



*"Share the Gift of Summer Camp!"*



# THE GULL ROCK GAZETTE

Volume 16 Issue 1 - Published by Amici and Kilcoo Camp - Spring 2009  
visit us at [www.amicharity.org](http://www.amicharity.org) & [www.kilcoo.com](http://www.kilcoo.com)



## NEW CANOES; OLD SOUL"

By: F. Nelson Archer, Gazette Staff Writer

**P**icture this, friends, if you will: mid-July, Gull Lake. You are just off Chapel Point, soloing a canoe as the sinking sun's final rays, illuminating the sky orange and purple and red, dissipate dully into the aluminum hull of your boat. Uhm, wait. Picture it: mid-July, Gull Lake. You are just off Chapel Point, soloing a canoe as the sinking sun's final rays illuminate the sky with hues of orange and purple and red, the black and vermillion waves lapping at the Kevlar of. . . . No. Stop. Who am I trying to fool? We all know that there is no substitute for a traditionally-made, hand-crafted, finely-finished cedar and canvas canoe. Anyone who has paddled one of Kilcoo's boats knows this all too well.

At one point, Kilcoo had 75 such canoes. Unfortunately, less than two-dozen now remain. Time and tripping have taken their toll. These boats, some at least thirty years old, are in a sad state of disrepair, held together (literally) with caulking, duct tape, and lots of varnish. Kilcoo Camp has made a bold move to begin re-building our fleet. Bold, because in this modern age of space-age synthetics and mass-production, we have decided to preserve both our Canadian camping heritage and the dying art of canoe-building by outfitting the new fleet solely with cedar and canvas canoes.

The original Kilcoo canoes were made locally, in Minden, by a woman named May Minto. She made both 12- and 16-foot canoes, from the early 1950's until her retirement in 1983. Kilcoo purchased mostly the 16-foot version, and these boats became so popular that camps like Onondaga and Gay



Venture also began to use them exclusively.

However, the Minto Canoe Company no longer exists. While many boat companies still produce wooden canoes, retail pricing far exceeds Kilcoo's budget. The solution? We'll build 'em ourselves!

The idea was brought forth by Ian Currie

(canoeing instructor, extraordinaire) who contacted Scott Walker ('84), who himself re-finished Chief's own Minto for Kilcoo in 2008. Like a shoe, canoes are built on a mould. Over the years many attempts were made to locate the original Minto mould; it is very likely that it no longer exists. Thus, the decision was made to find a very good example of one of the "Mintos" and reverse engineer a new mould with it. A number of good boats were located, but David Blandford's ('85) boat (one of the last three ever made by May) was the best candidate as it is in pristine condition and a near-perfect example of a newly-made 16-foot Minto.

The Canoe was taken to the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, where it was scanned using a custom-designed 3 dimensional boat (or hull) scanner created by well-known Canadian marine architect, Steve Killing. Once scanned, Steve was hired to take the raw data and create blueprints for the "New Minto" and corresponding machine instructions for a computer-navigated cutter to make the skeleton of the new mould. Rather than be restricted by the limitations of the past, we used this opportunity to clean-up and "fair" the shape, stability, and handling of the boat – something that was not possible when May was building – to, essentially, make these new "Kilcoos" even better than the real thing without compromising the traditional design.

Once the mould skeleton was cut, renowned Canadian canoe builder Ron Frenette acted as mentor and guide to transfer his skills and knowledge to Marc Russell (former Program Director, etc.), who would build the new mould



*L-R: Steve Killing, Ron Frenette, Marc Russell, Scott Walker; the "Kilcoo" mould on left, the first "Kilcoo" on right.*

and begin the process of building the first new Kilcoo canoes in 25 years.

Marc has been working away at a private wood shop in Caledon, but by summer he will transfer the Project to Kilcoo Camp. He estimates that we'll have six to eight new "Kilcoos" by September. Have no fear; these boats will retain the characteristic orange and green paint of the Kilcoo Mintos. "We – Lub, myself, Scott, everyone! – knows how important tradition is to Kilcoo. Restoring the existing boats is just not an option; they're just too far gone," states Marc. Lub agrees: "We could have gone for a cheaper alternative for the fleet, like plastic or Kevlar, but there is really no question in our minds that we're doing the right thing. We're using the finest materials; Kilcoo is putting a lot into this. These boats are awesome." Moreover, arrangements are being finalised to make this boat available for private sale (those interested in buying their own "Kilcoo" should contact Marc, through the Kilcoo office in Toronto).

Since the beginning of the Project, Scott has been an instrumental source of information about the Minto Canoe and its history at Kilcoo Camp. He has done extensive research in the field, research that will hopefully see the light of day. Special thanks to Scott and Ian Currie for their vision. The Gull Rock Gazette will continue to keep you, our beloved Alumni, informed of progress in this exciting venture – just one of the many ways that Kilcoo is striving to merge our time-honoured traditions and values with current demands to keep our camp thriving!

 **RAY BOWERS**

## EDITOR'S MUSINGS

*The strength of the Kilcoo connections*

**T**he strength of the Kilcoo connections often surprises and delights me, and demonstrates that it really is a small world. Over the past three years I have outreached through the internet to make contact with a number of people who were central to the Kilcoo operation in my era of the 50's and 60's and earlier. I had always wondered about a former camper of mine, Roger MacNutt, who according to rumour died of a self inflicted gunshot wound while training to leave for Vietnam in the 1970's. Following a visit to Washington last year I had written a tribute to Roger on the "Virtual Wall" – with unexpected results. First, I heard from another Vietnam Vet with news of Roger. Yes, he did die as described above, but before that he had won two purple hearts for bravery during his tour of duty in Vietnam. Then not too much later I received an e-mail from his older brother John (formerly on Kilcoo's staff) who had seen my message. Both were cousins of Bill MacNutt whose premature death in 1960 will forever be commemorated with the plaque at Chapel Point. All this brings the memories back to a time when the Lago Refinery clan from Aruba were fixtures at Kilcoo: the MacNutt's including Bill's sister Rita, the Hagerty's – Tim and Joan, and Karen Mathiason, now living in Jacksonville, Florida. Then last spring I received a surprise visit from Rick Bendera, up from his home near Phoenix, Arizona. Rick and I went to high school together in Toronto and it was at my urging that he joined the Kilcoo staff. I recently enjoyed a visit from Cam Turner, in from Sechelt, British Columbia to see his father. Cam had read in the last issue of the Gazette about the passing of Guy Gausby who had been a very good friend during his Kilcoo days and how their lives had gone in different directions since. He recounted growing up in North Toronto with J.C. Williams and Bill Phipps and I think the loss of the "Kilcoo connection" was in the forefront of his mind. We talked about how we could make the camp website more inviting as a place for camp alumnae to connect with each other. I had discussed this with some alumnae at last fall's reunion and while my present full time involvement with Camp Awakening has stalled my efforts to proceed with this, I would welcome suggestions from any alumnae from any decade. Please forward your suggestions for me to work on. This June I will be driving to Peterborough to join several alumnae from the area for lunch and a visit to the Canadian Canoe Museum. To date, John Dewan has signed up to join me for the drive up and it looks like we could have a group in excess of 15 alumnae. If you live in the Peterborough area and would like to join in, let me know and I will send you more details. (For that matter, you don't have to live there. Possibly Bob Slingerland and Jamie McAlpine from the Collingwood/Shelburne area will participate as might Peter Oyler from Minden and Barry Reynolds from Bobcaygeon.) All are welcome. I would also strongly urge any of you to reconnect with former friends from camp when you can. Feel free to check with me if you are wondering about the whereabouts of people who might be on our data base. Jeff MacDonald's article in this issue, submitted from his home in Greece is a further indicator that Kilcoo memories live on and are worth keeping.

To the 17 individuals from Kilcoo's 2008 staff who will not be returning this summer and to whom I wrote welcoming them to the ranks of the alumnae, my message is simple. Make the effort necessary to maintain your connections with Kilcoo and your friends from Kilcoo if they were meaningful to you. The payback is worth it.



**PAUL CHAMBERLAIN**

## ART SHOW IN SUPPORT OF AMICI

*An evening of friends, food, and art*

**T**wenty five years ago it would only take a few perfect spring days to send me rummaging for a tattered Kilcoo gear checklist and begin packing my mothballed trunk for camp. The fact that the bus didn't leave for another 3 months didn't diminish in the slightest the nervous anticipation of meeting up with old friends for new adventures. Here in 2009 spring fever is in full bloom and new rituals have supplanted the old. One such ritual is my good friend Peter Taylor's annual Art exhibit in support of Amici. Right now he is pushing paint and rapidly ticking off the days until May 20th when he'll host the 10th iteration of the show! It has been 17 years since he last packed his trunk bound for Kilcoo but preparing for this show rekindles the same emotions. For Peter it is a time to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones, and share some fine memories.

If you've had the opportunity to visit Peter at his new home base then you've probably already seen many of the subjects of this year's



body of work. You're barely in the door before Pete is pointing out how the morning light ignites the valley rim, or he's leading you through the web of roads and trails that divide the Creemore area into a patchwork tapestry of farm and forest. You may have even gotten your hands dirty harvesting veggies at Brent Preston's organic farm just up the road (and met the wily pig named in Peter's honour!). Any of these moments could be the inspiration for a painting, and any of his paintings could be a potent reminder of your own experiences. For me Peter's art has always been about the countless stories behind each image, about what happens when you're outdoors with friends. It is apt, therefore, that Peter's show is in support of sending kids to camp.

Please come and enjoy an evening of friends, food, and art and, in the process, help share the gift of summer camp. A portion of art sales (and all bar sales) go directly to Amici. The event is child friendly with space to "be a kid" in the garden out back.

### ONE NIGHT ONLY

**Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

**5:30-11pm**

**Women's Art Association**

**23 Prince Arthur Avenue, Toronto**

**(one street north of Bloor just west of Avenue Rd)**

You can pre-view Peter's work at [www.petertaylorpaintings.com](http://www.petertaylorpaintings.com). He can be reached via email at [petertaylorpaintings@hotmail.com](mailto:petertaylorpaintings@hotmail.com) or directly at either 705-466-5424 or 416-302-1272 (cell).



**MICHAEL BAIN '95**



# CELEBRATING KILCOO ALUMNAE EXCELLENCE

*An update on the contributions of three alumnae*

Many Kilcoo alumnae have moved on in life to establish an excellent record of leadership in their communities, their careers, and many others within the community in which they live which is no less important.

At this juncture we should celebrate three from among us. Hal Hannaford (1967-1984), long time camper and staff member who served as Kilcoo's director following John Latimer's retirement recently left his post as headmaster of Royal St. George's College in Toronto to take up the same post with Selwyn House School in Montreal. Word on "the street" is that this will be a real challenge, but we know Hal is up for it. In a news article featuring Hal he was lauded for his ability to influence lives and bring out the best in those around him. His long time record of community service was also noted. For Kilcoo, he truly led the way for Lub.



We also found out this fall that Jay Haddad (1959-1973; 80-81) has been elected as president of the Ontario Camps Association which is a testament to the high degree of respect in which he is held by his many colleagues in the camping field. Jay has served the Lion's Club for many years as director of Camp Bellaleo and will now add

another time consuming challenge to his schedule.

Peter Sharpe (1961-65) has been CEO of Cadillac Fairview. Recently he was nominated to serve through 2010 as Chairman of the International Council of Shopping Centres. It is a challenging time for business and one of his goals as chair will be to steer his industry in its attempts to effect an improvement in the flow of capital while assisting those most likely displaced by the economic downturn. Peter's track record suggests he is just the person to make it work. To the three of you we offer our congratulations on making your mark in your chosen career. If any other alumnae have news of excellence to celebrate, please send the details to the editor (pchamp@sympatico.ca.)



## FIRESIDE CHAT

*Reflections from Lub*

My 25th year as director... Wow, I am getting old! Now having said that, I have to tell you all how excited I am for Kilcoo's 78th year. The summer is shaping up very well and we are "packed" with kids. One note of interest to you, our alumni, is the fact that we have expanded from 3 to 6 two-week cabins. The sessions apply to kids up to 11 years old, and after 12 you still come for a month. We have "rebuilt" cabins 16 & 17, and yes, we have saved as many names as possible from the old walls. Brian and Kent, who is now in his second year at Kilcoo, have been busy all winter with their usual maintenance tasks. The Advance Camp boys head up on April 27th and the first school, the Eastdale Eagles arrive on May 1st. After the spring school group season we roll into the summer and then another fall season with more groups!

It is comforting to know that Kilcoo is doing so well and I have to say that a great deal of that success has to do with you, the alumni. Not only are there so many kids that have "Kilcoo fathers", a number that grows every year; but it is our "word of mouth" advertising and

your support of Kilcoo that means so much. At last year's September reunion, the emotion and the passion



that was shown for Kilcoo was overwhelming to me. It reminded me how important my task is as the person who leads this wonderful legacy. I think that, particularly in this day in age, a place that values character, friendships of all ages, and celebrating tradition is more important than ever. It was so great for my boys, TJ & Charlie, to be in Cabin 1 last summer and they are so excited about being in Cabin 4 this July for a month. I also feel so lucky that Brooke and Beth love it up at camp, and that camp welcomes them so much.

I hope that you, like me, will get some great news from this amazing newsletter and I also hope that at some point, you will come back home to Gull Lake. The "Kilcoo Spirit" is alive and well, and as my brave friend Dave Graham reminded us in such a positive manner... "Every day is a gift"

Beth, TJ, Charlie, Brooke & my Mom all join me in saying... Rip Ram Razzle Scram... Thanks

 **DAVID "LUB" LATIMER**

## LIFE AFTER KILCOO

*An update on various Kilcoo alumni - keep us posted!*

A brief comment on what some of you have done since your summers at Kilcoo. More will be included in future issues of the Gazette. For alumni who have not submitted anything we invite you to send us details about yourself; to others, please update us if these reports or what you sent before is out of date. Send any information to [pchamp@sympatico.ca](mailto:pchamp@sympatico.ca)

**DEREK ALLEN (1961-69)** living in Toronto with his wife where he has carved a long career in teaching and administration at Trinity College at the University of Toronto.

**ROSS FERGUSON (1964-67)** lives with Brigitte working in mortgage securitization. His two sons both went to Kilcoo. Busy with golf and curling.

**JEN ASHBY (1991-92)** taught Arts and Crafts at camp. Working as a recreation therapist in Toronto after a return to school.

**JOE BALES (1972-79)** lives in Toronto. Children all went to camp, two to Kilcoo. A pilot with Air Canada, was a test pilot for Bombardier.

**STU BRAUND (1956-58)** a retired banker, Stu is still involved in residential real estate. Lives in Brampton, Ontario.

**DOUG CALDWELL (1956-76)** married to wife Cheryl (Haddad), has enjoyed a long career in secondary school student counseling west of Toronto. Enjoys cottage on Horseshoe Lake north of Kilcoo.

**JOE DELUCA (1988-93)** after Kilcoo finished at law school and now works as a lawyer in Toronto. Enjoys water polo in his leisure time.

**DAN KRAUSZ (1996-2004)** finished business administration at Wilfred Laurier in 2007. Now working and in pursuit of his C.A. designation.

**GARTH GILPIN (1955)** after his only year at Kilcoo, Garth has gone on to a 43 year career in teaching at a secondary school system east of Toronto.

**PAUL HARRISON (1959-64)** retired in 2000 after 45 years as Director of Parks and Recreation near Hamilton. He is still very involved as a volunteer with special needs camps.

**JAMIE MCALPINE (1953-69)** After a long career in teaching, Jamie loves retirement with wife Anne on his farm north of Toronto.

**ALEX LAWRENCE (1940-46)** living in Sun City, Arizona after retiring from aerospace engineering. Enjoys his eleven grandchildren.

**KEN JONES (1964-78)** continues with teaching and music in a career that spans 40 years and a career at Kilcoo that continues even in 2009.

**CLIVE CHAMBERLAIN (1954-60)** he of the Yodar Kritch legend has enjoyed a long career as an eminent psychiatrist in the Toronto area. Favourite time spent with wife Mary and seven grandchildren.

**ROB DENNYS (1971-77)** lives in Bracebridge with wife Lynn and two children. Long career in teaching, Rob has taken many school groups to Kilcoo.

**ROB MCADAM (1966-75)** works for Hewlett Packard in marketing. Lives with wife Elspeth and daughter Jocelyn.

## CANOE HEADS FOR KIDS

*A 40 Kilometer portage*

In support of Amici, on June 20th a group of brave souls and former summer camp pals will once again strap canoes to their backs and portage and paddle a total of 40km along Toronto's waterfront (Victoria Park to the Humber River and back). The three teams this year are captained by Stuart Snyder/Willie Macrae, Jake Irwin and Rob Savage. For updates and donations follow the Canoe Heads link on the Amici site. [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org) If you have any questions or want to know how to help out feel free to e-mail [stuartsnyder@hotmail.com](mailto:stuartsnyder@hotmail.com).



### Coming in future issues of the Gull Rock Gazette

Advance and Post Camp – What is it and how has it changed over the decades? Reader participation requested – we will put together the favourite Kilcoo songs from the 30's to the present and give you the opportunity to vote for the top five in your era at Kilcoo.





# THE AMICI SPARK

"SPARK A CHANGE. SHARE THE GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP"

[www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

SPRING 2009



## LET'S SPARK A MOVEMENT

What's new? Applications to Amici for summer camp subsidies are up, no surprise in these uncertain times; and once again, we will have a waiting list of campers and families hoping to get a chance to attend camp this summer.

The good news is that because of your support, we are on track to provide an additional 20 weeks of camp to underprivileged children this year. That's a total of over 300 weeks of camp! Without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you for making summer dreams come true for over 130 young people in 2009.

Also, in recent weeks, Amici has jumped into the 21st Century digital fray, through activities that are loosely termed 'social media' – Facebook, Twitter, micro-blogging - to raise awareness amongst our community of loyal fans and former campers. As someone who cares about camp, we hope you'll help us expand the Amici web community to include more people who want to use their passion for summer camp to inspire change in their communities.

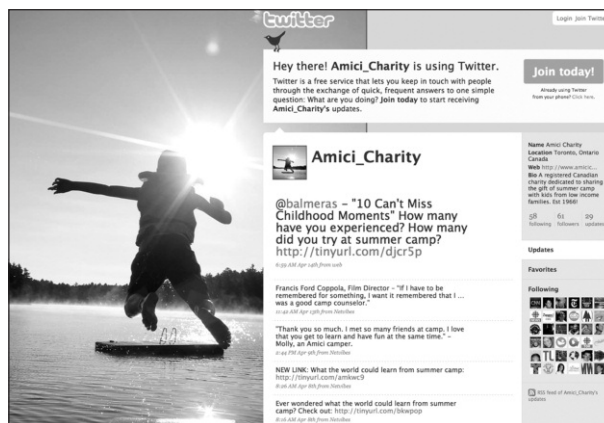
Through this technology, we hope to connect with you and keep you informed by sharing stories, successes, events and warm-fuzzy milestones; to share Amici news items that will help you understand the profound impact of your support on the children and families we serve; to pass along words, sounds and images that will keep that magical camp feeling

glowing in your heart all year long! We would also like to hear all about what camp means to you: how it affected (and continues to affect) your life, your friends, your values; why you feel camp is more relevant today than ever before, and why you love your favourite camp-inspired photo albums and playlists.

You see, this is a movement. Amici, just like summer camp, is about all of us. As you have already discovered, camp is a place where kids can explore nature, meet friends from different backgrounds and play games outside. They also find new role models, acquire new skills, and discover what it means to care for the environment. When they return home, they bring with them confidence, independence, self-esteem and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Many of us have been lucky enough to experience camp ourselves and all of us are committed to passing on that experience to the next generation. We want to build a community of like-minded camp fans who are committed to ensuring that every child has access to this amazing experience, regardless of financial barriers. It's going to take all of us working together to accomplish this goal. We can't do it without you.

You may have been interested in getting



involved with Amici in the past, but never had the time, opportunity or, let's face it...cash. Well, here's your chance! If you are already an active user of these forums, please stop by and check us out at [http://twitter.com/Amici\\_Charity](http://twitter.com/Amici_Charity) or at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search "Amici Camping Charity"; become a follower, friend and online pal of Amici. If you are wondering what all the buzz is about, but haven't yet explored the "Twitter-verse", now is the perfect time to find out.

So, while our online movement may not attract the same mass number of people (for now) as those interested in, say, the latest Britney Spears video, it's still – definitely – a movement. Thanks for tuning in and we hope you will be a part of it.

**Kate Horton**

*Executive Director*

[kate@amicicharity.org](mailto:kate@amicicharity.org)

## AMICI JOINS CHARITY CAR RECYCLING PROGRAM

Your Used Car Can Send Kids to Camp and Help the Environment! Be part of the green solution! If you have a vehicle that is no longer of any use to you and you're not quite sure what to do with it, please consider donating it to Amici through the End of Life Vehicles Charity Car Recycling Program. Your used vehicle will be picked up at no cost, safely recycled by a certified dealer and you will receive a tax receipt from Amici for the full value of the vehicle. Amici will receive 100% of the value of your vehicle. For more information, please visit [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org); or [www.charitycars.ca](http://www.charitycars.ca)



**Would you rather receive this newsletter by email?**

By reading this newsletter on-line, you can help us reduce our paper and mailing costs, and direct more funds to our campership program. To receive the spring and fall newsletters by email, please send your name and contact email to: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org) (subject line: e-newsletter)

## FIVE REASONS YOUR CHILD NEEDS CAMP

As many former campers know, the benefits of the camping experience on young lives is immeasurable. Unfortunately, for those that haven't had the benefit of the experience, the impact is a little more difficult to wrap your head around. Thankfully associations like the ACA and OCA continue to conduct research to help qualify and quantify the many benefits.

Below is our second installment, a reprint of research conducted by the American Camp Association (ACA) in 2008.

### Five Reasons Your Child Needs Camp.

**1. Camp forever changes your child... for the better** – American Camp Association® (ACA) research has confirmed that camps build skills necessary to prepare campers to assume roles as successful adults. Campers said that camp helped them make new friends (96%), get to know kids who are different from them (93%), feel good about themselves (92%), and try things they were afraid to do at first (74%).

**2. Camp teaches your child to "move it, move it"** – Camp provides children the opportunity to try new things and participate in human powered activities. According to surveys by both the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an American child is six times more likely to play a videogame on any given day than to ride a bike. An estimated 22 million of the world's children under the age of five are already considered obese. According to research conducted by ACA, 63 percent of children who learn new activities at camp tend to continue engaging in these activities after they return home.

This leads to continued physical exercise that lasts a lifetime.

**3. Camp keeps all that hard work from going to waste** – Camps understand the critical role they play in helping young people learn and grow. Many offer programs that help reduce summer learning loss, bolster academic enrichment and socialization, provide opportunities for leadership development, and ensure that campers achieve their full potential.

**4. Camp allows us to take a deep breath and feel the nature** – Camp is a great way for your child to unplug from the iPod® and plug into the world around them. According to a study by two Cornell University environmental psychologists, being close to nature can help boost a child's attention span. Additionally, a study conducted by the University of Essex in England concluded that nature can help people recover from pre-existing stresses or problems, has an immunizing effect that can protect from future stresses, and helps people to concentrate and think more clearly. In some instances, camp may be the only time a child is in contact with the natural world.

**5. Camp is fun** – It's true; kids do sing silly songs and play funny games at camp. Children are allowed to play in a safe and nurturing environment, and are allowed to just be kids. Play is a powerful form of learning that contributes mightily to the child's healthy physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development. According to an American Academy of Pediatrics report, creative free play protects a child's emotional development and reduces a child's risk of stress, anxiety, and depression.

## CAMP INSPIRATIONS: GUESS WHO WENT TO CAMP

For well over a century, the camping experience has been instrumental in sparking the imagination, and as well, a source of inspiration for young minds - creating artists, actors, musicians, business leaders, politicians, scientists, innovators and more.



**5 pts.** For more than four decades, he has been a leader in the entertainment industry.

**4 pts.** He began his career at ABC, where he helped take the network from No. 3 to No. 1 with such landmark shows as Happy Days and Barney Miller.

**3 pts.** In 1976, he became President of Paramount Pictures, and soon made the studio No. 1.

**2 pts.** In 1984, he assumed the position of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Co.

**1 pt.** His name rhymes with 'Like Al Wiser'

*Information courtesy of the American Camp Association®, copyright 2008 American Camping Association, Inc.*

In our ongoing effort to espouse the benefits of camp, we've decided to introduce a new segment. "GUESS WHO WENT TO CAMP?" In every issue, we'll give you a bio, you guess the famed camper who has gone on to inspired work.

Thank you to our Amazing Partner Camps!

**Camp Arrowhead**  
[www.arrowhead.on.ca](http://www.arrowhead.on.ca)

**Camp Awakening – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campawakening.com](http://www.campawakening.com)

**Camp Bellaleo**  
[www.campbellaleo.com](http://www.campbellaleo.com)

**Camp Can Aqua – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.canaqua.ca](http://www.canaqua.ca)

**Cedar Ridge Camp**  
[www.cedarridgecamp.ca](http://www.cedarridgecamp.ca)

**Camp Couchiching**  
[www.campcouchiching.com](http://www.campcouchiching.com)

**Frontier Trails Camp**  
[www.frontiertrailscamp.com](http://www.frontiertrailscamp.com)

**Glen Bernard Camp**  
[www.gbcbcamp.com](http://www.gbcbcamp.com)

**Camp Kandalore**  
[www.kandalore.com](http://www.kandalore.com)

**Camp Kawartha**  
[www.campkawartha.ca](http://www.campkawartha.ca)

**Camp Kennebec**  
[www.campkennebec.com](http://www.campkennebec.com)

**Kilcoo Camp**  
[www.kilcoo.com](http://www.kilcoo.com)

**Camp Kirk – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campkirk.com](http://www.campkirk.com)

**Camp Medeba**  
[www.medeba.com](http://www.medeba.com)

**Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da**  
[www.miakonda.com](http://www.miakonda.com)

**Camp Oconto**  
[www.campoconto.com](http://www.campoconto.com)

**Onondaga Camp**  
[www.onondagacamp.com](http://www.onondagacamp.com)

**Camp Otterdale**  
[www.campotterdale.com](http://www.campotterdale.com)

**Camp Tanamakoon**  
[www.tanamakoon.com](http://www.tanamakoon.com)

**Camp Tawingo**  
[www.tawingo.net](http://www.tawingo.net)

**Camp Wabikon**  
[www.wabikon.com](http://www.wabikon.com)

**Camp Winston – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campwinston.com](http://www.campwinston.com)

**YMCA Camp Kitchikewana**  
[www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

**YMCA Camp Pine Crest**  
[www.camppinecrest.ca](http://www.camppinecrest.ca)

**YMCA Camp Queen Elizabeth**  
[www.campqueenelizabeth.ca](http://www.campqueenelizabeth.ca)

**YMCA Camp Wanakita**  
[www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca](http://www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca)

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: GEORGE WRIGHT

**S**uper-volunteer George Wright has donated countless hours of time to Amici in many capacities over the last 10 years: as the Event Coordinator of the annual Ball Hockey Tournament and John R Latimer (JRL) Classic Golf Tournament, and lending his talents to many other events and activities along the way. This fall, George joined the Amici Board of Directors, contributing his leadership to the Volunteers portfolio. George spent many years as a camper and staff member at Kilcoo Camp; and in his current “day job” George is an Investment Advisor and Associate Portfolio Manager at CIBC Wood Gundy.

### **Q: If a friend asked you why they should volunteer with Amici, what would you tell them?**

If they had the same type of experiences at camp that I did, then I don't think it's a difficult 'sell'. Anytime I can tell people that they would be giving kids a shot at the type

of experiences we had growing up as campers, they seem very receptive. If they didn't go to camp, then I try to explain the value of camp – the people you meet, the lessons you learn, etc.

### **Q: What do Amici volunteers do? How can someone get involved?**

There are many ways to get involved. You might have a specific interest in one of our events or you may be interested other areas, such as fundraising, campership, finance etc. The best way to get involved is to contact myself, Kate or anyone else on the Board of Directors. We would then discuss what you had in mind or might enjoy the most. For me, I love hockey and golf so the fit with these two events was perfect for me.

### **Q: Why is camp important to you?**

By far the number one way camp affected me was through all the people I met there.

I went to camp for 15 years and met some of my best friends along the way - they remain my best friends to this day. I have since introduced a bunch of other friends to my camp buddies and so the 'web' has grown even further. Now whenever we see one another, there are always old camp jokes and greetings. I couldn't even imagine what my life would have been like without all these great people. I consider myself lucky this way which makes volunteering so easy – I help create the same friendships and experiences for kids less fortunate than me.



For more information on volunteering with Amici, please email George at: [george.wright@cibc.ca](mailto:george.wright@cibc.ca)

## 2009 AMICI EVENTS CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, May 20th Peter Taylor Art Show Women's Art Association**

Stunning original works inspired by the great Canadian landscape: Georgian Bay, Creemore, Canadian shield. New this year is a large piece that Peter is offering for silent auction, with a portion of the proceeds going to Amici.

### **Monday, June 1st John R. Latimer Classic Golf Tournament Lakeridge Links Golf Club**

It's time to swing your clubs for kids and share the gift of summer camp! This year's event includes more on-course prizing, filet mignon dinner, beat the pro competition and a savings of \$25 per foursome over last year's pricing! Visit our website [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org) for more details and to pre-register. Early bird pricing expires May 20th.

### **Saturday, June 20th Canoe Head for Kids Toronto Waterfront**

A group of brave souls and former summer camp pals will once again strap canoes to their backs and portage and paddle a total of 40 km along Toronto's waterfront

(Victoria Park to the Humber River and back). Sign up to follow their progress in real time at [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

### **Friday, July 31st The Highland Yard 5K, 10K, 2K Minden, Ontario**

The 'Yard' is a long-standing tradition for Haliburton Highlands cottagers and residents, camp alumni and running clubs across Ontario. The Team Challenge 5K returns for another year and, new this year is a 2K Family Walk, post-race party and silent auction. See you there!



### **Wednesday, October 7th The Amici Mile Woodbine Racetrack**

Join us for Amici's night at the races! Evening includes buffet dinner, trackside tent, betting voucher and a full card of exciting thoroughbred action. Help make sending underprivileged kids to camp a sure bet - see you at the Amici Mile!



Want to be kept in the loop on Amici events?  
Please join our email list, by sending your contact info to: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org)



AN ART EXHIBIT OF PAINTINGS  
BY PETER TAYLOR IN SUPPORT  
OF AMICI TO HELP SHARE THE  
GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP

ONE NIGHT ONLY  
Wednesday May 20th, 2009  
5:30-11:00pm  
WOMAN'S ART ASSOCIATION  
23 Prince Arthur Avenue Toronto

Contact Peter if you're interested in  
pre-viewing any paintings

Peter Taylor





## Bruce's Golf REWARDS

Proudly presents...

### The 7th Annual John R Latimer (JRL) Classic in Support of Amici Camping Charity

Amici charity is proud to present Lakeridge Links as the new host site for our annual golf tournament. Come join us for a day of fun, exciting network opportunities, and to support a great charity!

#### The day will include:



- 18 Holes of golf
- Power Cart
- BBQ Lunch
- Filet mignon and chicken breast dinner
- Complimentary driving range
- Golf professional donated by Bruce's Golf Rewards
- Beat the pro
- On-course prizeing
- Silent auction
- Scramble format

**New location. Fantastic championship golf course. New amazing price.**

Proceeds to benefit Amici Camping Charity. Every \$1000 raised sends a child to camp.

**Date: Monday June 1st, 2009 | 1:00pm Shotgun Start**

\$150 per golfer	Advanced booking price. \$600 per foursome.
\$1000 Hole Sponsor	Includes foursome.
\$2500 Title Sponsor	Includes foursome. Package available upon request.

For driving directions to the golf course, visit [www.lakeridgelinks.com](http://www.lakeridgelinks.com)

To register online, visit [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

**Or mail cheques to:**  
Amici Camping Charity  
204-150 Eglinton Ave. East  
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E8

## 2008 Audited Financial Statements Now Available

Amici Camping Charity 2008 Audited Financial Statements are now available. If you would like to request a copy, please email: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org) or call 416-588-8026

## YOU CAN SPARK A CHANGE!

An Amici summer camp subsidy starts a child on a stable path to a brighter future through leadership training, new skills, healthy role models and lifelong friendships. Here are five ways you can help more deserving young people take that first step:

### 1. Donate by mail or online.

A gift of \$75 will give a child one action-packed, unforgettable day at an accredited partner camp. Of every dollar donated to Amici, 89 cents goes directly towards sending kids to camp.

### 2. Become a monthly donor through online giving.

Your gift of \$10, \$25, \$40 or another amount each month could send a child to camp for a week, or more! Donating monthly reduces our administrative expenses, allowing more of your gift to go directly to helping even more children.

**3. Explore employer-sponsored programs**, such as matching donations, employee fundraisers or deducted donations through United Way. It's easy to designate Amici as the recipient of these funds. For more information, please contact us.

### 4. Run your own impromptu fundraiser.

The next time you get together with camp friends for a summer BBQ, birthday, anniversary or patio party, ask attendees to make a small donation to Amici. Celebrate sharing the gift of summer camp!

### 5. Become an Amici volunteer.

Whether it's helping to run an event, assisting in the office, or joining one of our many board committees, there are lots of opportunities for volunteers at Amici. For more information, please contact George Wright, Volunteer Director: [george.wright@cibc.ca](mailto:george.wright@cibc.ca)

"The camping experience has been life-altering for all three of my kids. At first it was a reprieve from the stress of our homelife ... a place to try new activities and learn crafts... a treasure trove of new friendships. The most important thing was [the] opportunity to get to know themselves. They learned their own strengths and weaknesses and are better prepared to face the world that lies ahead of them.

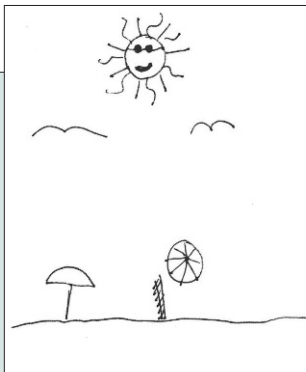
...It is no surprise to me that, as former campers, you would band together to keep this wonderful warm camp spirit alive and share it with perfect strangers.

Your work has touched our lives and we will always remember."

- An Amici Parent, Summer 2008

Dear:

Amici organization thank you very much for sending me to a wonderful year at camp. I had enough fun for a lifetime and I owe it all to you.  
Thank you!



Thank you so much for sending me to camp. I love camp so much. I think your program is so considerate and caring.

*You really brightened my day!*

I will never forget my days at camp because they are special to me. I met so many friends at camp. I love that you get to learn and have fun at the same time.  
Thanks again,





# THE AMICI SPARK

"SPARK A CHANGE. SHARE THE GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP"

[www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

SPRING 2009



## LET'S SPARK A MOVEMENT

What's new? Applications to Amici for summer camp subsidies are up, no surprise in these uncertain times; and once again, we will have a waiting list of campers and families hoping to get a chance to attend camp this summer.

The good news is that because of your support, we are on track to provide an additional 20 weeks of camp to underprivileged children this year. That's a total of over 300 weeks of camp! Without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you for making summer dreams come true for over 130 young people in 2009.

Also, in recent weeks, Amici has jumped into the 21st Century digital fray, through activities that are loosely termed 'social media' – Facebook, Twitter, micro-blogging - to raise awareness amongst our community of loyal fans and former campers. As someone who cares about camp, we hope you'll help us expand the Amici web community to include more people who want to use their passion for summer camp to inspire change in their communities.

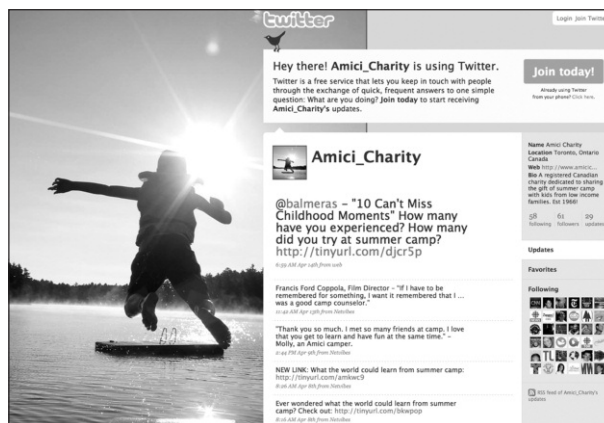
Through this technology, we hope to connect with you and keep you informed by sharing stories, successes, events and warm-fuzzy milestones; to share Amici news items that will help you understand the profound impact of your support on the children and families we serve; to pass along words, sounds and images that will keep that magical camp feeling

glowing in your heart all year long! We would also like to hear all about what camp means to you: how it affected (and continues to affect) your life, your friends, your values; why you feel camp is more relevant today than ever before, and why you love your favourite camp-inspired photo albums and playlists.

You see, this is a movement. Amici, just like summer camp, is about all of us. As you have already discovered, camp is a place where kids can explore nature, meet friends from different backgrounds and play games outside. They also find new role models, acquire new skills, and discover what it means to care for the environment. When they return home, they bring with them confidence, independence, self-esteem and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Many of us have been lucky enough to experience camp ourselves and all of us are committed to passing on that experience to the next generation. We want to build a community of like-minded camp fans who are committed to ensuring that every child has access to this amazing experience, regardless of financial barriers. It's going to take all of us working together to accomplish this goal. We can't do it without you.

You may have been interested in getting



involved with Amici in the past, but never had the time, opportunity or, let's face it...cash. Well, here's your chance! If you are already an active user of these forums, please stop by and check us out at [http://twitter.com/Amici\\_Charity](http://twitter.com/Amici_Charity) or at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search "Amici Camping Charity"; become a follower, friend and online pal of Amici. If you are wondering what all the buzz is about, but haven't yet explored the "Twitter-verse", now is the perfect time to find out.

So, while our online movement may not attract the same mass number of people (for now) as those interested in, say, the latest Britney Spears video, it's still – definitely – a movement. Thanks for tuning in and we hope you will be a part of it.

**Kate Horton**

*Executive Director*

[kate@amicicharity.org](mailto:kate@amicicharity.org)

## AMICI JOINS CHARITY CAR RECYCLING PROGRAM

Your Used Car Can Send Kids to Camp and Help the Environment! Be part of the green solution! If you have a vehicle that is no longer of any use to you and you're not quite sure what to do with it, please consider donating it to Amici through the End of Life Vehicles Charity Car Recycling Program. Your used vehicle will be picked up at no cost, safely recycled by a certified dealer and you will receive a tax receipt from Amici for the full value of the vehicle. Amici will receive 100% of the value of your vehicle. For more information, please visit [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org); or [www.charitycars.ca](http://www.charitycars.ca)



**Would you rather receive this newsletter by email?**

By reading this newsletter on-line, you can help us reduce our paper and mailing costs, and direct more funds to our campership program. To receive the spring and fall newsletters by email, please send your name and contact email to: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org) (subject line: e-newsletter)

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: GEORGE WRIGHT

**S**uper-volunteer George Wright has donated countless hours of time to Amici in many capacities over the last 10 years: as the Event Coordinator of the annual Ball Hockey Tournament and John R Latimer (JRL) Classic Golf Tournament, and lending his talents to many other events and activities along the way. This fall, George joined the Amici Board of Directors, contributing his leadership to the Volunteers portfolio. George spent many years as a camper and staff member at Kilcoo Camp; and in his current “day job” George is an Investment Advisor and Associate Portfolio Manager at CIBC Wood Gundy.

### **Q: If a friend asked you why they should volunteer with Amici, what would you tell them?**

If they had the same type of experiences at camp that I did, then I don't think it's a difficult 'sell'. Anytime I can tell people that they would be giving kids a shot at the type

of experiences we had growing up as campers, they seem very receptive. If they didn't go to camp, then I try to explain the value of camp – the people you meet, the lessons you learn, etc.

### **Q: What do Amici volunteers do? How can someone get involved?**

There are many ways to get involved. You might have a specific interest in one of our events or you may be interested other areas, such as fundraising, campership, finance etc. The best way to get involved is to contact myself, Kate or anyone else on the Board of Directors. We would then discuss what you had in mind or might enjoy the most. For me, I love hockey and golf so the fit with these two events was perfect for me.

### **Q: Why is camp important to you?**

By far the number one way camp affected me was through all the people I met there.

I went to camp for 15 years and met some of my best friends along the way - they remain my best friends to this day. I have since introduced a bunch of other friends to my camp buddies and so the 'web' has grown even further. Now whenever we see one another, there are always old camp jokes and greetings. I couldn't even imagine what my life would have been like without all these great people. I consider myself lucky this way which makes volunteering so easy – I help create the same friendships and experiences for kids less fortunate than me.



For more information on volunteering with Amici, please email George at: [george.wright@cibc.ca](mailto:george.wright@cibc.ca)

## 2009 AMICI EVENTS CALENDAR:

### **Wednesday, May 20th Peter Taylor Art Show Women's Art Association**

Stunning original works inspired by the great Canadian landscape: Georgian Bay, Creemore, Canadian shield. New this year is a large piece that Peter is offering for silent auction, with a portion of the proceeds going to Amici.

### **Monday, June 1st John R. Latimer Classic Golf Tournament Lakeridge Links Golf Club**

It's time to swing your clubs for kids and share the gift of summer camp! This year's event includes more on-course prizing, filet mignon dinner, beat the pro competition and a savings of \$25 per foursome over last year's pricing! Visit our website [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org) for more details and to pre-register. Early bird pricing expires May 20th.

### **Saturday, June 20th Canoe Head for Kids Toronto Waterfront**

A group of brave souls and former summer camp pals will once again strap canoes to their backs and portage and paddle a total of 40 km along Toronto's waterfront

(Victoria Park to the Humber River and back). Sign up to follow their progress in real time at [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

### **Friday, July 31st The Highland Yard 5K, 10K, 2K Minden, Ontario**

The 'Yard' is a long-standing tradition for Haliburton Highlands cottagers and residents, camp alumni and running clubs across Ontario. The Team Challenge 5K returns for another year and, new this year is a 2K Family Walk, post-race party and silent auction. See you there!



### **Wednesday, October 7th The Amici Mile Woodbine Racetrack**

Join us for Amici's night at the races! Evening includes buffet dinner, trackside tent, betting voucher and a full card of exciting thoroughbred action. Help make sending underprivileged kids to camp a sure bet - see you at the Amici Mile!



Want to be kept in the loop on Amici events?  
Please join our email list, by sending your contact info to: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org)



AN ART EXHIBIT OF PAINTINGS  
BY PETER TAYLOR IN SUPPORT  
OF AMICI TO HELP SHARE THE  
GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP

ONE NIGHT ONLY  
Wednesday May 20th, 2009  
5:30-11:00pm  
WOMAN'S ART ASSOCIATION  
23 Prince Arthur Avenue Toronto

Contact Peter if you're interested in  
pre-viewing any paintings

Peter Taylor





## Bruce's Golf REWARDS

Proudly presents...

### The 7th Annual John R Latimer (JRL) Classic in Support of Amici Camping Charity

Amici charity is proud to present Lakeridge Links as the new host site for our annual golf tournament. Come join us for a day of fun, exciting network opportunities, and to support a great charity!

#### The day will include:



- 18 Holes of golf
- Power Cart
- BBQ Lunch
- Filet mignon and chicken breast dinner
- Complimentary driving range
- Golf professional donated by Bruce's Golf Rewards
- Beat the pro
- On-course prizeing
- Silent auction
- Scramble format

**New location. Fantastic championship golf course. New amazing price.**

Proceeds to benefit Amici Camping Charity. Every \$1000 raised sends a child to camp.

**Date: Monday June 1st, 2009 | 1:00pm Shotgun Start**

\$150 per golfer	Advanced booking price. \$600 per foursome.
\$1000 Hole Sponsor	Includes foursome.
\$2500 Title Sponsor	Includes foursome. Package available upon request.

For driving directions to the golf course, visit [www.lakeridgelinks.com](http://www.lakeridgelinks.com)

To register online, visit [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

**Or mail cheques to:**  
Amici Camping Charity  
204-150 Eglinton Ave. East  
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E8

## 2008 Audited Financial Statements Now Available

Amici Camping Charity 2008 Audited Financial Statements are now available. If you would like to request a copy, please email: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org) or call 416-588-8026

## YOU CAN SPARK A CHANGE!

An Amici summer camp subsidy starts a child on a stable path to a brighter future through leadership training, new skills, healthy role models and lifelong friendships. Here are five ways you can help more deserving young people take that first step:

### 1. Donate by mail or online.

A gift of \$75 will give a child one action-packed, unforgettable day at an accredited partner camp. Of every dollar donated to Amici, 89 cents goes directly towards sending kids to camp.

### 2. Become a monthly donor through online giving.

Your gift of \$10, \$25, \$40 or another amount each month could send a child to camp for a week, or more! Donating monthly reduces our administrative expenses, allowing more of your gift to go directly to helping even more children.

**3. Explore employer-sponsored programs**, such as matching donations, employee fundraisers or deducted donations through United Way. It's easy to designate Amici as the recipient of these funds. For more information, please contact us.

### 4. Run your own impromptu fundraiser.

The next time you get together with camp friends for a summer BBQ, birthday, anniversary or patio party, ask attendees to make a small donation to Amici. Celebrate sharing the gift of summer camp!

### 5. Become an Amici volunteer.

Whether it's helping to run an event, assisting in the office, or joining one of our many board committees, there are lots of opportunities for volunteers at Amici. For more information, please contact George Wright, Volunteer Director: [george.wright@cibc.ca](mailto:george.wright@cibc.ca)

"The camping experience has been life-altering for all three of my kids. At first it was a reprieve from the stress of our homelife ... a place to try new activities and learn crafts... a treasure trove of new friendships. The most important thing was [the] opportunity to get to know themselves. They learned their own strengths and weaknesses and are better prepared to face the world that lies ahead of them.

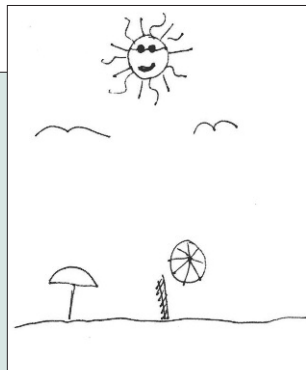
...It is no surprise to me that, as former campers, you would band together to keep this wonderful warm camp spirit alive and share it with perfect strangers.

Your work has touched our lives and we will always remember."

- An Amici Parent, Summer 2008

Dear:

Amici organization thank you very much for sending me to a wonderful year at camp. I had enough fun for a lifetime and I owe it all to you.  
Thank you!



Thank you so much for sending me to camp. I love camp so much. I think your program is so considerate and caring.

*You really brightened my day!*

I will never forget my days at camp because they are special to me. I met so many friends at camp. I love that you get to learn and have fun at the same time.  
Thanks again,

## FIVE REASONS YOUR CHILD NEEDS CAMP

As many former campers know, the benefits of the camping experience on young lives is immeasurable. Unfortunately, for those that haven't had the benefit of the experience, the impact is a little more difficult to wrap your head around. Thankfully associations like the ACA and OCA continue to conduct research to help qualify and quantify the many benefits.

Below is our second installment, a reprint of research conducted by the American Camp Association (ACA) in 2008.

### Five Reasons Your Child Needs Camp.

**1. Camp forever changes your child... for the better** – American Camp Association® (ACA) research has confirmed that camps build skills necessary to prepare campers to assume roles as successful adults. Campers said that camp helped them make new friends (96%), get to know kids who are different from them (93%), feel good about themselves (92%), and try things they were afraid to do at first (74%).

**2. Camp teaches your child to "move it, move it"** – Camp provides children the opportunity to try new things and participate in human powered activities. According to surveys by both the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an American child is six times more likely to play a videogame on any given day than to ride a bike. An estimated 22 million of the world's children under the age of five are already considered obese. According to research conducted by ACA, 63 percent of children who learn new activities at camp tend to continue engaging in these activities after they return home.

This leads to continued physical exercise that lasts a lifetime.

**3. Camp keeps all that hard work from going to waste** – Camps understand the critical role they play in helping young people learn and grow. Many offer programs that help reduce summer learning loss, bolster academic enrichment and socialization, provide opportunities for leadership development, and ensure that campers achieve their full potential.

**4. Camp allows us to take a deep breath and feel the nature** – Camp is a great way for your child to unplug from the iPod® and plug into the world around them. According to a study by two Cornell University environmental psychologists, being close to nature can help boost a child's attention span. Additionally, a study conducted by the University of Essex in England concluded that nature can help people recover from pre-existing stresses or problems, has an immunizing effect that can protect from future stresses, and helps people to concentrate and think more clearly. In some instances, camp may be the only time a child is in contact with the natural world.

**5. Camp is fun** – It's true; kids do sing silly songs and play funny games at camp. Children are allowed to play in a safe and nurturing environment, and are allowed to just be kids. Play is a powerful form of learning that contributes mightily to the child's healthy physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development. According to an American Academy of Pediatrics report, creative free play protects a child's emotional development and reduces a child's risk of stress, anxiety, and depression.

## CAMP INSPIRATIONS: GUESS WHO WENT TO CAMP

For well over a century, the camping experience has been instrumental in sparking the imagination, and as well, a source of inspiration for young minds - creating artists, actors, musicians, business leaders, politicians, scientists, innovators and more.



**5 pts.** For more than four decades, he has been a leader in the entertainment industry.

**4 pts.** He began his career at ABC, where he helped take the network from No. 3 to No. 1 with such landmark shows as Happy Days and Barney Miller.

**3 pts.** In 1976, he became President of Paramount Pictures, and soon made the studio No. 1.

**2 pts.** In 1984, he assumed the position of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Co.

**1 pt.** His name rhymes with 'Like Al Wiser'

*Information courtesy of the American Camp Association®, copyright 2008 American Camping Association, Inc.*

In our ongoing effort to espouse the benefits of camp, we've decided to introduce a new segment. "GUESS WHO WENT TO CAMP?" In every issue, we'll give you a bio, you guess the famed camper who has gone on to inspired work.

Thank you to our Amazing Partner Camps!

**Camp Arrowhead**  
[www.arrowhead.on.ca](http://www.arrowhead.on.ca)

**Camp Awakening – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campawakening.com](http://www.campawakening.com)

**Camp Bellaleo**  
[www.campbellaleo.com](http://www.campbellaleo.com)

**Camp Can Aqua – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.canaqua.ca](http://www.canaqua.ca)

**Cedar Ridge Camp**  
[www.cedarridgecamp.ca](http://www.cedarridgecamp.ca)

**Camp Couchiching**  
[www.campcouchiching.com](http://www.campcouchiching.com)

**Frontier Trails Camp**  
[www.frontiertrailscamp.com](http://www.frontiertrailscamp.com)

**Glen Bernard Camp**  
[www.gbcamp.com](http://www.gbcamp.com)

**Camp Kandalore**  
[www.kandalore.com](http://www.kandalore.com)

**Camp Kawartha**  
[www.campkawartha.ca](http://www.campkawartha.ca)

**Camp Kennebec**  
[www.campkennebec.com](http://www.campkennebec.com)

**Kilcoo Camp**  
[www.kilcoo.com](http://www.kilcoo.com)

**Camp Kirk – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campkirk.com](http://www.campkirk.com)

**Camp Medeba**  
[www.medeba.com](http://www.medeba.com)

**Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da**  
[www.miakonda.com](http://www.miakonda.com)

**Camp Oconto**  
[www.campoconto.com](http://www.campoconto.com)

**Onondaga Camp**  
[www.onondagacamp.com](http://www.onondagacamp.com)

**Camp Otterdale**  
[www.campotterdale.com](http://www.campotterdale.com)

**Camp Tanamakoon**  
[www.tanamakoon.com](http://www.tanamakoon.com)

**Camp Tawingo**  
[www.tawingo.net](http://www.tawingo.net)

**Camp Wabikon**  
[www.wabikon.com](http://www.wabikon.com)

**Camp Winston – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campwinston.com](http://www.campwinston.com)

**YMCA Camp Kitchikewana**  
[www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca)

**YMCA Camp Pine Crest**  
[www.camppinecrest.ca](http://www.camppinecrest.ca)

**YMCA Camp Queen Elizabeth**  
[www.campqueenelizabeth.ca](http://www.campqueenelizabeth.ca)

**YMCA Camp Wanakita**  
[www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca](http://www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca)



# KILCOO REFLECTIONS ALIVE AND WELL IN GREECE

*Jeff Macdonald reflects on his life and how Kilcoo still lives in him*

**T**his year (2009) marks the 10th year, for which I have been living away from Canada. I met my wife, a Canadian-born Greek (with all the beautiful yet annoying passion that comes with it) at York University, while we were doing our MBA courses together. “On Paper”, we had no chance...I knew that she intended on returning to Greece, and I knew (or so I thought) that I could never actually pull-off living in Greece, with a real job, etc. I was able to speak French (from many years at Toronto French School), but Greek? No way!!

Spin the clock forward, and I am now fully fluent in Greek (but without the Vespa, cigarettes, and ‘bad attitude’), living in Athens with my wife (Panorea) and 3 children (Nestor, Nefeli, and Phaedra Macdonald) heading up an all-Greek mid-sized Real Estate Development company, building hotels and second homes on the Greek Islands.

For good measure, my wife and I have recently returned from a four year stint living in Dubai, where I had been working for the world's largest developer, building the biggest and tallest of... everything. On my various projects in Dubai, I would oversee construction sites, with forty-thousand (yes 40,000!) Indian or Pakistani workmen, who were, despite the harsh conditions and extreme heat, truly happy and peaceful... (kind of brings new meaning to the expression, “tough portage”)

I recall vividly the moment when I received the first “Gull Rock Gazette” at our mailbox in Athens, after a long gap in contact with Kilcoo. The feeling that overwhelmed me was similar to that amazing moment that would occur around April every year, when as LIT or staff we would see the first correspondence with the green Kilcoo logo arrive at home. This would signal the start of a new season, after a long ‘Kilcoo-less’ winter. As I sat on the crowded Athens subway on the way to work, engrossed in the various Gazette articles, an unstoppable smile came over my face...the laughs and memories of still the best summers of my life, came flowing back.

In fact, how many times have I awakened from a sound sleep laughing, after having dreamt up the “perfect” Kilabaloo skit (“Hurray David!!!”), or been stuck on a long car ride with my kids, desperately trying to remember more than the first line of “Land of the Silver Birch” or the last verse of “The Titanic”... (Where is

Jim Cook, my Cabin 24 Kippawa “Lyrics man”, and the man who literally saved my life, now when I need him!!!). And yes, I still have to look up Paul Davidson to whom I owe the “2nd half of our life's use” of the



*This Dubai construction gives new meaning to the classic Kilcoo “The Hi-Rise”*



Grassmere paddle that we had won together in the Onondaga canoe race challenge.

I look back at the people and watch the children of the various cultures that I encounter and I feel that I can both learn from them but at the same time feel incredibly lucky for having grown-up in Canada. As my dad, Dr. Bob Macdonald (Kilcoo alumnus from 1949 and long time friend of the Latimers), grows older, I am ever-more reminded of the treasure that he had given to me, by sending me, a nervous, shy 9 year-old, to camp. It was at Kilcoo where I gained confidence, learned about leadership, and where I met the true greats of my era: Dave Graham, Wally Oakes, John Carruthers, Hal Hannaford, and “Smoothy”, to name a few. In fact, I continue to hook-up occasionally with my Kilcoo “partner in crime”, Doug “the Clutch” McCutcheon, or with my old cabin 19 counsellor, Ray Lyons and his family.

With any luck, 2011 will mark my return to the sparkling shores of Gull Lake, both for the reunion, and for my son Nestor's first summer as a camper.

How-How!

 **JEFF MACDONALD (1974-1984)**

# LOOKING BACK

In 1977 Kilcoo Camp applied for and was almost granted a sailpast of the illustrious Bluenose II. After hours of dredging the Minden River to facilitate its arrival and the designing and building of a canal around the mouth of the river, the following letter was received much to the chagrin of campers and staff.



E. T. COBBINS, MASTER

*Bluenose II*

MARINE RADIO "CYJZ"  
AMATEUR RADIO "VE0MY"

CLAND & SON LIMITED • 1475 HOLLIS STREET • HALIFAX • NOVA SCOTIA • CANADA  
CABLE ADDRESS "CLANDSON" HALIFAX • TELEX NUMBER 014-43203 • AREA CODE 902 • TELEPHONE 422-7301

Feb. 14, 1977

Mr John R. Latimer  
Sweet 102 A  
160 Eglinton Ave., East  
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Mr Latimer:

Mr Wirewick was in contact with me in regards to you denial of transport of the Bluenose II to Gull Lake, Haliburton. I am most disappointed that she will not be used by the sailing team of Kilcoo this summer. It would have been a definite asset to your program.

Mr Wirewick told me that he will be in contact with you to terminate the agreement of employment made for Kilcoo 1977. He is presently contracting with the Nova Scotia government and Atlantic Salvage Limited to transfer the rig Sedco 9 and the ship Sir John A. MacDonald to Gull Lake. His purpose in doing this is to resurrect the Titanic and stick the damn thing up your ass. The transfer of these vessels violates no laws and is in complete compliance with federal-provincial statutes concerning vessels to be used for research and exploration within the Dominion.

I am very excited about this venture and will back Mr Wirewick one hundred percent in his venture. Sir, I remain.

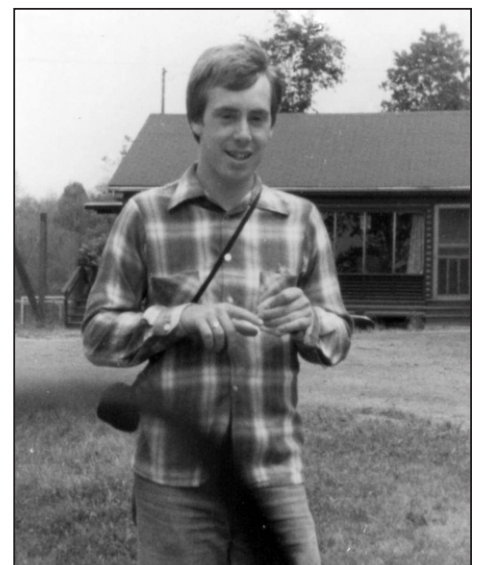
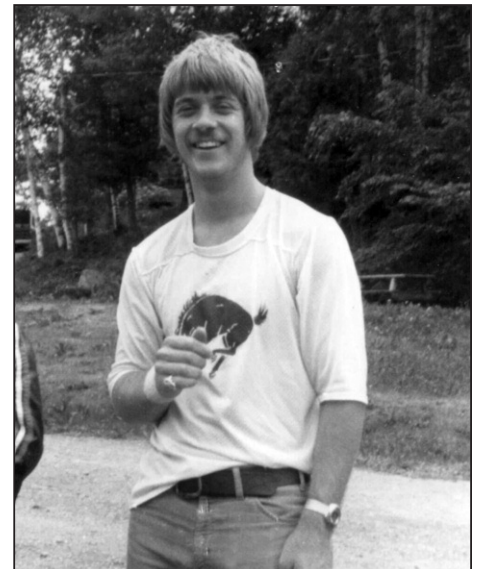
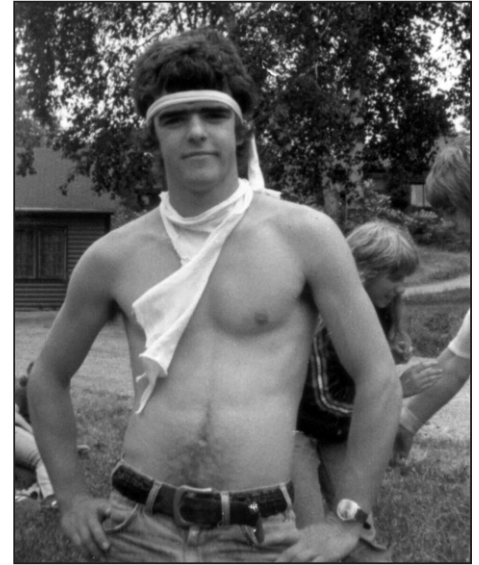
Yours truly,

*L. Sheik*

Mr Leaky Sheik

LS:ddt

Can you name these alumnae from the mid 70's? Of course they look the same today!  
(answers below)



## IDEAS WANTED

If you have ideas for articles of interest for future issues of the Gazette please contact us at [pchamp@sympatico.ca](mailto:pchamp@sympatico.ca). If you have a good topic idea, we will do the follow up research; if you want to write an article please put on your creative hat, and if you have some trivia questions in mind please send them to us...with the answers.

*Photos from 1977: Alan Leal, Ian Campbell, Murray Wickwire*



# A TRIBUTE TO BILL STEVENSON

*Recollections of a dear friend*

Nothing that I tend to be nostalgic about anything historical, it should not be surprising that I was saddened to hear of the passing of Bill Stevenson when the e-mail from his daughter arrived last October. I believe that Bill was our last connection with what he fondly referred to as the charter members of Kilcoo, one of that gang of 39 who fought the dirt roads into Haliburton County to join the eight Plewman family members in the inaugural year of 1932. As did a few others, Bill hailed from Whitby, Ontario and was probably there as a result of his father's loan to Charlie Plewman, one of several loans that allowed Charlie to realize his dream of starting a summer camp.

I knew Bill for only a few years but I was always received warmly in his home by him and his wife Jean. Bill often prefaced

remarks with a disclaimer about his failing memory, but in my mind his memories of Kilcoo were "spot on". Reciting the lyrics to some long forgotten camp songs brought tears to his eyes and he was so proud of the numerous pictures he had from camp that were used in Chief's book, *Maker of Men*.

Bill recalled that as campers and staff sat down to their first meal on opening day, 1932, men were still completing the job of roofing the three part building that had been rescued from the Ontario Department of Highways construction shacks. He remembered fondly his first outtrip, not by canoe, but by rowboat to the narrows. Bill also reassured me that the pranks of today are no more novel than they were in the thirties as he himself was the perpetrator of the "bucket of cold

water through the window" in the early morning in the Iroquois cabin (where the Kremlin is now).

In 1937 at the age of 16 Bill was asked by Chief Plewman to take a turn at being the lifeguard on the main tower despite the fact he still could not swim. As a counsellor he reeled off quite a few names from his memory bank and was quick to verify the story shared first by Betty-Anne Plewman that a young camper did actually fall through a hole in the camp's main kybo back in the 30's. He also reacted with sadness and dismay



*Bill and his wife, Jean.*



*A return to Kilcoo in 1997 for a special chapel*

when I showed him the names of Kilcoo alumnae who had died during World War II – people he had known and regarded as good friends at camp.

In his last years Bill was not in good health, but I always found him to be very cheery and always devoted to Jean, whose initials he had carved into a poplar tree located just behind the council ring when the two of them were only fifteen. His last visit to Kilcoo was during the summer of 1997 where he joined campers seventy years his junior for Sunday chapel. Looking back I know Bill brought something valuable into my life and as his obituary described he was a very loving and well-loved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

 **PAUL CHAMBERLAIN**



*Getting clean before going home in the days before hot showers*



*A view of the old lodge at that time - a striking difference from the present.*

# KILCOO'S MOST REMARKABLE CANOE TRIP ROUTES

*Share your tripping gems with us and we can include it in a future issue of the Gazette.*

Over 77 years there have been many canoe trips to set out and return to camp. Some are noteworthy because of their difficulty, because of events that occurred or just because they were interesting. The Gazette invites you to describe such a trip from your memory bank and we will publish them in upcoming issues. Here is one to start you off.

One canoe trip from the 50's and early 60's well remembered by counsellors of younger campers was the 4 day trip to Buttermilk Falls. Perhaps it was notorious because it was often the first trip taken in July by staff members still adjusting to being out of school and away from "the city". Fighting the wicked current at the mouth of the Minden River with a canoe loaded with packs and campers whose paddles barely cut through the water was followed by the endless bug infested winding river to Minden. Then came the toughest portage ever (this was early July remember) which led up the steep hill out of Rotary Park, across the highway and up the hill on Highway 121 as speeding cars spit gravel at you as you toiled underneath your overturned 90 pound Peterborough canoe (the Senior section trips had taken the newer and lighter Minto canoes already).

Finally in the water again the route followed the river to the Sunny Slopes portage (around which many stories have been told) and then across Horsehoe Lake and up the Shearpin Rapids into Mountain Lake. Surely Bob Fox will remember almost losing his life in August, 1959 when a bees nest was dislodged. (Your editor "took the fall" for Bob who was allergic to bee stings)

The tired group would then portage around the dam at Hart Lodge and paddle almost the length of Twelve Mile Lake before making camp on a point now occupied by two cottages. On the second day the route proceeded

through the narrows into Little Boshkung and into Big Boshkung, and then the two hour paddle to the far end and the Buttermilk Falls campground. Was the choice of this destination a coincidence or did it have something to do with the fact that the co-ed Camp Calumet was located adjacent to the campsite?

Day 3 saw a retracing of the route back to the campsite at either the Minden power dam or Rotary Park and day 4 wrapped up the trip back to camp where the traditional camp yell signaled the return of the mighty trippers. Buttermilk Falls was by no means a dangerous trip but did claim one casualty as a not to be named counsellor who filed his Buttermilk "flight plan" with the camp never went past Rotary Park. His absence from the campsite there was also to be noted. An Alger bus awaited his return from camp three days later.

Again, this trip is remembered because it was often the first for staff members not yet "hardened" to the rigours of tripping for the summer, and often the first Kilcoo trip for many campers of that era.

 **PAUL CHAMBERLAIN**

## MORE MUSINGS FROM TINGLES

*Tingles reflects on the anticipation of the summer and camp in the winter*

The itch, oooh how it burns... and I have got it again. I get the itch every spring, and with the arrival of the itch comes the realization of how lucky I am to go back to Kilcoo every spring. I am writing this little nugget in April with only weeks before I head up to Haliburton County for my 10th Advance Camp. I am super excited and I hope to see few alumni drop by for a visit and meet the '09 AC crew!

My 08/09 off-season flew by like lightning and was highlighted by AC/DC, winning my hockey pool, The Buffalo Builders, trips to the Wide Open, the Queen St. Baseball League, NYC and very recently, my first real vacation in years. I went to London with spray paint and a bandana to protest at the G20 summit. OK, that's not really true, I went to visit family & friends and check out

the culture and the sights; it is quite an amazing town. Another highlight was a road trip in early January: Lub, Marc Russell, Alex Morera and I headed up to camp for a one-night mission. It was a glorious sunny day when we arrived at Kilcoo and the snow banks were like ominous grey whales basking in the sun. Kilcoo is a very beautiful place in the winter time; it is very quiet, almost silent. You can see every little detail through the leafless trees, and the snow is like a protective blanket over the whole camp. It is about the absolute opposite of the colour, energy and volume of the summer. We grabbed some snow-shoes and checked out the new cabins, counted the fishing huts and visited Brian and Kent in the Lodge. Later that evening we did a campfire at the Leslie Frost Centre for the Greenwood students on their winter school week. It was



just a short trip, but Kilcoo in the winter is an awesome experience.

I am excited about Advance Camp and I am really looking forward to working with the Staff & LIT's of 2009 to ensure our campers have another safe and fun experience at Kilcoo. My best to all the alumni and I hope to run into a few of you on Gull Lake.

 **PAT TINGLEY**