

# 2011

# Call of the Loon

## End of Trail Newsletter



### 2011 Season at End of Trail

Thank you! I can't tell you all how enjoyable it is having such awesome guests. Some of us have also created friendship's and others make me feel like part of their families. I hope everyone is well. Those of you on my trade show route please stop in and say hi, sometimes those show's get really boring and I'm sure Wally would love to see you. If I miss you at the shows I hope to see you during the 2012 season at Ritchie's End of Trail.

After the 2010 season I spent some time in Bisco and then in my hometown of Hamilton. I came back to Bisco for a few weeks in January before heading out to the trade shows. I arrived back in Bisco on March 26th and yes I lived in that beautiful but drafty log cabin. It proved very difficult to heat despite the wood stove and the wood cook stove in the kitchen operating at full capacity 24/7. For the next couple of weeks we had a lot of days between -20°c to -35°c (-4f to -31f). I'll tell you there were days I didn't get out of my snowsuit. My personal time was spent ice fishing, hanging out with my friends here, playing with Wally because you all know the attention he needs, reading and watching tv. As far as the business goes there is always paper work and computer work to do as well as spring cleanup.



**Gord Barnes**  
employee/friend/dock  
builder/general handy guy to  
have around.

So I got a good start to the Season. I cleaned up some fallen trees and burned a lot of the brush from those trees as well as a lot of brush that the previous owners had collected down by the Cliff cabin. It's still going to take a lot of burning before it is all done. I was joined by Taylor May 4th to help with open for about 5 weeks and returned in the fall to help out again before returning home. He loves his hockey and didn't want to miss too many games. His help is always appreciated. I also have a new employee at camp this year that many of you already know. Gord joined Taylor and I on May the 9th. Gord spent many years working at the camp so he brings with him knowledge and past experience. His knowledge, experience and friendship is truly welcomed. I also had a few part timers come and go to help out with special projects. Ben joined us for a few weeks to do Taylor's chores and put a new roof on the main cabin which was desperately needed. We got it half done before he left. Dylan whose family are native to the area (they now own the old ministry camp just past the bridge on the left, it has the free standing stone chimney on the property, where the old camp burnt down) also spent some time with us this year. Dylan is a hard worker and helped us out when not doing odd jobs for people around town.



**Taylor McCann**  
nephew/part time help

We managed to get a lot accomplished around camp this year but unfortunately not everything I mentioned in last years newsletter. I wanted to start with some new steel roofing this year but as it turned out the septic system at Lakeview needed a severe up-grade. So with the help of Jordan and Jonathan they had to dig up the old septic and make room for a new they dug a hole 11' x 6' x 6', quite a job considering all the rock and boulders. Due to health regulations we also had to install a new water purification system. To do this we had to renovate the generator shed and move the water system to this bigger structure. As of May 2012 we will have drinking water available in all cabins right from the tap. No more hauling water from the well. Gord's had a lot of experience building docks so we put in a new floating dock at the landing. We installed a brand new hot water tank in the shower house this spring. Cleared some trees and brush in front of the Bayview cabin for a better view. Near the end of the season I had Dylan strip the ceiling in the office, stain the new pine and as soon as I'm finished the newsletter and accounting I plan on installing the new tongue and groove ceiling if I can still cross the lake or I will have to wait to the frozen lake is passable.



**Don & Marissa Cardwell**  
I think Marissa's is bigger



**Happy Fisherman**

As some of you may know I'm an official Biscoite. Gord and I spent a little over three weeks renovating the old camp at the landing. We put in a heated water line direct from Gord's drilled well, new plumbing, insulated the whole cabin, new floors, new walls, new shower, wood stove and a kitchen. It's very cozy and I should be a lot warmer this winter.



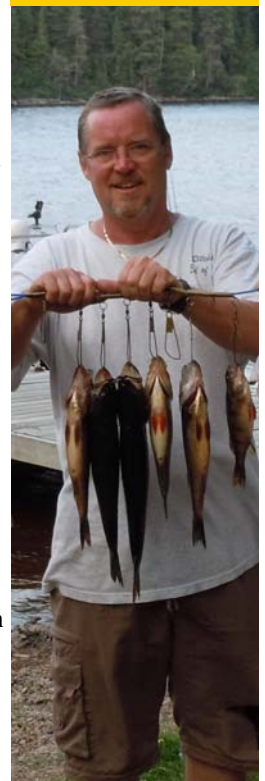
The boys digging the hole for the new septic tank with both my supervisors looking on.



Transporting new septic



Ahh! It fits!



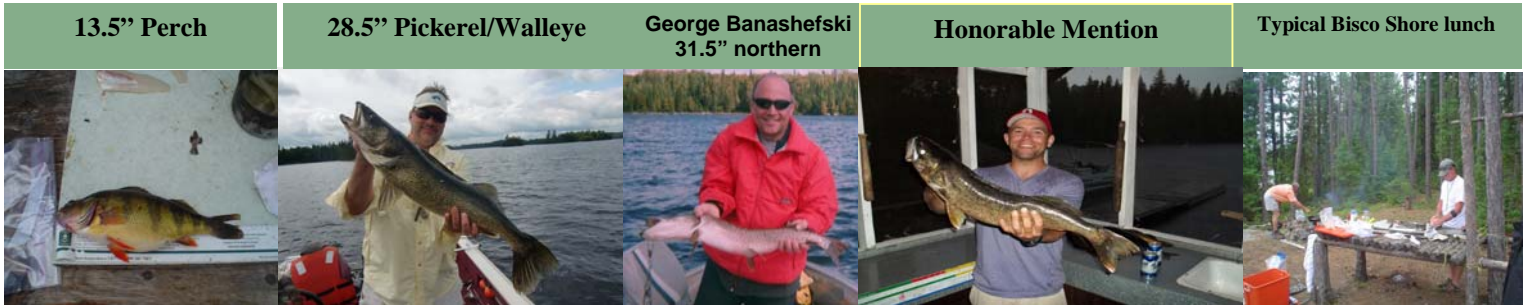
**Your Host**  
**Brian Drysdale**

# Big Fish Contest...

## *Congratulations to this year's winners!*

There are three categories in our "Big Fish Contest", largest walleye, northern pike, and perch. The fish does not have to be kept to qualify but a photo of the fish and angler must be provided. To enter the contest the participant must be a guest a Ritchie's. The minimum size to enter the catch is 25" for walleye, 30" for northern pike and 12" for perch.

This year's winners are, Biggest Northern goes to George Banashefski with a 31.5" Northern Pike. The biggest Pickerel/Walleye goes to Geoff Kilburn at 27.5" and the Biggest perch goes to Mark Meade at 13".



## *Aboriginal Mentorship Program*

At Ritchie's we started a new program this year in conjunction with Brock University and Six Nations Reserve, the "Aboriginal Mentorship Program". The program is geared to Aboriginal students. We had 22 students and chaperons at camp this year. We believe Ritchie's End of Trail has something unique to offer this program with the commitment of our resources.

We were able to put the students in a rustic setting that they will need to work together and communicate with each other to achieve their goals without the normal interruptions of life today. We rely on propane lights, fridges and stoves with no electricity therefore allowing the students to communicate more with each other without the interruptions of electronic devices and cell phones.

Some of the activities we offered the program included Lake Tours, Fishing, Wildlife Viewing, Hiking, Flora and Fauna Viewing, History of the Area, Camp Fires, Corn Roasts, Shore Lunches, Beaches, Hydro Dam Viewing and Exploring.



## *Ritchie's End of Trail Contact Info*

*I will not be sending out Brochures in the mail this year to previous customers, only to new inquires. As times have changed the internet and website has far more information on it than I could put in a Brochure. If you have any friends or relatives who would like info on Ritchie's End of Trail please pass on this newsletter or our website. You will also be able to print this newsletter off the website if you require additional copies.*

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