



*"Share the Gift of Summer Camp!"*



# THE GULL ROCK GAZETTE

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visit us at [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org) & [www.kilcoo.com](http://www.kilcoo.com)

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## THE AMICI CAMP TOUR - 2004: A DEDICATED VOLUNTEER GETS THE REAL SCOOP

What's the ultimate road trip? An epic coast-to-coast journey along the Trans-Canada highway? Highway 35, Coboconk to the Kawartha Dairy? Well, it may sound a little strange, but near the top of my own list is the two weeks I spent this past August visiting several of AMICI's partner camps while they were in full swing.

After two years as a volunteer with the Campership Committee and, before that, many more as a camper (at Wapomeo and Outward Bound) and staff member (at Glen Bernard Camp) I assumed I was reasonably well informed about the scope and variety of the Ontario camping community. I was wrong. The eleven partner camps that I visited, which represent roughly two-thirds of the AMICI roster (see list below) were far more diverse than I had anticipated. Spending a few hours in each of these places, I witnessed a living (running, swimming, singing, shouting, playing) testament to the wonderful quality and variety of experiences that AMICI provides to a growing number of children each summer.

The objectives of my trip, apart from admittedly satisfying a small amount of natural curiosity, were:

- \* To help AMICI better understand the unique dynamics of each camp environment.
- \* To gain some valuable feedback on AMICI from the various partner camp directors.
- \* And, to spread the word to those in camping who are less familiar with AMICI.

Overall, the response and support from each director to an AMICI visit was overwhelmingly positive. One quality that apparently doesn't change from camp to camp is the tremendous pride and enthusiasm of campers, staff and directors as they give you a tour of "their" camp. This was great to see.

Patti Thom, Director at Camp Tanamakoon, told us about Tori (whose letter appears elsewhere in this issue) and the amazing impact that AMICI had on her life. Other directors also had wonderful stories to pass on about the achievements of AMICI campers past and present. They offered valuable insight into the impact that their camp has on AMICI kids and that the kids, in turn, have on their camps. More good news: virtually all the camps are highly satisfied with the process of dealing with AMICI and hope to continue to be involved well into the future. This is crucial, given how important the generously discounted session fees from these camps are to AMICI's ongoing success.

Apart from the directors and administration staff who regularly interact with the Campership Committee, the



trip revealed that most summer staff have a low awareness of AMICI. One notable exception to this was Onondaga, where the staff this summer, led by Kilcoo alumni Andrew Blakely (2001), independently raised just under \$2,000 for AMICI through a staff auction. The relatively low awareness of AMICI at other camps is partly a function of AMICI's success: AMICI's goal is that campers will not be labeled by their families' financial circumstances and will instead "blend in" with their cabin mates and counselors. Happily, they do just that. Raising the overall level of AMICI-awareness amongst non-Kilcoo staff and alumni, while still respecting campers' anonymity, will be a crucial factor in AMICI's long term growth. On the positive side, the audience is receptive: once they heard about AMICI, many staff members were jazzed to become more involved with AMICI down the road...elbows up at next year's ball hockey tournament, boys!

A huge thanks to Lub and Kilcoo for putting Kevin Stewart (1999) and me up for a few nights during the Minden leg of our road trip, and also to the AMICI board for their enthusiastic support of this project. There are several more partner camps still to be visited in 2005. It's sure to be another memorable road trip...any volunteers?

 **KATE HORTON**

**Editor's note:** *The Board of Directors of AMICI would like to thank Kate for launching this inaugural camp tour (a good idea!) and for her tireless work on behalf of AMICI. Thank you Kate. How How!!*

The following camps partnered with AMICI in 2004:

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Alive Outdoors      | Bellaleo*              |
| Camp Couchiching*   | Frontier Trails        |
| Camp Kandalore*     | Camp Kawabi*           |
| Camp Kawartha*      | Camp Kennebec          |
| Kilcoo Camp*        | YMCA Camp Kitchikewana |
| Medeba*             | Camp Oonto             |
| Onondaga Camp*      | YMCA Camp Pinecrest*   |
| Camp Tanamakoon*    | Camp Tawingo           |
| YMCA Camp Wanakita* |                        |

*(\*AMICI visited these camps in August 2004)*

## The World Needs More Kilcoo

In putting together this issue of the Gazette, I found myself – yet again – reflecting on what Kilcoo means. To me, Kilcoo means:

- having the courage to say to your best friend “I love you”;
- living life to find your next “I did it!” moment . . . and the next one . . . and the next one;
- being able to look yourself in the mirror and say “You’re the person I wanted to be”;
- the gift of summer camp and the desire to pass that along to others through charitable means; and
- strong friendships that will always have a unique core.

We live in a world in which we are surrounded by cynicism and negativity. The media highlights stories of tragedy and scandal. We get the “big picture” stories of the next looming crisis or the next passing trend. Then there is the trivial: like finding out who is dating Britney this week or what cast members of “The Apprentice” have gone on to further fame.

It would be easy to dismiss all that goes on at “camp” as hokey or clichéd, but in many ways the messages of a place like Kilcoo are exactly what the world needs to hear. I am reminded of these messages when I read pieces like Pat Tingley’s memories of Tim Ross on page 8.

Tim died tragically in a mountain climbing accident earlier this Fall. Although I didn’t know Tim, after reading Pat’s piece, I realize that Tim embodied many of the things that Kilcoo is about. Tim only worked at Kilcoo for four short years, but his connection to the place and the people who he met there seems endless.

It is also nice to see that the lessons that we learned at Kilcoo extend beyond that place nestled between the shores of Gull Lake and Highway 35. Tori Ulrich’s reflections on her days at Tanamakoon are yet more evidence of the value of a camp experience. Tori was an AMICI camper who was given the “gift of camp” by an organization that all Kilcoo alumni should be proud of. In her piece, Tori says “there was love and happiness everywhere [at camp]”. She also says that camp helped her “set goals, make friends and be independent.”

Wouldn’t it be great if everyone could find a place where they felt there was love and happiness everywhere? Wouldn’t the world be better if everybody could find a place that would help them set goals, make friends and learn how to be independent? Utopian beliefs? Maybe. But why not strive for it. The easy route is to be cynical and dismissive. The road less travelled is the one where we try to focus on the positive and the important lessons learned.

The phrase “I did it!” is now a motto of Kilcoo Camp. Chief once said that these were the three most powerful words in the English language. He was right. If the world had more Kilcoos, maybe everyone would focus more on “I did it”, rather than “I can’t”.

Is that trite? I don’t think so. I think it’s powerful.

Thanks for taking time to read the Gazette. Enjoy.

*COLIN GROUND '86*

Have any questions, comments, or story ideas? Why not send a note to our editor, Colin Ground. He can be reached at: [Colin.Ground@fmc-law.com](mailto:Colin.Ground@fmc-law.com). It’s your Gazette – tell us what you think!

## FIRESIDE CHAT

*Reflections and news from Lub*



I am very pleased to introduce another issue of the Gazette! I believe you’ll all enjoy the different stories, reflections and information.

Personally, it has been a “crazy fall”. Post Camp was busy with six very successful school groups, and a wonderful Father/Son weekend that, interestingly enough, attracts more alumni and their son(s) every year. The PC boys -- Liam Brown, Grayson Burke, Alex Morera, Scott Tavener and Pat Tingley -- finished off on Friday October 22nd, with the final event being Geoff Park’s stag the weekend before. The departure from camp was almost six months to the day from when we arrived in the spring for Advance Camp. Kilcoo really is a six month operation now.

On a sad note there was the tragic death of Tim Ross at the end of September that shocked us all. Although Tim was on Kilcoo staff only four years (1998-2001), his impact was profound. We really felt this at the celebration of his life we held in Toronto. We sang “When You Walk Through a Storm” and “Maker of Men” with present day campers and staff, as well as Alumni. This experience once again reinforced the impact Kilcoo Camp has on so many. It reminded me how lucky I am to be able to work with so many fine people of all ages. The support we have is truly humbling. So many people give so much to ensure that the legacies of Charlie Plewman and my father will continue for many more years. It is also nice for me to have my brothers Michael and Jeffrey taking a much more active role in Alumni affairs which is one of the true keys to Kilcoo’s success.

On a personal note, Beth (who is working part-time) and I are certainly keeping busy with the two boys, TJ and Charlie (now 3) and our daughter Brooke (now 1 1/2). The office is as busy as ever, with Kim and Tingles working very hard. My mom, who broke her hip late in October, is recovering well. She remains busy with her friends and the business of



the camp. You’ll be happy to know that applications for 2005 (both campers and staff) continue to roll-in steadily. We are already getting ready for next summer and I can’t wait!

I wish everyone a great holiday season. In closing, please stay in touch with those guys that made your time at Kilcoo a special one....don’t leave it too late.

 **DAVID “LUB” LATIMER '04**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - AMICI 101

**I**n order to know where you are going, it helps to know where you are and where you have been. Those who are closest to AMICI (the Board and committee members) are acutely aware of the “then”, “now” and “future” of AMICI. I doubt, however, that Joe Public (or for the purposes of the GRG, Joe Kilcoo) knows AMICI to the same degree. Think of this then as AMICI 101 – a refresher as to what AMICI is all about, where we are heading over the next few years and how we intend on getting there.

As many of you know AMICI was established in 1966 by a small group of Kilcoo Alumni. The organization, which is a registered federal charity, was set up to send both girls and boys from financially challenged families to residential summer camps in Ontario.

Since its inception, AMICI has raised well over \$1,000,000 and provided in excess of 1,000 camping experiences for young people. We have experienced tremendous growth in the past few years. The number of children sent to camps has grown from 39 in 1997 to 79 in 2004, over 100% growth in 7 years. For the coming summer, we anticipate that we will be sponsoring 85 children.

The majority of AMICI campers come from lower middle class families. Many come from single parent families where there is simply not enough disposable income to spend on a summer camp experience. We look for children that may have limited avenues through which they can develop the social skills, life skills and support network that we associate with a camping experience. Importantly, we try to find children who will take something positive away from camp and contribute something in return! Once AMICI commits to a child we will continue our support until he or she is too old to be a camper, or until the financial assistance of AMICI is no longer needed.

As further discussed in the cover story by Kate Horton, AMICI partners with Ontario Camping Association accredited camps. The camps that we work with are not only our partners but our largest donors as well. Without their financial assistance we would not be able to provide support to the number of children that we do. AMICI campers are anonymous within the camps they attend. Only a select few individuals at each partner camp will know that a particular child is receiving a sponsorship from AMICI. We believe this anonymity allows the AMICI child to benefit most fully from the camp experience.

As stated above, the past few years have been an exciting time for us. We have grown significantly, not just in terms of the number of

children that we support but also in terms of the organization's structure. This past January at our annual strategic retreat we set out a number of medium term objectives:

- \* sponsor 125 children by the year 2009
- \* improve the manner in which we assess the positive impacts our partner camps make on the children we support
- \* be great, not just good, and in so doing become the “model” Ontario camping charity by 2009

In order to ensure that that we meet our objectives the AMICI Board has taken several positive steps over the past few months. First, we authorized the hiring of an Executive Director. At about the time that this publication is going to press we will be extending an offer of employment to one of the candidates that we are currently interviewing. We know that this is a big step for the organization, but believe that it is a necessary one given the current level of administrative needs in conjunction with the additional work that will come with growth over the next few years. Further, the Board has also undergone its own makeover so that all Board members (outside the President and Vice President) are assigned specific portfolio responsibilities. This change will facilitate the focus that will be required in the areas of fundraising, event planning and communications as we move forward. Lastly, a significant effort has been made to ensure that policies relating to investment, insurance and campership properly reflect the current environment. All of us on the Board feel that the steps that we have taken and the changes we are in the process of effecting will help to ensure that AMICI successfully achieves its goals.

Well there it is - AMICI in a nutshell... the then, now and future. I hope you enjoyed your lesson. Class dismissed!

But wait...on a final but most important note, let me express our deepest thanks to everyone who has supported AMICI during this past year. The list of people to thank could run for a page. The reality is that every prize donor, golfer, artist, foundation, race-track lover, camping partner, OCA president, raffle ticket seller (or buyer), volunteer, Highland Yard runner, GRG contributor and donor has helped. We thank you for continuing to help us make a difference. Every bit truly helps. And we hope that you will keep AMICI in mind when you contemplate annual giving during this festive time of year.

Happy holidays!

 **MICHAEL (MOUSE) ROLAND '95**

## Tracking Down our Alumni

If you know of Kilcoo Alumni who are not receiving the Gazette or have lost touch, please have them call Kim Bouchard at the Kilcoo Camp office at 416-486-5264 to have their names added to the Alumni list. Please also let us know if you have any interest in getting more involved in the various social and fundraising programs of AMICI. It is going to be another great year!

## AMICI: EVOLUTION AT THE BOARD LEVEL

*To you we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high*

I am delighted to announce a couple of exciting changes within AMICI. First, effective immediately, Allan Leal '74 will take over as President. Since joining the Board a year ago, Allan has again and again demonstrated that he brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the organization. Like the rest of the Board, Allan sees a bright future for AMICI – a future of immeasurable positive impacts being made on an increasing number of children who will benefit from experiencing the gift of summer camp because of AMICI. I know I speak for all when I express how thrilled I am that Allan is assuming the role of President!

Second, your multi-talented GRG editor, Colin Ground '86, has joined the Board as Secretary. Since taking over the editorial responsibilities for the GRG in 2003, Colin has added tremendous value to AMICI, particularly by way of his ideas on how to introduce (or in some instances re-introduce) a broader spectrum of Kilcoo alumni to

AMICI. Colin will be passing the editorial torch for the GRG in 2005.

Colin replaces Mark Davis '92, who tirelessly gave of himself to AMICI for the past 5 years. Much of the organizational infrastructure that will support AMICI's future growth is directly attributable to Mark's efforts. Though we will miss Mark's devotion and pragmatism at the Board level, we are delighted that Mark is going to continue to stay involved with AMICI, most immediately through the JRL Classic. On behalf of a grateful Board -- How How Mark!

I would also like to express my most sincere thanks to every person involved with AMICI who has supported me for the past eight years. This thanks is extended to every volunteer, Board member and administrative support personnel (Susan, Kim and AJ deserve particular mention) who have helped to grow AMICI to the organization it is today. You are all remarkable people with excep-

tional talents. It has been a delight working so closely with such a committed, professional and caring group of people.

I will continue as a Board member for the short term and am excited to find new avenues through which I can continue to support an organization that makes a huge impact on an ever-expanding group of children. With Allan at the helm and an incredibly talented supporting staff, AMICI is in great shape to see that our bright present becomes an even brighter future.

➔ **MICHAEL (MOUSE) ROLAND '95**



## A LEAN, KEEN, CHARITABLE MACHINE

*A report from Campership*

Once again, AMICI is proud to say that we sent 79 children to 18 OCA accredited camps across Ontario. With another exceptional summer, albeit a little wet, AMICI children spent just over 188 weeks in total at summer camp in 2004.

Joining me again on the committee for their third year are: Kevin "Swamp Fox" Stewart '99 and Kate Horton. Returning for their second year are Rob Fletcher '98, Jon Millman '01 and Allan Leal '74. The committee is a little leaner from last year, but will be just as effective. This committee has been responsible for growing our camper base by 5 children in '04 and has contributed to increased efficiency in our processes. Having such committed people is a great asset to this important function within AMICI and all should be congratulated.

This past August, Kate & Kevin went on a cross camp tour to visit the majority of our partner camps. (See the cover story in this issue.) This was a great opportunity for them to see all the camps in action and to see the many differences among the variety of AMICI partner camps. The trip gave the Campership Committee an invaluable insight into each camp's philosophy, and the different geographies and environments associated with each camp.

Please make sure you take a moment to read Tori Ulrich's letter to AMICI on page 5. Tori is a former AMICI child and Tanamakoon camper. We are always looking for great "Good News" stories



like Tori's that we can pass on to our supporters. Naturally, stories like this would not be possible if it weren't for your donations and the help of our partner camps. Thank you to all!

AMICI is looking for new campers! If you know of a child who would benefit from a camping experience and whose family is in need of financial assistance, please let us know. Send an e-mail to me at [bknightley@loyalty.com](mailto:bknightley@loyalty.com) to discuss the application process. The deadline for new camper applications is February 15 2005. New applications can be found on our website at [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org).

Here's looking forward to a fantastic 2005 camping season!

➔ **BRENT KNIGHTLEY '95**

## TORI'S STORY: IT'S THE REASON WE DO WHAT WE DO

An AMICI camper tells us what camp meant to her

*I attended Tanamakoon for 14 years and I can honestly say that I wouldn't be the person I am today if I hadn't been able to go to camp. AMICI helped provide me with a place of solace from an otherwise crazy home life, a chance to make incredible life-long friends and innumerable life experiences.*

*Camp meant everything to me when I was little. I would count down the months before I could go back and would spend every minute wishing I was there. It was such a safe place, a place away from the hustle of the city, away from my family problems and a place where -- no matter who you were things were "A-Okay".*

*What I am saying may sound so clichéd when I write it, but truly, camp meant so much to me. It helped me set goals, make friends, be independent, respect nature and all things living in it and, most of all, it gave me a place I could always come back to. Things at home were not very constant . . . always changing and moving around. Camp really was a great home. It didn't change much. The people were always the same (for the most part) and there was so much love and happiness everywhere. Camp really was a very comfortable place to be. I had counsellors as role models and all sorts of other people to talk to and depend on when problems of any kind came about. I am not going to lie and say that everything was perfect. I did have problems with cabin mates and I did get homesick. However, I learned how to sort out the arguments with my friends and I learned to have an appropriate amount independence from my parents. Camp provided all the other "non-school" stuff that I think everyone should know, but not everyone has a chance to learn.*

*I went to camp as a camper for 10 years and finished as a counsellor at Camp Tanamakoon in Algonquin park. I can honestly say that I am a better person for having been a camper. I am so unbelievably indebted to AMICI for helping make my camp experience possible. I have memories and love that will last forever. I have better self-esteem. I can roll-up a canoe. I can sing a song for absolutely ANY occasion. And I always have a home away from home. AMICI has given me a gift that my Mom wanted to give me but couldn't, and for that, I am amazingly thankful.*

**Tori Ulrich (Tanamakoon '01)**

## LOG ON TO KILCOO.COM AND AMICICHARITY.ORG

Check out two great sites today!

The Kilcoo Camp website has undergone some serious construction and is ready for you. You can access not only current year information, but also alumni notices and photos. The Kilcoo website can be found by keying in [www.kilcoo.com](http://www.kilcoo.com).



The AMICI website is also worth a look. It has information about the work AMICI does along with AMICI event information. You can find AMICI on-line at [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org).

Two great websties. Spread the word and enjoy!

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# SECOND ANNUAL JRL CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

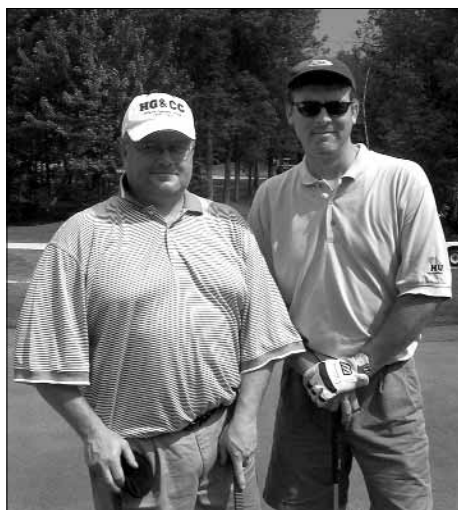
*The Second Annual JRL Classic Golf Tournament was a resounding success*

On Monday, June 14th, 2004 nearly sixty Kilcoo alumni and friends got together at Silver Lakes Golf and Country Club in Newmarket for a great day of golf in support of a great organization. Even the sporadic and torrential rains didn't stop everyone who participated from having a great time. Together, we raised nearly \$8000 (four times the revenue from the previous year) for AMICI campers. A very big "How-How" to everyone who participated, and particularly to our very generous sponsors: David Roland and John Bellamy, from Paradigm Capital Inc. generously sponsored the tournament dinner; Jeff Settington of AIG Insurance sponsored the driving range. Our hole sponsors were: Jamie Delamere of Stinson Equipment, Brent Knightley of The Loyalty Group; Mike Jack of the Investors Group; Jeremy Andrews of Net Integration Technologies; Kim Robinson of International Club Network and Mark Davis of Ogilvy Renault. Prizes were also generously supplied by: Jerry Knightley at Golfcan, Don Wilson of Virtually Perfect Golf Inc., Kim Robinson, Mark Davis, The Scace Family, Tim Lute of Coca-Cola Limited and Glenda Pye of Air Miles.

Low gross and low net scorers were, respectively, Rob Fletcher and Tim Magwood. The winning foursome was Don Wilson, Gord Petch, Jamie McAlpine and Peter Oyler.



We have already booked **Monday, June 27, 2005** for the Third Annual JRL Classic to be held at Silver Lakes so start putting your foursomes together and email Mark Davis at [mdavis@ogilvyrenault.com](mailto:mdavis@ogilvyrenault.com) to get yourself on the email distribution list. The price will again be \$175 this year and we look forward to doubling the number of participants. It's a great day and we look forward to seeing you there.



**JEREMY ANDREWS '89,  
BRENT KNIGHTLEY '95  
MARK DAVIS '92**

# 89% OF FUNDS RAISED BY AMICI GO DIRECTLY TO SENDING CHILDREN TO CAMP

*A Financial Report from the AMICI Treasurer*

AMICI is very proud of its financial record. We are able to apply 89% of funds raised directly towards sending children to camp.

AMICI's main source of funds comes in the form of donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. In 2003, donations accounted for over 40% of AMICI's fundraising. This was higher than in past years due to significant donations received in memory of Chief.

Our partner camps are our second largest source of support. Camps provide discounts for AMICI campers based on a number of factors. In 2003, discounts provided by camps accounted for 20% of our overall support.

Annual events such as the Highland Yard and the Raffle together raise a significant amount year in and year out. Thank you for selling all of those tickets again in 2004! Special events that may become annuals in the future fill out the remainder of the fundraising, including the Golf Tournament, Peter Taylor's Art Show, the CIBC 50/50 Draw and the Ball Hockey Tournament. "Have a Heart" was a very special event brilliantly executed by volunteer Carolyn Langill. All events are reported net of expenses.

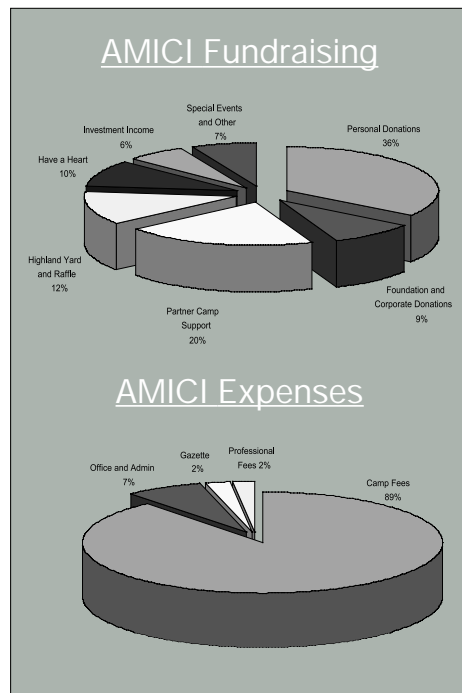
AMICI has also built up funds over the past twenty-five years through major special events such as dinner auctions and donations in memory of a number of individuals. The endowment fund is managed by Michael Unwin at RBC Dominion Securities. The endowment fund is set up to provide AMICI with an annual stream of cash flow. In 2003 it provided 6% of our funding.

In 2003, 89% of funds raised went directly to sending children to camp. Administration costs represented 7% of our total expenses, (including all expenses related to communicating with parents of campers and with our donor base (tax receipts etc.)). Professional fees cover our audit expense. AMICI's financial results are audited each year by Henderson Partners Inc.

AMICI is in a sound financial position and has built a platform that will be able to support an increasing number of campers in years to come.

AMICI has changed its financial year to September 30 to better mirror the camp year. As a result, the next financial report will appear in the spring 2005 edition of the Gazette.

➔ **JOHN MEDLAND '99**



**AMICI Night**

The Board of Directors of AMICI would like to invite you to get together with the Board and others members of the AMICI Camping Charity community to learn about our charity, the current initiatives and our future plans.

Date: March 31, 2005  
 Time: 7:00 p.m. to close  
 Place: Scallywags (South side of St. Clair Ave. just west of Yonge Street)

## THE GAZETTE ASKS

*Each issue we answer gripping Kilcoo questions.*



*It has become a favourite Kilcoo saying-"I did it!". It was a philosophy of life that Chief promoted and practiced and one that Kilcoo inspires. So, the Gazette would like to know:*

**What was one of your "I did it!" moments at Kilcoo Camp?**

I have a few (heck - I was there 13 summers!):

- \* Doing the "Lonely Vigil" on Long Island (and keeping the damn fire going!)
- \* Finally getting my Bronze Medallion (3 tries)
- \* Getting my canoeing Masters, Honour Masters & National Instructors
- \* Doing the aerial course with my son and living to tell about it

**BOB DAMERON '77**

- \* Conquered the obstacle course and my fear of heights all the in same afternoon!
- \* Managed to establish life long friendships with guys of all ages. It didn't matter if it was my Director (who didn't look a day over 40) or my buddy in Trailblazers, each one had a special bond sparked by my time at Kilcoo.

**JON PURDY '92**

Successfully breaking into the kitchen on countless occasions to steal cookies on late night Rambo missions led by Dave Purdy. More seriously though, back flipping off the top of the tower and portaging a canoe over a mile and a half had been daunting challenges that I accomplished as an LIT.

**ANDREW MITCHELL '90**



Falling into the mud pit at 3:00 A.M., stinking drunk after a night out. The real classic part is that I followed both Butters and Hester (I think) who had fallen in only moments before. The Chief theme was that I had consumed about 15-20 rye and gingers earlier in the night . . . But maybe that's really more of a "What the \$%^ did I just do?" moment.

➔ **KEVIN DEVINE '90**

# IN REMEMBRANCE: TIM 'SHADER' ROSS

*Kilcoo loses another member of its family*

**I**t was a beautiful morning in late September when I heard the terrible news about the death of my friend Tim Ross. I was up at Kilcoo awaiting the arrival of our second to last Fall school group, and I recalled all the schools Tim and I had worked with over the years. Tim loved the school group experience, and his efforts always ensured a fantastic visit for any group coming to Kilcoo.

Tim Ross came to Kilcoo Camp, first in the mid 90's as an LIT director from Camp Chief Hector on an exchange, and then as a staff member in 1998. He was a so-called "Hector-Defector". In Tim, Kilcoo scored one of the great ones -- a true camping professional. Tim ran the Earth Education Program on Ruth's Island in 1998 and 1999, and in the Spring of 1999 Tim worked his first Advance Camp and his love for Kilcoo grew even stronger. In the year 2000, Tim was an LIT director, worked our full six-month season and was then employed by Kilcoo in the off-season to investigate the feasibility of a year round facility at Kilcoo. In 2001, Tim ushered in a new position at Kilcoo best suited to his talents, Program Director, and again he worked the full six-month season. Later that fall, Tim decided to further his camping career by taking a full-time Assistant Director position back at Camp Chief Hector. He was heading off back to the mountains where his camping journey had begun years before. Earlier this past winter, Tim realized a dream and was hired as the Director of Camp Chief Hector.

During his four years as Kilcoo staff, Tim embraced the Kilcoo community. He, of course, made numerous lasting friendships and made

## What Would "The Camp Jesus" Do?

*A tribute to Tim Ross from his sister and a thank you to those who have made donations in his memory*

**I**"The Camp Jesus" he was called at the service in Calgary. While Laura (Tim's girlfriend) and I quietly giggled about this as the Minister was speaking, I have since thought that there is some truth to it. Regardless of my own spiritual beliefs, I know that Jesus is a man revered for his kindness, the lessons he taught, the hope that he brought to people and the selfless behavior that he so effortlessly displayed. These are definite traits that Tim also possessed. He helped to instill positive values and morals in today's youth. However, as for being a messiah sent from God, performing miracles and preaching the word of the Lord... not so much.

Tim was a truly wonderful man and we are all so fortunate to have memories that involve him. Some of us even got to see 'behind the curtain' (as in the Wizard of Oz), and there we saw that he was not perfect, but human. I have learned that this is integral to being a role model. Someone who has the capacity to make poor decisions, to laugh or speak (or have gas) at the wrong times, to cry...to be real. This is someone that everyone can relate to. It is how one deals with those times, learns from them and strives to be better- that is what differentiates an undesirable, a good and a great role model. Tim was great. He was beyond great. I say this not just as his sister, but as someone who saw the ups and downs, the decisions and the outcomes. He really did his absolute best.

We are all reminded of our mortality when someone dies young or "out of turn" as my parents say. We are now tragically aware of what can hap-

pen with one wrong step, literally. To take lessons from Tim's life is important, but also from his death. Safety matters. Though it can't help in every situation, it is essential. Also, I would never suggest that someone should live their life through preparation for death, but there are some things that are helpful to have done or known by your family, such as a will, your wishes and most of all your love for those who are important to you. In Tim's case, that was everyone he knew, and even those he didn't.

Toronto and Kilcoo his new homes. He excelled at his job and made Kilcoo a better place. He brought songs, stories, campfire tricks, and so much more. Tim's impact was immeasurably positive. I could go on and on about my own stories with Tim -- the memories of Kilcoo, Brazil, Calgary and so on -- but I think that would be little selfish. I will cherish those memories and I'll celebrate them with friends. After hearing the tributes to Tim, both in Calgary and in Toronto, one message was overwhelmingly clear: while we may have lost a great friend, we must continue on with as much of Tim's amazing attitude in our lives as possible. We must laugh and smile with the memories and take care of each other. His friends know how much he cared for them and how every relationship he had was special and unique. Tim was a man who chose to be a positive influence and he chose to live his life to the fullest.



Kilcoo will recognize Tim's impact on our camp by naming the new Ball Hockey court after Tim. "The Shader Dome" will be home to many hockey games over the years. But more in keeping with Tim's character, it will be a place of memories and smiles, and laughter and friendships. Tim's spirit reminds us that we have choices in life, and we can make the right ones.

**➔ PAT "TINGLES" TINGLEY '04**

Thank you to everyone who has been supportive to me and my parents, it has made a huge difference. My parents have been especially touched by the camping community and all the love that comes with it. Camps need people like Tim and Tim needed camp and the people there for his canvas, his stage, his classroom... his life.

There are many kids who will have the opportunity to experience and benefit from camp in their life. There are also many kids that could benefit from the experience, but are unable to due to financial constraints. Thanks to "The YMCA Strong Kids Campaign" and "AMICI" it is possible to provide these kids with camp and provide camp with these kids. In Tim's name there has already been over \$12,000 raised for these charities. I can say with every confidence that it is exactly what Tim would have wanted. He always said "Camp is the best investment you can make in a child's future!" Thank you.

**➔ SHANN ROSS '01**

# HUFF, PUFF . . . "PASS ME A KRISPY KREME!!"

And other exclamations from the 2004 Edition of the Highland Yard

Whew! Another successful Highland Yard has come and gone. Runners have since recovered, volunteers have relaxed and the two-lane thoroughfare known as Main Street in Minden has been returned to the local residents.

Despite hot, sticky and rainy weather, we had a fabulous turnout. Over 325 runners old and new came out to support AMICI. Kilcoo was well represented by John Medland who held a steady pace and came in strong at 28 minutes. John took 11th place overall. The run raised \$9,750 for AMICI. This money will help us reach camper enrollment goals for 2005.

The Yard wouldn't have been possible without the help of its dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers. Peter and Klara Oyler, our loyal Minden representatives, played a key role in setting the course and overseeing the event. K-Way and the LIT crew provided the muscle while Al Leal supplied the brains. Thank you for all your help. Many thanks also go to Mike Adamson, John Medland, Elmo and Mouse for helping put the race together.

For those of you currently preparing for next year's race (K-Way), stop eating your 2-for-1 Krispy Kremes now. Although we managed to inhale 600 donuts post-race, we don't rec-



ommend this as a training strategy for the Highland Yard.

Stay tuned for information on next year's run. If you are interested in helping out (or you have buckets of free stuff in your basement for grab bags) please contact Jenn Roden at 416-481-4445 or jenn\_rodan@hotmail.com.


 **JENN RODEN**

## MORE TICKETS, MORE MONEY RAISED . . . AND TWO WINNERS YEARNING FOR A QUICK END TO THE NHL LOCKOUT

The AMICI Raffle - 2004

Well another year another AMICI Raffle...not quite!

This year Michael "Mouse" Roland '95 informed me back in the Spring that we were printing an additional 500 tickets, but hey no pressure! Armed with numerous E-mails on the subject from the AMICI archives and a wonderful program from Kevin Stewart '99, the raffle machine began rolling in late Spring -- some would say mid summer. Notwithstanding our late start, the Raffle this year grossed a record \$22,350. Unbelievable!! Many thanks again to those of you who purchased tickets, those that sold tickets and to the smart ones that enlisted the help of friends to support our cause. Special thanks to Andy Frank '90 up in Ottawa: your ticket-selling prowess is beyond compare!! Thanks also go to Tommy Reed '83 who grabbed old mailing lists and managed to sell a ton of tickets and reconnect with many alumni. I would also like to thank the individuals and corporations who provided the prizes for this year's raffle: P I Incentives, Wilson Sports, The Loyalty Group, Proctor Silex, The Latimer Family, dish Cooking Studio and Trish Magwood '90, Geoff Kelk '77, Ray Kettlewell and Bob Dameron '77. We very much appreciate the support that they have given us. I suppose that this article wouldn't be complete without a list of who won, so the lucky ones are listed to the right. I should add that those of you who bought tickets from me and won better be ready to step it up next year!

	<b>2004 Highland Yard Raffle</b> In Support of AMICI	<b>Tickets \$10</b>
Name _____	<b>2004 Highland Yard Raffle</b> in support of AMICI Sharing the Gift of Summer Camp since 1966 All Prizes Drawn in Minden, Ontario on Friday, August 1, 2004	
Address _____	Set of Wilson Pro-Staff golf clubs courtesy of WILSON SPORTS - value \$700	
Phone _____	JVC DVD Home Theatre System courtesy of THE LOYALTY GROUP - value \$500	
Tickets \$10	\$500 worth of Small Kitchen Appliances courtesy of PROCTOR SILEX - value \$500	
	2 Red seats to a 2004-2005 Toronto Maple Leafs home game courtesy of THE LATIMER FAMILY - value \$100	
	2 certificates to participate in a Celebrity Chef Cooking Class with a Toronto celebrity chef courtesy of DISH COOKING STUDIO - value \$200	
	Hand turned wooden bowl courtesy of GEOFF KELK - value \$75	
	"His and Hers" custom wooden paddles courtesy of RAY KETTLEWELL - value \$200	
	2 Red seats to a Toronto Maple Leafs game courtesy of BOB DAMERON - value \$150	
	Lottery Licence # M210223 Printing courtesy of Interprint Services Inc.	

### WINNERS:

Grand prize – home theatre system **Nellie Kwok**  
Golf clubs and golf bag **Mike Newediuk '82**  
JVC home theatre system **Paul Weale '79**  
\$500 of small kitchen appliances **George Crothers**  
2 reds to a 2004/2005 Maple Leafs home game (*good luck*) **Tommy Richmond '71**  
Celebrity Chef cooking class at DISH Cooking Studio **Brian MacIssac**  
Wooden bowl by Geoff Kelk **Mark Kuppale**  
Two hand-made paddles from Ray Kettlewell **David Pyper**  
2 Upper Bowl seats to Maple Leafs home game (*again, good luck*) **Tommy Reed '83**

 **ALLAN LEAL '74**

The **Gull Rock Gazette** is distributed to campers, parents of campers and alumni of Kilcoo Camp. We use these addresses to distribute information which we think will be of interest to you. We are committed to conducting our activities in compliance with all applicable privacy laws. In the event you have any questions about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information or if you wish to have your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Colin Ground at 416-863-4571 or e-mail at colin.ground@fmc-law.com. He will arrange to have someone respond to any questions you may have.

# ASK LUB

*Mudslides, swamp dives, and other memories of Kilcoo*

**L**As many of you know, this year was Lub's 20th anniversary as director of Kilcoo. The Gazette is proud to have the opportunity for this edition of "Ask Lub", to reproduce excerpts of the 20th anniversary exclusive interview given by Lub to the "Grapevine", the Kilcoo Holiday Season newsletter that is sent to current campers, LITS and staff.

## **We had a lot of rain this summer, were there some mudslides going on?**

The silver pellets really got dumped on us at times this summer. For a few days in July I thought Noah's Ark might roll by. Seriously though, the kids and the staff were awesome. The staff worked really hard to ensure that the rain did not hinder anyone from having a good time. There were mudslides, slip and slides, the greatest games of mud soccer and European Mud Handball and the Ritchie brothers (Nick and Ian) even started Kilcoo Mud Wrestling. The rain brings its own unique fun because there are activities you can't do without the rain. On a warm day in July, a massive downpour can be an amazing thing. Now, having said all that... it was really nice when the sun came out.



## **This past summer the "swamp walk" came back from its hiatus. When is the mud the best?**

I was so happy to have the swamp back this summer. Now I know it's not everyone's cup of tea, but I love it. It's fantastic. The mud is best a few weeks into the summer when the spring run-off is finally gone. It thickens up, with just a small layer of rain water across the surface of the bog. Two days after a good rain is when it's usually the best. You jump in and feel the mud ooze around your legs and belly. You reach down with your arms and stir it up to the top. You have to thicken the sludge before you dunk. Now you're ready. You have to thrust your head down deep to make sure your whole body gets coated. When you emerge the mud doesn't slide off. You can open your eyes and the mud doesn't run into them. It's so thick you can hike all the way back to camp still covered in enough mud to scare the cars on Highway 35. That is when you know the mud is the best. I can't wait until the swamp next summer!

## **From 1985 to 2004 you have seen a lot of changes and some wild and amazing things at Kilcoo. Are there any that stick out in your mind?**

That's a great question. There is so much stuff to mention. We have seen some incredible storms hit Gull Lake -- lightning bouncing into the Hi-Rise, near misses by tornados, rain puddles two feet deep, docks coming loose, everyone under the Lodge. Of course that wasn't all from one storm. When Dowards, an old storage building, burnt down in the spring in the late 90's, it was a very real reminder of the power of fire.

Kilcoo has made a successful transition of focusing efforts back on the traditional camp activity of canoeing. The end of Waterskiing in 2002 brought back to the forefront the importance of canoeing as a valued

skill. As a matter of fact, our increased emphasis on canoeing has contributed to Kilcoo being victorious in back to back canoeing regattas against other camps.

Kilcoo has also had our share of tragedy with the passings of Stuart Warren, Scott Merrick and Tim Ross. They were all huge members of our community who died too early in life. Of course, the death of my father, the Chief, in 2003 marked a transition phase in Kilcoo's history.

In recent years the number of Alumni at Father/Son weekend has continued to rise with Alumni sending their own sons to camp. It continues to be a fantastic weekend and to me it shows how truly great the ongoing impact of Kilcoo really is.

Of course there are many other magical moments, but I'll save those for my own book in a few years.

## **What you do count as Kilcoo's major strengths as a leader in Canada's camping community?**

First of all I have great faith in all aspects of Kilcoo, but I think we do have some great strengths that really stand out. The staff alumni association is what keeps us together as a community. While a staff member may be finished during the summer, it is very easy to stay in touch and stay part of our community.

Kilcoo is a great place where the individual qualities of any kid can emerge. Kilcoo fosters, in a positive way, the different personalities that kids have. Individual character is encouraged and embraced at camp. All of our own unique personalities make up this crazy place we call Kilcoo.

The values that we speak about at Chapel are practiced and taught throughout the month. The kids learn about co-operation, teamwork, respect and sportsmanship. These and other values will contribute to life outside camp.



Every camper, LIT and Staff member are all made to feel important. They are all part of the Kilcoo community and they all contribute to the well being of one another. The strengths of Kilcoo are numerous. This is reflected in our camp programming and in our development of people. Kilcoo is a leader in Canada's camping community and we look forward to continuing that trend.

## **After 20 years of Director, what lies in the future for David "Lub" Latimer?**

I would like to be director for many more years and, of course, continue my role as the Director of Community Life with Greenwood College. Maybe one day when the kids are off to university or doing whatever it is they want to do, Beth and I can head to the Alps of Austria to fulfill a dream of mine: to be a Shepard. For now, I love what I do at Kilcoo very much and I hope my mom will continue to renew my contract!

 **DAVID "LUB" LATIMER**

## IT'S REUNION TIME AGAIN... SOON THE KILCOO REUNION

The **Kilcoo Reunion** will be taking place again in September, 2005. Details of the event are set out below. We are all hoping for a great turnout next year. Come up to camp, visit old friends, make new acquaintances and see if a jump from the top of the Tower is as daunting as it was when you left camp way back when.

### **Reunion Details:**

**When:** Friday September 16 to Sunday the 18, 2005

**Location:** Kilcoo Camp (you know the directions)

**Special Event (#1):** The alumni golf tournament will take place on Friday September 16, 2005 at a location to be determined. First tee off will be at around 11:00 a.m.

**Registration:** Visit [www.kilcoo.com](http://www.kilcoo.com) to sign-up.

**For more Information:** Call "Woody" (Michael Sherwood) at (416) 255-6131 ext 467 with any inquires or donations for the prize table in advance of the reunion.

**Here is a glimpse at the last reunion in 2002.**



**MARK SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2005  
ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!**

## A NIGHT TO 'PONY UP' FOR THE KIDS

*The Inaugural "AMICI MILE" at Woodbine*

**T**here were winners, losers, a few who claimed to break even, and one guy who left thinking that the slots are like a license to print money – but, in the end, it was the kids who really came out ahead.

A gorgeous late-summer night and a pristine Woodbine Racetrack provided the perfect setting for the First Annual AMICI Mile in support of AMICI Camping Charity. Hosted in Woodbine's trackside tent (as close as you can get to the action without being 5'2" and a hundred and eight pounds), the evening featured an amazing buffet dinner, betting tips from Toronto Star and Daily Racing Form correspondent Jennifer Morrison and a full card of thrilling thoroughbred racing.

By all accounts, a good time was had by all. Nobody seemed phased by the fact that The Mile was, in fact, a mile and an eighth – least of all the bay colt Roy Massiah, who came from way off the pace in the final stretch to capture the destined-to-be-coveted title at



*Laura Pearce, Scott Glover, and Katie Roland prepare for the presentation to the "AMICI Mile" champion.*

incredible 55-1 odds. What a finish! Proof positive that when you put your money on the long-shot, anything can happen. Could that be the AMICI credo? I happen to know that one guest at The Mile did cash in on the winner – turning 2 bucks into \$112 in a minute fifty-five. But since he did not celebrate his good fortune with a round for the rest of us, his name escapes me.

A handful of attendees got the chance to get up close and personal with the reigning AMICI Mile champion. Through a very scientific draw conducted by Katie Roland that would hold up even under the closest scrutiny, Laura Pearce was chosen to present the custom-made – and very attractive – AMICI horse blanket to Roy Massiah in the winner's circle. Joining Laura for the presentation were Pete Roland '95, Mike Jack '97, Jenn Roden, Katie Roland, and me. Unfortunately, during the presentation I ended up far closer to the business end of the beast than I would normally be comfortable with, but I toughed it out for the cause.

In the end, the 2004 edition of the AMICI Mile was a success – thanks to the fun, the food, the excitement and the camaraderie. And a couple more kids will get to experience the magic of summer camp because of it. Thanks to all those involved and everyone who made it out to the track. If you couldn't be there this year, I hope to see you out for the Second Annual AMICI Mile in '05.

**➔ SCOTT GLOVER '86**

***Editor's note:** In addition to Scott Glover, who did an amazing job launching this tremendous event, the AMICI board would also like to extend their gratitude to Katie Roland, who was also instrumental in getting this event "on track". (Pardon the pun.) It should be noted that Katie managed to juggle this task while looking after a one-and-a-half year old, during the first trimester of her second pregnancy, while negotiating and settling the purchase and sale of a home!! No small feat. Thank you Katie.*

In order to avoid using your donations to pay for the costs of producing and mailing the Gazette, we have decided to sell a small amount of advertising. Cheques should be made payable to "AMICI Camping Charity" and should be mailed to 150 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 204, Toronto, ON M4P 1E8. In addition to covering some of our costs, we hope that this provides a useful service. (Please note that the Gazette is published twice a year)



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"Kati"

"I wish I could be a KILCOO camper....but I love visiting DUNCAN every year, anyhow!"



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