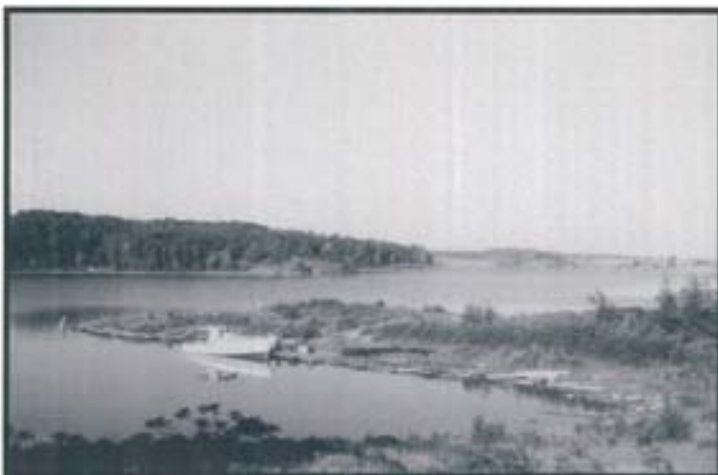
I interviewed returning and new families at the Lloyd St. "Y". One family travelled across from Manitoulin Island. Their daughter was eight years old and she has been coming to JIC or Camp Falcona every summer since! Clarissa, like other adult participants through RFTR, maintains her camp roots by being a volunteer, with 1:1 counsellor support, for 2 weeks. Her parents write that "this summer was as fulfilling as the past ones!"

The partnership between RFTR and JIC was strengthened by regular trips north, including interviews and pre-camp training, credited by Rick as, "good support – a feeling of commitment from you and RFTR which boosted the importance of the staff involved, sets expectations and a positive atmosphere." My oldest son, Tristan had turned six and accompanied my wife, myself and our toddler Teague, to the island for our first JIC training – both sons would become long time JIC campers, as well as their future brother Lachlan, cousins and several friends, including Jon Ward who counts his Snake River trip among his camping milestones. Tristan was a JIC camper immediately for 'Little Guys and Gals', while we stayed over twice during his short session. Thus began our model of training, resource visits and intake/ participant profiles, written in non clinical, person-first terms, with functional, camp related suggestions.

This summer and last, Tristan, now a fourth year Psychology student at Dalhousie, has returned half a dozen times to JIC with RFTR Program Coordinator Brett Rutledge to assist with pre-camp training, to lead 'Gift of Belonging' training for Falcona/JIC 'Norquays', and to help with resource visits. We have many memories of John Island and enjoy the opportunity to reconnect through Tristan. He writes of Tiffany who "has been having a lot of fun with her cabin mates, interacting often at favourite activities including swimming, card playing, the hike to 'First Beach' and during responsibilities such as dish washing on out trip."

After Rick Wise, the next JIC Directors Jim Blake, David Ward, Colin Veevers and Erika Andersen were similar in their welcome and willingness to work at inclusion. Jim was on the board of the OCA at the time. Catherine Bogle at RFTR and I worked closely with him on the OCA Integration Committee. We helped to develop and edit a well received newsletter, 'Inclusions', which went out twice annually with the 'OCA'sional News' to member camps and sometimes across Canada through the Canadian Camping Association.

Jim also researched and co-authored the CCA's 'Inclusion Training and Resource Manual', furthering the integration movement in Canadian children's camps. He wrote, "when you undertake the process of becoming inclusive, you become involved in a process that helps you develop a better understanding of who makes up your immediate community, the areas of your program that need review, and the leadership development and new learning that needs to take place within the camp's staff team and client base. Inclusion will help you develop your camp so that it is more responsive to everyone's needs."



The "Kismet" at the low water docks in the late 50's and the "Kismet" at the "new" high water docks in 1966.

The Smokestacks

MUSIC & JOHN ISLAND—FOREVER LINKED

BY: AARON "BIFF" LIVINGSTONE (CAMPER 1991-1997 STAFF 1998-2003)

Music has always been a part of John Island that I treasured, whether it was leading campfire songs, doing coffee house skits, dance parties on the dining hall porch or just playing guitar when you can find the time. Music has been a big part of my life in general also, growing up playing Suzuki violin and later switching to the double bass gave me the skills to play in a ton of school and community music groups over the years. It was all pretty much classical training, but who couldn't deny wanting to really get the lead out playing rock n' roll. So when another JIC friend, Matt Perpick wanted to start a band to give some umph to his songs, I jumped aboard.

After working at John Island in the summer of 2002 and dreaming of playing rock n' roll to the masses, we started honing our chops to be a finely tuned rock machine. Since Matt had the guitar covered and I had learned to play electric bass, we just needed a drummer to cover the basics. Fortunately Matt's long-time friend Adam Biehler, known to many as Beef, was up for the job. Lucky for us we had all ended up at school pretty close to each other. Matt at University of Waterloo, Beef at Wilfred Laurier and I at University of Guelph. It meant riding the greyhound to Matt's house in Waterloo at least weekly, but it's only 1/2 hour each way and \$11 return; a fair trade for some loud music in a cold basement.

We practiced all year to try and get a real gig and wow audiences. By March we had recorded a 4 song EP and figured we were ready. Sure enough we had lined up a show supporting a friend's event for Engineers without Borders at the local student pub Weaver's Arms, more known for its board games and nachos than rock n' roll. Now all we needed was some screaming fans. There were quite a few John Islanders that ended up in the Tri-city area (Guelph and KW), so we coaxed and cajoled them to come out and support us. But in the end we really weren't sure how many people would show up. Should we really have doubted the support from all of our camp friends? Of course not. They came out in droves and not only the ones in busing distance, friends came from Kingston and Sudbury and London, all to this one little bar to dance the night away.

We got such a taste for playing music, that we couldn't just let it die. The next fall we recruited some more Waterlooites, Liam Brown on guitar and Chris Fairles on keys to round out the line-up and decided to really take it to the masses. We wasted no time and only a couple months into the new school year we had some new songs down and some gigs booked. The year brought us to bigger and better things, as we became a local band playing shows around Waterloo. Our claims to fame really were few, but we managed to have a great time, play some good music and meet some great people. Around Christmas, Kate Maki, just a fledgling Sudburian musician at the time invited us to come play a gig at the Townehouse Tavern in Sudbury. We couldn't have asked for a better time,



"The Smokestacks" In the photo, from left to right are JIC Alumni Matt Perpick and Aaron "Biff" Livingstone with Waterlooites Liam Brown and Chris Fairles.

with a pre-show party at the Thomson's house and a huge crowd to enjoy a great night of music at the Towner. We became favourites of the U of W Grad House, which got us the headlining spot at their annual Grad Stock concert and coverage by the Tri-city weekly paper, the Echo. The Waterloo campus radio station had us on for an interview and live performance. We took our show on the road playing gigs in Hamilton and Toronto and even a weekend where we led a convoy of cars from Southern Ontario to Kingston and Montreal and back. We played some shows with great independent acts such as Cuff the Duke and Matt Mays and El Torpedo. That was pretty much the height of our so-called fame and we owe it all to John Islanders young and old who were always front and centre when we were playing music. I don't think there was a single show where there wasn't at least a few camp friends to cheer us on. Much thanks from all of us.

While we all wanted to keep playing music, other commitments got in the way with Matt, Liam and Chris always flipping on co-op work terms around the globe. Beef caught the camping bug and decided to go work as a 23-year old, first year counsellor at YMCA camp Elfinstone in BC. I started my Master's in molecular biology, making it much harder to spend as much time in Waterloo. Matt and I still play music together, although in a more folky vein these days. We've played a few shows in Waterloo this summer with a few other small groups, in a living room turned concert venue of all places, and there's always a few camp friends there to enjoy the music. We all miss the days when the Smokestacks could fill the place and get everyone dancing and air-guitarin'. I say this as if we're washed-up has-beens, but I'm 25 and still alive with lots more music in me.

A Canoeing Adventure in the 1970's

Bears Eat Campers and Leave Equipment.....

By Grant Pilkey

One of the activities offered to the Grade 10 students going to John Island Camp was an overnight canoe trip. The group was limited to the first 30 students who signed up. We arrived at the camp in time for lunch on the Tuesday after the 24th of May weekend. That afternoon, Cathie Foote, who was in charge of tripping, directed us to the Outfitter Cabin. Here we were assigned tents to check and pack and the food to be eaten on the trip. Then it was down to the dock to pick our paddles and lifejackets. We loaded the canoes and with a few paddling tips from Cathie, it was off to Klotz Island.

We forgot the eggs for breakfast. They were still back at the dock. Landing on the beach at Klotz, the students began to set up their tents. It was then that it became apparent how carefully they had packed their equipment. Several tents lacked the necessary pieces of poles and couldn't be erected. After supper, some of the group decided to go for a swim. This was the ultimate Polar Bear Dip. One of the girls set the record – she stayed in for 37 seconds. The weather was so nice that several students decided to sleep out under the stars. When I took a stroll down the beach the next morning, there were the tracks of a large bear and two cubs in the sand. They had come within 50m of our sleeping campers before veering off into the woods. After a reduced breakfast, we packed and prepared to return to camp. Cathie suggested it might be fun to paddle around Klotz and go home through the back channel. What we didn't realize was that the water level that spring was so low that there wasn't a passage between Klotz and Aird Islands. Off we started. Two hours later, the legendary Northwest Passage hadn't appeared.



Grant Pilkey circa 1970

Back at camp, when we hadn't returned by 10:00 am, Don Waddell, the Camp Director, headed out in the motor boat to see what the problem was. He found where we had pulled up the canoes, pitched the tents, and had our campfire. He also found the bear tracks. Being an experienced outdoorsman, he decided we had been eaten by the bears. However, he couldn't figure out what the bears had done with the canoes and tents. Don continued his search. He was determined to retrieve that equipment.

Meanwhile, the expedition was slowly making its way along the shores of Aird Island. About noon, we came around a point and spotted a few derelict buildings. We had arrived at Little Detroit! We landed to stretch our legs then headed for home along the back shore of Aird. Don found us shortly after. He expressed his concern about what had happened, then proceeded back to camp to get Ironsides and haul us back in time for supper. The weather was so bright and sunny, most of us had dressed in shorts and t-shirts for the short paddle back to camp. We were thoroughly cooked by the time we arrived back at John Island. The cabins that night were kept warm by our radiant energy.

Editor's Note: The author, Grant Pilkey, is one of the longest serving John Island volunteers. He served on the Camp Committee (with several years as Chair) from the 1950's through to the 1990's when he moved to Peterborough. He served several years on the Sudbury YMCA Board of Directors, participated in numerous John Island work parties, and co-ordinated the visit to John Island by several students from Japan as campers in the early 1990's. Grant also helped raise funds on several occasions for John Island.

All About People.....

Congratulations to Angela (nee Punch) (Camper 1992-1996, Staff 1997-2001) and Ryan Smith (Staff 1997-2001) who were married in July. Both are teachers and will be living in Bracebridge. Congrats as well to Leslie Garber (Staff 1998) who was married in July and to Mark McLean (?) who was also married this summer. Lisa Gainer (Camper 1995-1996, Staff 1997-1999, 2001) also married recently and is living with her husband in New Zealand.

Erika Andersen (now Loughheed) (Camper 1986-1996, Staff 1997-2001, 2006) current Director of John Island, got engaged to Sean Loughheed (Staff 1997-2000, 2002) this past May on the trail to Lost Lake. Their marriage took place at Tapatoo Resort in Parry Sound on October 14th.

Tracy (nee Smith) (Camper 1986-1989, Staff 1990-1999) and husband Stephen Baird (Staff 1998-1999) welcomed Henley into the world this summer and Mike Anderson (Staff 1993-1997) and Stacey (nee Daughn) gave birth to their first this summer - a son they have named Sam. Jim Shaver (Staff 1990-1994) and his wife Isabel (both teachers) are currently building a house on Loch Ness in Scotland. Jim took this past year off from his teaching duties to build their new home.

HELP us keep our Alumni up to date on what is happening with other Alumni. As we pass major milestones in our lives, send an e-mail to ggray@sudbury.ymca.ca and we will include the information in our next Alumni Newsletter.

Professional Development at John Island Camp

Skills For Use — Later In Life

By Mike Anderson (JIC Staff 1993—1997)

I have recently completed my seventh year in the Teaching Profession. During these seven years, I have attended numerous workshops, conferences, courses, and various other "Professional Development" activities. I can easily say that the most valuable Professional Development I have ever had was at John Island. In fact, I believe that the success I have had in my teaching career can be attributed to the skills I learned as a staff member at JIC.

Living in a child-centered community taught me to be accountable for the safety and well being of the campers I was counselling. Programming exciting, hands-on, co-operative activities taught me that behaviour problems are rare when campers are genuinely interested in what they are doing. These skills translate perfectly into the classroom. I also learned that it doesn't matter how bad your voice is when you are leading a song in front of 200 people at a campfire, as long as you smile. I found that this lesson doesn't transfer as well to teaching when I attempted to lead a rousing version of School's Out for Summer by Alice Cooper at our year-end assembly. Live and learn.

In my classroom, my students and I follow community agreements to make sure that we all get along together. These agreements are based on the same community agreements that I used as a counsellor at JIC; safety first, mutual respect, positive attitudes, and no put-downs. I am still looking for a way to incorporate "take what you need and eat what you take" into my classroom. I chose the teaching profession because of its close parallels to my experiences at JIC. If I wasn't teaching, I know that I would have found a way to utilize my JIC experiences in whatever career I entered.

I don't want to give the impression that I haven't learned a lot since joining the teaching profession. For example, I learned that "a lot" is two words not one.



Cec Woods — the first John Island Director speaking with Jack (Smitty) Smith in 1954. Jack was the Craft Director in the late 50's and provided the cover artwork for the camp newsletter "The John Island Smoke Signal" issue of July 1959, pictured to the right.



Where Are They Today???

Bill McCallum (JIC 1962-1968)

Bill now hails from New Zealand where he manages the Hancock Forest Management Ltd. which is headquartered in Rotorua. He lives with his wife Prue and three children (Alice in grade 13, Will in grade 11, and Jamie who has just started high school) in nearby Tauranga. Bill's three children have all experienced John Island as campers, reliving many of the same camp experiences as their dad did back in the 1960's.

Michelle Polack - (Camper 1987 – 1994, Staff 1995 – 1997)

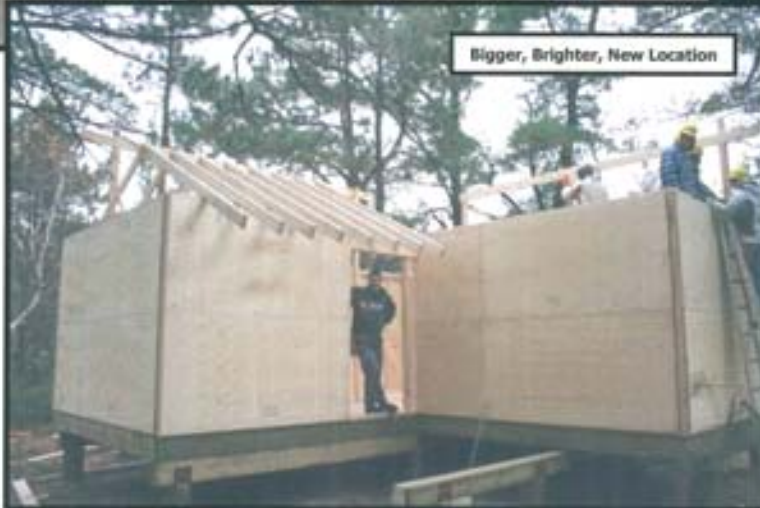
Presently living in the Comox Valley on Vancouver Island where she is living out the dreams of the outdoor adventurer started at JIC. She is involved in a myriad of things from Professional Ski Patrol to avalanche control work and heli-ski work, as well as cat skiing in BC's interior. In the summer months, Michelle works on heli attack fire fighting. She has a loving partner named Alex who shares her enthusiasm for skiing. She says..."If anyone ever needs a good couch, climbing, mountain biking, kayaking or ski buddy, feel free to drop me an e-mail ..my heart and doors always welcome old camp friends. luckymountaingirl@hotmail.com



New Rub-A-Dub # 1



New Leadership Training Area — Norquay Village



Bigger, Brighter, New Location

The Rebuilding
of John Island
Continues !



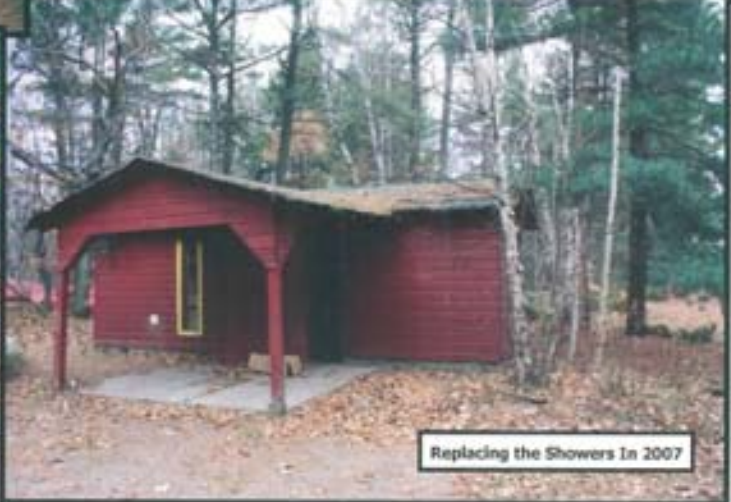
The Start Of The New "Dalrymple"



Saying Goodbye to An Old Friend



Finishing New Rub-A-Dub # 2



Replacing the Showers In 2007