

Alumni Newsletter

WEDDING AT JOHN ISLAND BRINGS THREE GENERATIONS TOGETHER



Michael and Deanne Mitchell

In 1954, Elwood Mitchell, the camp maintenance director and boat driver, met Vivi-Ann Hagglund, a counsellor at girl's camp in August of that year. A friendship developed over the next few years as both returned to work at John Island – Elwood in his maintenance and boat driving role and Vivi-Ann as counsellor and then as camp nurse. In 1958, Vivi-Ann and Elwood married and another branch of the Mitchell family began. They are touted to be the first couple to get married that met at John Island.

Skipping ahead to summer of 2012, Michael Mitchell (son of Elwood and Vivi-Anne) and Deanne Wilson were married at John Island during Family Camp by Michael's father, Elwood, a dental surgeon in Ottawa who is also a lay minister. Over 25 members of the Mitchell clan were at the camp to take part in the ceremony, most of them being family campers the week the wedding took place.

The grey skies eventually cleared and bursts of sun shone on Michael and

Deanne and their family guests as they gathered in the John Island Chapel. As Deanne and Michael said their vows, the background of the beautiful North Channel sparkled and gave their blessing on the newlyweds.

Attending Family Camp and being part of the wedding this summer were several 4th generation Mitchell campers at the camp, all started with Earl Mitchell when the camp was being constructed in the late 1940's and early 1950's. All generations of the Mitchell family have played a major role in the life of John Island Camp over the years.

Our congratulations and best wishes for a long and loving relationship go to Deanne and Michael as they begin their married life much in the same tradition as Michael's parents who met at John Island and began their life together on the shores of the magical island.



The Mitchells gather for a photo at the chapel following the wedding of Michael and Deanne.

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*We wish you happy
times during the
Christmas Season*

JOHN ISLAND CAMP AND REACH FOR THE RAINBOW CELEBRATE 25 YEARS TOGETHER

He cried and forcibly resisted getting on the boat at the Walkhouse Bay dock to John Island. His mother was encouraging him in every way possible to go to camp with his new one-on-one counsellor. His counsellor was befriending 8 year old Mac and ensuring him the boat was safe and camp was fun. It took time and skill, but finally Mac was sitting in the boat and he was on his way to camp. He was leaving the security of his mother close by his side for the first time for the vast, unfamiliar and frightening adventure we call “camp”.

Not all campers who attend John Island Camp with the assistance of “Reach for the Rainbow” have the same initial fears about leaving their familiar and comfortable home to spend a week at a strange and unfamiliar summer camp. But whether the camper is excited or fearful, the staff at John Island have become quite skilled at making these special needs youth feel good about the experience while becoming a little more independent.



Since 1983, Reach for the Rainbow, a not-for-profit organization, has pioneered the integration of children and youth with disabilities into the mainstream of society through summer camp programs throughout Ontario. Their programs provide environments of inclusion for kids and youth while offering much needed respite for parents.

John Island became partners with “Reach for the Rainbow” in 1988, one of the first overnight camps in Ontario to work with the “Reach” organization. The advantages to the children are beyond most of our expectations, but that is only part of the story. In the years since John Island’s relationship with Reach for the Rainbow began, all campers and staff have experienced benefits to their own growth because of the relationship. Counsellors often request that they work one-on-one with campers from Reach for the Rainbow as they value the relationship and the joys of seeing the smile on the face of young camper who is accepted by a cabin group. There is nothing like the explosive applause and cheers at a campfire when an autistic camper sings a song in front of the group. Or the cheers from cabin mates when a challenged youth climbs to the third step on the climbing wall. Everyone grows.



Reach for the Rainbow staff with camper

Each year “Reach for the Rainbow” assists in the hiring of extra counsellors who can work one-on-one with the campers selected by the Reach for the Rainbow staff. They train all of the John Island staff and make weekly visits to the camp to provide whatever assistance they can on the effectiveness of the experience for the campers. It works. As the partnership between Reach for the Rainbow and John Island Camp has matured and grown over the years, so have the results to everyone touched by the experience.



Reach counsellor prepares camper for climbing wall

We can sum up the partnership between John Island Camp and Reach for the Rainbow by the words spoken by one of the Reach for the Rainbow assisted campers. Jason first came to the camp as a young teen-aged camper. He didn’t speak but communicated by making motions with his head and uttering sounds. The camp staff were not sure if he enjoyed his first year’s experience, but he was anxious to come back in year two...and year three...and year four. Then one year when his week at camp coincided with the Spring Staff training week, he wanted to take part in the training sessions. He started talking and even telling jokes – he did not find it easy, but he knew he was with people who truly cared and who accepted him the way he was. On the last night of his stay during a “cabin circle”, everyone in the circle spoke briefly about their day’s highlights. Jason was last. He had never participated verbally in a cabin circle before, but he said he had something to say and everyone listened. In a few brief but understandable words, Jason thanked the staff for helping him and allowing him to be part of them. No one was more excited than the staff. Jason continues to come for our staff training week as a volunteer.

OVERNIGHT CAMPS ADD GREATLY TO YMCA EXPERIENCE

By Kim Kanmacher, CEO, YMCA Sudbury

When I arrived at the Sudbury YMCA to start my new job as CEO in 2011 there was an unexpected but pleasant surprise waiting for me. While I was familiar with all the programs that take place in a YMCA building and knew about the strong employment programs at the Sudbury Y and had been part of the International partnership with the Khartoum YMCA in Sudan, and knew about the child care programs throughout the city there was an important part of the Sudbury YMCA I was about to become much more familiar with.

I was about to be introduced to John Island Camp, one of two overnight camps of the Sudbury Y, and the impact that camping has on children, teens and young adults as well as on the YMCA. Before having an opportunity to actually visit John Island, I was struck by the number of people I met that had been to John Island as campers at some time in their life. Everyone in Sudbury seemed to know about the camp and the image and memories they had were good. It was obvious the camp was considered a key part of the YMCA that had been a strong influence in the lives of thousands.



Kim Kanmacher, CEO, YMCA Sudbury

After visiting John Island and experiencing the magic and influence that the camp has on so many, I began to understand that the camps represent in a strong way the core values of the YMCA. The passion and commitment demonstrated by the counsellors and staff, the friendships that I saw that were fostered by the camp experience and the good fun that everyone was having as I walked around the camp was testimony to the successful goals and mission of the camp. What an experience the campers, counsellors and staff were having.

John Island has just undergone a major million dollar upgrading that has been entirely paid for by camp alumni and friends of the camp. The impact that the camp has had on so many alumni has influenced their generosity in making the camp a top facility to continue long into the future. I look forward to many more years of John Island's operation as it continues to demonstrate the strong positive influence on so many that it has in the past as a integral part of our YMCA.

WHAT WAS NEW IN 2012

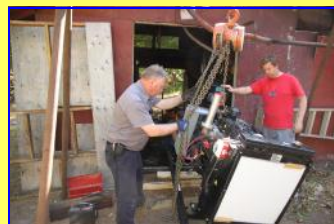
Camp continued to add new features in 2012 thanks to the support of Alumni and Friends of the Camp. One of the most ambitious project was the complete rebuilding of Tern cabin into two separate accommodations for staff. The outside siding will be completed in 2012. Other additions this past year was a new diesel generator, the completion of the solar project (see separate article in this newsletter), railings and skylights in all cabins and the addition of 6 new white water canoes for the out-tripping program.



Amatol volunteers completely rebuild Tern cabin



Trip leader Lauren Bally displays new canoes



Electrician Don Harrison and Pete Kerigan with generator



Lasalle students build railings on cabin porches

CHECK OUT THE RE-DEVELOPMENT SLIDE SHOW ON THE CAMP WEBSITE

2012 A MOST SUCCESSFUL CAMPING YEAR

By Scott Thomas—2012 Camp Director

Apparently the sun CAN shine everyday...well almost! After returning to John Island after 2 years on BC's Sunshine Coast, the spring and summer sun was a welcome change from the daily rains that seemed to go on forever. It all seemed to start on opening day, and although there were some rainy days in our spring season, it couldn't dampen the spirits of the over 600 students from 18 schools who attended Outdoor Education Programs at John Island.

The spring also saw the continuation of the redevelopment with the renovation of Tern cabin into a staff accommodation and the return of Lasalle Secondary students who continued their great work in the redevelopment. This year also saw more than 30 volunteers attend our annual Alumni/Volunteer Work Weekend to help prepare camp for the upcoming season.

When July 1st came around and it was time to welcome our first summer campers of the season, the sun just kept shining. In fact, out of the 56 days of camp programs, the 589 campers and over 100 family campers may have seen a total of 5 days of rain.

All that sun couldn't have come at a better time to help test the new solar lights that were installed in all camper cabins, the dining hall and the rub-a-dubs. This marks the first time since the start of the redevelopment of John Island that campers and staff would have the luxury of lights in their cabins, and the first time at John Island that lights could be seen on after the generator was shut down for the night!

As we prepare for the start of a new registration season for our Leadership Programs, it's hard not to look back on the year that was at John Island and all those who played a part in its successes. From our 55 dedicated camp staff and countless volunteers, including some from Austria and Taiwan, to the bus drivers who ensure campers arrive safely to their destination, we thank you all for your hard work and dedication and look forward to another successful summer at John Island in 2013!



Scott Thomas

SPRING WORK WEEKEND - May 10 - 12, 2013

Reserve these days on your smart phone calendar now - May 10 - 12! One of the most enjoyable weekends of the year is the John Island Work Weekend. This is when alumni, staff, volunteers, and a whole group of people who love camp and want to help the camp while having fun get together.

The goal is get the camp ready for the new camping season, but the result is so much more than that. It is an opportunity for camp people of all ages, skill levels, and levels of involvement with John Island to share the magic of the camp.

There will be lots of different types of tasks to be done that weekend, from clearing brush, painting cabins, doing minor repair work, and perhaps even taking on some more major projects for those that want to get their teeth into something a little more involved.

We will provide everyone with a bed, good food, transportation from the Walkhouse docks and tools. You should bring a sleeping bag, warm clothes, any special tools that you particularly like to work with and whatever communication devices you may need to keep in touch back home.

Concerned about missing Mothers' Day? Then bring your mother with you. If your children are able to perform a few simple (or involved) tasks, then bring them along as well. We will provide a special Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday morning - you can even take it mother in bed if you would like! And if your custom is to celebrate Mother's Day with a nice Mother's Day evening meal, then we can make sure you leave at a suitable time to get home for Mother's Day Dinner on Sunday.

If you are interested in taking part in the 2013 Work/Fun Weekend, contact Pete Kerigan, Director of Camping Services at 705-674-8315 or by e-mail at Pete.Kerigan@sudbury.ymca.ca



MEMORIES OF JOHN ISLAND CAMP 1954 - 1960

By Colin Hatcher

My first trip to John Island was in 1954 on the 24th of May weekend (the Queen's Birthday) with some of my Y leader colleagues and members of the Y's Men's Club to do some last minute work in preparation for the camp's initial season. This trip also proved to be our physical orientation to the new camp.

Before that I had been involved with Sudbury Y programs learning to swim with John Gray and going to Don Island Day Camp on Lake Ramsey. My first resident camp experience was at a four day Cub Camp on Windy Lake.

Cec Woods was the Boys' Work Secretary at the new Y building and became the first Director of John Island Camp. Cec had worked with the Intermediate Leaders' Corps through the winter of 1953-54 and knew us all quite well. In that first year camp counsellors In Training (C.I.T.s) came primarily from the Leaders' Corps. Our next step was to go into a cabin with an older counsellor to assist with programming.

On arrival at camp everything was new and for the first few days or so the smell of fresh sawn lumber permeated the place. We all set to learning some new skills. Jerry Arthur a keen accomplished archer acutely interested in the sport taught archery. I also recall going on a short canoe trip with Jerry and a cabin group along the north side of Aird Island. Since it was our first year in the area we never ventured too far from base



Colin Hatcher (far left in photo)
with group of counsellors—1954

camp. The new environment provided exciting exploration opportunities as we cautiously developed our sense of confidence and as we gained some experience in handling the canoes.

Boating and canoeing was done in the back bay from the long dock where the Kismet and other boats from the mainland landed. At the shoreline a sheltered canoe rack accommodated half a dozen or so canoes. A launching ramp led down to water level. The canvas covered canoes and cedar strip row boats were fine craft. I recall Glenn Gray teaching us how to carefully step into the centre of a canoe from the dock and how to place a hand on each gunwale to steady the craft. It was a big step from the dock down to the canoe and in spite of all the care taken to teach us how to handle the craft there were situations where folks were caught with one foot on the dock and the other in the boat or canoe and the craft moving out from the dock causing predictable results. Boating in the back bay area was a neat and sometimes eerie experience as we explored the long stacks of sunken lumber left over from the lumber mill days and the

water lily pads closer to shore. There are likely a few lost fish hooks and related tackle still dangling from those lumber piles. The back bay was not that friendly to teaching canoe rescue skills nor for sailing so in subsequent years the boating program was relocated to the beach.

In 1955 the first C.I.T.s became counsellors. At the conclusion of that season John Mawdsley invited Ross Reynolds and I to

attend the Ontario Department of Education Camp Leadership Centre at Bark Lake. Kirk Whipper a U. of T. professor well known in YMCA and wider camping circles led this program. It was part of our continuing training and stood us in good stead for a couple of more years at John Island Camp.

By 1957 I became part of the senior staff team working on the waterfront. Betty Ann MacDonald a young woman working in the kitchen attracted my attention. We began dating and married in September 1961. We immediately set out for Regina where I embarked on my first full time job as a YMCA Secretary. Betty Ann's Dad, Ken MacDonald was a member of the Y's Men's Club that built John Island Camp. Ken was a great story teller and spoke fondly of building the camp. His stories though were about the people who went out over the years on those weekend work parties and the experiences that they had working and living together. It was evident from Ken's stories that the experience of building the camp and the bonds they formed with each other ran parallel to the camp's purpose.

cont'd on page 6.....

WRITE FOR THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

We can use your memories in future editions. Contact us at gary.gray@sudbury.ymca.ca for details.

SOLAR PROJECT A NEW DIMENSION FOR JOHN ISLAND

- Pete Kerigan, Director of

Camping Services

It was one year ago that we wrote about the exciting Solar Project at John Island Camp. Now, here we are one year later with some great news!

It is with great pleasure that John Island has been outfitted with wind and solar power. The addition of 10 solar panels and 2 wind balls (quiet, nice looking wind balls) throughout the site has given us the ability to have power once the generator is shut down. If we were to ever experience a few cloudy weeks, the wind power will make up for our lack of sunshine and continue to give us power.

Every new (and renovated) cabin is now equipped with 3 led ceiling lights that are switch controlled. Our new composteer toilets have a heavy duty light that shines on the hand wash station while each toilet stall has a motion sensor light within it- No more searching for toilet paper in the dark!

Also, our dining hall now has the ability to be lit up by solar power. In case of emergency, the original lights (powered by the generator) have been kept.

The other addition to the dining hall has been the installation of a solar pre-heated hot water system for our kitchen. The unique part of this system is that water is pre-heated (through a system of water tubes on the roof) before it hits our propane water heaters. With water at a higher temperature, we now use less propane to heat it the rest of the way. This is awesome when it comes to resource and environmental sustainability!



Solar Wind Globe on 40 ft. tower on the main beach



Solar Water heating tubes on roof of dining hall

We would encourage all alumni to come and see these new systems at John Island. Over the course of 2013 there will be many opportunities to do so (Work Weekend, Open House Day). We hope to see you soon!

Continued from page 5.....

John Island Camp beckoned me back for the 1958, 1959 and part of the 1960 season. Having gone to Sir George Williams University in Montreal in 1958 I realized that the name of John Island Camp was becoming more widely known. Its unique setting, good management and well-planned program was attracting the attention of long established camps. John Island was built on the assumption that camps can provide an environment for positive change in people's lives, especially for children and youth. Mastery of skills, facing challenges, working cooperatively, building respect for others, encouraging exploration and building confidence are some of the values that emanate from the camping experience.

Betty Ann and I raised a family of five. After our five year stint in Regina we moved to Edmonton where for part of that assignment I directed the Edmonton YMCA's Camp Keewaydihin. Following 13 years of service with the Y I left and took up a position with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. Our eldest son died of cardiac failure at the age of 33. Betty Ann died of pancreatic cancer in 2003. Retired, I continue to live in Edmonton shoveling snow in the winter and gardening in the summer supported by my family including 11 grandchildren and my partner. Six plus years of association with John Island Camp helped to give me a great grounding in life.

Know an alumni that may not be receiving out newsletter? Send us their e-mail address and we will follow

LAKE HURON WATER LEVEL CONTINUES TO DROP

We recently asked Dr. John Gunn (Canada Research Chair for Stressed Water Systems) to write a few words for us regarding the continuing lower water levels of Lake Huron. The following is a summary of his comments.

As boaters and cottagers are all too aware of - water levels in the Great lakes have been declining steadily in recent years. However, the concern that this recent trend has something to do with dredging activities on the St. Clair River has been dismissed by the International Joint Commission, other science agencies and most scientists. The evidence is now clear that there has been no additional loss of water through the St. Clair River since at least since 2000. So instead of blaming it on dredging or "someone taking too much water", most agree that the loss of water is due to increased evaporation in a warming climate.

As we all now know - most of the warmest years on record have occurred within the past decade and with these warm extended periods vast amounts of water evaporates to the atmosphere and are lost to other areas out side of the Great Lakes drainage area. In addition to increased rates of evaporation, the seasonal duration of the period of evaporation is also increasing with early springs or extended autumns. In fact one of the obvious signs of climate change on the Great Lakes is the shortening season of ice cover. This phenomenon of a shorter period of ice cover is part of a feedback system that affects annual evaporation. Water loss to the atmosphere is much reduced of course during ice cover, but white ice also reflect solar radiation that would otherwise store heat in the water, in the same way that your brick fireplace stores heat that later radiates out into the room. Now that we are losing our ice cover we are now also accelerating the absorbance of heat by the dark water, which in turn adds to more energy to the water that eventually increases evaporation even more.

So I guess the quick answer is that we cannot blame anyone for taking our water. We can only blame ourselves for our over use of fossil fuels that are heating up our planet and causing all kinds of problems. Loss of water at swimming beaches is serious but probably nothing compared to the droughts around the world that are devastating farm lands. It is time for Canada to speak up and take action to be part of the solution. We shouldn't remain "that rich country that continues to waste more energy and water per capita than almost any other country on earth".



Dr. John Gunn



High water dock when water used to be high

Dr. John Gunn

Canada Research Chair for Stressed Aquatic Systems
Director, Vale Living with Lakes Centre
Cooperative Freshwater Ecology Unit
Biology Department, Laurentian University

Moving?

Please send us an e-mail to let us know your new mailing address and/or your e-mail address so we can stay in touch!

LASALLE SECONDARY RECEIVES AWARD



YMCA President Cathy Bailey, Y Director of Camping Services Pete Kerigan, Y CEO Kim Kanmacher, Lasalle teacher Peter Lucano and Co-op Coordinator Rebecca Gautier.

At the Sudbury YMCA Annual Membership Meeting on October 26, Peter Lucano and Rebecca Gautier accepted a special recognition award from the YMCA for the work done by the students and staff of the school in building cabins at John Island. During the past 5 years, the students have built 10 new camper cabins. They continue to help by working three weeks each spring at the camp.

THE REBIRTH OF FAMILY CAMP—1972

By Jake Littlehales

Hi....Jake Littlehales here. In the 1970's I was a regional sales manager for London Life based in Sudbury. Fortunately for my wife and I, we were lucky enough to be friends with Jim and Monica Wilkinson prior to moving to the city and through them were introduced to the "Y" and John Island Camp.

In those days, camp ws gender specific - ie.: boys camp/girls camp but the market was changing as families wanted a more economical solution and like-ly it was better if all the kids in a family could go to camp at once. This change impacted the last boys camp of the summer of 1972 and it opened at only 60% capacity.

Fortune was smiling on us that year as I was looking for an interesting place for a sales meeting to kick off the year end effort at London Life. When I heard that camp had some openings, I went to Bill Taylor with the idea of holding my meeting at John Island. That sounded good to Bill until I explained that my meeting was an "all in affair" - wives, children, babies, dogs, cats, goldfish - the whole "nine yards" to borrow that construction industry image.

As I said, fortune was smiling and despite the hassle involved, it was agreed and camp was on!!

From the moment our feet hit the deck of "Ole Ironsides" until we left 5 days later, we had the most remarkable and happy camp experience you could imagine. The staff at the camp had decided that the best way to deal with our motley crew was to treat us like any other cabin....which meant the day started with "polar bear" swim and continued through to campfire at night. All the camp activities were made available to us so we hiked, sailed, paddled, swam, did "ropes", played volleyball, dang songs, told stories and did our best to act like all the cabins around us. We were included in all the mealtimes, sang Johnny Appleseed with everyone else and were required to give a daily report at dinner.

We did provide one extra treat....we had "Rufus" the wonder dog in our party. He was trained to put on an amazing series of tricks that concluded with a bow to his audience. I think he was asked to perform every night.



Family Campers, 2012



Jake Littlehales with grandchildren Bree and Bodie

Best memory.....by making us part of the regular camp and sharing everything that John Island offers, we got to see all the very best of the John Island experience. In turn, the enthusiasm of my group for camp and all the challenging and entertaining opportunities that were provided may have sown the seed for "Family Camp" as we know it today.

And it must have worked! My daughter Nikki, a professional" John Island camper and family wouldn't think of missing the spring session of family camp and my grandchildren, Bree and Bodie, are trying to convince her that a month at John Island Camp isn't unreasonable.

The bottom line.....a definite win for the "Y" and all those who have been to Family Camp since then.

Family Camp registrations for 2013 begin January 7, 2012. For complete details see the online brochure at: www.johnisland.ymca.ca

CHANGES TO OUR NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Since our Spring Newsletter we have worked diligently at upgrading our mailing list to include as many e-mail addresses as we could muster. Until we can verify that we have correct e-mail addresses, we will distribute this newsletter by regular mail and electronically to everyone for whom we have addresses. Beginning with our Spring 2013 edition, we will e-mail the newsletter to those who have now, or in the past, requested it be sent by e-mail. To everyone else, we will mail a printed copy. If you have not already done so, please let us know if you would like your copy sent by e-mail, but let us know your e-mail address. The newsletters are always available on line on the Alumni page of the John Island website (www.johnisland.ymca.ca)

JOHN ISLAND ALUMNI HOW TO GET INVOLVED.....

It may have been close to 5 years since you were last involved as a staff member at John Island Camp. . . or, perhaps 10, 25 or even 50 years. But, more and more alumni have been coming back in many capacities to ensure the quality of the camp keeps on improving while enjoying the camp themselves. Here are a few ways that YOU can get involved.....

The Annual Spring Work Party: Here is an opportunity to grab your sleeping bag and work clothes and come out to the camp to help with some projects and get the camp ready for the next camping season. In 2013, the work weekend will be May 10—12. Activities usually include painting, construction projects, cleaning, etc. Bring the family and enjoy the camp while working – there will be jobs for all ages. Contact Camp Director Scott Thomas at scott.thomas@sudbury.ymca.ca for more information on how to get involved.

Write for the Alumni Newsletter. We are always looking for interesting and historical articles and other information for the Newsletter. For more information or to contribute a personal update or article, contact Gary Gray at gary.gray@sudbury.ymca.ca

Bring your family to Family Camp during the end of August and share the camp that has been so special to you with the rest of your family. A number of camp alumni join us for Family Camp each year and enjoy the facilities and the opportunity to renew old friendships.....and make new friends! However, be aware that there has been a waiting list lately so register soon.

Contribute to the John Island Capital Needs. The capital campaign goal of \$895,000 was surpassed and the projects intended have now been completed. The newsletters have been explaining how the camp has been renewed for the campers of the present and the future, and it has been exciting. However, new needs keep appearing and the alumni have been very supportive of these in the past. Keep aware of how you might help the camp keep up to date. To help out at any time, contact Gary Gray at gary.gray@sudbury.ymca.ca

Sponsor a Camper. John Island has a rich and respected history of not turning away campers because of a genuine inability to pay the fees. The John Island Camping experience is one that all youth can benefit from and by helping sponsor a camper, you can assist many more youth have that experience.

Be a John Island Ambassador. Nothing is as valuable to the promotion of a camp as word of mouth. As someone who understands the unsurpassed value of the camp experience at John Island, you can help tell your family, your friends and co-workers of the great camp John Island really is. We can make camp brochures, CD's, and other interpretive materials available to you if you would like.

Visit the camp. We are proud of the improvements to John Island and we would like our alumni to be as proud of the camp today as we are. Come and see what we are doing. To make arrangements for a visit, contact Camping Services Director Pete Kerigan at pete.kerigan@sudbury.ymca.ca or Camp Director Scott Thomas at scott.thomas@sudbury.ymca.ca

Buy a Christmas Ham! The Rotary Club of Sudbury is helping us rebuild Eagle-Talon Cabin (The Sr. Cabin to some). To help the club raise the money for the renovations, we are helping them sell Christmas hams—only \$25 each. Help the Rotary Club rebuild the cabin they sponsored in 1953 by buying a ham. Contact Pete at pete.kerigan@sudbury.ymca.ca

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS YEAR!

Visitors to John Island lately have been more than impressed by all the improvements and upgrades to the camp - new cabins, shower facilities, dining hall, kitchen, etc. But we are not finished yet. 2013 will be a busy year as a number of other projects will be completed to further enhance the camp. It is quite exciting.

First, Eagle - Talon (formerly known as the Sr. Cabin) will be renovated and brought up to the same standard as the rest of the camp. One of the big boosts for this has come from a major donation from the Rotary Club of Sudbury - the original sponsors of that building back in the early 1950's. We thank the Rotary Club for their support.

Then, we also have in the planning stages work to be done to the buildings currently used for out-tripping. Keep your eyes on the spring newsletter for more information about these plans.

But wait, we are not finished. The craft shop, which is the first building everyone sees when they enter camp, will undergo some changes in its appearance and functionality as we put some effort into new shutters and frames, painting (inside and out) and preparing the inside for more leadership programs and other program uses.

While our official capital campaign has been completed and reached its goals, on-going improvements and replacements are always a need at camp. Anyone wishing to help out with any of our projects with volunteer help or financial assistance is asked to contact pete.kerigan@sudbury.ymca.ca . . . and help us continue to improve

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? JOHN ISLAND ALUMNI KEEP IN TOUCH

Dave (Carney) Ethelston and his wife **Erin (O'Neill)** are both living and working in the Sudbury area. Dave works in the Finance Dept. at the YMCA and Erin is a Nurse Practitioner working in St. Charles. They both welcomed their first child into the world on Oct. 14th - a daughter they named Abigail.



Abby Ethelston

Aaron "Biff" Livingston—Biff writesIt has been a few years since I was a staff member at JIC, 10 years next summer actually, which have been pretty full of adventures. I finished my Master's degree in molecular biology at the University of Guelph with lots of other fellow John Islanders. This led me discover that while science is incredibly cool, it really wasn't for me, my path took me to medicine. Before I got into medicine, I volunteered with an NGO to be a high school librarian in Inuvik, NT where I was lucky enough to meet some more great friends and my beautiful wife, Ashley. We ended up in Calgary, I in medical school and Ashley in her PhD. Life lead us quite recently to the wedding aisle. Our wedding was a great shindig back in Ontario with of course a good host of long time John Island friends. We are now in Edmonton where I'm completing my family medicine residency and Ashley finishing her PhD. I treasure my years at John Island, which helped me form a healthy love for the outdoors and working with kids. I still try to be involved with teaching kids in some way, lately in an adaptive ski program working with kids with learning disabilities. Prowling the mountains of Alberta & BC is different than the shores of Lake Huron and the rivers of Northern Ontario, but great in their own right. I finally have my own canoe, which has seen some of Alberta's lakes and rivers and most recently the Pacific Ocean for an amazing 10 day paddle through Gwaii Haanas. We hope to back in Ontario in the not too distant future, but if anyone is passing through Edmonton, come on by.



"Biff" and Ashley Livingston

The John Island Camp Alumni Newsletter is available 3 ways:

1. On the internet
2. By e-mail
3. Printed and mailed

WE NEED TO KNOW YOUR PREFERENCE(S)

Send us an e-mail to: gary.gray@sudbury.ymca.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We all know that camp friendships last a lifetime.

However, time can separate us and send us to unknown addresses and even distant countries.

Send us an e-mail about yourself—where you live and what you are doing and whatever else you would like to share with those who you may have lost touch with. We have an active mailing list of over 750 alumni and hundreds more check us out on the John Island website.

You can contact us at: gary.gray@sudbury.ymca.ca



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For past newsletters - visit the Alumni section of the John Island website.