



"Share the Gift of Summer Camp!"



THE GULL ROCK GAZETTE



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visit us at www.amicicharity.org & www.kilcoo.com

KILCOO TRIPPERS PADDLE THE YUKON

The Yukon trip described here was quite correctly referred to as the "pinnacle" of Kilcoo's trips. It certainly went far beyond the rowboat excursions to Trout Rock of the early 30's, the standard trips to Buttermilk Falls or Balsam Lake of the 50's, and the trips to Algonquin, Temagami and Kippewa that followed. Perhaps to those early trippers the degree of risk and the technology available will stand out as one reads this account.

In the summer of 1997, the pinnacle of Kilcoo's tripping program was the month-long canoe and hiking adventure to the Yukon. That year, the trio of Will Amos, Stu Snyder and Willie Macrae were slated to lead 8 Voyageurs down nearly 1000km of the South MacMillan, Pelly, and Yukon Rivers all the way to Dawson over 22 days. A four day hike along the Chilkoot Trail, starting in Alaska and ending in Canada, was also part of the mix. But just weeks prior to the trip, Macrae injured his knee playing ultimate frisbee, and a replacement tripper was sought. Stepping into the breach was John Lindsay, the former director of Camp Awakening, who was only too pleased to incorporate an epic adventure into what would be his last Kilcoo summer.

The trip was filled with whitewater excitement, great (dehydrated) food, and sunny weather. With dusk falling past midnight, our convoy of six canoes had the freedom to choose a daily schedule that suited our collective mood. Some days were short so that we could rest our paddlers' elbows and shoulders; some were long, and involved rafting up for multi-hour cruises down "highway" sections of the river without rapids. The fireweed blazed pink in the evenings, the pebble beaches beckoned at every sweeping turn, and the Yukon's big blue skies were punctuated by the occasional black, charred remains of natural burns in the foothills of the Anvil mountain range.

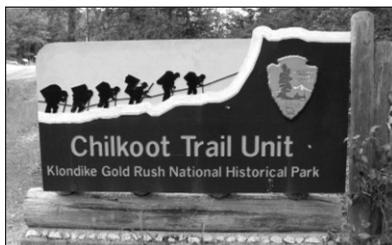
In short, we were on our own in a northern heaven, accountable to nature, and subject to her whim. For much of the trip we were at least one hundred kilometres from the nearest road access, so we brought a satellite telephone in case of emergency. And come in handy it did when a major incident nearly turned the trip into a catastrophe. Near the end of the second week, two camper boats got tangled and tipped in a massive "sweeper", a 600 square metre thicket of trees extending above and below the water on the outside curve of a riverbend. One of the boys, Will Dempster, went under for several seconds, only to pop up on the other side with eyes as wide as saucers. He was lucky to emerge. Another, Jamie Lackey, got the sclera (white) of his eye poked by a branch, and was bleeding – not a serious injury as it turned out, but at that point we had not benefitted from an informed medical opinion. Everyone was in shock – on a hot, sunny afternoon, these 16 year-old boys had seen their lives flash before them.



After administering wilderness first aid, Stu, John and I tried in vain to rescue a canoe and several backpacks/barrels of gear and food that had become lodged under the sweeper. We then proceeded to the first available sand bar, broke out a snack, and set up the satellite phone to call Lub and inform him of the situation. As the satellite signals aligned and our call, miraculously to us all, went through, we knew that this moment would forever be etched in Kilcoo history. If we had not had access to the phone, we would likely have sent an emergency signal and sought a military airlift. Instead, we spoke with the camp doctor, who opined that Jamie's eye injury was not serious enough to warrant an immediate evacuation; rather, he advised that we patch up his eye and proceed another several days downriver to the native village of Carmacks where he could be evaluated, and a determination about an airlift could be made. As for the lost boat and gear, we agreed with Lub that it would be safe to continue with one fewer boat (2 of the 4 boats carried 3 people), and that we could re-supply in Carmacks. The conversation was eerily rational, given that we'd all witnessed one of the scariest moments of our lives. Everyone, from those on the river to those on Gull Lake, felt confident that we were following the appropriate course of action. Perhaps the emergency preparedness and situation management training that we'd received over the years at Kilcoo were paying dividends.

Upon reaching Carmacks, there was no doctor available, but the local nurse agreed that it was only prudent for Jamie to be evacuated to the hospital in Whitehorse. A week remained in the canoe trip, and since I had paddled these rivers before, I agreed to accompany Jamie, leaving Stu and John to lead the group to Dawson City. Once Jamie's eye was evaluated, the initial diagnosis was confirmed and he was cleared to resume his trip. So, before heading up to Dawson City to meet the others, he and I spent 5 glorious days hiking in Kluane National Park. To this day, I still feel a brotherly bond with this warrior camper whose voice I have not heard in 12 years. We gave ourselves a good warm-up for the Chilkoot Trail which we hiked with the rest of the group after spending a day in Dawson City.

Continued on back cover...



EDITOR'S MUSINGS

As cool and rainy as the summer of 2009 was, 2010 was warm and sunny. For Kilcoo it was a great two months. July's camp was so crowded that Tingles had to request that staff not leave their tables during meal time because it would obstruct the LIT's performing steward duty too much. The most significant moisture of the summer was that which was hosed into the pit for the traditional tug of war at the end of the Olympics, the games this year won by the United States. And in July, the Iroquois seem to have resumed their dominance of the Bushpede.

For me personally, perhaps the most satisfying aspect of Kilcoo in 2010 was the resurgence of the canoeing program under Michael Campbell's leadership. Seven campers earned the new Chieftain level and received personal plaques this fall, and if living at the canoe dock all summer wasn't enough to solidify Mike's image as the instructor, then certainly his method for returning home described in this issue was.

During one of my visits to camp I was delighted to reconnect with Keith Johnson whose wife Bernice handles the camper laundry. While chatting they advised me that the old Wagon Wheel Motel where many a staff member stopped in for a meal or snack during time off had gone through quite a change since the 1960's. Since the days of Art and Rita Hodgkinson it had passed through several owners and now the present owners are planning to set it up as a home for disabled adults.

Camp always seems to be so busy and I am struck by the fact that David Latimer never seems to slow down. From Advance Camp at the end of April through to the fall he is always in the middle of activity. August camp was followed by a very successful experiment with Family Camp in which my wife Sue and I participated with three of our grandchildren. David then switched without rest to the KFPT weekend described in this issue and soon after was right in the middle of the 250 strong school group from Greenwood College. Knowing David, he would not have it any other way. Later in September the Father and Son weekend featured a wonderful story. Former Kilcoo camp director Hal Hannaford, now headmaster at Selwyn College in Montreal, was made aware that one of his students who was also



a Kilcoo camper would be unable to participate because his father had to be away. The result – Hal offered to “pinch hit”, and in the weekend he describes in this issue he may have been the one who appreciated the experience the most! To Hal we offer a big How! How!

Looking ahead, 2011 will be Kilcoo's 80th year and a number of events will be planned including the alumni reunion in September (Please see the invitation enclosed in this issue). We are also planning to invite alumni to attend chapel at camp on a few designated Sundays during the summer. Stay tuned for further notices on the camp website and in the spring issue of the Gazette.

I thank those alumni who have submitted articles and put out the request again for your own personal Kilcoo stories or accounts of favourite trips. I have a couple more than I can use in this issue but assure those of you who have sent them that they will appear soon. By way of inviting you to maintain your connection with Kilcoo I point out that after several attempts, we managed to collect some former Kilcooites in Peterborough for lunch back in May which Paul Cragg helped to organize and I would like in the next year or so to see if a similar group might be able to meet up in the Burlington area. Will Amos and John Lindsay are looking to get a group together in Ottawa in the near future as well.

I am still collecting e-mail addresses so I can contact more of you with event details and for the “Life After Kilcoo” column for which I use the e-mail process to obtain your updated information. Please send yours and any of your written creations to me at gazetteeditor@kilcoo.com I hope you enjoy reading this issue of the Gazette along with its report on Amici's amazing accomplishments in 2010.

 PAUL CHAMBERLAIN

GREAT KEEPSAKE!

Some of Kilcoo's older canoes that are beyond use have been retrofitted as bookshelves and there are still a limited number available. If you are interested in purchasing one for home or cottage please contact David Latimer at the Kilcoo office: 416-486-5264



Camp 
Gay Venture

**65th GAY VENTURE
REUNION**

**Alumni; If you have sisters,
cousins, spouses or friends who
attended Camp Gay Venture,
let them know about the alumni
reunion scheduled for next summer:
Dates: August 19th to 21st, 2011**

**To get more details they can e-mail
GVReunion@hotmail.com
or go to facebook through
FacebookGVReunion**



FIRESIDE CHAT

From Lub, Tingles, and the entire Latimer Family

I am very pleased to write to all our alumni in this edition of the Gazette, which I have to say is getting better with each issue. It is more reflective of multiple generations and continues to be a great testament to all our alumni.

I want to tell you what an awesome summer we have just recently finished. This summer was my 26th as director, and it began way back in April with the advance camp crew and will finish up after Thanksgiving with the Post Camp guys. We had 18 school groups come through the gates this year; our school group program remains an amazing way to give hundreds of kids a Kilcoo experience, even if it is only for a few days.

We also put a great deal of work into the physical plant of Kilcoo and into the program activities; both were enjoyed greatly this past summer. New sailboats, new docks, new sewage system (Hooray!), two new cabins, and with Marc Russell continuing the canoe project we were very busy with the "upkeep". Anyone who came through camp over the summer commented on how great the site was looking, which is always nice!

We all know what really makes Kilcoo so special: the summer sessions and all the people involved, from campers to the LITs and Staff. It was a spectacular summer and the weather certainly helped, but again it was the spirit of all the people that made everything go! We were packed with kids and our two-week program has become very popular for campers as a lead into the month long session. The energy in both July and August was particularly high, and you will be happy to know that traditions at camp are as important as they have ever been and we even have some great "new" traditions that are growing. The camp "anthem" so to speak is When You Walk Through a Storm; the favourite songs are Titanic, Kilcoo Blues, Gunderbeck, Vreneli, Sunshine/Happiness, Blood on the Saddle, and The Happy Wanderer. We even brought back In the Wet, all with Ken Jones on piano! Our more recent traditions include playing Bon Jovi at lunch and dancing to Spirit of the West on the tables!

Zoomba Zaa is also still hugely popular and of course, the zany birthday tradition that defies explanation...it has to be seen to be believed! Polar Bears remains a popular



way to start the day, while Taps Dipping is a new way to finish your day off with a swim in Gull Lake. Sailing, Archery and Outward Challenge are still among the most popular activities, along with Mountain Biking, Voyageur Football and all the field games that we play. The Kilcoo that you know so well is thriving because we celebrate every day the special things that you grew up with and remember so well. You will always be greeted by a friendly smile and a firm handshake; and you will always hear TAPS at 9:30pm!

So many alumni came through camp this summer and all agree... Kilcoo is still a magical place! So plan it now, at some point next summer please drop in for a visit and come to the reunion in September, the weekend of the 23rd, 24th and 25th. It is our 80th year and you will be happy to know that our 79th was a truly memorable summer. Rip Ram Razzle Scram.

 **DAVID "LUB" LATIMER
& PAT "TINGLES" TINGLEY**

FATHER SON WEEKEND

It doesn't get any better than this!

Kilcoo never ceases to amaze. This past summer, I was contacted by one of our students at Selwyn House School in Montreal who also happens to be a Kilcoo camper. He and his father had registered for father and son weekend, but soon discovered that Dad, at that time, had to be away in Europe on business. Their solution was to ask the son's Headmaster (who happened to have a relatively close connection with Kilcoo) if he would be available or willing to stand in for the weekend. Needless to say, I was touched, honoured, and also thrilled.

So, we left school on Friday afternoon, drove from Montreal to Kilcoo (actually drove past camp so we could stop at Kawartha Dairy), and arrived in time for the start of the weekend's festivities. Forty-eight hours later, and after surviving polar bears, sing songs, sailing, skits, porridge, canoeing, chapel, baseball and football games, ball hockey, bingo, lard bombs (but don't you dare tell your Mom), laughs, pranks (thanks Michael and Mark), aerial courses, biking, and more, we endured the drive back to Montreal. What made the weekend unique was that I had the opportunity of viewing all this from the perspective of a guest, not a father who was there with his son.

Lub (who was at his best all weekend), at one point during the weekend, told all the fathers about the value of their time at camp. He reminded us we have so few opportunities, and our time at Kilcoo should be viewed as precious. And it was. I had an opportunity to see fathers who I worked with during my time at camp. And these guys are great dads. In short, I was overwhelmed. The Kilcoo spirit came right back, and I spent the next few weeks with a huge smile. I was so glad to have been a part of the spirit (I always enjoyed the expression, the Kilcoo Goo), and it was so wonderful to discover that Kilcoo remains at the forefront of standing for the stuff that really matters.

My advice? As a father, if you ever get the chance to participate in a father/son weekend, go for it. You will never forget the experience. Thanks David (Lub), Kilcoo staff, Chucky/Monkey, Dads and boys. If anyone needs me to be a fill in Dad, just call. It would be a pleasure.

 **HAL HANNAFORD '84**

RETURNING HOME FROM CAMP

At the end of the 1964 summer two staff members, Don Crow and Ron Scott, customized their bicycles with luggage carriers and rode back home to Brantford. To all on staff at the time it seemed a very bizarre, and risky, method of travel. However, at the end of the 2010 summer Mike Campbell gave a new meaning to “bizarre” when he elected to paddle a Kilcoo canoe to return to his home in Toronto. His account which follows is all true.

Using the canoe as a method of transportation seems to be something that we’ve lost over the years. Can you still even do that? I spent this summer at Kilcoo teaching canoeing. It was the most fun I’ve ever had at camp, and not only did I learn a whole basket full of new tricks to do in a canoe, but I also managed to teach some of those to what seemed like an endless stream of interested campers. That being said, it’s a lot easier to teach different strokes than it is to teach the purpose of a canoe. I mean, honestly, what is the point of a canoe in the 21st century?

I’d heard Alan Bean talk about a canoeing to Toronto a few years back, but hadn’t really acknowledged it as a legitimate option until this summer. I threw the idea around, jokingly at first. Gradually, that turned into planning it. George Hendrie and I mapped out the route and started making plans. As the summer came to a close, George couldn’t free up the allotted week for the trip, leaving me on my own with the route. I was already too excited to not do it, so that was that: a canoe trip on my own. That Monday morning, at Kilcoo, the day after the campers had left I said my goodbyes to the staff for the summer and left the beloved “east side of Gull Lake...” and began to go south.

Monday: I started down the Gull River and camped out just past Norland - shared a frosty iced tea with Lucy and her son Zach, a past Kilcoo camper, on their dock on the Gull.

Tuesday: Entering Balsam Lake on the Trent-Severn Waterway, I now picked my way through the lakes, and even more interestingly, the locks, calling it a day at the end of Sturgeon Lake near Lindsay. Taking a canoe down through the lock system was unbelievable. I chatted with the attendants as I passed, and was awestruck by the 24 foot drop passing through Fenelon Falls. Here I met another Kilcoo face, Kevin, who had been there with a school group nearly ten years ago. He was with family and friends at a set of cliffs overlooking the water. He jumped at my offer to take the Kilcoo canoe for a spin, while I gave the cliffs a test, jumping off them instead. They definitely gave Trout Rock a run for its money.

Wednesday: I passed through another lock in Lindsay, and then made my way back southwest, but heading up stream towards Lake Scugog, and Port Perry. Still on the water, paddling late into the evening, I pulled over and met an incredible couple, Myrna and Harry, who let me camp out in their backyard for the night. I was overwhelmed as they shared their experiences from raising record breaking children, to witnessing a revolution in Peru! (But those are their stories, not mine)

Thursday: Just a not so quick 20km to Port Perry, before filling myself with a much needed breakfast. By the luck of the trip, I stopped for coffee at “The Piano Café”, instantly among friends, stumbling upon Kait, who I know through residence at Queen’s, and Matt, an enthusiastic Kilcoo guy who just missed the deadline for LITs this summer. Even luckier than meeting people I knew, was that Kait was already planning to drive to Kingston for the night, so I managed to catch a



ride to Oshawa, bypassing 25km of “stream” on the way. So, I was set for the last stretch of my trip, but also the most dangerous: 50km along Lake Ontario to Toronto. This is where risk management really kicked in. My biggest problem was the wind, and my best solution was to paddle overnight. With the threat of thunderstorms overnight, but no desire to wait a full day and cross my fingers for another shot, I had to make the call. I re-packed my canoe, double checked some gear, and mentally prepared for what it would take to pull over and wait out any inclement weather from the shore, should it arise. Luckily, it never did.

Thursday Night: I left Oshawa at 9pm with a long straight paddle ahead. The majority of the lake was about the same, as you could imagine. The interesting part was passing by the Pickering Nuclear Power Plant. Police cars with lights flashing began to show up at the entrances, and I found myself under the spotlight of a circling police helicopter. For 10 minutes, it made big sweeping circles, making sure to get a look at me on each one. Then all of a sudden it left, but leaving me very confused and definitely wide awake for the next 45 minutes.

The more troubling part of the power plant wasn’t even the police, but simply seeing firsthand the effect it has on the lake. It has consumed its environment, and after spending so much time in nature, I found that incredibly difficult to see. The conflict of interest between seeing that effect, but being in an engineering physics program, essentially preparing me for the nuclear field, leaves me with the very big question of where I’m comfortable working yet to be answered.

Still I pushed on, making some more friends at a campfire near the Rouge River. Sharing a beer and a story, that was the last bookmark in the trip before I continued, making an 8:30am arrival at Ashbridge’s Bay near downtown Toronto. I managed to clear 160km in four days and see an entire section of our province that I never knew existed. I gained an incredible respect for Canada, knowing that it was opened to settlement by the canoe, and even got a pretty cool story along the way.

 **MICHAEL CAMPBELL**



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant"

- Robert Louis Stevenson

Thank you for your support of Amici this year. At the end of another great summer, we celebrate the many positive seeds of change that you, our donors and supporters, have planted in the lives of deserving children:

- ◆ Your commitment to sharing the gift of summer camp means that 140 children experienced a total of over 340 incredible weeks at our partner camps this year.
- ◆ You helped 84% of Amici campers increase their level of self-confidence

through their camp experience. This is a lasting impact that in turn will inspire many Amici campers to plant their own positive seeds in their home and school communities.

- ◆ Your vital seeds of support help Amici reach more and more kids each summer: this year we were able to serve 70% more children than we did just five years ago.

And there is still more work to be done! Today, as many as 1 in 3 families



can't afford to give their kids recreational opportunities outside of school. Children who do participate in recreational programs are more likely to be emotionally and physically healthy, leading to good life choices. Like you, we know that camp can make a difference.

As we look to the future of Amici, we continue to stay focused on ensuring that as many children as possible have a chance to experience summer camp, regardless of financial barriers. We ask for your help in breaking these barriers, one by one, for more and more children each summer. We can't do it without you.

Finally, thank you to our many volunteers who have each worked so hard over the last year to help Amici reach and, even exceed, our annual goals. Thank you to our dedicated Board Members who always keep their strategic eye on the ball, ensuring Amici's future remains secure. Thank you to our 27 partner camps, who continue to deliver the experience of a lifetime to so many campers each summer. And thank you to our donors and sponsors, who make everything possible!

Throughout the following pages you'll find more information, stories and pictures of the many seedlings you have helped Amici plant in summer, 2010. Enjoy!

Kate Horton, Executive Director
kate@amicicharity.org

For 2010-11, we welcome Jennifer Kentner to our staff team! Jennifer joins us as Interim Executive Director while current ED Kate Horton is away on maternity leave. Jennifer's background is in inclusive recreation and camping and she brings with her a wealth of energy, enthusiasm and new ideas to help Amici continue to grow. You can reach Jennifer at: jennifer@amicicharity.org Welcome, Jennifer!

CHARITY INTELLIGENCE SELECTS AMICI AS A TOP CHARITY FOR 2010!

Amici Camping Charity has been selected by Charity Intelligence (Ci) as a Recommended Charity 2010. Amici has been chosen from an initial pool of over 200 charities. Charity Intelligence is one of Canada's leading organizations in the analysis of social impact. Charity Intelligence's mission is to recommend charities that will impact real change.

According to Charity Intelligence, Amici Camping Charity has been chosen as it excels in addressing a social issue, is cost efficient, and most importantly, has a track record of producing outstanding results for Canadians in need. For more information, please visit their website at www.charityintelligence.ca.

Dear Amici:
 Along with this check go my heartfelt thanks for what you are providing my sons: a sure-thing dose of acceptance, inclusion, fun, outdoor activity, development of all kinds through physical challenges and growth in a very positive direction.
 I am so happy that Amici exists and cares about kids like mine.
 Thank you!!

I would love to thank you for a great two weeks. Camp was exciting! I think camp is a great place to make new friends and a great place for boys and girls of all ages to interact and have fun in many games and activities. Now I shall write a short story to show my gratitude. Once upon a time a frog wanted to go to a pond but he could not go without the help of some nice people. So he went to the pond for 2 weeks. After that the frog sent a letter to his sponsors, saying thank you and he would love to go again next year. That frog is me and I am extremely thankful.

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS 2010

Thanks to your support, Amici keeps on growing! Amici had another record breaking year! Your generosity gave 140 children over 340 weeks at summer camp this year! And that's not all...

- ◆ 97% of Amici parents noted an improvement in their child's self-confidence since returning home from camp in 2010. Your support gave children the opportunity to learn new activities and create positive change in their lives.

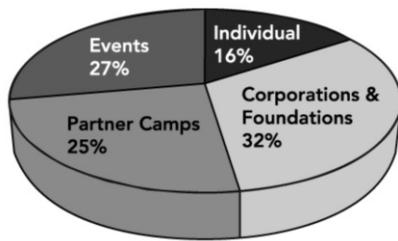
- ◆ You helped Amici send 10 children to valuable leadership training programs in 2010.

- ◆ In 2010 Amici saw an over 90% return camper rate. Your support ensures that camp continues to impact the lives of Amici sponsored campers year after year.

- ◆ You can help us help more families! Each year Amici's waitlist grows in numbers. Space is available at partner camps to place more kids. We rely on you to help us fill these spaces. With your support, Amici wants to send more kids than ever to camp in 2011.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of children and families we serve

2010 Sources of Funding (unaudited)



YOUR GENEROSITY CHANGES LIVES! AMICI'S CAMPER GROWTH INDEX SURVEY

When you think of camp, surely the word 'fun' comes to mind. While camp is an incredibly fun experience, it offers children so much more. It teaches them to become more independent, improves their social skills, allows them to make new friends and succeed as a leader. Amici set out to prove the enormous impact that camp has on a child's life by conducting the Camper Growth Index survey or CGI (adapted from the American Camp Association's Camper Growth Index survey) which offers clear statistics that confirm the significant impact that camp has on a child's development in life skills areas. The CGI survey tells the story of the true power of camp and the lasting difference donors like you make through your generous support.

- ◆ 84% of children have improved self-confidence since returning from camp.

- ◆ 88% of parents have noted an increase in their child's positive decision making abilities since returning from camp.

- ◆ 86% of campers (and their parents) feel that they are better environmental stewards, caring more about nature and wildlife since attending camp.

- ◆ 88% of campers feel that they have improved social skills as a result of attending camp. They feel more comfortable making new friends, and are more understanding of children who are different from them.

- ◆ 93% of children are more interested in joining organized school activities since attending camp.

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AMICI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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THANK YOU TO OUR 2010 PARTNER CAMPS!

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www.kilcoo.com

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www.onondagacamp.com

YMCA Camp Kitchikewana
www.kitchi.com

YMCA Camp Pine Crest
www.camppinecrest.ca

YMCA Camp Queen Elizabeth
www.campqueenelizabeth.ca

YMCA Camp Wanakita
www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR 2011 EVENTS!



Thanks to Jays Care Foundation for giving Amici campers the once in a lifetime opportunity to catch the Jays game from the Jays Care Community Clubhouse at Rogers Centre...what a view!



Peter Oyler has helped Amici share the gift of summer camp for 20 years through his volunteer service and dedication to the Highland Yard. Thank you Peter for making a difference!



Left to right, Alan Bean, Will Nelson, Stuart Snyder, Willie Macrae, Jake Irwin and Tim McMartin. The team captains, all experienced campers themselves, organized Canoe Heads for Kids 2010. 6 teams with a total of 50 participants hit the water and then took to the streets raising a total of \$32,000 for Amici Camping Charity!



Amici would like to thank NSA Canada Juice Plus for their continued support through the NSA Walk in the Park event. This year's event, held on September 25, 2010 raised enough to send 10 children to camp next summer for a total of 20 weeks! Way to go NSA Canada Juice Plus!

 Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to stay in the loop on upcoming Amici events. 

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follow us on
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Amici Camping Charity

@amici_charity

EVENT SPONSORS 2010

- Air Miles Loyalty Reward Program
- Angus Glen Golf Course
- BMO Guardian Funds
- Bruce's Golf Rewards
- CIBC Wood Gundy
- Harbourfront Canoe & Kayak Centre
- Hartford Investments
- Henderson Partners LLP
- Investors Group
- Kilcoo Camp
- Lakeridge Links Golf Club
- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
- Stinson Equipment
- Woodbine Entertainment Group

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring 2011
BALL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
at Upper Canada College

May 18, 2011
PETER TAYLOR ART SHOW
at The Women's Art Association, Toronto

Summer 2011
CANOE HEADS FOR KIDS
to volunteer contact:
Jake.Irwin@bakermckenzie.com

June 2011
JRL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

July 29, 2011
HIGHLAND YARD 10K, 5K, 2K RUN/WALK
in Minden, Ontario

September 2011
TEES & TIARAS WOMEN'S NINE 'N' DINE
at Angus Glen Golf Course

September 25, 2011
NSA WALK IN THE PARK

October 5, 2011
AMICI MILE
at Woodbine Racetrack

Check out www.amicicharity.org for up to date event information.

In 2010, generous supporters held the following events to raise funds for Amici:

- Cadillac Fairview Night of Dreams
- Camp Wenonah 2010 Staff Auction
- Great Wolf Lodge movie night
- Kilcoo Camp 2010 Visitors Day, July and August 2010
- Kilcoo Christmas Party
- Kilcoo Family Party Time fundraiser
- NSA Juice Plus Walk in the Park
- Peter Taylor Art Show
- RBC Capital Markets fundraiser
- Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom fundraising event
- Store and Sell It Charity Garage Sale
- The Portage Store fundraiser

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SUPPORTED AMICI IN 2010

Thank you to everyone who generously supported Amici in 2010. With your gift, you have helped set a child on a new and stable path to a brighter future!

The Trailblazers - The Trailblazers are those special friends of Amici who made a substantial contribution in 2010 to help share the gift of summer camp. Thank you to the following donors:

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Harold Thompson
Barbara Tinsworth

These gifts were received during the 2010 fiscal year, October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. Due to space limitations, we have listed gifts of \$100 and greater.

Kilcoo 20

The Kilcoo 20 is a special group of individuals who have chosen to have a lasting impact on the lives of underprivileged children. Through a very generous gift to the Amici Endowment, totaling \$100,000, the Kilcoo 20 will help to ensure that deserving boys and girls have the same experiences, friendships and memories that they enjoyed at camp year after year. We acknowledge and thank them for their leadership.

Paul Chamberlain	Alan Ingram	Eric L McKinnon
John Francis	Cassandra Kingsmill Stuart	Gordon Petch
John Grant	Peggy Latimer	Tom Reed
David Hadden	Allan Leal	David Roland
David Hamer	Janet L'Heureux	Peter Sharpe
Richard Hamm	Jamie Macintosh	Julia West
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Amici Camping Charity
204-150 Eglinton Ave East
Toronto, ON M4P 1E8

Tel: 416-588-8026
Fax: 416-486-3854
info@amicicharity.org

Charitable Registration Number:
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A TRIBUTE TO RONALD P CLARKE 1926-2010

It was the spring of 1938 when Mom and Dad took my brother and me to a private evening meeting with Mr. Plewman at his home just off Avenue Road north of Eglinton Avenue. Our parents wanted to learn first hand from the owner what this rather new Kilcoo Camp was all about.

It must have been a good meeting because Ron and I became campers at Kilcoo that very year and in my brother's case he continued on into the early 1940s when he became a counsellor to the younger campers. Our Toronto home was on Briar Hill Avenue, the same street that John (Chief) Latimer lived on and we were great pals. I'm pretty sure it was John's parents who introduced Kilcoo to our family.

My brother Ron was five years older than I and that classified him as an "intermediate", and as such he lived with a group of teenagers called the "Rinky Dinks". It was the only Kilcoo living and sleeping quarters constructed of a wooden floor (raised from the ground) and an army-barracks type tent. As I recall, most of us younger beginning campers were terribly jealous of the "Rinky Dinks"; they all looked pretty much like young grown up men to us kids.

Ron enjoyed all the summer athletic activities and was particularly good at sailing, and was often on the winning team in the war canoe races. To me his exploits on the high diving tower held me in total fascination ... and complete terror! It seems to me that Ron took part in everything Kilcoo had to offer; he loved to be in the wood-working shop and some of the earliest advertising material shows a photo of Ron making a wooden ash tray holder (it was shaped like a bellhop).

While I've lived in the east all my life, Ron spent most of his years in Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg and finally Vancouver for his last 30 years. At least once a year our communications would turn to memories of our years at Kilcoo Camp. As time passed Ron and I began to think we were the oldest "Kilcoo Camp Brothers Act" still alive. Sadly, that ended this year. Ron died in Vancouver this past February at age 84. Kilcoo has lost one of its oldest and, I might say, most loyal camper and friend. I lost my big brother and unquestionably my hero back in the 40s.

I believe a Kilcoo camper never fades away or totally disappears. I'm positive Ron's spirit still lingers around the camp grounds and will forever be a part of the Kilcoo Camp history and lore.

 **RICHARD M CLARKE**
WESTPORT CT. USA



Remember the feeling...you are in the thick of the woods, being feasted on by every bug within miles. The feeling that it will never end, is setting in. THEN...You capture that first glimpse of sparkling blue water through the trees. You know you can make it, that feeling of accomplishment and relief, comes over you. There is no other feeling quite like it, YOU DID IT!

This painting PORTAGE was painted by GV Alumnus, Maryu Cordell in 2005 and was made into seventy-four signed, limited edition prints for you to purchase and help at the same time. The profits from these sales will be going to AMICI. There are only a few left. So, remember how incredible camp was, and help share the memories. Prints are available at a reduced price. Thank you for your generosity.

To Order a print please contact Kim Bouchard at the Kilcoo office by phone: (416) 486-5264, or by email: kim@kilcoo.com

KILCOO ALUMNI REUNION IN PETERBOROUGH

On Saturday, May 29, 2010, a gathering of alumni was held in Peterborough. A total of 13 previous campers and staff attended: Paul Chamberlain, Jamie McAlpine, Dave Lillico, Peter Oyler, Dave Milne, Bob Slingerland, Alan Ingram, Paul Cragg, Doug Taylor, Tom Eby, Bob Buchanan, Jim Howe and Richard Bendera.

The group met at Ricki's Restaurant for lunch. Many old acquaintances were renewed plus new ones made. The times we spent at Kilcoo covered several decades so lots of memories were drawn out for sharing. Most of us had been present in the 50s and 60s and many had not met since those days. We all agreed that we had hardly changed a bit, in spite of the white (or absent) hair in evidence!

Following the lunch we walked the short distance to the Peterborough Canoe Museum, one of Canada's little known gems of history and culture. We had a guided tour through the wonderful portrayal of the importance of our beloved canoe in the exploration of Canada. Many memories of Kilcoo canoe trips were stirred as we learned of the Voyageurs and their amazing exploits on the lakes and rivers of Canada in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

A good time was had by all and a seed sewn to have this kind of gathering again before long.

 **PAUL CRAGG 1955-64**



KILCOO'S WOMEN ON STAFF... PART 2: THE NURSES OF THE 60'S

Daphne, Shirley and I arrived at camp with fantasies in our heads of loads of time between sick calls to work on tans and water sport skills. After all there was going to be a doctor on site as well wasn't there? My first impressions blew "the usual" out of the water. First, there was the white knuckle ride to camp with Mrs. L at the wheel. Then, into Chief's cabin to meet David (Lub) age about 5, who sat in the big chair opposite the door and said hello to each of the 100 or so staff members by name.

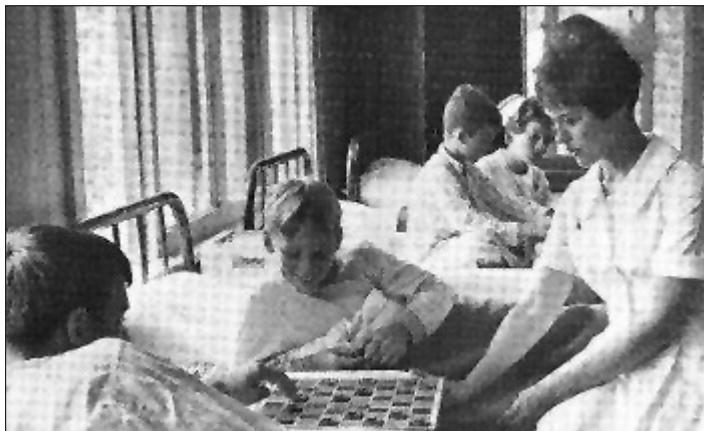
Daph arrived shortly after I did and we met Chief and Mrs. Chief (whose secret names were John and Peggy) and the Senior Staff and many many more. If you forgot a name you could always ask David.

Both Shirley and I had nursed at camps for underprivileged children. Chief spoke about the emotional needs of some of the campers and for us as nurses there was a sensitivity shift. Yes, there were campers who boarded at school and were sent to camp for the summer. Many of the campers who were sick enough to stay in the infirmary wanted a Mom-like tuck in. However, the minute they were well, they would give us a perfunctory "Hi" at sick call follow up, before they headed back down the hill to their sections.

Then, the second year Daph and I were at camp there was a two week flu epidemic. It was pretty wild. We made cabin calls with thermometers and apple juice. Mostly, the older campers and staff were really sick. The hospital in Minden was overwhelmed so we had to improvise and hang intravenous bottles in the infirmary from the hook of the adjustable movie screen. Chief's cabin took the infirmary overflow.

One evening Mrs. Chief was having a well deserved soak in the bath tub when the door flew open and a counsellor rushed to the toilet bowl, put his head down and exited without realizing he was not alone.

The staff were truly remarkable people. We were often in awe of how they handled challenges, such as cabin groups who were all bedwetters, or asthmatics who needed immediate care and other situations that needed on the spot decisions. One time, Daph had explained to a counsellor when and how to use a prepared adrenalin needle for a camper with an allergy to bee stings. On the trip a different camper



had a severe allergic reaction and the counsellor assessed the situation and gave him the shot....pretty gutsy, and impressive stuff.

Then came visitors weekend.

We were corralled into Mrs. L's cabin where we prepared 200, or was it 400, devilled eggs. Sometimes smells evoke memories and we were certainly left with memories. Mrs. L always arrived at meals with a calm demeanor and looking like she stepped out of a summer Vogue issue. It wasn't until we were at camp for quite a while that we were occasionally invited in for a "Mrs. L Dryer" (G&T). It was so named because Mrs L had the only clothes dryer in camp and if you timed your laundry right you might be at her cabin at just the right time.

Shirl and Daph visited Ruth's Island. That was when Ruth decided they were to be welcomed to her world... It was a world that would put a modern day environmental recyclist to shame. However, when she decided to visit us, the white haired bombshell arrived at the infirmary for the visit usually in her bathing suit, with her hair in rollers and most often expecting full attention in the middle of sick call.

Ah, so many memories and stories. Like the time the doctor's really attractive babysitter arrived directly from Paris, put on her bikini and headed down to the beach. Remember this was the 60's. There was no shortage of Senior Staff prepared to explain the rules concerning the behaviour of girls at Kilcoo to her.

We were all happy when Paul invited Shirley, Daphne and myself to submit our reminiscences of Kilcoo. We nurses also share our enduring friendship. There is something very real about what we experienced at Kilcoo.

We also continue to move forward together....on our bicycles. Since 1995 we have had annual 2-4 week trips across Canada and Europe. Last year Daph and Shirl did "The Orient Express" from Paris to Istanbul. This year we cycled for three weeks together around Upper New York State's Finger Lakes.

Through the years we have remained in touch. Shirley has been a member of the AMICI Camper Selection Committee while Daphne and I were Kilcoo camper parents of Eric and Jamie. We all have attended reunions and fundraisers, and so often there have been times when we have been so very proud of our fellow Kilcoo staff members and campers as they distinguish themselves and we share hugs and memories.



ELSIE PETCH
DAPHNE TONELLATO
SHIRLEY DAVEY

KFPT DONATES \$1,000 TO AMICI

The story of the KFPT donation to AMICI started out when John and Peggy Latimer were kids... long before they met and long, long, long, long before they became known as Chief and Mrs. Chief to Kilcoo campers.

Like all marriages, Chief and Mrs. Chief brought many friends into their union... some dating back to their pre-school days. As those friends got married and had kids, a strange and wonderful thing happened. Nine of those original friends, with the Latimers as the magnet, gravitated to each other in a special way and started to gather formally in the 50's and 60's...

Somewhere along the way... no one is exactly sure when... it was decided that they should ALL get together with ALL of the kids for a weekend of fun at Kilcoo. It was the first KFPT (Kilcoo Family Party Time) and no one knew how long the tradition would last or how big that original core group would expand to...

On this past Labour Day weekend, the 33rd or 40th or 54th Anniversary KFPT was held. All nine families were in attendance with representation coming from Dubai, California, Vancouver, Calgary, and Montreal... those living in Greece, Australia and England sent their regrets! Amazingly, 120 souls, spanning three generations were in attendance, with 50 kids under the age of sixteen!

During the weekend, it was determined by the KFPT gang that experiencing a camp like Kilcoo is truly a pleasure that should be shared by as many kids as possible. The virtual hat was passed and a \$1,000 donation was made to AMICI in the name of the Latimer Family!!!

How how!



KILCOO CANOE PROJECT UPDATE

Now in its second year, the Kilcoo Canoe Project has been moving ahead steadily. During the past winter Builder Marc Russell moved shop to Toronto and by June two more new Kilcoos were added to the fleet, while three vintage Chestnut canoes were restored. These, and all the 2G canoes, saw lots of use over the summer both on Gull Lake and on out-trips.

Much of July was spent in milling wood, preparing boat elements for later assembly, and repairing several ABS and Kevlar tripping boats. The summer's main project, however, was the restoration of Kilcoo's second war canoe, which was in need of an extensive refit to correct extensive hull damage and serious rot. "The repairs," Marc sighs, "went very well, but the finishing slowed me down some. The boat is very big, about three or four times the volume of a Kilcoo, and at times seemed a daunting task on which to work. There's a lot of sanding." Camper Colin Dooley was a great help during repairs, and he and Marc both were very pleased to work in the hot sun on a free section of the canoe docks. The boat was set aside in August while Marc, LiT Kevin Preiksaitis, and camper Gabe Lane focused on building two new Kilcoo hulls, which will be finished and completed early in the new year. The refit resumed during the fall, with members of the Post Camp work crew helping to canvas the boat. Repair work has also begun on "The Needle," a unique 22" cedar-strip racing canoe.



Interest and awareness of our Project continues to grow: outside of the immediate Kilcoo community, our new boats have attracted the attention of recreational canoeists and private collectors, and already Marc has been commissioned for several custom projects. "My winter is pretty full, but I hope to have at least three new canoes on the dock by July next. I just want to keep rockin' and rollin', making better boats for Kilcoo." By summer 2011, we



should have 9 Kilcoos, and by 2012 (assuming any and all important repairs are complete) a regular cycle of preparation, construction, and maintenance can begin in earnest.

Both Marc and Kilcoo welcome sales inquiries and comments about the Project, and as it progresses, the Gazette will certainly keep the Kilcoo community involved with all the developments in this expanding endeavor.

 **F. NELSON ARCHER**

IDEAS ALWAYS WELCOMED!

If you have ideas for articles of interest for future issues of the Gazette please contact us at gazetteeditor@kilcoo.com. 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 photos to accompany your piece, please send those along as well!

FAMILY CAMP AT KILCOO

Family Camp? At Kilcoo? Sure, let's go. With that the Frank family signed up for a 3-day adventure at the end of the summer. As far as I was aware, this was the first official family camp in the history of Kilcoo.

During the months leading up to Family Camp I could only think about how much fun we were going to have sharing time as a family at all of the great activities Kilcoo offered. What great family time! Canoeing, kayaking, sailing...

I must also admit that I had ulterior motives...I wanted to introduce my 6-year old son Charlie to camp life, and to re-introduce camp life to my 10-year-old, Nicholas. On the other hand, my kids - in particular 12-year old Olivia - were not all that keen to embark on their 6th trip that summer from Ottawa to north of Toronto.



About two weeks before the adventure began, my first sneaking suspicion arose that my initial view of Kilcoo Family Camp was wrong. It all started when we received the list of families attending...Crysdale, Preston, Elmhirst, Goldman, two Grounds, Mitchell, Morton, Chamberlain...the list goes on. Memories started to come flowing back...not of activities, but of people, friends, counsellors, instructors...nights off, rest hour.

We arrived a few minutes after lunch began. We walked into the lodge and I immediately knew that my family was in for something special. A big hug from Lub followed by tons of hellos and more hugs. Meeting spouses and children of special people I had known many years ago was truly amazing. What was equally amazing was meeting many families whose parents did not go to Kilcoo, but they were using Family Camp as an opportunity to introduce their children to Kilcoo's unique brand of magic.

Throughout the next 48 hours we experienced one month of Kilcoo. The activities played an important role in shaping our days, but they were really a means of families and friends challenging and enjoying themselves. There is simply nothing better than having time to catch up with old friends and meeting new friends while watching our children run around and play in a safe environment like Kilcoo.



There was only one way to bring this fun-filled three days to a close...Lub leading us to Chapel Point. I do not remember the staff being as musical as they are now...everyone seemed to play the guitar and sing like Neil Young.

On behalf of everyone at Family Camp thank you Lub, Beth, Charlie, TJ, Brook and the post camp staff for hosting Family Camp. You did an awesome job, especially considering there were two Grounds there.

**ANDY, LORI, OLIVIA, NICHOLAS,
AND CHARLIE FRANK.
OTTAWA, ON - GO SENS GO.**

YUKON TRIPPING (continued)

...continued from cover

I learned many lessons on this trip, some of which are still revealing themselves to me. Perhaps my perspective is different now that I have my own little girl. Certainly, the lost equipment, food and clothing meant nothing in comparison with our group's safety. There is nothing more terrifying to a tripper than the thought of having to meet with a camper's family after a deadly accident. Thankfully, it didn't come to that, but I'd be remiss not to acknowledge how fortunate we all were that day. Somehow I know that if Will Dempster hadn't been released from underneath, or if Jamie Lackey's eye had been seriously damaged, I would not be writing this article.



Indeed, we can never know how a particular instant in time may change, or not change, the course of our lives. But we owe it to our families and our loved ones to seize every moment, recognizing that we've either been given a second chance, or that we might not have another opportunity. Fast forward over a decade later, and I'm still close buddies with Stu Snyder, and I still keep in touch with Will Dempster, whose brother John was in my Mexican wedding party last December. Every time I see Will, I am thankful that he's still smiling. And when I was given the opportunity, this year, as a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa and as a lawyer with the non-profit organization called Ecojustice, to teach a group of Canada's best and brightest law students how to help save Canada from environmental destruction, you can only imagine my pleasure at seeing John Lindsay among them. I have a lot to be thankful for, and I hope that the lessons I've learned may be valuable to former and current Kilcoo campers.

Now I must run because I am meeting several Kilcoo buddies to paddle the Petawawa River over the May long weekend. If there are Kilcoo alumni who want to share this story and their own with John and me in Ottawa, we are actively recruiting people for an event to support AMICI. Please get in touch at the e-mail address below.

**WILL AMOS ("AMOOSE")
WILLIAM.AMOS@GMAIL.COM**

