

EVANS LAKE

Your Home in the Forest

THE HISTORY OF EVANS LAKE CAMP

THE EARLY DAYS WITH THE BIRTH OF THE CAMP

Point Atkinson was the original Junior Forest Warden camp located in Lighthouse Park, West Vancouver. This camp had originally been a Canadian Military camp during the Second World War, but after the war became the first training camp for the Junior Forest Wardens*. Due to increasing public use of the park, the metropolitan parks board requested that the camp be relocated.

In the spring of 1957, Mr. Gattie, President of the Canadian Forestry Association of BC, which was the sponsor to the Junior Forest Wardens, asked Dr. Orchard, Deputy Minister of Forests, to assist in searching for a new site. Sites on the Sunshine Coast, Vancouver Island and Harrison were all considered but ruled out. Next the search went up to the Squamish area. A committee set off to meet John Jacobson, one of the directors and the manager of Empire Sawmills in Squamish. As there was no highway yet to Squamish, the only way up was by railway – The Pacific Great Eastern.

Two lake sites were looked at, including one at Brohm Lake, but neither was accepted. The group then drove up the mountain over a washed-out logging road and bushwacked into a third lake that was Evans Lake. On that eventful day in July, the committee knew at first sight that this would be the location for their camp.

Following the Annual General Meeting in the Spring of 1958, the Evans Lake Camp Development Committee, chaired by Brian Gattie, was established. The directors were: F.H. Dietrich, K.E. Gregg, J.F. Jacobson, J.K. Liersch, K.J. Palmer, J.C. Sheasgreen and T.G. Wright. At the AGM, Ray Williston, Minister of Lands and Forests had announced the establishment of 640 acres at Evans Lake to be used as a site for the new Provincial Junior Forest Warden training camp. Construction was planned for the spring of 1959.

The committee announced that a total of \$12,326.00 had been raised, with \$10,000.00 coming from Hoo-Hoo Club #48 in Vancouver. The balance came from private subscribers, association members and others interested in the project. The committee decided that the site would be primarily used as a training centre for the Junior Forest Wardens and their leaders. The site could also be used by teachers and others who were interested in natural resource conservation and multiple-use forestry.



** Originally called
Junior Fire Wardens.*





Companies were asked to help in designing the buildings and site. Designers from Crown Zellerbach and MacMillan-Bloedel, with their experience in building for logging camps, drew up plans for the first buildings. Canadian Forest Products designed the kitchen facilities. In the Spring of 1959, the road was complete and the grounds were ready for the buildings. A contract was awarded to Greenball to prefabricate two bunkhouses, a cookhouse/mess hall and washroom facilities. Volunteer workers assisted in the erection of the buildings. Work was carried out on weekends and two one-day work bees. The workers camped out at the new site while they were working on the building.

The first camp buildings were covered in plywood and cost a total of \$14,310.00.

In the Spring of 1960, a water system consisting of a 16,000 gallon wooden tank and located on the hill above the new log cabin, along with a pumping cistern was built with funds provided by Hoo-Hoo Club #48. A diesel generating plant located in the present Tool Shed at the bottom of the big stairs was installed in time for the opening of the first camp. On May 17, 1960, the building committee solicited more funds to assure that the camp would be ready for the proposed June 27, 1960 opening. Jim Moyer, Chief Junior Forest Warden for British Columbia took up residence at the camp to supervise the construction project.

After some disappointments with fund raising for additional monies, and the difficulties with some equipment that had been promised but did not materialize, the major work was completed in time for the opening camp on June 27, 1960. When the camp opened on time, the chairman of the committee remarked, "We have a plant valued at some \$27,000.00".

The first campers arrived with work still going on. On top of that, there was initially a small problem with the old relic stove which had been donated from a nearby logging camp. The stove did not work well, which necessitated that meals be pre-cooked at Camp Atkinson and trucked to Evans Lake to be warmed up and served. However, this problem was soon resolved.

Sixty-four Campers arrived for the first camp and slept in the two bunkhouses. The summer of 1960 saw 183 boys enjoy the new camp at Evans Lake. Campgrounds were limited to small areas around the buildings. The present playing field did not yet exist, as it was a swamp that needed to be filled in. In 1961, the swamp area was cleared and willow trees were interlaced over the area. Rock fill and gravel were trucked in, as well as fill obtained from the hill behind the where the present day log cabin is located. Logging companies and Paradise Valley Resort (now the North Vancouver Outdoor School) donated trucks and equipment to extend the field down to the beach area. Over the years, more fill and topsoil were added and the area was seeded to grass.





In the summer of 1961, 453 boys attended. This increased to 753 in 1962, with operations being extended to weekend camps as well. The summer of 1962 was also the year of the “big one” – a monster forest fire that came within three-quarters of a kilometer of reaching camp in August of 1962. At one point,

it was feared that the buildings would soon be ablaze. Also during the proceeding two years, negotiations had been occurring to decide the form of the tenure for the camp. A tree farm license did not quite cover the specific needs. Finally, a lease agreement was worked out that had to satisfy access to the lake and to do this, a recreation reserve was established on the west side of the lake.

By 1963, a decision was made to make the camp available to rental groups. The first group to take advantage of this was the Canadian Army for special training operations. In 1964, further clearing above the cabins was undertaken and the Recreation Hall was built and completed. Also during 1964, logging of the burned over area was begun. Junior Forest Wardens replanted that area as part of their training. Much was achieved in 1965. Wooden Sabot sailboats were donated by the Hoo-Hoo Club #48 of Vancouver, a donation arranged by their president, Ted Taylor. Sailing, rifle safety (using .177 pellet guns), the BC Safety Council Mile Swim, Rock Hounding and RCAF Survival Lessons were introduced into the regular camp program.

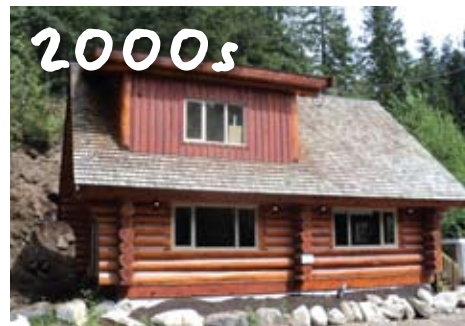
The hiring of Doug Ballantyne came in 1972. He eventually became the first on-site Program Director. His arrival heralded the introduction of much of the Evans Lake camp lore: legends, stories and songs. Many are still in use even in 2010. This period also marked the beginning of year-round school group use of the site for Outdoor Education Programs within their curricula.



EVANS LAKE

Your Home in the Forest

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 70'S, 80'S 90'S AND 2000'S



“Camp has been the ultimate home away from home, where ‘camp family’ provides strong connections and where memories never die. After 21 years at Evans Lake- especially in the summer camp category, I have built amazing relationships to last a lifetime, it’s a magical place where everyone is free to be themselves and let their true selves shine! Our city lives might change, but our camp life stays strong, fun, energized and consistent...”

Mer Marghetti, Camper, Counselor, Instructor, Director — 1989 to present

1960s



Junior Forest Wardens examine Evans Lake Pennant, 1961.



The original bunkhouses at Evans Lake following construction

SPRING OF 1960





Determining the height of a tree using an Abney Level



1955-1956 construction of the Kitchen - Dining Hall Building at Evans Lake. 1961 Upgrade built by volunteers.

Original Mess Hall



1968

1959 — With Point Atkinson becoming too crowded, the Provincial Government agreed to lease 640 acres for the Evans Lake site. It was to be known as the Evans Lake Junior Forest Warden Camp and Demonstration Forest.

June 27, 1960 — The camp was officially opened for the first campers. 64 boys arrived.

1960 — A dining hall, washroom, two cabins and a diesel house (current Tool Shed) were built. A total of 183 Junior Forest Wardens attended three camps.

1963 — The camp was first made available for rental groups. The first group was the Canadian Army.

1964 — Cabins were moved from the nursery area to the upper grounds and cabins five and six were built. The Recreation Hall was completed. A huge forest fire burned from Hutt Lakes to within 3/4 km of camp.

1965 — The first major expansion for the camp — wooden Sabot sailboats and Frontiersman fiberglass canoes were donated by the Vancouver Hoo Hoo Club #48. Rifle safety (using .177 pellet guns), BC Safety Council Mile Swim, rock hounding and RCAF Survival lessons were introduced in to the program.

1967 — Dave Campbell became Coast Regional Manager and Evans Lake Camp Director.



1969 Camp Staff

1970s



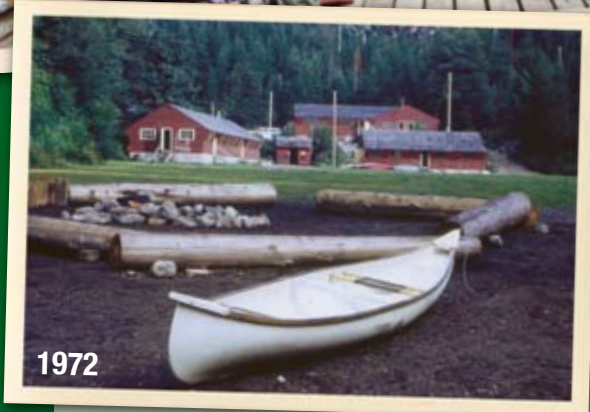
1976



Inspection



Tree identification is an important part of the Junior Forest Warden training at the Evans Lake camp. Here Mike Carlson and Thomas Mason are identifying a vine maple.



1972



1976 Hutt Lake



1972 Boat Dock



1977 Winter Camp



1970 Reforestation after the Fire

OUTDOOR BOY



FUTURE OUTDOOR BOY: Members will receive instruction at this beautiful, isolated training camp at Evans Lake, near Seward, scheduled to be opened next year 1980 during summer.



1978 Backpack Trip to Diamond Head



First Hutt Lake Hike

1970 — Site reforestation began after the fire.

1972 — Doug Ballantyne was hired, becoming the on-site program director. Under his leadership, year-round rentals and programs were encouraged.

1976 — The First 'Up and Over' hikes were pioneered by Dale Samuelson from the north end. These were followed by Gary Haensgen from the Hutt Lakes south end.

1978 — The first permanent residence was built.

1970's Highlights

First winter camp in the 70's. Campers ice fished, snowshoed, curled with cedar rounds with spikes for handles, and played hockey in the dark using lit oil cans for light.

The staff played "Marshmallow" Golf.

Silver Summit was the overnight sleepout site.

Backpacking trips to Diamond Head began.



Fishing

Evans Lake was originally was stocked with Rainbow trout twice a year. This 18" denizen was one of the biggest ever caught.

1980s

1980 Axle Grease



1980
Last of the Wooden Sabots



1980 Diamond Head



1985 "McDonald's" Lunch



The "Bleach Boys"





1980 — Most of the trails and bridges were built or rebuilt. 100 hectares of juvenile forest was spaced and released.

1982 — Eight canoes and eight sailboats were donated by the Vancouver Hoo Hoo Society.

1983 — The second permanent residence was built.

1985 — Evans Lake celebrates its 25th Anniversary reunion and 'Bon Voyage' party for camp director, Doug Ballantyne.

1986 — The cabins were lifted and turned 90° and put in their current locations.

1987 — Cabins seven and eight were built on the site of an ancient fir tree 90' long. The International Hoo-Hoo president – The Grand Snark presided.

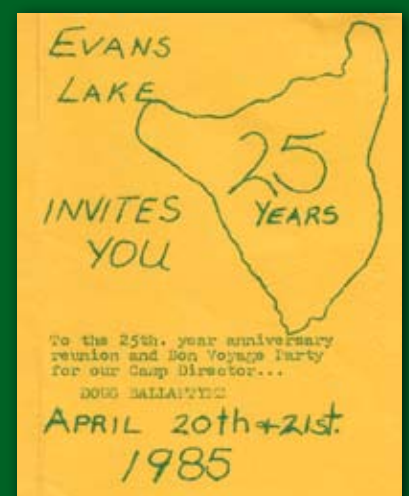


1984 Evans Lake freezes



1980's Highlight

When the lake froze, campers played hockey, ice fished and curled using cedar rounds with spikes for handles.



1990s



1993



1999



1990



1996 Log Mill Tour

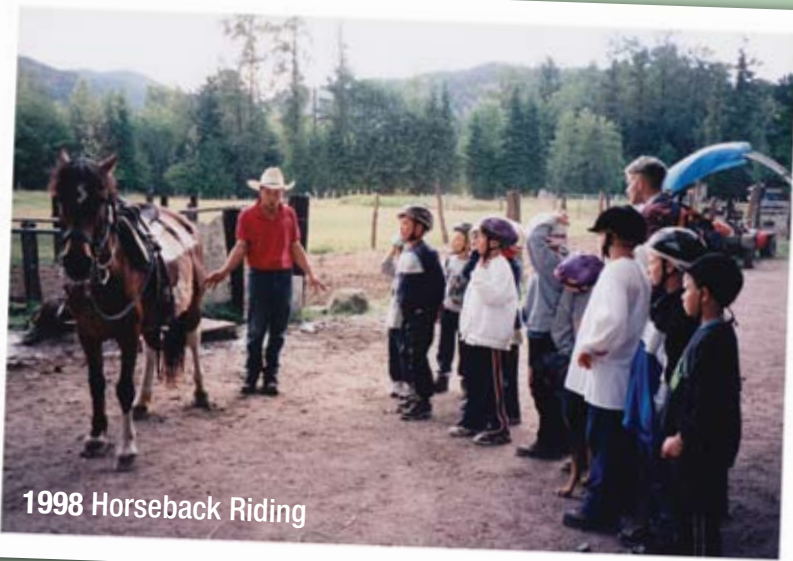


1995



1995

L-to-R: Gary Haensgen, Dale Samuelson,
Meriel Abrahmson, Peter Hiebert



1998 Horseback Riding



1994 Best Cabin



1994 New Washroom Construction



1995

1994 — New washrooms were constructed between the cabins. The old washhouse building was converted to storage, bedrooms and office space.

1992 — The new Evans Lake Forest Education Society was formed, separate from the BC Forestry Association.

1998 — Horseback riding at Sea to Sky Stables was added as a new program.

1990's Highlight

The Best Cabin Award given at the final campfire and usually presented by King Aroo.

Sawmill and logging site tours continued to the early 90's.

Hikes to the "The Caves."

2000's Highlight

2000 — A new septic system was put in the upper half of the rehabilitation site.

2001 — Renovations were undertaken to the Recreation Hall chimney and porches, and new washrooms were added.

2003 — Additional canoes were purchased and a new archery range was built.

2004 — The Wilderness Site was upgraded and the boat dock

was fitted with rails and seating. The new Outdoor Adventure Camp (OAK) program launched and initiated by Matt Thom.

2005 — Work began on the new log cabin.

2006 — Hikes into Garibaldi Provincial Park

2000s

2003 "Sink the Ship"



2008



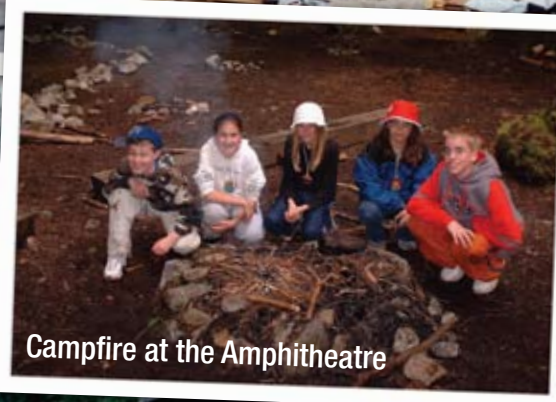
2006 Log Cabin



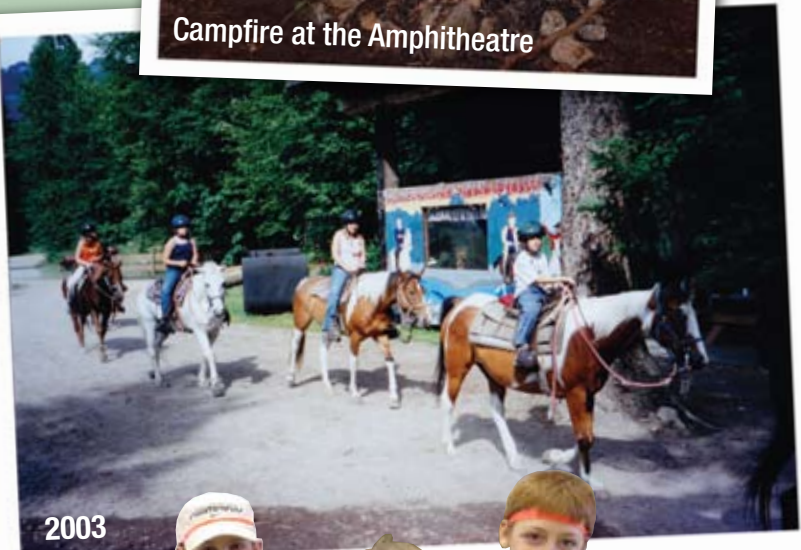
2003 New Archery Range



Campfire at the Amphitheatre



2003



2008



2009 Rock climbing returns on Chimney Rock.



2000 New Septic Field



2010 Indigenous Youth Group



2006 Log Cabin

re-introduced through the OAK program.

2004 — The Junior Forest Wardens loaned six canoes to Evans Lake to expand the fleet. Conor Lorimer Hired as program manager.

2008 — A paddle room (the Paddy Shack) was constructed on the boat dock. A self-guided interpretative walk was set up on the Copperbush Trail. The interior of the Recreation Hall was re-painted.

2009 — Re-designed climbing wall on Chimney Rock set up by Tom Urquhart. The log cabin was completed.

2010 — Evans Lake hosted the Vancouver 2010 Indigenous Youth Gathering. Evans Lake celebrates 50 years with homecoming events.

2011 — Lauren Marghetti hired as the Executive Director. Conor promoted to Program Director.



EVANS LAKE

Your Home in the Forest



HISTORY OF THE JUNIOR FOREST WARDENS



It all started in the spring of 1930 when members of the BC Branch of the Canadian Forestry Association based in Vancouver decided to create an environmental youth organization with the objective to educate the public to become more forest conscious.

The organizer of this group of young boys was E. Charles Wilkinson, manager of the Canadian Forestry Association of BC. Charles became their chief warden and was affectionately known as "Skipper". It was strictly a boys' organization until 1944 when the girl Forest Guards were formed, which continued as a parallel but separate branch until 1976. At that time, the two branches were merged.

Initially the concept was based on one boy in every school in BC selected by school principals. For every 200 students, one boy was selected and given a bronze badge and he became the representative for his school. These boys were to be known as Junior Fire Wardens.

In 1930 there were 400 boys installed throughout BC as Junior Fire Wardens. The organization flourished and by 1935 there were 5000 boys who were now referred to as Junior Forest Wardens. Cost of the uniform; red shirt – \$1.50, green tie – \$0.25, forestry cap – \$0.25. Total cost for the uniform: \$2.00.

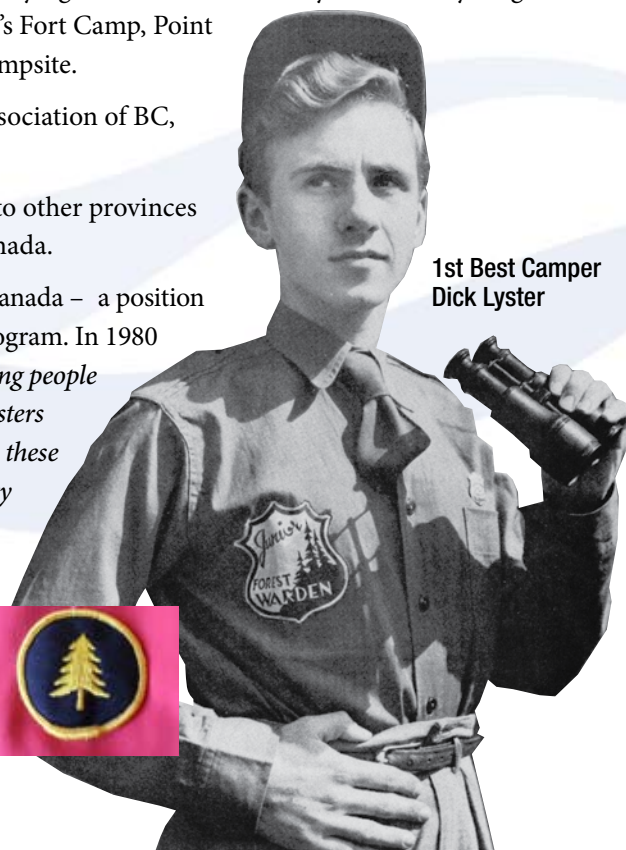
By 1943, there were 13,000 school members.

In 1942, Charles Wilkinson offered Bill Myring the job of touring BC lecturing on conservation and organizing Junior Forest Warden Clubs. In 1944, Myring became Chief Junior Forest Warden and for the next 5 years the movement flourished. Under his and Skipper's leadership, Junior Forest Warden manuals were produced, badge courses were developed – green tree, silver tree and gold tree. The Lone Patrol badge course was developed for boys in outlying districts. Outdoor Boy – a monthly magazine was distributed to all clubs. Following the original campout held at UBC's Fort Camp, Point Atkinson in West Vancouver's Lighthouse Park became the first provincial campsite.

In 1949, Bill Myring became Secretary-Manager of the Canadian Forestry Association of BC, a position he held until illness prevented his full-time work in 1974.

In 1960, with the addition of Manitoba the Junior Forest Wardens expanded to other provinces and the national organization was formed – the Junior Forest Wardens of Canada.

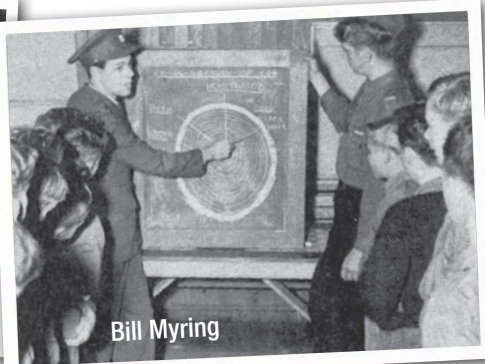
At that time, BC's Bill Myring was appropriately appointed Chief Warden for Canada – a position he held until his death on Dec 5, 1989. Bill had a philosophy about the youth program. In 1980 on the 50th anniversary of the Junior Forest Wardens he wrote the words: *"Young people today are more than ever in need of outdoor experiences particularly with youngsters who have never been out of the city. The Junior Forest Wardens are the answer to these boys and girls and those who become part of the program will develop responsibility for themselves and for their natural resources, just as the thousands who have passed through the program during the past 50 years."*



1st Best Camper
Dick Lyster



Fire Honour Badges



By 1960, the Point Atkinson campsite was vacated (West Vancouver wanted to create a park) and a new site was opened at Evans Lake – a pristine mountain lake just north of Squamish.

In 1974, Dick Lyster succeeded Bill Myring as General Manager of the CFA of BC. In 1977 the JRW's hired a full-time Field Supervisor, Jack Scrivener, whose job was to support and increase the number of clubs in the coast area. Jack became Chief Warden for BC in 1985 until he retired in 1987.

Other Notable Dates

1979 – Across-Canada tour by van led by Squamish Club Leader Andy Savory of Evans Lake was undertaken to increase awareness of the warden programs.

1980 – As a spin-off from the tour, a national JFW campout was held in Kananaskis Park near Banff. A gradual rise in membership followed this venture.

1977-78 – The JFW Alumni was created. Under their leadership, three national campouts were held in 1980, 1987 and 1990 at Camp Hatikvah near Oyama in the Okanagan.

Programs

In 1971 – first revision of the green tree, silver tree and gold tree programs. Manuals for the programs were introduced. Also in 1971, the school member's concept ended. Students could only become members by joining clubs in their districts or becoming part of the correspondence Lone Patrol program.

In 1975 – the Board introduced another program –Project Learning Tree – a curriculum-based forest education program aimed at teachers. This program proved to be highly successful.

Also at this time, the Frontiersman program for older boys was introduced. From 1982 onwards, the JFWs with backing from the booming Alberta Association undertook to revise the original green tree, silver tree and gold tree programs. The result was a new program titled The Forestry Adventure Program.

Since the inception of the JFWs in 1930, membership peaked in the 70's. The organization is still very strong in Alberta. The values and concepts are still very important in today's society. Only with committed leaders and volunteers and a fresh approach will the BC JFWs once again become a viable organization in which to channel the youth of today.



JFW Trees
in Stanley
Park



JFW Trees
at Point
Atkinson





EVANS LAKE

Your Home in the Forest



HISTORY OF HOO-HOO INTERNATIONAL

It all started on January 21, 1892 in Gurdon, Kansas, USA. Five men who had been attending a convention of the Arkansas Yellow Pine Manufactures Association were stranded in Gurdon because of a delayed train. Two of these men, Bolling Arthur Johnson and George K. Smith were in discussion when joined by other lumbermen, William E. Barnes, George W. Schwartz, and William Starr Mitchell. Later Rudolph Strauss of the Malvern Lumber Company of Gurdon was invited to join in.

Conversations amongst the men led them to discuss a fraternity of lumbermen called the Ancient Order of Camp Followers which consisted of a multitude of different associations and individuals. They felt that it would be a good idea to create a new order where all lumbermen and trade associations would come under one umbrella and could meet at one place at a given time of the year in one great "carnival of activity" rather than the many diverse meetings and groups which now prevailed. After much discussion it was agreed by the men that there was really only one common interest among all the lumberman groups – goodwill and fellowship – under which everyone united.

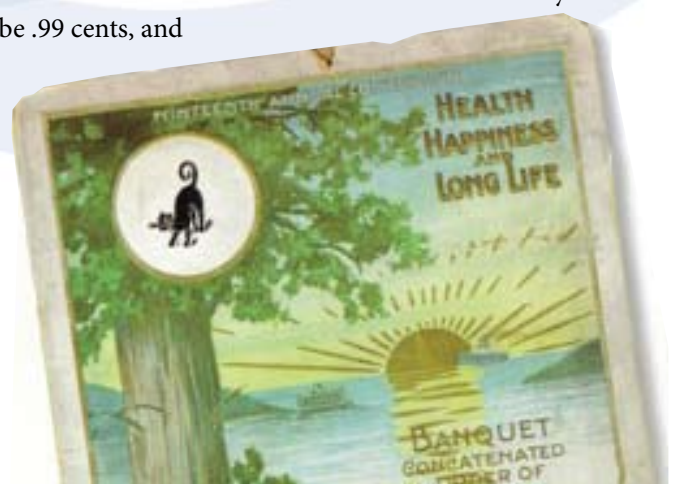
Further discussion led to the manner of organization that would evolve and the men set about to mold the initial tenets of the new order. There were to be no lodge rooms with forced attendance, no marching in protests, no bothering anyone, no uniforms or flashy regalia. There would be one single aim: to foster health, happiness, and long life of its members.

It was further determined that a secret method of communication would be used to prevent revealing the identity of members to those persons outside the fraternity.

Once the basic nature of the organization and eligibility requirements had been established they set about to consider a name that would convey the proper personality of this new order. The men then agreed upon the name "The Concatenated Order of the Hoo-Hoo."

Hoo-Hoo was actually a term that had been coined referring to several tufts of hair which had been greased and twisted to a point on the bald head of a lumberman called Charles McCarer of Northwester "Lumberman" of Chicago. It was also used as a catch phrase to describe anything out of the ordinary or unusual such as a good poker hand "A Hoo-Hoo Hand", or a strange hat "A Hoo-Hoo Hat" for example. Thus Hoo-Hoo well described the new order, and since "concatenate" means to unite, it was decided the name was appropriate.

In view of the fact that Hoo-Hoo had no history of its own and it was to be non-superstitious it was decided to adopt some history from the ancient Egyptians. Thus the adoption of the black cat from the Egyptians who worshipped it as a deity. In honour of the legendary nine lives of the cat, it was suggested to use the number nine as a high and lofty position in the Hoo-Hoo. There would be nine men on the Board of Directors to be known as the Supreme Nine. The AGM would be held on the ninth day of the ninth month at precisely nine minutes after nine. Annual dues to be .99 cents, and the initiation fee to be \$9.99. Total membership could never consist of more than 9,999 men.



After reading Lewis Carroll's "Hunting of the Snark" W.E. Barnes suggested that eerie and peculiar names like those used in the book be used for the directors hence "Snark," "Bojum," "Sr. High Hoo-Hoo," "Jr. High Hoo-Hoo" and "Jabberwock." The other names

which were just products of the men's imaginations and are now used for officers were Scrivenoter, Arcenoper, Custocatian and Gurdon. Thus the Grand Snark was born and he later assumed the "universe" as his kingdom. The Bojum became the Holy Bojum and served in the capacity of the Chaplain. The Scrivenoter was assigned duties as the secretary. The Arcanoper was to stand at the "gates" and be the opener for requesting entrance into the realm of the Hoo-Hoo. The name Gurdon gave a hint of guard and was assigned the role of sergeant-at-arms.

The official colours of the Hoo-Hoo were to be white, black and gold.

The first Grand Snark was an appointed position and awarded to Charles McCarer whose tuft of hair inspired the name Hoo-Hoo.

On February 18th, 1892 in New Orleans the first regular initiation was held. Until 1920 there were no local clubs only the national organization. In that year the first club was organized in Atlanta, Georgia. Hoo-Hoo did not become International until 1924 when the club in Winnipeg, Manitoba joined and became the 24th club.

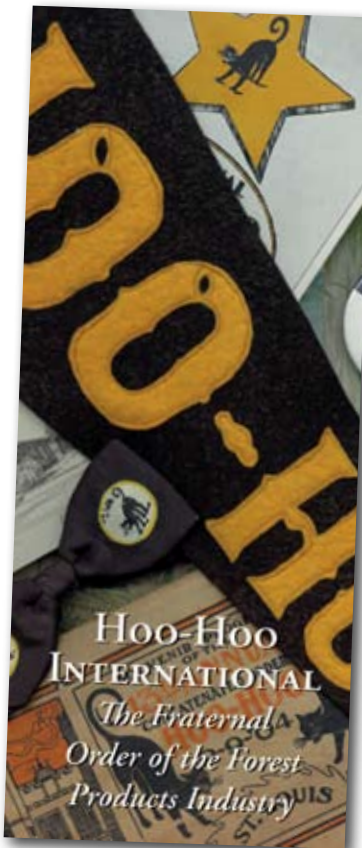
With the Great Depression the Hoo-Hoo fell upon hard times. Unable to meet financial obligations of its insurance programs, membership dropped. The Hoo-Hoo almost slipped into obscurity as only one club, Spokane, continued to meet on a regular basis. However, in 1938 the Hoo-Hoo was reorganized and started to grow once again. By the 50's there were 13,000 members. Promotion of wood became the major objective and the Hoo-Hoo expanded into Australia and the South Pacific.

Today there are more than 100,000 members. These men have dedicated themselves to the principles of true fraternalism and fellowship and the International Order of Hoo-Hoo continues to make many serious effective contributions to the industry and the communities from which their members come.

Vancouver Hoo-Hoo Club #48

Vancouver Hoo-Hoo Club #48 became a member club of the International Hoo-Hoo in 1925. The first president was H.D. Rowe. During the years 1928-1951 depression and war contributed to the club's inactivity. On June 21st, 1951 the club was re-established and became active once again. In 1959, the majority of capital funds for building the Junior Forest Warden training camp at Evans Lake were provided by Vancouver Hoo-Hoo Club #48. The club has and continues to be the major supporter and funding contributor for capital projects for the Evans Lake Forest Education Centre.

For more information visit www.hoohoointernational.com.



Camp Activities





Camp Culture



The saw blade was actually used in the old Empire Sawmill and donated to us. Originally painted by a camper/counsellor, Isaac King.



Experience Camp

Coming to visit Evans Lake provides a rich experience of the camp's history and culture. As with all great communities, Evans Lake is full of recollections of summers past. Evans Lake takes pride in keeping our stories and memories alive.



The Rec. Hall mural was painted by Squamish artist Ken Skoda.



Camp T-shirts

