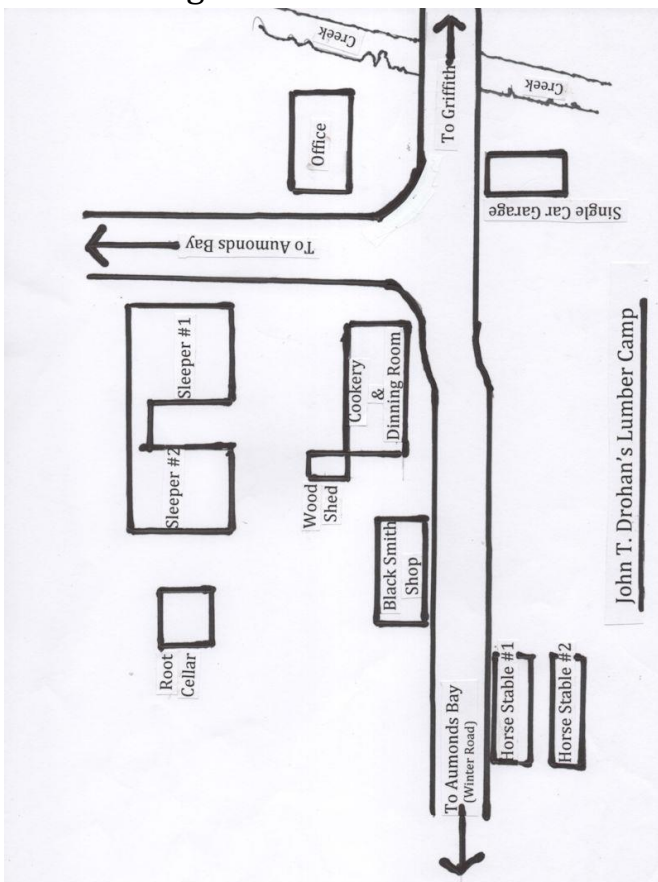


John T. Drohan's Lumber Camp

Location – 2 km. south/east of Aumonds Bay in Lyndoch Township on the Addington Road – present site of the Snake Rapids Hunt Camp. In the 1940's John T. (Jack) Drohan acquired the O'Brien Limits on the upper Madawaska and obtained the red & white pine and spruce timber cutting licence from the Ontario Department of Lands & Forests. He built a road from Aumonds Bay down over the Crube Hill, past our Hunt Camp, on over the Ramp Hill, down past John Joe's, Joe's Hill, Johnny Kings and connecting up with the other road coming in from Griffith down around Green Lake. He also built a lumber camp in the area of our Hunt Camp, and it consisted of buildings as in this diagram:



- One cookery with a dining room
- Two large sleepers
- One Office building
- Two 6 stale horse stables
- One Black Smith shop
- One single garage
- One wood shed
- One root cellar

Known workers who worked there:

Henry Fleguel - Foreman
 Bronis Yantha – Foreman
 Joe Sullivan – Book-Keeper
 Mr. & Mrs Peterson – Cooks

Clements Chapeskie
 Tommy Coulas
 Ed Golka
 Florian Kuiack

James P. Madigan – Teamster
Christie Perrier – Black Smith
Joe Ritza – Hill Sander

Alex Stoppa
Ambrose Stoppa
Harry Taylor - Teamster

Known log truck drivers were:

Bobby Coulas – Trucker
Herman Fredrick – Trucker
Sammy Gogolin – Trucker
Guido Gruschwitz – Trucker
Bert Kelly – Trucker
Billy Lentz – Trucker

Walter Lentz – Trucker
Alvin Michaelis - Trucker
Tommy Ragan - Trucker
Leonard Recoskie – Trucker
Allen Wishman - Trucker
Garnet Yuke - Trucker

The work men would room and board at the Lumber Camp during the week and a truck with a closed in box, called the Caboose was used to transport them daily to and from the work sites and then out to their families on the weekends. A Husband & Wife cooked three meals a day and their food menu consisted of: rolled oats, maple syrup, corn syrup, corn flakes, eggs, potatoes, carrots, beans, flour, yeast, butter, tea, sugar, milk, soups, pickles, fillings for the pie & cake pastries and meats (pork, beef, sausages, & chicken) – fresh fish on Fridays.

The Black Smith on site made horse shoes, sharpened saws & axes and fixed broken chains, handles for axes & cant hooks and any other broken parts like whiffle-trees, yokes and horse harnesses.

The tree cutting team consisted of 2 men on a crosscut saw to cut down the trees and cut them into preferable 16 ft. logs, a man to cut trails & limb the fallen trees, a man with a team of horses to skid the logs to the nearest road and a man to roll the logs onto a pile, called the skid-way. Their mandate was to cut & pile 100 logs per day and their objective was to cut more each day and bank the extra logs and then, on a given day, take it off and sit beside the lunch fire, eat the extra food that they would order from the cook, tell stories and then put in a count of logs from their bank for the day. There were 3 or 4 tree cutting teams at this Drohan operation.

The truck loading operation was called a log jammer. A team consisted of a teamster with horses for decking the logs with an A-frame lift, a top-loader man to direct the operation, a rear man with a hook on the log and a rope to position it on the load if necessary and the truck driver at the front to also

guide the log into position. The front & rear men attached the hook and chain to each end of the log that they wanted to load off the skid-way. There were two log jammers that loaded the logs at this Drohan operation. The logs were then hauled up to McPhee's Bay near Combermere where a team would unload the truck and a log scaler would measure how many board feet was in the load so that the trucker could get paid and the Drohan Company get their credit .

In the mid 1950's the lumber company, then Sawyer & Stoll Co., were dismantling and moving the buildings to a new location, so James Madigan, Johnny & Jerome Sullivan arranged through the Department of Lands & Forest in Tweed to leave the Office building standing and paid a fee of \$35.00 which was the estimated value of the material in the building. It still stands as the log section of our hunt camp at the site today.

Short Stories by Bryan Madigan