

“A ship in harbor  
is safe, but that is not  
what ships are  
built for.”

J. Shedd



Sue  
Nielsen

If there's one thing my daughter and I share, it is a love for experience.

I often describe the bond between mother and daughter as “unbreakable”. This bond brought my daughter and I together last weekend for a glamping stay at Farr Island on Lake Temiskaming.

Farr Island is a destination about ten minutes south of the Haileybury waterfront.

You must travel by boat to get to this five-acre island owned by Jocelyn and Nicole of President's Suites.

They bought the island from the Farr family -- Charles Cobbold Farr being the founder of Haileybury.

We quickly discovered the beauty and magic of this getaway retreat, located in our very own backyard so to speak.

It has a natural beach area, a mix of cedar, pines and birch trees and faces Quebec on the east side and Haileybury on the west side. It has a glamping tent, an enchanted forest, a tree tent and a multi-trail network.

My daughter Whitney is heading off to discover Europe and this may have been the only time we could get together before she flies to Iceland in mid-September.

Over the course of the weekend we took the time to relax, wind down, talk, laugh, explore and sleep.

Yes, we slept like logs. Who wouldn't with the gentle sound of the water lapping against the rocks?

Our glamping prospector tent

was wonderful. It was filled with antique furniture and provided the perfect ambience.

We cooked a massive feast in the main dining area complete with a kitchen, cooking stations and seating area all facing the nearby lake.

If I were ever going to say my nuptials again, this would be the magical place to do it.

Of course you know a canoe would have to be involved.

While Whitney slept in the tree tent covered in an authentic Hudson's Bay wool blanket, I took the canoe out for a paddle on a calm Lake Temiskaming. I circled the island to get a better idea of what it looked like from the water.

I saw several species of birds, a great blue heron, loons, gulls, a hummingbird and an osprey.

I've heard the fishing is fantastic at this location because of a rock ridge that runs along the east side of the island.

Being surrounded by water was the perfect backdrop for the mental health vacation we were both in need of.

Our weekend had just the right mix of outdoor and indoor time enabling us to relax and recharge, but to speak openly and honestly about our lives as well.

My daughter is headstrong, adventurous and keen to discover the big wide world. I am extremely proud of her.

Perhaps while we were in the process of discovering Farr Island, we discovered a bit more of why we love each other?

I will miss her dearly.