

Campgrounds 143 **CAMPGROUNDS** Until 1960 the principal campground in the park was the Clear Lake campground, now allocated to seasonal cabins. It was laid out in 1930-31 and expanded in 1933. In its first configuration it had ten blocks of either 24 or 32 lots. There were 16 kitchen shelters and four washrooms. Later in the 1930s the campground was more than doubled to contain 565 lots. In addition, there were two log refrigerator buildings or ice houses, a rare facility in national park campgrounds. The focal point of the campground was a rustic community building -Jamboree Hall- situated at the head of the campground overlooking the lake. Originally water was pumped from a series of wells. Electricity was brought to 52 lots intended for trailers. Two more kitchen shelters were added in the 1960s. As the campground took on a more permanent look in the 1970s, the streets became lined with small well-kept cabins. Some of these seem to have been walled in trailers, others bear signs of once having had canvas roofs. Surprisingly, the configuration of the 1930s campground has survived more or less intact. Only the original washrooms have been removed, having been replaced by modern facilities. Jamboree Hall and the kitchen shelters continue their original functions. The two ice houses also remain, although one has been converted into a kitchen shelter and the other is now used for storage. From the late 1930s until the early 1950s four smaller campgrounds and picnic sites grew up outside of Wasagaming. A 1937 guidebook note the "[l]imited camping accommodation for parties desiring solitude is also available at Lake Katherine."⁴⁴ The Lake Audy campground was established in 1939 and two small kitchen shelters built. A 1955 guide book notes that "camp grounds less completely equipped [than that at Clear Lake], are also available at Lake Katherine, Moon Lake, Lake Audy and Whirlpool Lake."⁴⁵ In the mid 1950s services began to be introduced to these primitive campgrounds and picnic sites. Lake Audy got a new kitchen shelter in 1956. By 1959 Lake Katherine had four kitchen shelters, Whirlpool had one, Moon Lake had two and Lake Audy had three. An additional kitchen shelter was built at Moon Lake in 1960. All these kitchen shelters are variations of the same basic design that was developed in Banff in 1952. In 1963 the Lake Katherine kitchen shelters were replaced by six new design shelters designed by Engineering Services Division in Ottawa. These were of a standard plan and were similar to kitchen shelters being erected in semi-serviced campgrounds in the mountain parks. The Lake Katherine campground was subsequently incorporated in Anishinabe Village and the buildings are leased to the band. The picnic area by Clear Lake, behind the museum, got three large kitchen shelters of the Banff design in 1959 and 1960. Only shelters number one and three remain. Other shelters of this type were built at the group campground, Camp Kippechewin, established at the west end of Clear Lake. Riding Mountain National Park (Ottawa: National Parks Bureau, 1937), 21. Riding Mountain National Park, Manitoba, Canada (Ottawa: Canadian Government Travel Bureau, ca. 1955), 6.

144 **Campgrounds** In 1962 the newly-opened Wasagaming Campground provided much needed townsite camping spaces for tents and trailers. The new locale included washroom and kitchen shelters specially-designed by Engineering Services Division. The Wasagaming Campground contains 14 kitchen shelters and 12 washroom buildings. The

heritage buildings associated with the campgrounds and picnic sites of Riding Mountain comprise distinct types. The most common structure is the kitchen shelter which is found in almost every site. The kitchen shelters fall into three main periods: the 1930s, 1950s and 1960s; each period with its distinctive type. The 1930s shelters surviving at the old Clear Lake Campground are similar in having log uprights and low pitched roofs. The 1950s shelters found at a number of sites around the park all have the distinctive hipped roof while the 1960s shelters found at the Wasagaming Campground and Lake Katherine are more substantially built and employ more modern materials such as plywood and glazed brick. Washroom buildings are equally ubiquitous but there are fewer examples of the pre-1970 designs. There is one community hall at the Clear Lake Campground and two ice houses in the same area. The community hall and ice houses are rare surviving examples of functional types

Campgrounds 145 JAMBOREE HALL Background In 1930-31 a five-acre parcel of land to the west of the Clear Lake townsite was surveyed as a campground. During the next five years a succession of structures was built to provide amenities to the ever-increasing numbers of campers, many of whom were coming for longer stays. Facilities included kitchen shelters, ice houses with food storage facilities, washrooms, lavatories and, in 1933, a substantial pavilion-type structure referred to as a community shelter or Jamboree building. This structure, popularly known as the Jamboree Hall, was constructed to provide a social centre for entertainment, lantern slide shows, and other social activities at the campground. It was one of a succession of buildings erected as shelters and community halls in camping and recreational areas within national parks during the 1930s. A least four were based on a standard plan prepared by the National Parks Branch's Architectural Division. These were built in Prince Albert, Waterton Lakes, Elk Island and Riding Mountain National Parks between 1932 and 1934. A slightly smaller version was constructed in Georgian Bay Islands National Park during fiscal year 1935-36. The Jamboree Hall displays the peeled log construction methods employed in the park during the 1930-36 period. The roof is supported by a truss system constructed of peeled logs supported in turn by vertical log posts set on a concrete slab and concrete piers. One end and a portion of the sides are enclosed by horizontal logs set between the vertical posts. A stone chimney and fireplace is located at the centre of the enclosed end wall. The remainder of the structure was probably open from the floor to the eaves but is now partially enclosed by low walls rising approximately one metre above grade. Jamboree Hall has been given a "Recognized" rating by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office. The building has undergone some alterations. In 1956 the walls were enclosed to a height of five feet. At other unspecified times several of the vertical posts were replaced, and the wooden shingles were replaced with asphalt shingles.

146 Campgrounds Heritage Character Statement The heritage value of the Jamboree Hall stems from its central function in the community life of the old campground and the seasonal cabin area. Architecturally, it is the most prominent building on the site and its

rustic elements of log uprights, open pole rafters and stone chimney contribute to the architectural character of both the seasonal cabin area and Wasagaming. Character defining elements including its siting at the head of the seasonal cabin area, and its rustic features.



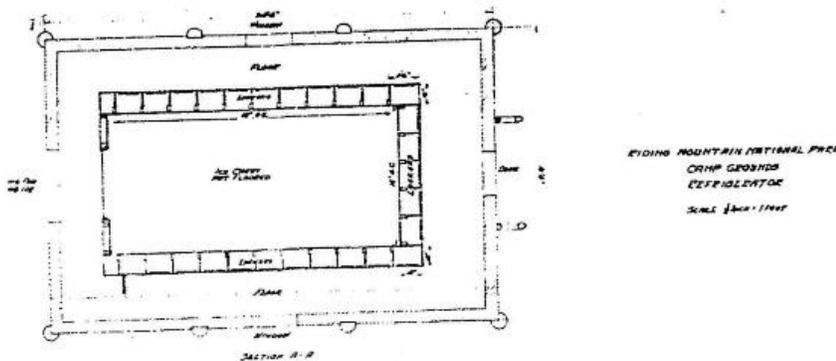
Jamboree Hall, 1999



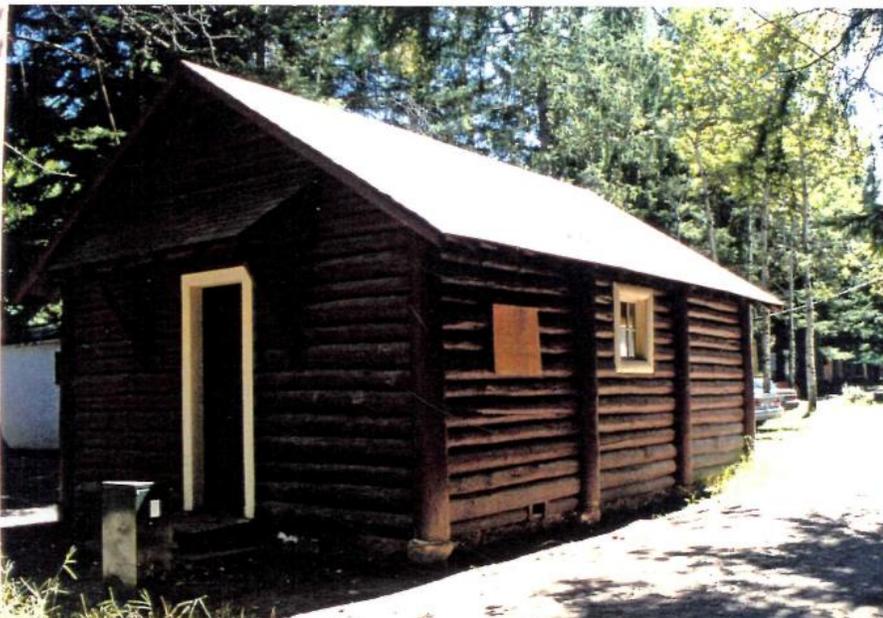
Campgrounds 147 Interior, Jamboree Hall, 1999

148 Campgrounds REFRIGERATOR BUILDINGS Background Two refrigerator buildings were built at the Clear Lake campground, in 1933 and 1934 respectively, using unemployment relief labour. The buildings measure 7.7 metres by 5.3 metres and incorporated sophisticated design techniques compared to the relatively simple designs of the other campground facilities. The buildings contained centrally-placed ice chambers

accessible through the large double doors at the end of the buildings. A concrete slab was laid out around the perimeter of the ice chamber, and the exterior walls of the chambers were equipped with lockers where campers could store their perishable food supplies. Public access was through the single door on the other gable end, which was covered with a shed roofed hood. Wall construction was of peeled logs, horizontally laid and butted against vertical corner posts. Refrigerator buildings were phased out of use in national park campgrounds in the 1950s. Due to their robust construction, they have found other uses. One has been recycled at the Waskesiu works compound, in Prince Albert National Park. The Wasagaming ice houses are the only known examples still associated with a campground plan although they too have been recycled. One has been converted to a storage building and the other now serves as a kitchen shelter. This second example has been more heavily altered as it has had one wall removed to open it up along one side. Heritage Character Statement The heritage character of the former refrigerator buildings derives from the historical relationship with the old campground, and its historical associations with refrigeration before the introduction of electricity to the area. Character defining elements include the materials, colour, window, door and drain details.



Original floorplan for Refrigerator Building [Parks Canada, Professional Services RM-21]



Campgrounds 149

150 Campgrounds 1930s KITCHEN SHELTERS Background A succession of about 26 kitchen shelters was built at the Clear Lake campground between 1931 and 1936. There is some variation in size and design, though all the shelters feature moderately-pitched roofs supported by vertical log posts set on either concrete piers or on slabs. Standard features are a pair of wood stoves of concrete and iron construction placed in the centre, flanked by picnic tables. The number of vertical posts varies from six to eight. These support roof trusses, of either log or milled wood construction, and low-pitched gable or hipped roofs. The eight-post variety is the most typical. The shelters are associated with communal water spigots. The kitchen shelters are located on footpaths running between the rows of cabins and form focal points for blocks of cabin sites. Extended families and friends occupying clusters of cabins use these shelters as communal gathering places in the evenings. The Clear Lake kitchen shelters are a rare surviving example of a 1930s style. The Waterton Townsite campground has some 1930s kitchen shelters and there are two at the old Patricia Lake campground in Jasper although these are no longer used by the park. Heritage Character Statement The heritage character of the kitchen shelters derives from their historical relationship with the site blocks, and their traditional use by long term campers and seasonal cottage owners. Character defining elements are the upright log posts with open walls, pole rafters, log gable ends and concrete and iron stoves.



Campgrounds 151 1950s KITCHEN SHELTERS Background In 1952 the Banff Engineering Office devised a plan for a large kitchen shelter for use in the mountain campgrounds. This design was soon adapted for use in national park campgrounds across the country. Although the plan varied in its details through the 1950s, the basic design consisted of a rectangular plan, measuring about five by ten metres (16 by 35 feet), with about 14 vertical log posts supporting a hipped roof. The plan describes a half wall

formed of horizontal cedar siding with an entrance on the long side. The inside usually had two wood burning stoves. Variations of this plan have windows screening three or four sides or the entrances at the short sides. The very earliest examples of this design had pole rafters. By the mid-1950s two by six-dimension lumber was being used for the roof supports. By the late 1950s, dimension lumber had replaced logs as the vertical posts. This form of kitchen shelter can be found at the old Clear Lake Campground (numbers 8 and 9), the Whirlpool Lake Campground, the Moon Lake picnic site and campground, the Lake Audy campground, Camp Kippechewin and the Central Park picnic grounds. A particularly fine example is Kitchen Shelter Number 1 at Lake Audy which has the log posts, cedar shingle roof and windows along three sides. The 1950s design continued to be utilized into the 1960s. New shelters built in 1963 at the old Clear Lake campground are of this type. Heritage Character Statement These structures are emblematic of outdoor recreation (camping and picnicking) in the national parks. Character defining elements include the log uprights (if extant), tapered siding, and hipped roof with cedar shingles.



152 Campgrounds 1960s KITCHEN SHELTERS Background: The Wasagaming Campground which opened in 1964 included 14 kitchen shelters of a remarkably different design from the traditional structures that predated it. Designed by the Engineering Services Division in 1961, they were more spacious than the 1952 design, measuring 12 by eight metres. The massive posts were replaced by slender four by four uprights, the roof was low pitched with a prow gable and the walls were formed of decorative brick. Inside, post and beam construction continued the modern treatment of the structure. A large brick double stove and firewood box formed a centrepiece for the interior space. Twelve toilet buildings were constructed at the same time as the kitchen shelters and form a companion piece, having a similar roof treatment and being clad in the same decorative brick. As washroom buildings are regularly replaced in the national parks, these washroom buildings are among the oldest of their kind in the park. In 1963 six new shelters were built at Lake Katherine. They are similar to but not identical to the Wasagaming Campground shelters. Also designed by Engineering Services Division, they have plain gables and feature plywood and tapered cedar siding instead of the decorative brick. Heritage Character Statement: The Wasagaming Campground kitchen shelters are unusual examples of this building type in the national park system. They

represent a deliberate move away from the Rustic building tradition, and towards a new expression of modern design idiom. Character defining elements include the post and beam construction technique, decorative brick walls and stove boxes, prow shaped eave. The Lake Katherine examples, although interesting, are not as rare nor as distinctive as those in the Wasagaming Campground.

