THE GULL ROCK GAZETTE

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A FIFTY YEAR ODYSSEY THROUGH KILCOO

The following account by Jay Haddad is as much a highlight of 50 years of Kilcoo history as it is a depiction of Jay's journey in camping and Jay's commitment to the camping community should come as no surprise as his arrival at Gull Lake was preceded in 1940 by his uncle George Haddad, who in the eyes of Jack Rhind, brought a new appreciation for good classical music to Kilcoo campers. It is also not surprising that Jay's camping career somewhat mirrors that of John Latimer's as Jay was awarded the CCA's Award of Honour in 1977.



How wonderful – and appropriate – for Amici to call its 50th anniversary Gala last November "Camping Heroes", as I just finished my 25th year directing my own summer camp, Nokomis, and John Latimer (Chief) was MY camping hero!

My camping career began as a 10 year-old at Kilcoo Camp in 1959. Like so many of you reading this, I grew up to Dean Chamberlain shouting "Good morning Mohawk Park", reveille, taps, rest hour, Little Chief feed, Sunday's Musicale (now Kilabaloo), chapel talks, Ma's incredible Visitor's Day banquets, Indian Council (Grand Council), our counsellors running to the Lodge every Sunday for Stock Exchange (that's how we got our program periods like riflery, archery, canoeing, handicraft), canoeing around Ruth's Island (and visiting Ruth Wilson), campcraft at P.I.Point (where the Longhouse sits), sing-songs in the Lodge, John Dewan doing the "hula-hop" – but through everything that was magical and wonderful about Kilcoo, there was Chief! Handsome, strong, powerful, charismatic but extremely sensitive and genuine, he was the person who became my mentor and best friend!

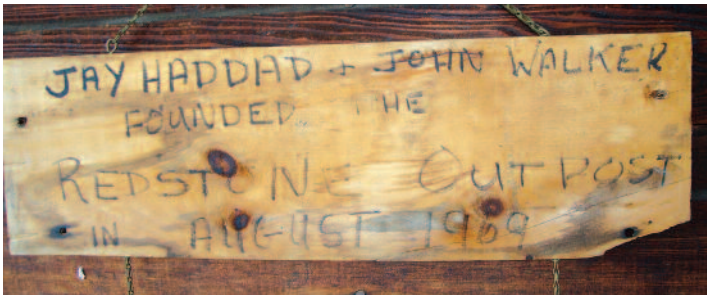
Chief was always busy, surrounded by Peggy (Mrs. Chief), his Senior Staff, and a hundred leaders; but he always made time to say hello! As a first-year counsellor in 1966 I was with my cabin group in the Handicraft shop when Chief walked in and said hello to all of my campers, then came over to me and said "I want you to know you are doing a wonderful job as a leader. Your Section Director speaks very highly of you (Peter Middleton) and I am very proud of you as a leader". My spirit soared!

In 1968, I became Chief's friend and three things conspired for this to happen:

1) After two years as a counsellor, I was asked to be Kilcoo's canoeing Instructor. I was a Master Canoeist, but Chief enrolled me in the Canadian Camping Association's(CCA) first national canoe Instructor course at the University of Ottawa's summer camp in Maniwaki, Quebec run by two canoe legends: Kirk Wipper (owner of Kandalore) and Claude Cousineau. The course was gruelling – 50% theory (French and English) and 50% practical – and later, I was sitting in the lodge at an overflow table in early July when Chief raised his arm at lunch for announcements: "I just received this letter from the University of Ottawa; not only did Jay Haddad receive his C.C.A. Instructor's award in canoeing, but he earned the highest mark in Canada. You have made Kilcoo – and me – very proud! Jay, please stand up". Thunderous pounding of the tables in the lodge and, again, my heart soared!

2) In pre-camp, we were at Bob Falls on our Waterfront Staff overnight. We left our canoes and paddles on Gull Lake at the Rackety Ranch portage trail. At 2:00 am I developed a fever, and Peter Sharpe and George Stratton had to paddle me back to Kilcoo and get me to the Infirmary. None of us knew that the Land Staff (led by Peter Maybury) had come over and "pranked" us by taking all of our paddles! Sharpie and Stratton had to paddle me back to camp using pieces of board from Rackety Ranch! Maybury came into the infirmary the next day and apologized – we've been lifelong friends since. Chief also came in to apologize saying he had okayed the prank and I was furious with him! He left me a note later that day, asking me to meet him at Chapel Point. I did where he asked me to call him "John" and our lifelong friendship began!

3) John Walker and I really hit it off – we became friends immediately. I was at the University of Windsor studying Social Psychology and Walker was in Springfield, Massachusetts studying Urban Planning. We both loved canoe tripping and we were becoming



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EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Just as you are now starting to read through the present issue of the Gazette which hopefully will spark some fond memories from the past, the 2017 version of Kilcoo is a place of activity. The first advance camp staff have already been on site for a few weeks, and between visiting groups and the routine jobs of preparing all the facilities for the summer, camp is on the fast track toward the beginning of pre-camp on June 23rd followed a week later by the arrival of campers who will fill the camp completely for its 86th year.



Speaking of sparking memories, last November Amici celebrated fifty years of providing camp experiences for children. Casa Loma was packed with people who have supported Amici's efforts to make summer camp possible for so many young children and impacting so many lives. Not any the less significant will be the 35th anniversary celebrations of Camp Awakening, another venture initiated by Kilcoo staff, in this case Harry McMurtry, which has provided many physically challenged young people with wonderful camping experiences and has contributed to their growing independence and confidence.

This September will see another alumni reunion at camp as advertised in this issue. Already we have a large number of alumni committed to attend and it should be a great weekend. If you plan to attend don't delay; reserve your spot now. Quite apart from the reunions held every three years it is most gratifying to see the many groups of Kilcoo friends who gather for skiing trips, golf tournaments and pub nights.

I am always trying to get our readers to contribute post Kilcoo biographies or personal stories from, or related to your camp days for the Gazette. Often I am frustrated by the lack of response but I am indebted to Michael Latimer this spring. Michael heeded my cries for help and has managed to bring in several submissions which I will use in this and the fall issue. We will have a special account in this year's fall issue of the year when Kilcoo almost burned to the ground.

Finally, I will participate once again in the Amici Canoe Heads event in June with Tom Yarmon (pictured from 2016) and another event which will result in funds being directed to Amici campers is the "70's Guys Golf Tournament" scheduled for June 22nd at the Westview Golf Course near Toronto. While referred to as the "70's", in fact anyone is welcome to participate. For more information please contact Bill Meeker by e-mail at wemeeker1@gmail.com

As David often mentions in his "Fireside Chat" we hope alumni will feel free to drop by Kilcoo if you are travelling Highway 35 this summer to see how much Kilcoo still stands for the same values as it did when you were there.

PAUL CHAMBERLAIN
1956-67

FIRESIDE CHAT

From Lub and the entire Latimer Family

The winter has flown by and I hope you all have had a great season. My family and I had a blast skiing up at Craigleith with TJ, Charlie & Brooke all racing again. TJ's season was cut short by a spectacular fall that resulted in a broken tibia; but he remained positive, cheered on his siblings & friends and is excited for next winter… what a sport! It is now the time of year when I get totally pumped for the summer ahead! I am especially excited this year, because of the upcoming reunion in September. I have spoken to many people who are looking forward to seeing their camp friends and spending time up on Gull Lake. Please make sure you sign up. You can download the application from the alumni page on www.kilcoo.com or email tingles@kilcoo.com to request the form via email or snail mail! Paul Chamberlain is working so hard, as always, to bring in alumni from all generations. Whenever I speak to him, he regales me with anecdotes and stories from the staff of the "early" days who are making the trek back to Kilcoo in the fall. As you all know, we live in a crazy world, and it is so important to embrace those special moments that come along so rarely these days; the reunion is certainly one of those moments.

I am very excited for the upcoming summer, with many more sons of alumni from my first twenty years as Director joining the ranks of Kilcoo! It is so cool… and somehow I find myself in my 33rd year as Director. Tingles is returning this summer for his 11th year as Assistant Director, while George Hendrie, the Program Director and Spring/Fall Coordinator enters his 8th year on staff and is on a full time contract this year. Brian Hamilton and Kent Taylor remain our steadfast and committed full time year round caretakers, carpenters, and overall facility managers; they are so important to the day to day operations of camp and of course have had another busy offseason building the new cabin 11/12 combo. Brian is now in his 27th year at Kilcoo and is an indelible part of the fabric at Kilcoo; his craftsmanship is everywhere.

Finally, as most of you know, we celebrate a bittersweet milestone for Kilcoo with the final year at camp for Rob Chisnall, the creator of our Outward Challenge program. This summer is the final transition year with Challenges Unlimited, the company who will take over the program; a lot of you have seen the new Aerial Park, which is truly spectacular. Chissy is a true Kilcoo legend and we are sad to see him go, but he is off to further adventures… he is getting married this year to his amazing fiancé Margarita! We couldn't be happier for him. Thankfully, he will remain in a consultant role and will visit camp each month to run rock climbing trips.

The months ahead will be busy at camp with school groups, corporate retreats, alumni stag weekends, Dragon Boat training, staff training weekends, (INSERT SUMMER HERE!!), then more school groups, hockey team training, more school groups and business retreats, the Staff Reunion of course, a Family weekend (check out www.kilcoo.com for info) and much more… it is incredible how many people will come through the gates off Hwy 35, and we can't wait for another incredible six month season on Gull Lake.

Once again, I hope you will sign up for the reunion and I always welcome anyone to drop by during the summer to say hello. TJ and Charlie are now first year LITs, which is so cool, and Brooke is off to Tanamakoon for her sixth summer. Beth, the kids, my Mom, my brothers and Kim, Tingles & George all join me in wishing you a wonderful spring and summer.

RIP RAM RAZZLE SCRAM
DAVID "LUB" LATIMER

KILCOO – A FAMILY AFFAIR

For Ray Lyons, Kilcoo has certainly been a family affair first for Ray from 1967 to 1977 and his brother. Later this was followed when he and wife Margie sent both his sons, Kevin and Greg to Kilcoo and finally his daughter, Heather, participated at Kilcoo at last fall's father-daughter weekend.

The decades since my camp days have gone by too quickly, but it has always been great to pause and attend Kilcoo and Amici events. Many of the finest individuals I have met through life were from Kilcoo. It is always a pleasure to get together with the 70's guys who were counsellors and instructors together during the years I enjoyed working as a counsellor with Bob Slingerland as my Section Director. Every one of them is an exceptional individual.

I have enjoyed reconnecting more recently in life with several individuals who were campers I had as a counsellor. My wife and I have enjoyed time with Jeff MacDonald and his family who live in Greece. The others I have been fortunate enough to connect with also lead interesting and successful lives.

A couple of years difference in age when young determines who you have time together with and get to know. In the years since Kilcoo there are a number of people who were enough younger or older that I did not know them well at camp, but have since enjoyed connecting with them and their friends.

As a commercial realtor in the Greater Toronto Area over the past 35 years, friends from camp have given me the opportunity to assist them with their industrial and office real estate requirements. Others have provided the legal expertise to structure real estate leases and agreements. It is amazing how the camping experience can connect people. On a beach in Bermuda it felt natural to introduce myself to a stranger wearing a Kilcoo hat. After talking about camp experiences with a business associate in the USA we established a bond of trust that made it easy to commence a transaction with inherent complexities, knowing that the other party held similar values.

My brother Doug and I had many good experiences at camp but my greatest joy from Kilcoo is that both of my sons were able to benefit from the same quality of experience that I enjoyed there. Déjà vu- My first year as a camper was in cabin 3, my first year as a counsellor was in cabin 3, and our eldest son's first year as a camper was in cabin 3. That same year our youngest son was in cabin 1 with three or four other sons of Kilcoo contemporaries of mine.

In a world of increasingly accelerating change, maintaining the Kilcoo spirit through multiple decades is a remarkable accomplishment for which I thank the Latimer family. I am even more amazed that they have managed to continue to maintain the culture and values of Kilcoo in a world where the concept of "camp" competes for attention with video games and social media. The current staff who I have spoken with at the Kilcoo Christmas parties, Amici events, and camp reunions are very capable and compassionate.

When seeking a camp similar to Kilcoo for our daughter, Margie and I sought John Latimer's advice. Our daughter had a good camping experience but the highlight was this past fall, participating at the first father - daughter weekend at Kilcoo.

In life and business we a meet a mix of people with a diversity of values and ethics. Kilcoo seems to attract individuals of integrity, and fosters an environment which brings out the best in people. The years at Kilcoo, and even the brief conversations since with those who have had their own Kilcoo experience, have greatly enriched my life and the lives of my family. Thank you to each of you.

RAY LYONS
1967-1977





KILCOO ALUMNI 2017 REUNION

Join us once again on the shores of Gull Lake

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND TO SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

You can download the application from the Kilcoo website www.kilcoo.com and take a look at our updated list of who has already said they will be there.

Activities get underway in the afternoon, September 22 for the avid golfers and then go into high gear with a reception at camp during the evening.

Reconnect with friends, meet other alumni from most of the decades, enjoy many of the camp activities, a special cocktail party on the beach before Saturday's banquet, and above all, join us in reminiscing of your summers at camp.

Don't delay. Spaces are filling up quickly.

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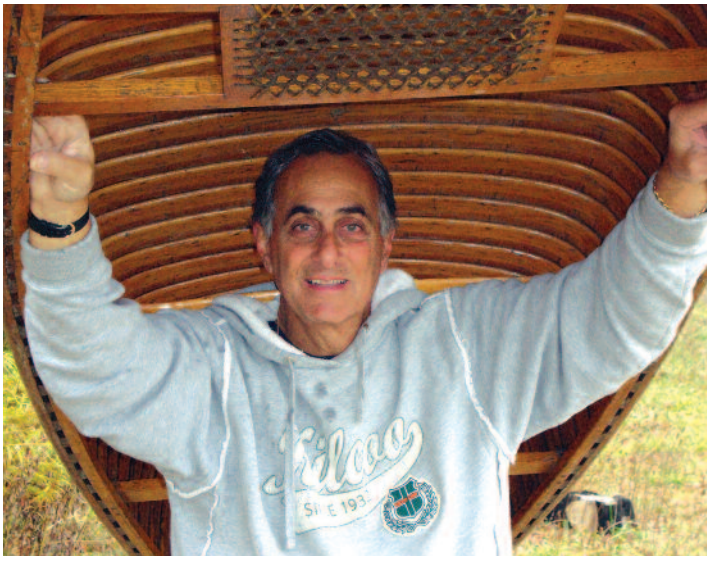
skilled in "small group dynamics". In August 1968, we approached Chief ("John" to me now!) and pitched a new idea: at the time Kilcoo had 24 cabins, 24 L.I.T.s, and one L.I.T. Director. What if Kilcoo had a wilderness outpost, 32 L.I.T.s, and two L.I.T. Directors? We could always be training L.I.T.s (eight at a time) at the outpost and also take two-week canoe trips with them! The next day found John Walker and I accompanying Chief in his convertible (Pontiac 2 + 2), meeting real estate agent Gary Vasey in Minden, and after seeing several sites, Kilcoo Camp purchased an outpost on Little Redstone Lake (an hour from Lake Kennisis) and The Redstone Project was initiated the following summer – August 1969.

In 1970 John Latimer was elected President of the Canadian Camping Association and John appointed me as C.C.A. Secretary. I worked on a national Board with Ron Johnstone, Jack Pearse, Kirk Wipper, and other provincial representatives for six years. I was in graduate school and able to travel four times a year with the C.C.A. We were funded by Recreation Canada and this is how it worked: our Board Meetings would run from Wednesday evening to Friday and then the host city would have a leadership conference from Friday to Sunday. The national C.C.A. Board would then become session leaders for each Provincial Association's Leadership Conference. I was fortunate to be asked to speak on The Redstone Project – training young leaders in wilderness survival and group dynamics – this was a nice way for leadership-rich Ontario to give back and help the rest of Canada develop and train camping leaders. As an aside, John Latimer was a fantastic national President, always there to help and support each provincial association. When John's two-year term expired in 1972 the C.C.A. had a unanimous vote to amend its constitution to allow John to serve a second term as President. After John's second term expired, Ron Johnstone, was the incoming President, appointed me as Secretary and John was Immediate Past President. Thus we had a great uninterrupted leadership run of six years highlighted by John as C.C.A. President which included meeting Pierre Trudeau, our Prime Minister.

In 1972, in British Columbia at Vancouver's Bayshore Inn, I gave a leadership session on The Redstone Project. I was approached by Doreen Hopkins, the owner of Bayview Glen Junior Schools (and the largest Day Camp in Canada), and she asked me to visit her at the Glen in Toronto – she wanted me to be her school psychologist. I started at Bayview Glen in September 1973 while living at 24 York Valley Crescent, the home of John and Peggy Latimer. In lieu of rent, I was asked to babysit David, Jeffrey and Michael; little did I know that John and Peggy's social schedule had them out practically six nights a week! No matter, as Peggy and her sister Ann (McIntosh) each had a pair of season tickets to Maple Leaf Gardens – so the Latimer boys and I got to see many Leaf games! Favourite Michael story (as David was getting Leaf autographs after a game): "Michael, there's King Clancy and Harold Ballard. Let's get their autographs". Michael shouts "Why would I want their autographs? They are both old men"! Clancy and Ballard laughed and signed Michael's Leaf programme. Favourite Jeffrey story: as we're heading to a Leaf game on the subway, the doors open at the College/Carlton station and Jeffrey steps out of the subway – but he let go of Michael's hand and Michael is now heading south, alone on the T.T.C. We jumped on the next car and met Michael on the platform at Dundas, holding the hand of a lovely woman who stayed with him.....can you imagine my fear, rehearsing what I might have to say to John and Peg? I asked Jeffrey "Why did you



let go of Michael's hand?" Jeffrey replied, "The subway doors closed." David and I have many many stories coming from our long friendship. John and David started coming to Windsor every September for a Detroit Tigers baseball game. Soon the Latimers all came to Windsor, then Bill Davis and family came with the Latimers. It was wonderful. Let's just say that one Maple Leafs related story, sadly, defined David and me in the mid – 70's: we were both thrilled that the Leafs got Jack Valiquette, our own version of Jean Belliveau!

On April 3, 1974, my father was killed in a tornado that ripped through Windsor, causing the collapse of the Windsor Curling Club. Nine people died that night at the curling club. John and Peg came to Windsor for the funeral, but John stayed in Windsor and helped us get my dad's I.G.A. Foodland re-opened. It was a very difficult time for us, but John was always there.
I didn't return to Kilcoo in 1974. I stayed home in Windsor to sell our store; however, my brother Michael continued as a leader at Kilcoo. In September 1974 I was hired as a Psychology Professor at Humber College (Humber had a number of Kilcoo alums: Rick Bendera, Peter Maybury and Michael Hatton).

Wanting my camp leadership horizons to expand, I applied to be the Programme Director at the Ontario Camp Leadership Center (Bark Lake), in 1976. I worked with Dorothy Walters and a wonderful team of co-ed leaders for three summers in Irondale, Ontario. In 1979, John confided in me that he wanted to leave Kilcoo after the summer of 1981 and asked if I would return to Kilcoo, and I did for his last two summers. Among the few who knew his last banquet was August 21, 1981, I set up my Bell & Howell tape recorder to tape his closing speech – it was fantastic but quite emotional!

Our friendship continued and I got engaged in December 1985 to Vicki Cooper; John was my best man on August 16, 1986. At that time, John had been appointed by Bill Davis and was Acting Chief of Protocol for the Province of Ontario. John and Peggy hosted a two-day party for Vicki and me at Kilcoo during mid-camp 1986 where many of my Kilcoo friends (Tim and Jacquie Currie, Murray Wickwire, John Bell and Linda Preston, John Walker and Jane Allen) enjoyed two days with personal friends and family.

In 1992 Vicki came home with an ad in the Toronto Star: the Eto-

bicoke-Queensway Lions Club was looking for a male/female team to direct Camp Bellaleo (an agency camp that hosted boys in July and girls in August). We applied and were hired – and Bellaleo became our "little Kilcoo" with the cabin-group focus, a strong L.I.T. Programme, polar bear swims, Sunday chapels, closing banquets complete with the Razzle Dazzle Scoop Shovel (Things You Hear About But Never See, Dear Abbey, Red Roses and Skunk Cabbages, Wind-Up Dolls, and Uncle Wiggley's Bedtime Story which includes everyone's name)!

John visited our camp every summer and was an integral factor in our success; he also saw our first-born son, Zak, growing up and really wanted him to experience Kilcoo. So, just as John and Peg had sent David to Mazinaw for maturity and seasoning, Vicki and I sent Zak to Kilcoo for the same reasons in 2002. Little did any of us know that that would be John's last summer at Kilcoo – and on earth!

In 2003 I spent four full days at Kilcoo, one day every two weeks, to help guide the L.I.T.s as a favour to David. That same summer (and at almost every closing banquet since) we gave out the John Latimer Leadership Award "in recognition of outstanding leadership in children's camping". Zak won the award in 2007; Zak adores David (Lub) and had a wonderful month with Lub and Chief at Kilcoo in July 2002.

In 2010, the Lions Club no longer had funds to support our summer camp, so we transitioned to Camp Nokomis (an Anishnaabe word meaning "my grandmother"). We had 58 registrations in 2010, and had 421 last summer (2016); our girl's camp (August) had a waiting list for the first time ever! So.....we really are a "little Kilcoo".
Our son, Zak, has been the Director of Camp Nokomis since 2012; Vicki and I are referred to as Senior Directors, much like David started at Kilcoo in 1985 with the "senior" support of John and Peg. It's hard to believe but John directed Kilcoo for 25 years and David has completed 32 years, and is now going strong heading into year 33. Vicki and I are going into our 26th year as Senior Directors/Owners of Nokomis.

I meet with our L.I.T.s every month (from November to June) on a Saturday for three hours; it's how we develop our future leaders for camp – leadership training in the city which translates into a better sensitivity and awareness of our philosophy of inclusion at Nokomis! My first meeting was in November with 40 L.I.T.s and their parents. The 3rd line on our agenda read: The Redstone Project. So the story of leadership training is told once again!

Every Sunday morning at Nokomis, I give a chapel talk and play music at our Chapel Hill (not quite as beautiful as Chapel Point – but picturesque still) among the pine trees up on a cliff that overlooks the west and south views of Belwood Lake. And every summer Zak comes into my room at some point and says "Daddy, please give your HEROES talk at chapel – you haven't done it yet. Include Papa Nick (my dad) and Chief (John Latimer) – the kids love it". So, the stories continue!





David called me in early January, 2003, and said "Father came home early from Great Britain as his stomach was killing him". I saw John a week later and he used the word "cancer" for the first time, soon to be more specific (pancreatic cancer). It was a whirlwind three months! I visited John almost every Monday to give Peggy a somewhat "normal" day at the Kilcoo office. John smiled, cried, slept and I read him dozens and dozens of letters and cards each week (one particularly beautiful one from Dave Hamer). John wanted to see Gull Lake once more, but was too weak for that car ride; we only got out once for a haircut and we drove along previous streets where he had lived: Briar Hill Avenue and York Valley Crescent. John told me one Monday he wanted a public good-bye – that week the Latimer boys, Ian Currie, Michael Sherwood and I all met at Tim Currie's house to plan our public farewell (it would have been called "Hail to the Chief"), but the next Monday John was too gaunt and self-conscious and didn't want people to see him; no worries, we cancelled our plans, as they had been made to please him! In mid April John went into the hospital and on April 22nd David called me – our Chief had passed away. His ashes now sit in an urn behind a rock at Chapel Point – so he got his wish to return to Gull Lake!

With a photo he sent of Chief and Zak from 2002 (Zak was 14), Lub wrote "Zak, I thought you'd like this shot. Chief and I think very highly of you and your Dad has made a huge impact on both Chief and me. Although he is gone from this earth, Chief will live on in all of us....just like your Dad's Dad (Nick) does! Take advantage of every moment you have with your own father Zak....I did with mine and Jay is the same kind of guy as Chief....how cool is that....we're both very lucky. Love, your pal Lub".

So whether it's 33 years or 26 years, we're all pulling for each other – Kilcoo's success is Nokomis' success – and camping wins!

"We're all for one and one for all; clinging together like the ivy on the garden wall.....We're all for one and one for all; and all together we can't go wrong".

RIP RAM

JAY HADDAD
1959-1973, 1980-1982

KILCOO CANOE RESTORATION UPDATE

Writing this article I am reminded how fast the spring comes, and I can't wait. So comes another report from the canoe shop. This will be the ninth(!) summer for a few of the canoes in Kilcoo's "new" fleet, and they're certainly being used well! Apart from some cosmetic damage and general wear to the gunwales and keels all the canoes are still in excellent shape. There are a few cases of broken ribs in two of the vintage Chestnuts, but none so dire as to require replacement – right now. They can be repaired and will be fully mended next time the canvas has to come off, in another decade or two.

Two new "Kilcoo Specials" were added to the fleet in 2016, as was a unique 16.5' Keiser canoe (donated to Gull Lake Boat Works by the Carroll family, subsequently repaired and refinished for Kilcoo Camp). The Kilcoo Fleet now consists of 25 Cedar/canvas "Kilcoo" canoes, ten vintage wood canoes (Cedar/canvas, and CedarStrippers), and 33 fiberglass/plastic for river use.

The older portion of the fleet consists of a random assortment of our last five original Minto Marine canoes, some Nominingues, and a few unknown others. These twelve canoes are either beyond restoration or not worth the cost, and we lose about two per year to "natural" causes. Brian Hamilton and Kent Taylor repair them as possible but more often repurpose them as the half-canoe shelves that grace the living rooms of many Alumni.

In addition to rebuilding and maintaining Kilcoo's canoe fleet, GLBW continues to operate independently, having repaired or restored well over 100 canoes, kayaks, and motor/sail/row boats for private owners and for other camps, like Mi-A-Kon-Da, YMCA Camp Queen Elizabeth, and the Taylor Statten Camps. A few Kilcoo families are also lucky owners of some of the fifteen custom canoes that we've built. This year we made connections at Toronto's various yacht clubs, and in 2017 we will continue to prototype paddle designs and manufacturing while maybe squeezing out a paddleboard or two. And some more canoes, of course!

In 2017 Kilcoo will add at least one more new canoe, to be named for Kilcoo's legendary ropesman, Rob "Chissy" Chisnall. In the pipeline we also have two vintage canoes, a 15' Chestnut "BobSpecial" and a beautifully-preserved 80year-old 17' Peterborough "Champlain." And, we hope to soon get started in restoring Kilcoo's last all-wood sailboat, a 12' Peterborough CedarStrip peapod dubbed "Sinbad," which is safely slumbering in storage and will be transported to our Toronto shop for a full restoration.

We expect to return to camp in the spring for on-site work. There certainly is a lot to keeping a fleet of wooden boats in top condition… far too much for one person. So, I'll leave you with this: any interested LiTs (or soon-to-be Ts) with aptitude and interest who may wish to further themselves by way of honest hard work on usefully beautiful objects, may certainly inquire about an internship.

Thanks to every one who has shown support and interest in the Kilcoo Fleet!
Okay – back to work. Thanks for reading!

MARC RUSSELL
1997-2009



KILCOO TRIP, 1952

My love for canoe tripping began when I was 10 years old when our tent group planned a trip from Coboconk to Lake Simcoe, then all the way back to camp. The main waterway was to be through Balsam Lake and into the Trent Canal.

I have many memories, including feeling very tired for most of the trip. I recall the great taste of stewed tomatoes cooked in an open tin over the hot coals of the fire.



Setting up a campsite on a small island near Beaverton at the entrance to the Trent Canal was one of the luxuries of the trip. It was obviously a private piece of land, and it was so incredibly comfortable sleeping on grass! I also remember the beauty of the lovely natural surroundings as we paddled through the canal.

One day, we trekked along the railroad tracks into Beaverton to attend a show. It was the movie, "Bridge over the River Kwai," and I had to borrow money to see it. All I remember is the newsreel of the "Trooping of the Colours," then I promptly fell asleep! Yes, we certainly were tired.

Upon our return to camp, we built a 3 dimensional model of our trip route for display. When camp closed, we were not sure what to do with the model, but perhaps because Chief Charlie Plewman was my uncle, it was given to me. The camp had it driven down to Toronto for me!

These are just a few of many the memories I have of my time at Kilcoo while growing up.

BOB FRASER
1951-1955

KILCOO IS IN YOU FOR LIFE – A TRIBUTE

So many of our Gazette articles chronicle the lives of alumni and how they were influenced by their Kilcoo experience. The following from Hal Hannaford provides insight into the influence Kilcoo has had on his life even as he, during his years at Kilcoo influenced the lives of many others. More recently Hal and his wife Susan (who is known to many of you) have faced the challenge of HLH – Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis – a challenge we are confident Susan will, with Hal's support, overcome.

It is difficult for me to remember or even imagine the infinite details of what Kilcoo was all about in 1982. John Chief Latimer had announced his retirement from camp the summer before, and it meant I too was embarking on a new adventure. Chief was my hero, a major influence, and now, to be his successor? It was an honour that would take me decades to fully comprehend, and that honour was complemented by the honour of having been David Lub Latimer's predecessor. As we often state; I was the blip between two legends.

And what a three year blip it was. I had completed an education degree at U of T for the simple reason: there was the possibility I would become director at Kilcoo. My love for camp ran deep. I then began my teaching career in 1981 at Crescent School, was married to Susan Doherty in March of 1982, and that summer, my sixteenth summer at Kilcoo, became my first as director. There is a stark reality; it worked because of my youth and naivety! I was young, I knew so little (although I thought I knew much more), was completely immature, but I had the advantage of not knowing enough to be stressed. My enthusiasm and energy were assets, and more importantly, I absolutely loved Kilcoo. As a Headmaster I have used those traits over and over as I guide my students. What the camp had given me can never be fully explained, and is much too complicated to attempt to relate here. I owed Chief so much, but I owed Kilcoo more for how it shaped me as a young man, and I was determined to make it all work.

Bobsie Ebbs managed the office, Scott Russell was assistant director, the wisdom was provided by Murray Wickwire and Tom Reed, and Susan was simply inspirational (at some point she should share her stories of her role, and in particular the drama program she made so vibrant). The rest of the Senior Staff (and they all know who they are) were young, talented, a bit crazy, somewhat controversial, but so passionate, and despite the occasional visit to Kawartha Dairy, it was their collective efforts, enthusiasm, and energy that allowed Kilcoo to continue to thrive after John's retirement. David Graham was a section director that year. He was one of the most outstanding young men I have ever worked with. My memories of him will be with me forever. We all miss David, and Susan and I are so grateful we had the opportunity to work closely with him.

After that first year, and after a legitimate attempt to purchase Kilcoo (a story in itself), it was decided that David Latimer would take over as director after the summer of 1984. Incidentally, I still credit Scott Russell for giving David the nickname Lub while we were eating lunch in the back room off the kitchen, the original name being Lublington. David (Lub) was working at Camp Ponacka at the time, and it was determined he would be a part of the Senior Staff (Nor'Wester section director) the summer of 1984. And now, David has been a force for thirty- three years and counting. I will always remain proud of the three years Susan and I spent together at Kilcoo. I certainly cannot compare myself to Chief or Lub but to have been the interim leader in the history of Kilcoo continues to mean so much.

For me, I made the decision to focus my career on education. After two years in Europe completing an MBA, teaching at the American University in Paris, and a couple of years back in Toronto teaching and creating an advancement office at Crescent, I became the founding Headmaster of Kingsway College school in Toronto. I spent seven years at KCS, followed by thirteen years at Royal St. George's College. That of course, was (fatefully) the second time I was John Latimer's successor. Not sure how I managed to survive all that, but somehow it was in the cards and after all, I had learned so much from John about the true values of being a human being. Finally, in 2009, my career took me back home to Montreal where for the past eight years I have been the Headmaster of Selwyn House School. Almost thirty years leading Canadian Independent Schools with a clear connection to boys and their education. Incidentally, for what it is worth, there is absolutely no doubt that one can state with the upmost of confidence that boys' schools are better for boys. They are better for any boy.

The real truth? My career in education was and continues to be shaped by my Kilcoo experience, and of course by the influence of



Chief. It is not that he was ahead of his time, but John Latimer understood years ago what is now proven by research. If you are going to successfully reach any boy, there are two elements that are required; every boy is desperate for a meaningful relationship, and boys want to experience passion. Sounds like Kilcoo. If one or both of these ingredients is missing, it is not a case of a boy not learning, a boy will blatantly refuse to learn. My obsession with teaching handshakes is legendary, and of course where did that come from? The value of knowing everyone's name (getting more and more difficult as I get older) has proven to be crucial. The concept of living your life fully, striving for greatness, and allowing boys to be boys were lessons I learned from the master, and lessons I am passionate about passing along.

Any valuable educator has the joy of watching children grow up. It is an aspect of my life's work that I truly cherish – watching boys become great men in front of my eyes. In a parallel universe, Kilcoo achieves that same noble endeavour.

I am fortunate. I grew up in an environment that paved the way for my career. Any success I have had as a Headmaster is directly attributed to Kilcoo and Chief. As I head into my final couple of years of my career, this has not wavered. John Latimer was right, and I have experienced that first hand. As he continues to watch me, I can only hope I am making him proud. I'll never give up trying.

HAL HANNAFORD
1967-1985

LONGEST TIME FRIENDSHIP

So it is said that Kilcoo friendships last a long time and that a picture is worth a thousand words. Here is proof to both. This is a picture of two Kilcoo lads enjoying Boxing Day 2016 together. Do you recognize them?



The guy on the left was a riding instructor at Kilcoo. He parlayed his experience as a young salesman, selling tropical fish when he was 10-12 years old, into a very successful business career. In addition, he assembled one of the most outstanding collection of horse-drawn carriages in the world. He is the father of four children and one time made a life-long impression on some visiting children, by demonstrating his famous "high pour". He lives in the Toronto area still.

The one on the right started as a camper at Kilcoo in 1936 and rose to be a counsellor and canoeing instructor. His last year at camp was 1949 (minus some years in the service). He had a long and successful career as a physician in Ohio, and still lives in Cleveland. He is the father of four boys, all of whom attended Kilcoo, and one daughter (who went to Camp Gay Venture in its day). He is the grandfather of three Kilcoo boys, two of whom were at camp last summer.

During their boxing day visit, which included about a dozen others (children, grandchildren, and significant others) who were visiting for the Christmas holidays, the two discussed many stories from their days at Kilcoo. Some of the stories, such as riding in the rumble seat (some of the younger readers will have to Google "rumble seat")of Bill Anderson's '37 Ford to a dance were appropriate for print, while others (perhaps to protect both the innocent and guilty ... not to mention that fact checking would be difficult at this point) were not. During their wide-ranging discussion which lasted nearly 3 hours over a delightful lunch, other Kilcoo staff members' names from their time also came up. Kilcoo alumni like Jack Ryan (riding instructor), Dave Lawr (sailing instructor), and John Stevenson (swimming instructor) ... along of course with Chief Charlie Plewman, Chief John Latimer & Mrs. Chief (Peggy Latimer), and even Lub were all mentioned.

Now do you know them?

The fellow on the left is Jack Pemberton (93 years young), and on the right is Mo Dixon (a "younger" 91). Both are going strong and still have fabulous memories of their days at Kilcoo.

JIM DIXON
1967-1978

AMICI GALA BRINGS ALUMNI GENERATION TOGETHER

In keeping with long time friendships the Amici Gala in November brought together Kilcoo alumni from across 78 years of Kilcoo's history. Pictured below from left to right are Doug Caldwell (1959-76), Jack Rhind (1939-41) and John Kennedy (1954-60).



LIFE AFTER KILCOO

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 gazetteeditor@kilcoo.com.

It is hard to believe that it has been 60 years since my first summer at camp and that for four decades Kilcoo was an integral part of my summers, initially as a camper, then C.I.T. (as we were called then), Counsellor, and Campcraft instructor.

I graduated in medicine at U of T in 1968....Dean and Clive Chamberlain and Eric Vance were my " role models ". For 15 years I practised in Port Perry (near Lindsay), Dave Milne`s home town. I returned to Kilcoo as camp doctor for 7 or 8 summers. Bob Slingerland taught our three children, Clayton, Maija and Cal during lunch hours.

I returned to University in 1983 and worked for the Ministry of Health managing a program matching health professionals to Northern Ontario communities until 1989 when I actually re- located to one and have practised family medicine here in Kenora ever since. I first discovered Kenora on a Kilcoo canoe trip in 1965 with Pat Johnston, Paul Chamberlain and 9 Senior campers.

My wife Elaine sadly developed Alzheimers Disease and passed in 2012. I have remarried since to Joanie, who was my office nurse for twenty years. I have reduced my practice considerably and look forward to my 50th anniversary of medical practice next year!

JOHN HAMMETT
1956-1965; 1976-1982