



"Share the Gift of Summer Camp!"



THE GULL ROCK GAZETTE

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2008 KILCOO STAFF REUNION REPORT

A soggy forecast could not keep these alumni away from enjoying a weekend at Kilcoo



The mid-week weather forecasts predicted a hideously wet weekend to add to what had already been an unusually damp summer. Paul and Julien Fergus must surely have expected the worst as they drove through pouring rain in eastern Ontario en route to their twelve-noon date with the other alumni golfers at Blairhampton Golf Course. However, Yodar Kritch, Ray Bowers, and other legends of Kilcoo must have been smiling on us as our weekend escaped all but a few drops and a minimum of mist. Thanks are directed to Fidelity Investments under Brian Gooding's initiative for their financial support and prizes. Other prizes were provided by Mike Hatton on behalf of Humber College, Tim Stanley, Paul Stewart, John Carter and Paul Weale arrived early to insert "goodie bags" for all the golfers in their golf carts prior to tee time. The golfers fared well, especially Tim Currie with his sizzling 76 (yes, over 18 holes!) while early arrivals back at camp foretold of a great weekend to come.

By mid evening the lodge was alive with well over 100 alumni chatting, laughing and reconnecting with old friends. Somehow everyone found a place to sleep for the night, though for some that sleep did not start until close to 3a.m. Chris and his staff provided a very filling hot breakfast Saturday morning after which guests participated in a number of activities. A few tried out the golfing again and nine intrepid voyageurs embarked on a "paddle back" canoe trip which ended just before lunch time with the customary camp yell as they returned to camp via Sandy Bay. Then, of course, under the stewardship of commissioner John

Carruthers, the decades baseball tournament commenced.

Everyone assembled once again (even the golfers were on time- just!) for lunch and in the afternoon there was more baseball, Frisbee golf, ball hockey, the ropes course, and some daring individuals tried out the nearby go cart track. Several others ventured forth to Ruth's Island by canoe and underlying the whole program, a significant number of alumni chose to wander about camp, cluster in small groups to talk and re-live long lost memories, and just soak up Kilcoo once again.

At 6p.m. the group, now 130 strong, assembled on the beach where Michael Jack, president of Amici, described the organization's recent work, the direction it is going in, and its vision for the future. Asking Kilcoo alumni to continue the support they have offered for over forty years, he declared that Amici is, as it has always been, a Kilcoo based charity. A group photo ensued during which both photographers unsuccessfully tried to walk on water to get the best vantage point.

Dinner at 7:30p.m was preceded by the presentation of a mounted and framed Kilcoo staff shirt from the 1930's to the Latimers from the alumni, and then the meal: - what can we say: gourmet hors d'oeuvres, striploin steak, good wine, and the noise of contented conversation. Following dinner we all enjoyed a great



Continued on page G3...

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

What brings us back again and again?

What is it that keeps drawing former Kilcoo staff and campers back? This being the year of another alumni reunion provided an appropriate backdrop for considering this question. "Once a Kilcoo camper, always a Kilcoo camper" was the mantra of Charlie Plewman, and it seems no less true today than it was sixty years ago. 900 alumni on the data base, almost the entire makeup of the Amici Board, and friendships that continue unabated. They are all part of it. At the reunion chapel Bob Slingerland suggested that it should come as no surprise that a people who share a love for children, by virtue of working at Kilcoo, should come together easily as friends. The stars that dot the rosters in the lodge attest to the succession of Kilcoo campers through generations: the Dixons, the Curries, and now a third generation of Latimers.

One of the weekend's alumni guests, Bill Meeker, talking about the impact of relationships established at Kilcoo emotes about his counsellor in 1973 and comments, "A huge regret I have is that...I wasn't brave enough to throw my arms around Tom and let him know how much I would miss him and what he meant to me." – probably an emotion felt by many others over the years
(Editor's postscript: since this writing, Bill has reconnected electronically with that counsellor, Tom "Banger" Bullen, presently living in France – a great story!)

Today, one instrument by which we keep in touch is the Gazette. Geoff Nelles served as the editor beginning with the Autumn 2005 issue, but now living in Guelph and in a new job, the role became too awkward. We thank you Geoff for your good service and we are confident that at the appropriate time you will be participating in some way in support of Kilcoo and Amici again.

I ask all of you reading this to consider offering your views on what does draw you back even if just as an interested Gazette reader. What is the essence of Kilcoo that has permeated the eras of Plewman, Latimer, Hannaford, and Latimer again? Send your thoughts on this topic to me at pchamp@sympatico.ca and I will publish them in the spring 2009 issue.

 **PAUL CHAMBERLAIN**

SENNA'S NIGHT OUT

A Night to Remember at Kilcoo Camp

It was a singular event. It had never happened before and certainly if the C.I.T.'s and staff had anything to do with it, it would not happen again. As near as I can recall it was during the summer camp days of 1938.

It had been a normal day and when the dinner bell rang, all campers showed up promptly to enjoy another super supper prepared by the kitchen staff. We all ate heartily as we had the usual ravenous appetite for the great food. It was standard practice in those days to mix in with the main course a dose of senna powder (laxative) to keep the campers "regular". This was done – as soon became apparent.

Around midnight the camp began to stir. Soon, all hell broke loose as campers sought out the outhouses – the renowned five holer and the two two holers. Line ups began to form as the senna laxative exacted a real sense of urgency. Outside it was an absolutely pitch black night. Campers were forced to form line ups while all the time trying to keep everything under control.

Well, this was just not going to work! Even the five holer was strained beyond its limits. In desperation campers began to disappear into the woods seeking relief. The entire camp was now out and about in the total pitch black. After the senna powder finished taking its toll the camp quietened down once again.

The next morning it was determined that a substantial overdose of senna had been



dumped in error into the previous night's supper meal. But the "tragic" event was not over as yet. Those campers who had disappeared into the night were risking another disaster. Squatting was taking place anywhere and everywhere. Toilet paper had been forgotten in their frantic attempts at seeking relief; nevertheless, the surrounding greenery made an adequate substitute. But, poison ivy too was anywhere and everywhere. If only you could see it!!

As the next day dawned, campers began showing up at the first aid cabin door. More than just a few campers had rashes, and most of them in a very tender area. So, young men left the nurse's care with calamine lotion patches of pink-white applied all over including to those "tender areas". Poison ivy rashes occurred every year at Kilcoo as I imagine they still do, but I would bet that it was never allowed to happen in the same way again.

Now all these years later I can recall the event with a sense of good humour mixed in with a chuckle or two. It should be added that all involved fully recovered from the stress, strain and discomfort.

 **RON CLARKE, 1937-1941**

Anyone who went to Kilcoo from the late 40's to the early 60's will recognize the sailboat pictured. It is a "sister" to the Aykroyds that sailed out of the Kilcoo harbour for many years. Fully restored, this sailboat is being offered for sale by its present owner, Kilcoo alumnus Dave Minnes. Anyone who might be interested should contact Dave directly.

- ♦ Sail, all hardware, brass fittings, gaff, boom and mast (refinished), trailer
- ♦ Clear varnished, interior and exterior (no paint)
- ♦ Recent restoration by Fred Forster, Keene, Ontario



Please contact Dave Minnes at 519-576-8182 or email daveminnes@sympatico.ca
Boat and trailer: \$9,950.00

REUNION REPORT CONTINUED

Continued from cover page

slide show put together by Kilcoo's 2008 Program Director, Marc Russell, and this was followed by a great singsong. In earlier "voting" through event applications, participants had placed "When You Walk Through a Storm", "Sunshine, Happiness", and "Titanic" as the top three on the chart and of course the noisiest rendition was saved for "All For One" followed by the camp yell, and the most solemn for "Maker of Men". At one point a number of people seemed to be stuck on repeating the verses of "Vrenelei" such that the alumnus who introduced it to Kilcoo in 1960, Jim Shillington, was starting to wish he hadn't.



Saturday night outdid Friday, with raucous but semi-controlled activity lasting until later than 3a.m. Noticeably, the oldest among the alumni were those to disappear into the night first.

Surprisingly, just about everyone successfully dragged themselves to the lodge for the 8:30a.m. breakfast on Sunday, another meal well worth the effort. Chapel had to be held indoors but was nonetheless peaceful, and thought provoking. Led by David Latimer, the theme focused on friendships at Kilcoo and how the spirit is passed down from one generation to the next. David was supported by Bob Slingerland, John Kennedy, Tim Currie, and Ken Jones, all of whom offered their own perspectives. Brad Moyle and Jim Cook performed a song with their own guitar accompaniment and Grayson Burke who had just returned from his own Camp Cedar Ridge, answered the call to reprise the song he performed during the chapel service in 2005.

Following chapel, people slowly and reluctantly began to disperse and begin the adjustment to "reality" that was to come with the trip home. Some remained to chat with friends, a few paid a quiet visit to Chapel point, and the camp staff began the necessary clean up in preparation for the next school group due on Monday. Only when just about everybody had departed did a light rain begin to fall. A big thank you for a great weekend must go to the organizing committee and of course to our hosts, the Latimers: David, Michael, Jeff and Mrs. Chief very ably supported by Chris and his staff in the kitchen and the post-camp staff all of whom entered into the frenzy of activity at some point. Stay tuned for September, 2011.

 **PAUL CHAMBERLAIN**



FIRESIDE CHAT

Reflections from Lub

I have just finished my 24th year as Director of Kilcoo and it truly was a remarkable summer. There were so many highlights that it would be impossible to say what my best would be... The Lodge, the Kilabaloo's, the chapels, Polar Bears, the mudsides (a few more this year!), and so many more including, of course, TJ & Charlie (my boys) with Matt Currie in Cabin 1 for 2 weeks! I have to say that one of my best memories came in September at the Staff Reunion when we did a sing-song with more than 130 alumni who came to the event. Everyone was standing up singing Sunshine & Happiness, Blood on the Saddle, The Titanic and, of course, When You Walk Through a Storm. From 20-year-olds to 70-year-olds... all belting out songs that meant so much to each person during his time at Kilcoo... and they still do! It was such a powerful moment and it made me truly realize the remarkable impact Kilcoo has had on so many people. Really, the whole weekend was filled with moments that will have those who were there smiling for a long time. Baseball, frisbee golf, Chapel and, of course, a great banquet with free flowing "bug juice"! It was also really neat being on the beach at sunset and listening to Mike Jack talk so passionately



about Amici. So many people from so many generations all on the beach where they all swam at one point as boys... now all back and talking about Amici... very powerful.

For me as Director, I feel humbled by all of this. I feel very lucky to be associated with so many amazing people who take this camp and what it stands for so seriously. Our alumni organization is by far the best of any camp in this country and all of you are the reason. I do also want to thank Paul Chamberlain who heads up our alumni association but more importantly, he is tied so closely to Kilcoo past and present. He worked tirelessly (as you all know) to organize the reunion and is in the office regularly helping out. But I do know his greatest moment at Kilcoo this summer was seeing his grandson, Chris, do so well in the Kremlin for the first time. This, like TJ & Charlie in Cabin 1 for me, and for many of you, seeing your sons go through Kilcoo is very special! Thanks to all of you for being such a big part of our history. I must also say a big thanks to all of you who came to the reunion and thanks for your continued support. Have a wonderful rest of the year. Rip Ram Razzle Scram.

 **DAVID "LUB" LATIMER**

LIFE AFTER KILCOO

An update on various Kilcoo alumni - keep us posted!

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

BILL ABBOTT (1940-46) After working for more than 45 years mostly in Management consultant roles, Bill Now enjoys retirement at home in Hilton Head, South Carolina

JEREMY ANDREWS (1979-89) presently Living in Halifax with his wife Lisa, and son Liam.

BILL BOBIER (1960-73) living with Wife Jill in Waterloo where he is Professor of Optometry at the university. 2 grown children; son went to Kilcoo.;

DON BUNT (1943-45) retired from a 45 year career as a physician, part of the time serving as Ontario coroner. Lives with wife, Nancy. 1 grandchild started at Kilcoo in 2006

JAMIE CAMPBELL (1985-96) working in Toronto as a lawyer, married to Cynthia. Enjoys photography and loves to travel. Father, Paul Turner at camp in the 50's

JEREMY COLVIN (1982-92) living in Honolulu with his wife and 1st child where he works as a painter and freelance editor.

KEVIN DEVINE (1980-92) living in Toronto working as an investment advisor. Married with one daughter. Loves sports and reading a good book.

JEFF READING (1981-84) living in Calgary with wife Shelagh and two teenage children. Shelagh was also at Kilcoo and both are educators with Jeff specializing in environmental Studies; on a world trip right now.

MARK ROSS (1975-85) living with wife Ellen and two children in Toronto; after 3 years in law he now works for an executive search company.

PAUL AMOS (1956-62) retired after 31 years teaching secondary school; now lives with wife Mary Lou on a horse farm east of Lake Simcoe.

CHUCK BAYLESS (1949-59) living in Atlanta with wife Diane running his own business. 3 grown children and at last count, 3 grandchildren.

ANDREW BRYCE (to 2005) after a year working in 2006, travelled Europe, then returned to Bachelor of Ed. Program at Lakehead University. Hoping to teach in Toronto.

STEVE CAIRNS (1986-97) now back in Bracebridge with wife Mary Claire after years as a nurse in B.C.; also a teacher at elementary and university levels.

THOMAS CROUCH (1933-40) living in Port Carling at age 87 after a long career as a dentist in Toronto and later in Bracebridge.

REG DUDOMAINE (1953-64) lives near Atlanta with his wife where he is an executive director in the restaurant industry. Has 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

CATHY DONALDSON [Vincent] (1989-95) lives with husband Chris in Belleville where she teaches kindergarten part time. They have 2 sons.

JOHN ZIMMERMAN (1990's) living on the west coast as sales manager of a company that manufactures keyboards

DAPHNE TONELLATO (1966-70) lives with husband Ido in Oakville; one son, Eric. Retired nursing professor from Sheridan college; now enjoys cycling, golf and skiing.

KILCOO TRIVIA

Test your knowledge of Kilcoo Trivia (answers on G6)

1. What part did the Rec Hut play during the filming of Camp Rock in the fall of 2007?
2. In the 50's and 60's before most staff had cars they hitchhiked to two favourite places along Highway 35. What were they called?
3. Strange as it may seem there is a plaque in the lodge which was presented to Kilcoo by local cottagers in offering thanks. What for?
4. Long before Chris and Jean-Marie, the kitchen was run by the well loved "Ma" and before then by the not quite so loved "Diet". What were their real names?
5. Nicknames have been the order of the day for staff members for the past 25 years at Camp. Who are these staff members: Stimp (2008), Zippy (1994), and Huggy (1997)?
6. Who was the 1960's staff member who bought part of Gull Rock from the Ontario government? (Trouble was, he lost it because he didn't build on it within two years)
7. At the 2008 alumni reunion a triple play brought an end to an exciting final game. Who was the batter at the time?
8. In 1967 the camp switched the water evacuation horn from the old WWII Klaxon horn to a new electrically powered one. Why?



THE AMICI SPARK

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

www.amicicharity.org

AUTUMN 2008



WELCOME TO THE SPARK

"It only takes a spark to get a fire going; and soon all those around can warm up to it's glowing..."

As someone who understands the impact of summer camp, you likely appreciate the message, even if this campfire song is not part of your own camp memories: Summer camp can spark a powerful change in a child's life.

At camp, kids learn to identify and nurture their own personal spark – talents, skills and abilities that make each of us unique. Through positive role models – camp directors and staff – campers learn the power of sharing their spark with others: to light a path when the way ahead is unclear; to provide a glimmer of encouragement to a friend in dark times.

Like you, we strongly believe that nurturing a community of all these "sparks" will result in a brighter future for all of

us. This is why we are committed to ensuring that as many children as possible have access to summer camp, regardless of financial barriers.

Thanks to you, in 2008 more children than ever before experienced the inspirational spark of summer camp through Amici. With your help, in 2009 we will grow this number even more.

Our success in achieving this mission depends on you. In these challenging times when need is even more acute, every contribution makes a difference.

We hope you will enjoy this first edition of "The Spark" and that you will share your comments and suggestions for future issues with us.



Thank you for sharing the gift of summer camp!

Kate Horton
Executive Director
kate@amicicharity.org

2008 CAMPERSHIP WRAP-UP

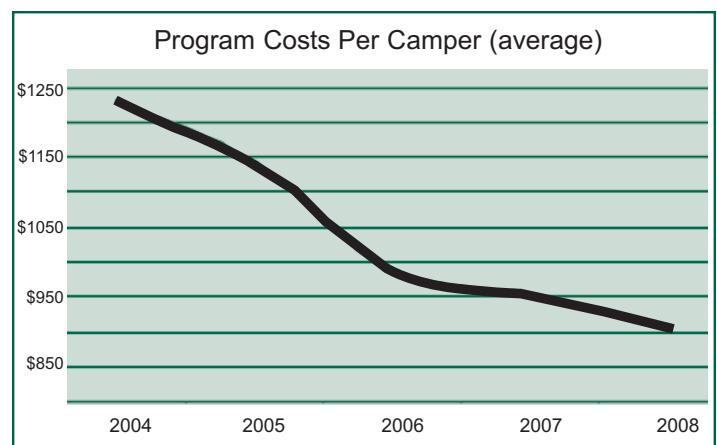
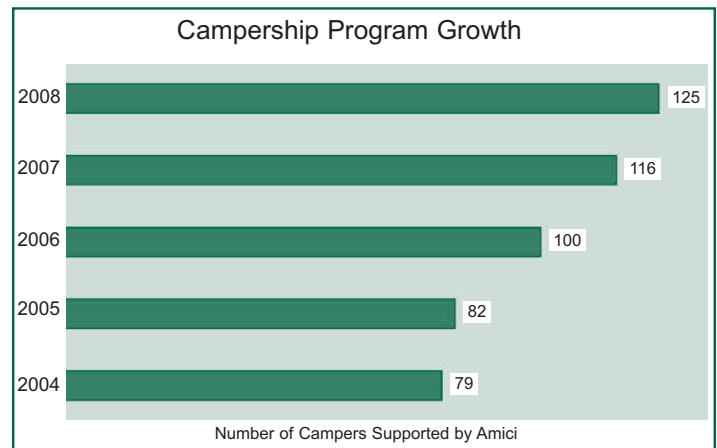
Thank you for your commitment and support. With your help, 2008 was Amici's most successful summer yet!

You helped 125 children from low-income families experience the magic of summer camp.

And that's not all:

- ♦ Camp makes a lasting difference in kids' lives: 85% of Amici campers chose to return to camp for another summer in 2008.
- ♦ 9 Amici campers participated in leadership training programs at partner camps – an all-time high for our program!
- ♦ Volunteer-led fundraisers and special events raised over \$50,000! These funds will support campership and the administration required to make this program possible.
- ♦ Thanks to the generous support of our partner camps, program costs decreased by almost 5%. This meant Amici could sponsor more campers in leadership programs and extended out-trips.
- ♦ In 2009, with your help, we will reach even more children than ever before.

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



FRIENDS OF AMICI - SHARING THE SPARK

Carolyn Langill

A few years ago, Carolyn Langill organized two annual "Have a Heart" fundraiser galas to benefit Amici. Since then, Carolyn has been a significant, long-time supporter of Amici. Thank you Carolyn for sharing your perspective on Amici and the importance of summer camp:

What interests you most about Amici?

I like the fact that most of the money raised by Amici goes directly towards sending children to camp. I like the fact that although Amici is a relatively small organization, it has a huge impact on the lives of the children. I particularly like the fact that kids who are sponsored by Amici are

sponsored until they no longer attend camp, unless their family financial situation changes for the better.

How has camp affected your life?

The major way that camp has affected my life is through my children's attendance at camp. As a parent, there is no greater satisfaction than seeing your kids arrive home at the end of a camp session, happy, having made new friends and yearning to go back again the next summer. I realized many years ago that if I could help another parent experience this satisfaction, then I wanted to help as many children as I could to attend summer camp.

Why send kids to camp?

Camp is a great equalizer, eliminating a lot of barriers that exist in city life for kids from different backgrounds to develop friendships. I also believe that camp is a great enhancer of self esteem and has the potential to improve self confidence in many skills that would never be attempted at home.



YOU CAN SHARE THE GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP ALL YEAR LONG

Amici supporters share the gift of summer camp by giving new opportunities and unforgettable fun to children from low income families. Now, by pledging a small monthly credit card contribution, you can give an extra boost to Amici's campership program. By joining you'll:

- ♦ See your gifts add up quickly.
- ♦ Reduce our administrative costs.
- ♦ Make your contribution effortlessly.
- ♦ Help to secure our future in uncertain times.

Whatever amount you choose will be deducted from your credit card each month automatically. Thanks to the secure servers at our online donation partner, CanadaHelps.org, your transaction is safe and convenient -- and you can easily withdraw from the donation program anytime you wish.

CanadaHelps.org will allow you to place your tax-deductible monthly contribution online by billing the credit card of your choice.

To join our monthly giving program, simply visit the "How you can Help" section of our website: www.amicharity.org and follow the "Donate Now" link to CanadaHelps.org. On the Canada Helps donation page, select "Repeating Donation" when you enter the details of your gift.

LETTER FROM AN AMICI PARENT

Our family is happy to have this opportunity to thank the Amici Organization and its supporters.

Five years ago, we suffered the tragic loss of Clive, a much loved father and husband. He left four boys who were 14, 12, 10, and 8 at that time. Without your financial support, they would not have been able to enjoy camp life and the great outdoor experience under the great leadership and guidance of Jay and Vikki Haddad at Camp Bellaleo.

Thanks to your generosity, all four boys made great friends and great memories. They have some wonderful happy and fun times to replace or soften some very tragic ones. All year they look forward to another great camp experience the countdown starts from when they get home.

Alex, the oldest, became a camper the summer after losing his dad. He enjoyed every aspect of camp life but especially the leadership and team building skills he learnt. He became a CIT and then a councilor. Today he attends Laurier university studying Leadership and Administration.

Nicholas, now in grade 12 and preparing for university next year, loved seeing all his camp friends every summer. He also became a CIT and canoeing was his favourite activity.

Robin, now 15 and in grade 10, has a great time with his friends at camp and loves kayaking. He loves the opportunity of leading and taking charge - a real change from being son number 3.

Rhys, the youngest, hopes every year to return to camp and to be the Bellaleo Ping Pong Champion. He can't wait to see all his old friends and to make new ones. He loves spending time with Vikki and Jay.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for giving me the only break I (mum Marie) get in the year. Without your help and support, I would never have been able to send the boys off each summer. With no close family in Canada they would have never had some time away from me, a valuable refresher for the family dynamics!!

Signed, Marie (an Amici Mom)



Rhys (far right) with his cabin group



Robin (far right) with friends at Bellaleo's July closing banquet

RESEARCH CORNER

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

In each issue moving forward, we'll look to bring some of those findings to life in this new section – Research Corner.

Below is our first installment, a reprint of an article written by the ACA in 2005.

Inside Camp: What Research Tells Us about the Lives of Children

How can parents count the ways children grow and flourish at camp? Friends? New skills? Displays of self-confidence? Steps toward independence and thoughtfulness?

Philliber Research Associates teaming with the American Camp Association has just released the results of a landmark study that demonstrate the gains are remarkable—over 5,000 parents, children, and camp staff are readjusting their measuring sticks—growth in positive identity,

social skills, physical and thinking skills, as well as the important areas of positive values and spirituality go hand-in-hand with the camp experience.

According to Peg Smith, chief executive officer of the American Camp Association, outcomes are all about research and responsibility. "These concepts of independence and discovery come into play every day as we look at ways to enhance the growth and discovery process in youth. Our research demonstrates unequivocally that with the idea behind camp and the thousands of individuals who support children in these experiences, we are unmistakably on the right track. One of the truly exciting aspects of this research is these measurable gains continue after camp ends, and the researchers confirm that length of camp session isn't a determining factor—it's camp itself," says Smith.

Leadership, adventure, making friends, confidence—all after spending time at camp.

“Self-esteem does not come from empty praise, but from feeling competent; from having successful experiences; from making genuine contributions.”

Christopher Thurber, Ph.D., Child Psychologist and Author

Campers Say

- Camp helped me make new friends. (96%)
- Camp helped me to get to know kids who are different from me. (93%)
- The people at camp helped me feel good about myself. (92%)
- At camp, I did things I was afraid to do at first. (74%)

Parents Say

- My child gained self-confidence at camp. (70%)
- My child continues to participate in some of the new activities he or she learned at camp. (63%)
- My child remains in contact with friends made at camp. (69%)

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2008 AMICI EVENTS



The 38th Annual Highland Yard. Thanks to Race Directors Rob Love & Liam Brown and to Peter Oyler & Heather Navis for their support.



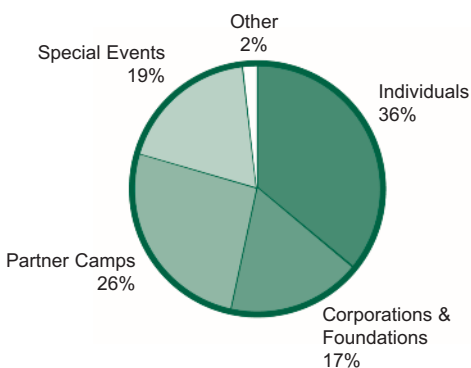
Amici Mile at Woodbine Racetrack. Organizing committee John Medland, Katie Roland and Scott Glover



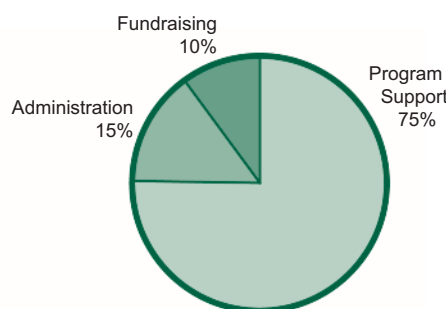
2008 Ball Hockey Tournament raised over \$2500. Thanks to event coordinator George Wright

2008 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2008 Revenues by Source (unaudited)



2008 Expenses Based on Revenue (unaudited)



If you would like to request a copy of Amici's most recent audited financial statements, please contact: info@amicicharity.org or call 416-588-8026.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

Amici gratefully received gifts in excess of \$50 from the following individual donors:

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Alexander Miller
Stephen Millman
Cameron Mingay
Sean Mitchell
Daniel Mitchell
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Heather Navis
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Ivy Parkhouse
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE 2008 AMICI RAFFLE!

GRAND PRIZE: Taboo Resort: 2 night stay (value \$3000, Taboo Resort, Golf & Spa) – **James Delamere**

\$500 Expedia.ca Gift Certificate (Expedia.ca) – **Nigel Smith**

Original painting by artist Peter Taylor (value \$500, Peter Taylor) – **Amaris Siegel**

Wilson Sports Package (value \$500, Wilson Sports Equipment Canada) – **Frank Mamelli**

Hamilton Beach Proctor Silex Kitchen Set (value \$500, Hamilton Beach Brands Canada Inc.) – **Mark Steinman**

Pair of Maple Leafs Seats, Red Section (value \$300, Latimer family) – **Matt Fong**

\$100 Sporting Life Gift Card (Sporting Life) – **Mike Usher Jones**

This year's raffle raised over \$9,000! Thank you to everyone who, by supporting the 2008 AMICI Raffle, helped share the gift of summer camp.

A TRIBUTE TO SOME WHO HAVE LEFT US

Remembering some friends who have passed away

Clearly the one unpleasant task involved in creating each issue of the Gazette is the need to report on the passing of alumni and friends of Kilcoo. Since the last publication we have lost several.

BETTY-ANNE BROHM (PLEWMAN) passed away on June 16th, finally succumbing to the cancer that had been raging inside her for several years. B.A. was Charlie Plewman's youngest daughter, and while she spent many summers at Kilcoo, she did fulfill a counsellor's role in the Prep section in 1948 and 49. Despite failing health she willed herself to be capable of attending the 75th anniversary dinner and went on stage to speak about Kilcoo of the Plewman era in a moment her daughter, Debbie, described as a highlight of her life.

On May 4th **MIKE MCCULLOCH** passed away. A good friend of the Latimer family, Mike was the camp doctor during the 70's, but a frequent visitor over many decades. John Carruthers remembers that he was able to "dispose of Kilcoo tennis hotshots while giving up at least twenty years to every competitor" during his years at camp. Described as both an athlete and singer, Mike leaves behind many family members including his wife, Ann, and Kilcoo alumnus Gavin.

From further back some of our readers will remember **GUY GAUSBY** who passed away July 26th. I will always remember Guy as the "headliner" at many camp musicales (now Kilabaloos). His family will always treasure his wit and sense of humour. Guy's love of the outdoors which was nurtured at Kilcoo, endured through many summers on Georgian Bay. In Chief's book, Tom Eby told of the misfortune of an after camp canoe trip in 1959 organized and led by Guy, but which resulted in his defection to judge a cottage regatta while his rain soaked fellow trippers carried on.

Another Kilcoo staff member from the 50's, **ROSS HOUSLEY**, passed away at his home in Florida on August 14th. Ross began as a camper in 1949 and worked his way up to his last summer as a counsellor in the Intermediate section in 1958.

FLASHBACK TO...

Opening day, June 30th, 1981



The first camper arrived at 8:30am. Failing the letting off of a mortar, everyone agreed to yell "Bang" as the buses rolled in at 2:20pm. Bill Jack and Stuart Palmer held the buses back on the driveway, and through carefully planned arrangements, the campers snuck off the buses and up the hill by Chief's cabin. The buses then pulled into Mohawk Park and the waiting counsellors and L.I.T.'s began their brouhaha of welcoming screams, yells, and waving of flags for the benefit of the drivers and their empty buses. Shortly the throng was led down the hill by Chief and Jeff Macdonald on the trumpet. Soon all the campers had found their counsellors and cabins, and camp was open for its 50th year.

KILCOO LOG

WORD OF MOUTH

To many alumni who take the continued success of Kilcoo Camp for granted it may come as a surprise that organized camping in Ontario and indeed all of North America is not the safe business it once was and the number of camps that have closed down in the past ten years serves as evidence of this. It is a changing world out there with many more options and parents who do not understand, like we all have, the incredible importance of the camp experience. Nevertheless, while maintaining a very consistent return of campers from year to year Kilcoo has never advertised in the media, but has let parents, campers and friends spread the good word. As a Kilcoo alumnus I urge you to do the same. If you know friends, neighbours, or young relatives who might want to go to camp, direct them to the best – Kilcoo. Camp is now accepting applications for the summer of 2009 and they can be accessed through the camp website (www.kilcoo.com) or by contacting the camp office (416-486-5264). David will be happy to talk to anyone who has questions to ask and he is always available to do home visits and share information about Kilcoo. So much of Kilcoo's success is based on its alumni and their support.



MOTHER/ SON WEEKEND 2008

A very special weekend for boys and their moms

I had been looking forward to mother/son weekend for four years. I first heard about it after Jack's first year at Kilcoo, but at eight years of age it was not yet available to us.

What a wonderful weekend we had! It was a great opportunity to be able to experience camp life and all the things that the kids do at camp. I don't think that I have ever packed so many different things into one day! From Polar bear dips in the morning to kayaking, aerial course, tennis, baseball, and archery in the afternoon, there was no shortage of things to be done. The weekend was rounded out by a roaring campfire on Saturday night and one of Lub's famous chapels on Sunday morning.



A huge thanks goes out to Lub, Tingles and all the staff for such a special weekend where we could not only spend cherished time with our kids but also we could be kids. And a warm thanks goes to Mrs. Chief who generously opened her beautiful cottage to us on Saturday afternoon for a glass of wine and a little down time with the other moms.

Only two more years until the next mother/son!

 **SUSAN WAHLROTH**
(Jack McDonald's mom)

KILCOO TRIVIA

Test your knowledge of Kilcoo Trivia (from page G4)

1. It was the dining room for cast and crew.
2. Medley's and Sam Price's Maebar
3. For help in saving his cottage from a fire
4. Ma – Trudy Searles Diet – Alice Darragh
5. Stimp – Rob L'Heureux; Zippy – Jeff Kopas; Huggy – Mike Adamson.
6. Andy Alston
7. Peter Holman
8. The tungsten pin in the Klaxon broke due to over-use during a Toronto Maple Leafs hockey game in December, 1966.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

From The Kilcoo Club to Amici

This past summer Amici, the charitable organization maintained by former Kilcoo staff, sent 125 children to summer camps. However, from this spectacular achievement in the present, we can trace the previous efforts of staff and alumni to organize through much of the camp's history though with far more modest goals and outcomes.

The first such attempt brought into being "The Kilcoo Club" in the early 1940's. Under the stewardship of owner Charlie Plewman, the club published a Kilcoo songbook in 1943 and two years after World War II collected sufficient funds from a fundraising drive to provide a plaque to put over the fireplace in the old lodge commemorating the fourteen Kilcoo alumni who had given their lives overseas.



Then during the 50's an effort was made to reorganize "The Club" with little follow up. When in August of 1964 director John Latimer along with staff members Don Crow and Dave Moyle introduced staff to the idea of a new entity they were calling Amici, the outlook might have been seen to be no more positive than with the previous efforts.

Amici as introduced was an acronym for the full name: Aiming Mainly in Camping Improvement with the acronym itself being the Latin word for friends. The goal was to maintain the friendships enjoyed among camp staff during their summers at Kilcoo and it was hoped money could be raised to send deserving children to summer camp.

During 1964 and 1965 membership was restricted to existing camp staff who paid a \$2 membership fee. Annual meetings were held in downtown Toronto in conjunction with the annual camper reunions and, other than the mailing of a couple of newsletters, the start was very inauspicious.

In 1966 Amici attempted to outreach to all those who had been on the camp staff from 1956 on and small fund raising efforts paved the way for Amici's first camper who attended Camp Kawabi for two weeks in July, 1966 for a fee of \$105 with help from a donated sleeping bag. Between then and 1967 donations increased and a walkathon on the Toronto islands was held and the proceeds provided for five campers. Finally, Amici was off and running.

Continuing into the early 70's Amici's efforts may well have been the beginning of the creation of an alumni list which has now surpassed 900 and extends its reach all around the world. In 1969 we gained charitable status and through Peter Etherington's efforts the following year we garnered our first corporate donation from a used car dealer in Edmonton, Peter Pocklington who later became owner of the NHL's Edmonton Oilers. While still a long way off the achievements of Amici of the present day, the organization's goal of sending needy children to summer camps for as long as they were able to go should remain a source of great pride for those who gave birth to this great venture.

 **PAUL CHAMBERLAIN**

KILCOO 2008 A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

Brad Boyle recalls memories from this past summer.

It is incredibly difficult to believe that the summer of 2008 has already come and gone. It seems just a short time ago that I was arriving up to camp on April 22 after spending my winter working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. I got to camp to find Marc Russell, Brian Hamilton and our new maintenance staffer Kent hard at work getting camp back into shape for the spring. Rob Chisnall was also up in the aerial course for a significant portion of the week starting the enormous task of yearly rope replacement. I spent my first week at camp staining the climbing tower, a job that was made no easier by the cold weather and black flies.

The balance of the Advance Camp crew arrived the following week and preparations began in earnest - cleaning, painting, raking, setting up boats and preparing all of the activities required to host our first school group of the season. For what we believe to be the first time in Kilcoo history we had a full crew of AC guys return for a second year in a row, giving us a particularly experienced group for the spring. The rest of Advance Camp saw us host eight other school groups, a live concert in the Lodge courtesy of Toronto's Buffalo Builders (watch for their debut album on December 27, 2008) and K-Way's stag party, to name but a few highlights.

The last weekend in June marked the end of AC and the start of pre-camp, and all of our staff and LITs joined us on Monday for our week of preparation for the summer. The team of leaders that assembled at the beginning of the week grew into what was certainly the most solid and well-rounded group of staff that I have been a part of at Kilcoo. The first campers to arrive for the summer were the three Dixon brothers all the way from Tanzania, who rolled in to camp one day before the beginning of the July session.

The energy level of the staff during the month of July was incredible. We were lucky to have (mostly) sunny skies and a small amount of rain. Kilcoo sent out over 30 trips of various lengths to all corners of Ontario in July, with the Sail Cabin departing on the first day of the session to embark on the first day of the session to embark on a ten-day hiking trip to Pukaskwa National Park. The Bushpede

was once again taken by the mighty Algonquins, marking the third year in a row that they have come out on top after the fierce, one-day contest against the Iroquois. After a safe and successful session we sent all of the staff and LITs off for a well earned three day break.

Mid-Camp flew by and the August session started the morning after we all arrived back at Kilcoo. Although slightly wetter than July, August was once again a fantastic month. The energy that the campers brought despite the often less than ideal weather was truly incredible and made the job of the staff and LITs many times easier than it would have been otherwise. There were many memorable moments during August as well as some sad reminders of the real world. The entire staff was saddened by the declining health and subsequent passing of Rob Chisnall's mom, which took him away from camp for the latter part of the month. The Olympics were once again a highlight, with Brad Denn's Team USA emerging victorious from the field of five teams. On the whole August was another incredible month at Kilcoo.

Post Camp began with the group from Greenwood College School spending two weeks up at camp. We also hosted the Mother-Son weekend and, in what I consider to be one of the true highlights of the 2008 season, a tremendously successful Staff Reunion assembled through the efforts of Paul Chamberlain and his team of helpers. After sending off our last school group of the year last weekend the Post Camp crew is now left with the task of preparing camp for the winter.

In closing, I will certainly look back on the 2008 season as one of the best of my 14 summers spent at camp. Although this summer was likely my last at Kilcoo I am comforted by the outstanding strength of the current group of staff and LITs - Kilcoo is surely in excellent hands for the future. Thanks to everyone who made the summer of 2008 a great one...I wish you all the best for a safe and happy winter.

 **BRAD "BOYLE" MOYLE**



OVER THE HILL

A wonderful reflection

For those of you who are under 50 and thinking you need not read the following, give me a moment more of your valuable time.

We all have our special places, moments, and snapshots of our dear Kilcoo. Let me share one with you, because I know this is not mine alone.

Alice had her 'looking glass', Captain Kirk had the 'transporter room, and we have 'the hill.'

A trip to Kilcoo ends at the swamp flats on Highway 35 after a long drive from the city...up the driveway, pass in front of the office/tuck shop, park the car.

Then the magic begins. don't walk around by the baseball diamond, because if you do, you will miss something very special...under the camp name and up the road we walk...a twist in the trail past the Mansion where the Reeds and the Jones' lived at different times in the 70s...a chipmunk scurrying across the road to take valuable acorns from the north to the south and then back again...past Dorothy's Cabin, Mrs. L's and then we are at the top...Chief's cabin on the right, and the transformation begins...

"Look down... look way down," as the Friendly Giant used to say. See the road diverge...walk down the hill, your toes jammed into the front of your shoes and leave the city behind...a wonderland of one-of-a-kind games with friends, campfire songs with guys who wouldn't dare to join their school choir, reflecting on the rocks at Chapel, using up minutes that would be full of city stuff the other 11 months of the year...and it all happens when you enter this magical place by walking 'over the hill'. And each time you walk up the hill to leave for the last time in a summer, the hill becomes steeper, as if its gravity has a magnetic attachment to your shoes, making it hard to climb...and leave...and each time you hope and pray that you will once again be able to walk over the hill. It's what keeps you coming back for more of the wonders that are ours to share, in mind, body and spirit, no matter how young, or how old...

So the next time someone refers to you as 'over the hill', smile and think of the magic inside your mind and mine!

Thanks for the time, comrades.

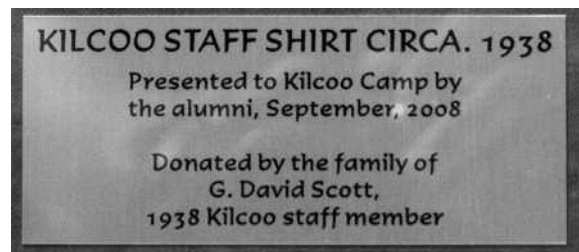
KEN JONES (1964-1978)



The picture above will be familiar to some of you who sailed Gull Lake in the 1950's in the small Pal sailboats (also called Prams). This photo, on a postcard dated August 21st, 1948 was found on e-Bay by Jeff Geckler (1952-1960).



The pictured staff shirt, worn by staff in the late 1930's, was recently sent to us by Nancy Scott of North Bay, daughter of former Kilcoo staff member David Scott.



IDEAS WANTED

If you have ideas for articles of interest for future issues of the Gazette please contact us at pchamp@sympatico.ca.

If you have a good topic idea, we will do the follow up research; if you want to write an article please put on your creative hat, and if you have some trivia questions in mind please send them to us...with the answers.