

## SPORT AND TRAVEL SHOWS WE WILL BE ATTENDING IN 2024

### MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL SPORTS SHOW

Milwaukee, Wisconsin –  
Wisconsin State Fair Park Exposition Center  
March 7<sup>th</sup> – March 10<sup>th</sup>

### WISCONSIN SPORT SHOW

Eau Claire, WI – Chippewa Valley Expo Center  
March 15<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>

**ALL CANADA SHOW- MILWAUKEE**  
Brookfield, Wisconsin – Brookfield Conference Center  
January 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>

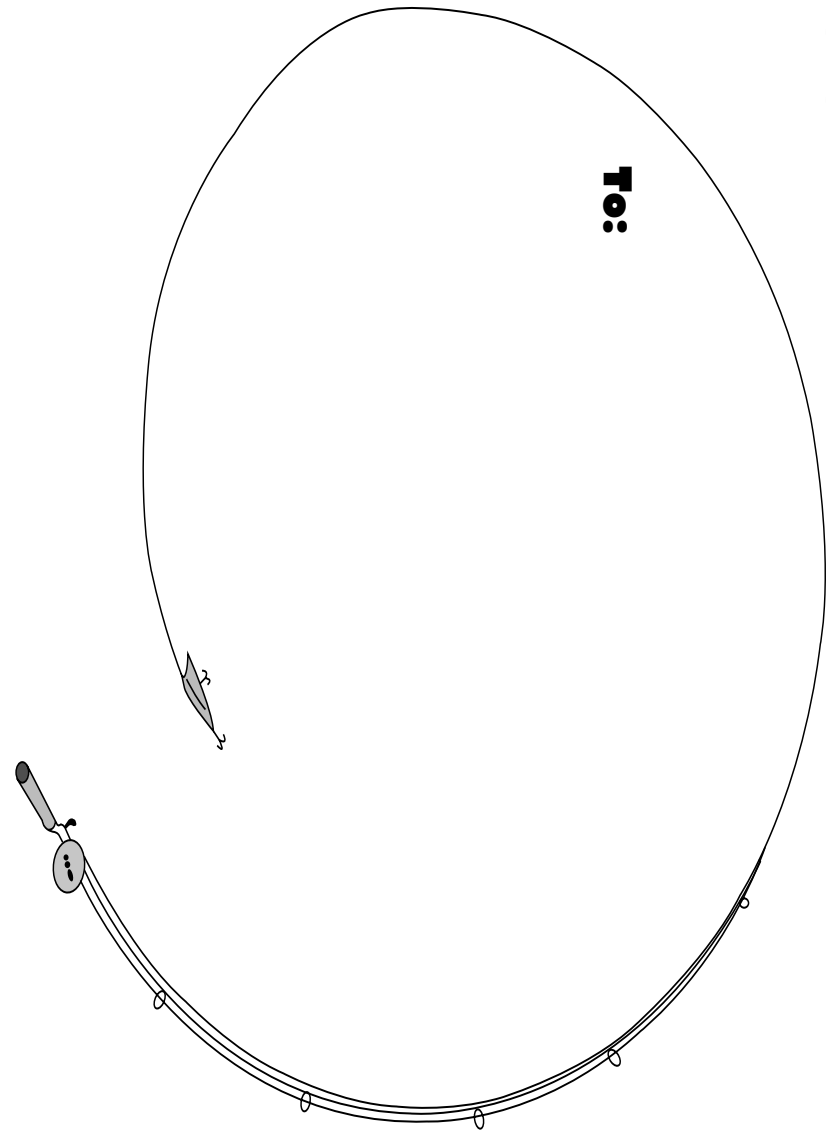
### ALL CANADA SHOW- GREEN BAY

Green Bay, Wisconsin –  
Radisson Conference Center (Oneida Casino)  
January 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

### INDIANAPOLIS BOAT,

### SPORT & TRAVEL SHOW

Indianapolis, Indiana – Indiana State Fair Grounds  
February 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> & February 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>  
(Show closed Monday & Tuesday)



**Gold Arrow Camp**  
**2104 N. Binkley Rd.**  
**Larwill, IN 46764**

# Smoke Signals *from* **GOLD ARROW CAMP** **2023 – A Year In Review**

Volume 11



**NOTE:** This paper is not intended at anytime to represent the proper use of grammar, spelling or editorial etiquette. It will voo, however, to report the news as we see it and stretch the truth as far as possible and from spending so much time in the woods takes no responsibility for its content.

**WARNING: FROM THE “SURGEON GENERAL”,** the truth of any news event reported in this paper may be stretched so far as to be hazardous to any honest fisherman’s integrity. But will be okay for most of our guests to read.

**ATTENTION:** No names have been changed in these articles to protect the innocent. There weren’t any.

## EDITORIAL

**H**ard to believe that we have not sent out our “annual” newsletter since 2019! Covid obviously is the reason for the lapse of 3 years. First, in 2020, we were shut down completely by the government. No guests for an entire year. Heck, we couldn’t even cross the border until June. We arrived to a camp with tall grass and black birds building nests in the peaks of the cabins. All in all, we were just happy to get up there to protect and maintain our camp!

In 2021, we were fully expecting to be able to open but delay after delay, excuse after excuse, again kept us closed until August 13. Thankfully we were finally able to open to fully vaccinated guests and even more thankful for our bear hunters and fishermen that were able to quickly rearrange their schedules and make the trip. Hard to believe, but income does wonders for a business and those guests were a huge shot in the arm to getting us back on track.



Next came 2022 and yet another surprise. We were again expecting all restrictions to be removed, but of course the government had other plans. An entire season where only fully vaccinated guests could cross the border. Don’t get me wrong, it was better than 2020 or 2021, but still only about 70% of normal occupancy. I know several of our guests went against everything that they believe in and pulled up their sleeve for the shot just so that they could go fishing in Canada. For that we were honored and extremely grateful that fishing in Canada means that much to you.

Then came 2023...the year of “Back to Normal”. It truly did feel normal again. Covid was only mentioned in past tense. No one dwelled on what had happened. Everyone was just happy to be back up doing what they love, with the people they enjoy spending time with. We had record low water levels and not a single person complained about how hard it was to launch a boat or that their favorite lake was not accessible. Again, just appreciating the ability to fish in Canada.

Each and every one of you are the reason we continue to do what we do and love every minute of it. Your spirit, your eagerness, your love of adventure, and your attitude makes our job the best and most rewarding. So, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your loyalty and for sticking with us through thick and thin! Because of you we are able to continue living our dream of being your hosts. As you celebrate this special time of year with friends and family just know how much all of you mean to us. Merry Christmas and may 2024 be an awesome year for all of you!

- Todd & Angie

## CATFISH WANTED

It’s not every day that we have a guest request “catfish” while in camp. However, we had a group that has been coming for 40 years say that there is nothing they want more than to have Catfish, aka John “Catfish” Wittkamper make one more trip up with the group. Sometimes we get worried about being a burden on others and think that we would slow down or hinder our friends but, in truth, the only thing groups want is time together. Whether it is in the boat, having shore lunch together, or evenings around the table playing cards and telling stories. All in all, Catfish, just know that the guys would treasure one more trip to Canada with you!

## Gold Arrow Camp BIGGEST FISH AWARDS

Species	Length	Caught By
Walleye	29 ¼"	Jayden Schneider
Northern	39 ¼"	Cary Carlson
Small Mouth	21"	Stephan Marais
Perch	13 ½"	John Segraves & Chuck Segraves
Crappie	14 ¾"	Jeff Reed
Lake Trout	29"	Chuck Segraves & Peter Zweifelhofer
Muskie	47"	Ben Huffman
Large Mouth	16"	Jeff Reed



Huge shout out to everyone that understands and respects our self-imposed regulations along with the MNR regulations. We are happy to report that the Walleye, Northern Pike, Muskie, and Small Mouth were all released back into Canadian waters to grow and become someone else’s “Big Fish Story”!

## Travel Lite Package

**RATES INCLUDE:** Modern cabin, boat, motor, mixed gas, life-jackets, minnow buckets, landing nets, freezers and 1 bag of ice per boat daily

2 Adults per Boat .....\$590.00 per adult per week  
3 Adults per Boat .....\$565.00 per adult per week  
Party of 5 Adults .....\$575.00 per adult per week  
(2 Boats & 2 Motors)

Children 6 thru 12 .....\$210.00 per child per week  
(when accompanied by two adults)  
Children 5 & Under FREE

## Travel Lite Summer Special

July 6<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>

**RATES INCLUDE:** Modern cabin, boat, motor, mixed gas, life-jackets, minnow buckets, landing nets, freezers and 1 bag of ice per boat daily

2 Adults per Boat .....\$565.00 per adult per week  
3 Adults per Boat .....\$540.00 per adult per week  
Party of 5 Adults .....\$550.00 per adult per week  
(2 Boats & 2 Motors)

Children 6 thru 12 .....\$185.00 per child per week  
(when accompanied by two adults)  
Children 5 & Under FREE

## Housekeeping Cabin

**RATES INCLUDE:** Modern cabin, boat (no motor), freezers and 1 bag of ice per boat daily

Adults.....\$540.00 per adult per week  
Children 6 thru 12 .....\$210.00 per child per week  
(when accompanied by two adults)  
Children 5 & Under FREE

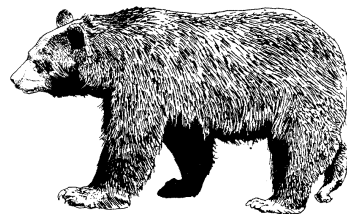
## Housekeeping Cabin Summer Special

July 6<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>

**RATES INCLUDE:** Modern cabin, boat (no motor), freezers and 1 bag of ice per boat daily

Adults.....\$515.00 per adult per week  
Children 6 thru 12 .....\$185.00 per child per week  
(when accompanied by two adults)  
Children 5 & Under FREE

## Black Bear



## Spring & Fall Hunt

Archery or Firearm

~ 37 Years in the Field Experience ~

**The difference between just a Hunt and a Successful Hunt.**

6 Days on Baited Stand  
Sunday thru Friday

**\$2150.00**  
Per Hunter

*To ensure the date of your choice –  
please send in your reservation early.  
Spring season begins May 25<sup>th</sup>  
Fall Season Begins August 17<sup>th</sup>*

## RESERVATION REQUEST • GOLD ARROW CAMP

Perrault Falls, Ontario POV 2K0 • Phone: (807) 529-3137 • Website: [www.fishandhuntontario.com](http://www.fishandhuntontario.com) • Email: [Goldarrow@embarqmail.com](mailto:Goldarrow@embarqmail.com)  
Winter Address: Todd & Angie Heath, 2104 North Binkley Road, Larwill, IN 46764 • Phone: (260) 327-3406 (Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Housekeeping Cabin ☐ Travel Lite Package ☐ Summer Special Package ☐ Extra Boat ☐ Motor ☐

No. in Party: Men \_\_\_\_\_ Women \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_ Total No. \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

• Personal checks accepted for deposit only. Balance must be paid in cash or traveler’s checks. Sorry, no credit cards.  
• Deposit of \$125.00 required per person. • All Rates in U.S. Funds.





Catching lake trout in August isn't easy, but Kevin and his son seem to always get the job done



Dennis Nicholson bagged this bear on his first trip to Gold Arrow



Denise landed this beautiful Northern on her new favorite lake...Ord



Having a fire in the wood burner in mid-July just didn't seem right



Eating at Whiskey Jack is a great tradition for many of our guests



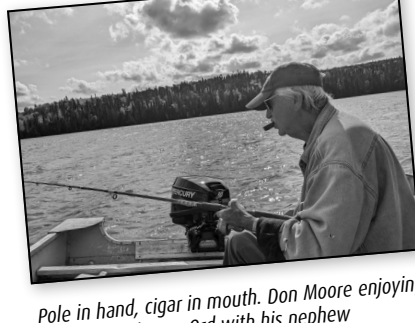
Shawn & Karl, along with the help of their dogs, found their limit of grouse daily and still had plenty of time to fish



The Gifford's enjoy their father/son trip each year



Ryan showing off another nice northern that was just shy of the record



Pole in hand, cigar in mouth. Don Moore enjoying a day on Ord with his nephew



Connor landed this monster on Gerrard



Steve wins for landing the biggest turtle of the year



Logan was on the leader board for a while with this 27" walleye

## BREAKING ALL RECORDS



Historically the biggest catch of the year ends up being either a Muskie or Northern, but not always. Little did Jon Zacharias know what was in store for him this past summer when he and his dad headed off to Caribou Lake for some fishing. Not only would Jon end up with the biggest catch of the year but also the biggest catch ever documented at Gold Arrow! Most of the time the big ones are located out in the main portion of the lake off a point where there is some depth and good structure. You would be surprised however to hear that Jon's catch was accomplished right at the boat landing and he was even casting from shore. Upon beaching their boat, the guys took a load of gear up the hill to their truck. When they returned to where the boat was, they were surprised to see it was no longer there. Seems as if a wind had caught the boat and it was now some forty yards downstream. Jon thought he could either wade in after it or better yet put his college baseball skills to use. He grabbed his rod and threw a perfect strike landing his Rapala right inside the boat. With a little bit of luck, he hooked the lip of the boat which isn't an easy task from that distance. After setting the drag and playing the many runs made by the Lund, it finally tired and was reeled in to shore. So, hats off to you Jon for your quick thinking, accurate cast and the new whopping record of a 168" Lund boat catch!

## GOLD ARROW GUESTS FOOT THE BILL

Hard to believe that we have had the honor of being your hosts now going on fifteen years. During this time, we have accomplished many goals for our guests. This now includes all new cabin roofs, windows, enclosed porches and new bathrooms in every cabin. In addition, we maintain all of the trails that take off from Aerobus, Fleet North, Fleet South, and Smart Road. That my friend is over twenty miles of trails to keep brushed. We also exclusively maintain Fleet North, Fleet South, and Smart Road. Did you know during our fifteen years not a single dime has been spent by any government agency to maintain those 3 roads. It has been all Gold Arrow brushing, grading, and maintaining the culverts of these roads. Had we not done the work these roads would be nothing more than ATV trails at this point. The good news is that we do the work weekly spending countless days keeping everything open. Next year all of Fleet North needs brushed which is six miles long. Guess who will be doing this work...none other than Gold Arrow Camp/Todd & Angie. Brushing both sides equates to twelve miles which all must be walked with a brush blade in hand. This is time consuming, physical work and something that many other camps take for granted. We have always felt that in an ideal world only Gold Arrow guests would be able to enjoy the trails and roads that we maintain. Wouldn't that be awesome? No more free loading taking place by other people who neither contribute financially or physically to the maintenance of these roads and trails. But just like the rest of life, those people will always exist. Maybe, if they realize it is all of you who foot the bill and us that do the work, they might at least think about where they stay in the future.

## LOW WATER LEVELS



Cliff Lake landing shows just how low the water was this year.

remained crystal clear. With the lack of precipitation, several of the favorite lakes were very difficult to access and a couple were completely inaccessible such as Gerrard and Pickerel. With the lack of fishing pressure these great lakes should be even better in 2024. We wanted to give you all a shout out for understanding about the low water levels this past summer. We were amazed that nobody complained, but instead just revised your remote lake choices. Thank you for your understanding and make sure to pray for lots of snow this winter!



## PEPÉ LE PEW

Each spring Angie & I drive 960 miles north to Gold Arrow excited to just get there. One of the first things we do upon arrival is get out of the truck and take a deep breath smelling the pine laced Northwoods air. So refreshing and pure...usually that is. This spring we got out of the truck, stood up to stretch and breath in the Northwoods air and UGH what is that awful smell? It was strong and pungent and smelled as if a skunk had just sprayed somewhere close. As we walked closer to the shop the smell got stronger and stronger. We assumed a skunk had sprayed somewhere outside the shop until we opened the garage door and the smell only got stronger. As I lifted the garage door, we noticed that all the weather stripping had been chewed off. In addition, all the tools were knocked off the workbench, and lumber, usually neatly stacked in the corners, was knocked down. After pulling the tractor out we ended up finding a decomposed carcass which was promptly removed. We surmise that last fall, the night before we shut down and left camp, the skunk snuck in the garage while the door was open and it was unknowingly locked inside. It did everything it could to attempt to escape but unfortunately its fate was sealed. After tearing out the linoleum and sanitizing the area where the skunk had expired, we were finally able to get some fresh air again...three weeks later that is!

## FREE, FREE FALLING

Look it's a bird, it's a plane, no, its Superman! Actually, no it wasn't a bird or a plane or even Superman that decided to drop in on Ken & John Boyce as they were driving down Aerobus Road. But something did end up falling from the sky and land on their vehicle as they were heading out to fish. Many of us, while driving down the backroads, have experienced Eagles flying up from along the roadside and fly ahead of our vehicle. Ken & John were enjoying one of those moments when they noticed the bird was carrying something in its talons. Shortly thereafter the Eagle decided it was more important to make a prompt get away and did what every seasoned pilot would do. It lightened its payload by dropping what it had in its talons. Upon doing so it fell from the sky right into the Boyce's windshield. Turns out the Eagle had been carrying a squirrel and you can imagine their surprise to have that squirrel land right on the windshield. Fortunately, there was no damage to the vehicle. The squirrel, on the other hand, didn't fare as well.



SPLAT!

## FALL BEAR SEASON

Doing a lot of early preparation had us thinking this fall bear season was going to be one of the best ever. I spent a lot of early summer cutting into new remote areas to increase the opportunity for new hot baits! Once the baits were set, they took off fast and were hitting consistently. Trail camera pics showed the bear were even cooperating and coming in well before dark. This daytime pattern unfortunately seemed to change somewhat once the hunters arrived with the bears going nocturnal. We still ended up doing pretty darn good with some nice bears harvested. Bryan Blanke took one of the nicest bears during the year followed closely by Dennis Nicholson. Trail cameras showed that if a few more hunters would have been in their stand thirty minutes sooner the bear they were after would have not been hibernating right now! In addition, we had a couple of bears shot at that were not recovered. The good news is that after exhausting the faint blood trail, those bears should have made it. We anticipate that the upcoming 2024 season should be fantastic based on the sheer number of bears seen on trail camera.



Bob and daughter, Kija, enjoyed a week of grouse hunting together. I think she outshot him every day.



Thank you to the Neve's for bringing us a box of Wisconsin goodies! They were excellent!



Les and Barry have their work cut out for them. Looks like dinner will be served at 11pm again



## WHY DO IT THE EASY WAY?

When you're young nothing appears to be out of reach. If a lake requires a long hike in, then so be it. And then, as you get older, you look for a lake you can pull right up beside! Chris Meadows just happens to be young and is always up for a challenge. He prefers to go to lakes that are rarely fished due to being "too much work" for most. This year he decided to tackle Smart Lake and venture even further onto a small unnamed lake off from it. Now it should be noted that to get to the boat on Smart Lake, it requires a hike of 550 steps from where you park. The good news is that it is all downhill, going in that is! Well Chris started his day carrying a forty-pound 4-horse motor and all the gear down to the shore of Smart Lake. After getting all his gear loaded into the boat, he pushed off, started the motor and went about a hundred yards before the motor died. (At this point of the story a slight disclaimer is needed...WE didn't give Chris the 4 HP motor) Although it is our motor, he borrowed it from another guest. Now had Chris got the motor directly from us, he would have been given instructions about the fuel shut off on the side of the motor which is different from the 9.9HP motors. Ironically motors need fuel to run. (Also note that Chris is an Engineer that works for GM specializing in fuel mileage certification.) Getting back to our story...once the motor died Chris did what most people would do and pulled the rope a few hundred times working up a good sweat but to no avail. At this point, had he just turned on the gas, the story would be over. But he did not! He subsequently paddled back to shore and carried the motor uphill 550 paces, back to his truck. He happened to still have the seventy-pound 9.9 HP that we originally issued him, in the truck. Determined to fish this lake, he carried it, along with the 36-pound, 6 gallon gas tank back downhill another 550 paces. After a couple pulls, the motor starts and off he goes. He fished on Smart but then headed for the stream connecting the unnamed lake and proceeded to navigate up that. Navigate might be too strong of a word considering that there were eight beaver dams he had to pull the boat over. Now after two trips carrying different motors 550 paces to the boat, crossing a lake, navigating eight beaver dams, he finally got to the lake he wanted to fish. Problem was it was now late afternoon and he was running out of time before dark. After a few casts and not being rewarded for his efforts, Chris decided to head back which again entailed eight beaver dams, crossing the lake, and carrying all his gear 550 paces UPHILL back to the truck. Meanwhile, back in camp, Angie & I noticed he hadn't returned from his excursion and with dark skies coming quick, we decided we should do a search and rescue mission. Thankfully, we met him driving out on Fleet Road South. He told us about the motor mishap and you should have seen the look on his face when we asked if he turned the gas on! Needless to say, that won't ever happen again. The good news is that a few beers beside the bonfire that night and all bruised egos were soothed.

## FALL GROUSE SEASON

Most of our die-hard grouse hunters know that the last two weeks of September are the perfect time to be at Gold Arrow. Whether you are walking the trails early in the morning or sitting on your favorite lake you can't beat the fall colors of late September. The sky is bluer and the smell of falling leaves in the air is unforgettable. Add in the frosty mornings and warm bonfires at night and it makes for a perfect time to be in camp. Grouse numbers this year proved to be one of the best years ever. I may be wrong, but I believe every hunter took home their limit of fifteen birds and also enjoyed eating several while in camp. We spend so much time keeping these trails open that we are thrilled to see our guests take full advantage of them during grouse season. This same time of year is also when the bull moose are rutting and many grouse hunters were able to catch a glimpse of a moose or two. Tom and Lynn love this time of year so much that they stay two straight weeks!

## COMPLETED PROJECTS...4 YEAR PERIOD



bathrooms and Cabin #10 was completed. Thankfully we received a grant to help with Covid related improvements and docks and decks fell under their guidelines. We were able to resurface all 3 docks and all 9 cabin decks. We had money left over with which we built an additional deck on Cabin #11 and also constructed 3 freestanding decks overlooking the lake. Remember the old stone steps going to the lake? Those have been replaced with very nice steps with a railing.



In 2023 we replaced another rotten beam on Cabin #8. Our last bathroom remodel in Cabin #8 was completed. We replaced a leaky roof on the lean-to so Todd stays dry while working on motors. There is now electricity at the main dock (thank you Neal and Joe for your help and knowledge). And, finally, all 9 cabins along with the fish cleaning house, grease house and shop got a fresh coat of paint.

## VERY PRESTIGIOUS AWARD!



Each year upon arrival our guests come into the camp store to check out who is on the biggest fish leader board and the size needed to knock them off. After all, the biggest fish award comes with prestige when you think about it. First you get on the cover of the Gold Arrow newspaper, followed by the fishing magazines hounding you for interviews hoping you will pass on the tips that make you so good. Next, guys like Bill Dance and Babe Winkelman start calling you hoping to get you on their show to give them tips on how to catch the big ones. So, yeah, the biggest fish award is pretty coveted and comes with lots of perks. However, did you know that an even bigger award exists at Gold Arrow that is only given out to just one individual each year? This award is commonly referred to as the "Best Hooked Award". This is given to the guests who did the absolute best in hooking themselves while fishing. Past winners have hooked their head, rear end, shoulder, and hand. The only requirement to qualify for this prestigious award is a photo! The photo acts as both proof of the event and also gives credit for the true skill one must possess to actually hook themselves. So, without any further suspense, this year's "Best Hooked Award" goes to Mr. Monty Brink! Monty happened to be fishing at one of our remote lakes when he hooked himself. After several painful attempts at removing the hook in the boat, a quick trip back to camp to get some side cuts was deemed necessary. For those disappointed for not winning this year, don't worry there is always next year! Having said that, we won't be disappointed if we never give this award out again!

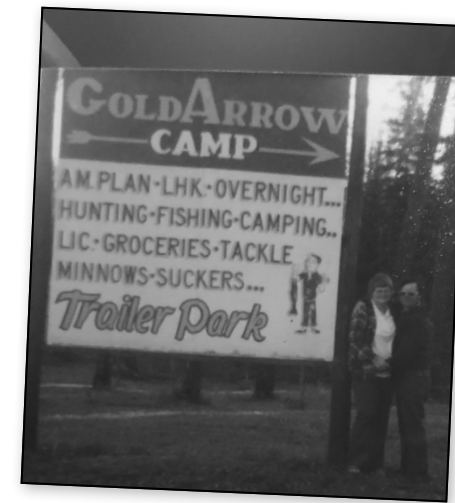
## BLAST FROM THE PAST



After 13 years of asking everyone, Mark Wittkamper came through with a picture of the old Sauna for Todd. This building is now used as our plumbing shed.



Not sure what year this was taken but camp sure has changed over the years. The first cabin on the right of the picture is Cabin #9. The number of trees is amazing!



Not even sure that this is the same camp we now own...feeding people, having groceries and trailer park?? Hopefully you feel the same when we say we are glad things have changed!