

JOE'S HILL RUNWAY

This runway is located on the Old Drohan Road (the lower road) about half way between the road going into the Basswoods and Johnny King's Pine. It was named after Joe Ritza a bachelor from Barry's Bay. (He lived on a farm about 2 miles out of the Bay on the Old Barry's Bay Road going towards Halfway - before the Golf Course). The Drohan Road at that time came straight up the Hill and there was a 90 degree turn at the foot of the Hill, heading over towards the Basswoods Road. The logging trucks, when coming down the hill with a load or going back empty, had to be going very slowly in order to negotiate the turn. Therefore the hill had to be kept well sanded. Joe Ritza was John T. Drohan Lumber Company's main hill sander and he spent a lot of his time keeping Joe's Hill well sanded as well as other hills, like Icy Hill. He would have two or three fire pits burning on the roadside going up the hill in order to melt the frozen ground and then he'd spread the hot gravel sand on the wheel tracks. Holes in the ground from the fire pits and the sand removal can still be observed on the roadside.