

# Camp Puntchesakut



## History

The first camp at Lake Puntchesakut was held in 1957 in cabins belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fouty, members of the St. John the Devine Anglican Church in Quesnel. In 1958 the current camp property, about 7 acres with about 1000 feet of lake frontage, was donated by the Fouty family for use as a childrens' camp. A dining hall/kitchen and two cabins were built during camp that year. The following year a staff house, wash house (Ye Olde Green Palace) and the third cabin was built and a play area was cleared. 1960 saw the construction of the chapel and a storehouse and in 1961 the Bishop's cabin and a recreation hall were built. In 1962 the playground was cleared and the wiring redone. In 1967 a campfire platform and boat launch were built by the lakeshore. In 1970 the A-Frame house was built and the parking lot was cleared. This history is captured from the plaques that hang in the "Chuckwagon", the dining hall/kitchen. Three new storerooms were built in 1972 and in 1978 the sewer system was installed. The "Monastery", the concrete block washhouse, was built in 1983 along with a proper water system. The last major construction was in 1987 when one of the original sleeping cabins was dismantled and rebuilt. It should be noted that as far as we can tell, all the buildings on this property have been built with volunteer labour.

## Present facilities

Today there are twelve buildings on the property. The A-Frame, the "Bird's Nest" Cabin, the Chapel, the Staff Cabin Bunkhouse, the Dining Hall/Kitchen and the storage building all front the lake. The three sleeping cabins, the wash house, the Craft House and "Ye Olde Green Palace" (the original wash house) are above the roadway that separates the buildings on the property. The septic lagoon is approximately 250 feet from the well head and the closest building, and is surrounded by a barb wire fence that was recently repaired. There is BC Hydro electric power provided to the property with the main distribution panels located in the "Chuckwagon". The "Chuckwagon" is equipped with an older fire alarm system and each of the sleeping cabins is equipped with both battery operated and 120V smoke alarms. Each of these buildings will be discussed in more detail following.

## Chuckwagon – Dining Hall/Kitchen

Before (2008):



During reconstruction:



Present (2017):





This building was raised with new footings and concrete foundation posts installed along with replacing the lower walls. A new floor was installed and a new metal chimney replaced the previous masonry chimney. One new door was installed. All of the power for the camp goes through the electrical distribution panels in the Dining Hall. There is an electrical inspection certificate posted on the wall, however, much of the electrical system should be updated even though there are no significant safety concerns. The kitchen, although simple, does meet health standards and this has been confirmed with a formal inspection by the Health Inspector. The dining area can seat about 50 people on benches.

### **Storage Building**



The storage building houses a small workshop and a storage room and a laundry room. The building is built on concrete pier blocks and has been protected on the Northwest wall by a wooden retaining wall. The floor assembly and foundation on the West side are completely rotted out. The building has been jacked up for the doors to open properly. There is a porch that joins the storage building to the Chuckwagon and it is in good condition. Other than maintenance, there has been no restoration work done to this building yet.

### **Staff Cabin**

Before:



The staff cabin had four bedrooms, a common seating area, a full bathroom and a first aid room with a small woodstove that supplied the only heat for the cabin. The building was raised and most of the interior walls did not survive. New footings and foundation posts similar to the Dining Hall were installed. The existing doors were removed and new wider doors installed. The masonry chimney also did not survive and a new metal chimney was installed. The bathroom was enlarged to make handicap accessible and the shower room was separated from the bathroom with its own entrance. The remainder of the building is now used as a bunkhouse with a block wall surrounding the wood stove.

Present:



A new porch was installed on three sides of this building to provide wheelchair access and to protect the foundations.

### **Chapel**



The Chapel is an open structure with one large room. It is built on a foundation of concrete pilings. There is considerable build up of dirt on the Northwest wall which has compromised the door on the Northeast side which is unusable. There is serious deterioration of the bottom logs, however, there is no settling. The building is currently being used for storage.

### **Birds Nest Cabin**



Also known as the Bishop's Cabin, it has one bedroom, a bathroom and a sitting area. It has no heat as the unsafe woodstove was removed when the new metal roofing was installed. The building is built on creosote pilings and also has dirt build up along the Northwest wall. The building has been prepared for raising this Spring.



## A Frame



The A-Frame is the newest sleeping accommodation constructed on the property and consists of a large storage area under the building, one bedroom, bathroom, sitting area and small kitchen on the main floor and two bedrooms in the loft. The building is heated with a certified woodstove venting into a “Class A” stainless steel chimney. There is a fire escape ladder on each end of the building from the loft area. The building is built on a concrete foundation and supported on concrete blocks. The roof is asphalt tiles which appear to be in good condition. The building is in good condition overall and is showing no signs of deterioration or settling.

## Cabin 1



The first of the three campers cabins was previously rebuilt by constructing a foundation of concrete “sono tubes” and building a new floor platform that extended beyond the original footprint creating a front porch. The log walls were then rebuilt on top of the new platform and a new roof completed the structure. The inside is refinished with a linoleum floor and gyproc walls. The building is heated with two 500W baseboard heaters that are thermostatically controlled. The building is in good condition and is showing no signs of deterioration or settling.

### **Cabins 2 and 3**



These two cabins will be discussed together as they are basically identical. There is no foundation for either building other than the logs directly on the ground, however, there is minimal signs of deterioration or settling. The interior of both cabins are rustic to say the least with a plank floor and rough hewn logs. Both cabins will require foundation work to prevent future deterioration. There is no heat in either cabin although there is a basic electrical service.

### **Wash House**



The concrete block washhouse is the most solid building on the property. There are separate facilities for males and females and a small service room at one end that houses two hot water tanks, a water pressure tank and the well head. This room also has an electrical panel. The Gents washroom has three sinks, two toilets in private stalls and shower in a private room. The Ladies side has four sinks, two toilets in private stalls and a shower in a private room.

### **Craft House**





The Craft House is one large room that is used for craft storage and a workshop. The building sits on creosote pilings and shows no signs of settling. The roof was replaced with a new metal roof. There is no heat in this building.

### **Olde Green Palace**



This building was originally planned to house the camp cooks. There is an abandoned water tank in the attic that is accessed by a steep stairway from the sitting room. There is one bedroom and a roughed in bathroom that has not been completed. The building sits on a 6x6 timber for a foundation, but there is no signs of settling, however both entrance porches have seriously deteriorated. There is no heat source for this building.

### **General**



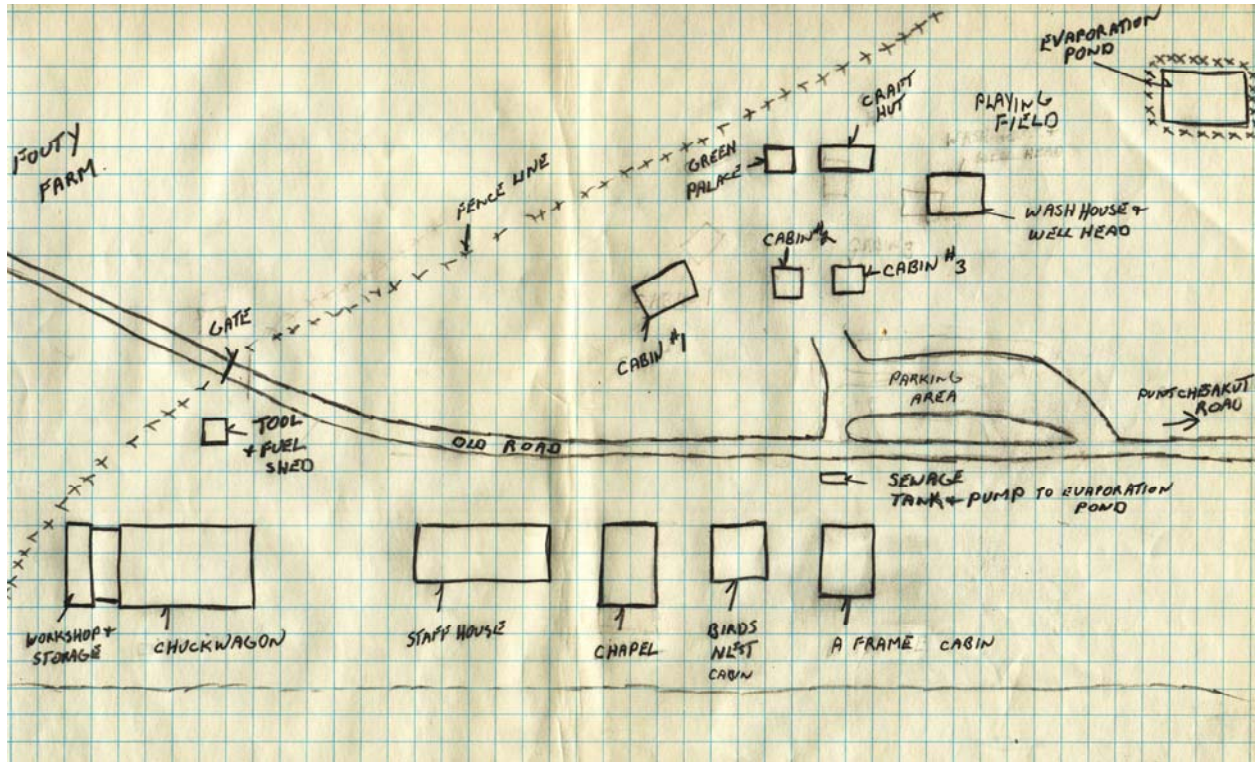
All the existing water lines and tanks are in fair condition. The system holds water pressure well, but many of the lines run above ground and should eventually be buried for protection.

The Sewer System is in good working condition and one of the sewer pumps has been replaced. The structure over the septic tank was rebuilt last year.

Electrical power is provided to each of the buildings on the property. Eventually these lines should be relocated underground for protection.

There is no natural gas or propane into any of the buildings on the property.

All the buildings are currently secured except for two of the sleeping cabins.



Site Map of the Camp (not to scale)

