THE GULL ROCK GAZETTE

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AMICI CONTINUES TO CHANGE CHILDREN'S LIVES

Fifty five years ago a group of young Kilcoo men had a vision; a vision for the future in which the magic of camp was accessible for children no matter their family's financial circumstances. A vision that meant the safety, stability and boundless opportunity of a camp community was open and available to every child who needed it. A vision that saw the leaders of tomorrow build skills, learn teamwork and find their voice, regardless of any social or financial barrier once standing in their way.

With a lot of hard work, determination and compassion for thy fellow camper, this beautiful vision became a reality in Amici Camping Charity.

What started as one camper in 1966 grew to 300 children in 2019. What started as one partner camp is now 44 OCA-accredited partner camps across Ontario. What started as one life forever changed, has grown to thousands of campers, parents, guardians and communities, touched by the positive and lifelong power of camp, all thanks to decades of support from our Kilcoo comrades and the generosity of Amici's great community.

Amici is tremendously proud to have provided the gift of camp to 57 New Canadian campers in summer 2019, 22 of which identify as refugees. A sense of belonging, lifelong friendships and a safe and supportive camp environment have and will continue to have a profound impact on our New Canadian campers.

"In today's complex world, a sense of belonging and a connection to the great outdoors is more important than ever before for today's leaders," says Amici's Executive Director, Judy MacGowan. "We cannot thank you enough for supporting Amici campers over the past five decades. Your contributions not only give children facing financial and social barriers the chance to "just be kids", but also provide them with the skills to become better leaders, teammates and citizens of the future."



A particular highlight of this past year was Amici's Canoe Heads for Kids. For those of you who have not witnessed a canoe convoy strolling down Queens Quay, Canoe Heads is Amici's main annual fundraising event, welcoming camp enthusiasts as they participate in a 15 km urban canoe trip along the Toronto waterfront. This year's event was the most successful to date, raising over $260,000 in pledges and sponsorship to support Amici campers and their families! With a fantastic turnout of 160 participants of all ages and a variety of camping backgrounds, this year's event was certainly one for the record books. Save the date for next year's 15th anniversary spectacular: Saturday, May 30, 2020. You can learn more about Canoe Heads at www.canoeheadsforkids.com

There are no words more powerful than an Amici camper's to paint a picture of your incredible impact: "There really are no words for my gratefulness. Thank you for introducing me to my home away from home. It changed me for the better."

ROBYN SHORT
AMICI MANAGER,
FUND DEVELOPMENT
& COMMUNICATIONS

In 1966 Amici sent its first camper to Camp Kawabi. A year later we partnered with a second camp, Camp Pinecrest. In 2019, as an indicator of Amici's phenominal growth there were 44 partner camps whose contribution to the program played a major role in its great success.

Arrowhead Camp
Cedar Ridge Camp
Glen Bernard Camp
Camp Kawartha
Camp Kirk
Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da
Camp Oconto
Camp Pine Crest (YMCA)
RKY Camp
Camp Tanamakoon
Camp Walden

Camp Awakening
Camp Cherit
Camp Henry (YMCA)
Camp Kennebec
Camp Kitchikewana
Camp Nokomis
Onondaga Camp
Camp Ponacka
Camp Scugog
Camp Tawingo
Camp Wanakita

Camp Can-Aqua
Camp Couchiching
Hidden Bay Leadership Camp
Kettleby Valley Camp
Camp Mansfield
Camp Northland
Camp Otterdale
Project Canoe
StepStones Summer Camp
Camp Ten Oaks
Camp Wenonah

Canadian Adventure Camp
Frontier Trails Camp
Camp Kandalore
Kilcoo Camp
Camp Medeba
Camp Northway
Camp Pathfinder
Camp Queen Elizabeth
Camp Tamakwa
Camp Wabikon
Camp Winston

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

It will be evident as you read through this issue of the Gazette that there are a large number of alumni who still feel the sting of Bob Slingerland's passing in April, and while I supported the idea of including their thoughts, I also want to be sensitive to a significant number of other camp alumni who passed away "before their time." Among our readers we have a number of dear friends, brothers, spouses, fathers, sons and cousins of these wonderful people and they will not be forgotten. However, I do recognize that Bob's longevity at camp as a leader among the staff means that he "touched" so many lives over three decades. Many of you are aware of the plaques above the Voyageur campfire area which memorialize a number of alumni we have lost who played important roles at Kilcoo. David Latimer and I are in the process of updating and to some extent fixing this area up and I hope a similar memorial can become part of our historical museum.



For those of us who went through Kilcoo's leadership training as CIT's some decades ago you will find it interesting that the program is led by 5 Senior Staff members and first year LIT's each take their turn for 2 weeks on Ruth's Island sleeping, not in her old cottage but in a new looking and more comfortable yurt.

Kilcoo enjoyed another very successful summer in 2019 and despite a pretty hot and dry August, canoe trippers were able to avoid any fire ban issues. I am delighted that Daniel Labbe, Kilcoo's tripping director, has contributed an overview of the tripping program 2019 style which will offer some pretty obvious differences from earlier decades as I described in the autumn 2017 issue and others.

In each issue of the Gazette I appeal to alumni to offer their skills to the writing of articles we can use. **I am at a point now where I must question the sustainability of this newsletter as I find it increasingly difficult to find new material. Consequently, I have to state that we may not be able to send out a Gazette in the spring.** From many alumni I hear the Gazette is appreciated and gets well read, but more recently I have felt increasing pressure to make things work. I will speak to this during the upcoming alumni reunion (September 25th-27th, 2020) and I will hope for a subsequent "flood" of offers to keep the Gazette alive and well.

I hate the fact that this issue might seem somewhat sombre, but we lost another alumnus this summer. Peter Middleton, who toiled as a Nature Lore instructor and then Trailblazer section director in the 60's, passed away at home on June 30th. Peter's interest in the environment led him to leadership with Pollution Probe while he was still at university and he later created a consulting firm and worked with various governments. Going forward he I am sure would have been among the leading advocates fighting climate change.

PAUL CHAMBERLAIN
1956-67

AMICI'S YPC

With the passionate energy of Judy MacGowan's team at Amici, 300 kids were given the gift of camp during summer 2019. Our goal as Amici's Young Professional Committee (YPC) is simple; help foster the gift of camp.

We'd like to take the time to re-introduce ourselves.



Amici YPC Members Alex Gerlings (Kilcoo), Geordie Knowles (Kilcoo; Co-Chair), Paula Sanderson (Mi-A-Kon-Da), Martine Lloyd Tawingo & Kilcoo; Co-Chair), Maggie Rooney (Tanamakoon), Bryan Mitchel (Kilcoo), Kaitlyn Axlerod (Mi-A-Kon-Da), Amanda Katz (Manitou), & Khamil Alhade (Pine Crest). Missing: Harry Dearden (Kilcoo), Nick Chauvin (Ahmek), Dee Dorance (GBC)

The YPC represents a group of 12 camp alumni, including Pine Crest, Onondaga, Manitou, Tanamakoon, Glen Bernard, and yes, a healthy dose of Kilcoo. While open to all, our focus is on engaging recent camp graduates, bridging the transition from camper to camp giver. But when it comes time to rally our alumni network, there's a slight snag in the plan - camp counselling wasn't a get rich quick scheme when it came to summer jobs. What we did earn however, was a passion for summer camp.

We strive to keep the camping community engaged with Amici for life. To do that, we run an event series known as, Evening Program, bringing together Toronto's Young Professional network for nights of laughter, music, games and memories, raising funds to support Amici's mission. A few weeks ago, Evening Program returned with Campchella, a live music event which raised $7,600, supporting six kids' summer dreams.

We'd like to close on one final note: Knowing the impact camp can have, we know every dollar counts. As such, we operate with zero budget, relying on volunteers, donors and sponsors to foster the evolution of our events , and help put kids in bunks. If you're interested in getting involved as a volunteer, committee member or donor, please contact amiciypc2@gmail.com, or reach out directly to Martine and I. We are also online on Instagram & Facebook @AmiciYPC.

GEORDIE KNOWLES
2008-16

FIRESIDE CHAT

From Lub and the entire Latimer Family

Halloween at Kilcoo Camp, the Post Camp crew trick or treated on a dark and rainy night, but no one answered their cabins doors and no one was there to hear them SCREA… I mean enjoy their final night together of course!! It might sound like the start of a ghost story, but Ocotber 31st was just the last night of an awesome Post Camp, and on November 1st, we closed the gates on the 2019 season at Kilcoo! 2019 was an awesome year, beginning in mid-April with arrival of Primordial Camp. The Advance Camp crew arrived for the start of May and set the tone for the summer. At a certain point in July we had Kilcoo guys on the Nahanni River, Strathcona Provincial Park on Vancouver Island, the Missinabi River, Killarney Provincial Park, the French River, Algonquin Park and Long Island too, of course! The summer was a blur: Team Latimer won the Bushpede and Egypt won the Olympics; and by the time it was all over, lessons were learned and much fun was had, the summer of 2019 was another memorable one of the shores of Gull Lake.

I have a number of highlights from our fall season, notably a memorial weekend in honour of Dave "Red' Graham. Dave's three sons, Patrick (Kilcoo '16), Cam (Kilcoo '18) and Chris (first year Staff in '19) were all amazing hosts, and frankly are all such wonderful young men, Dave would have been so proud. We finished the weekend down on Chapel Point, with a chapel full of positive stories and great memories of our friend "Red". The Camp Gay Venture Staff Reunion also took place at Kilcoo this fall, on an absolutely beautiful weekend in late September, one of those perfect autumn weekends where you think summer might just return. There were almost 200 former GV staff members, many of whom you might remember and many who remember you! They too finished their weekend down at Chapel Pt for their own version of chapel, to appreciate all that summer camp provides us.

The six months at Kilcoo were very special and we now turn our attention to the "off-season". The camper application process has begun, and it looks like a HUGE return of staff and LITs for 2020. The fact remains that much of our "advertising" still comes from word of mouth, especially from our alumni, and I never take that fact for granted. I want you all to know how grateful I am for your support of Kilcoo and our community. I am still doing home visits (like I did for some of you years ago!), showing slides and telling the stories of happy Kilcoo campers. So if you ever have interest in hosting a Kilcoo slide show with Lub for a bunch of kids, please let me know, I welcome and encourage it. The support of our alumni is vital to the continued success of Kilcoo Camp… so thank you very much!

I hope you will join us for our Staff Reunion next September, please note the flyer included in this mailing. The reunion weekend seems to get more meaningful each year: it is the best weekend! Kilcoo continues to be a meaningful and important part of so many people lives. People love the traditions, they love the handshakes, and that we continues to be a "Maker of Men." The campers love hearing the stories of the "old days", of Bob (of Bob's Boulevard) Slingerland, and of Chief, and all those who were, and are, Kilcoo Camp. For those alumni who have not been through camp in recent years, I think that you would notice all the new physical changes and upgrades, but would feel that camp has essentially the same feel, and I love that.

My family is doing well. Beth (an art therapist) & Brooke (Grade 11 North Toronto CI student) remain in Toronto, while TJ & Charlie are enjoying life in London, Ontario as first year students at Huron. Mrs. Chief loves her time at The Dunfield, just around the corner from the office, so she can keep a watchful eye! The Latimer family, Kim & Tingles in the office, and all the Kilcoo Staff wish you the very best for the holidays, and beyond in 2020!

RIP RAM RAZZLE SCRAM
DAVID "LUB" LATIMER

SUPPORT KILCOO'S HISTORICAL MUSEUM

It first began with former Kilcoo camper and friend of John Latimer Richard Clarke's major donation and then coalesced with Kilcoo's own plans to replace the existing office/tuckshop. The result is a two floor building the architectural plans for which have been provided by alumnus Jeff Macdonald. Plans are now well underway with the on site work to begin this September. Several alumni have already offered donations for use in helping us to realize the dream of an historical site to be proud of while the camp itself will cover the office/tuckship portion. We will recognize all donations from people in the Kilcoo community(alumni, camper parents) with a plaque in the museum when it opens officially in the summer of 2021. Levels and recognition are as follows:



Benefactor – donations of $5,000 or more
Patron – donations of $400 to $4,999
Supporter – donations less than $400
Contributor – any memorabilia or artifacts of interest

Any help through donations or gifts of memorabilia will be much appreciated. For details on how to make your donation or gift please contact David Latimer at the Kilcoo office(416-486-5264) or by e-mail at lub@kilcoo.com

THE "SMOOTHIE" INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



As you all likely know by now, we lost a true Kilcoo Legend this year: Bob Slingerland ("Smoothie"). Bob was a long time assistant director of Kilcoo, and among many other things, a good friend to all who knew him. We will all miss him dearly.

One of the things we did this year as a lasting tribute to Bob is rename the annual "70's Guys" AMICI Golf Tournament, the "Smoothie" Invitational AMICI Golf Tournament. This annual event, that typically saw 3 or 4 foursomes of guys from the 70's getting together to play golf, connect socially, and raise some money for AMICI, was significantly expanded to include all those who attended Kilcoo during the "Smoothie" years.

This year, on June 20th, we had more than 30 guys come out to honor Bob and support AMICI. The weather got a little wet near the end but that did not dampen our spirits as a great time was had by all. In order to commemorate the new tournament, Jeff Lloyd took on the task of making a beautiful new trophy, which now sits in the lodge at Kilcoo with the names of this year's winners engraved (Tim Currie, Ian Currie, Bill McIlroy, and Mike Sherwood). As has been tradition, we collected a $50 donation to AMICI from each player, and in addition, donations came in from others who wanted to participate but could not attend. The result was a total of over $2000 raised for AMICI. The Executive Director of AMICI, Judy MacGowan, and Fund Development and Communications Manager Robyn Short both attended the event to thank all the participants and give us an update on the latest AMICI activities.

All in all it was a very successful day and we will be continuing this new tradition on June 17th, 2020. If you knew Bob and wish to participate, contact Randy Kline (randy.kline@cogeco.ca) or Bill Meeker (wemeeker1@gmail.com). Rip Ram.

RANDY KLINE
1964-77



2020 KILCOO ALUMNI REUNION

In this issue of the Gazette you will see the insert "application" for next September's reunion. Our reunions always draw a huge crowd for what becomes a memorable weekend so we urge you to get your "application" with payment into the Kilcoo office as soon as possible to reserve your spot.

THIS IS KILCOO 2019



Chapel Point



Carvings on benches along Bob's Boulevard in the Voyageur Section



Kilcoo's office manager, Kim Bouchard, in Ireland where the promise of Kilcoo had its roots

KILCOO TRIPPING IN THE CURRENT ERA

Just as I end my first year as Kilcoo's Trip Director I took some time to reflect on what the tripping program is today. Even after my 12 years at this camp I have seen changes to the program, I can't imagine how much it has changed over the past 70 years.

Our trip process starts with the pack out. The day before a cabin leaves on trip the LIT and counsellor split up to get all the equipment, food, and campers ready. Although these roles are not set in stone, the LIT tends to help campers get ready and teaches them to set up their tents, while the counsellor does all the behind the scenes "dark-side" preparation with myself. The counsellor's responsibility is to pack all the food, which he accomplishes by packing each day's worth of food into plastic bags, then into a large 60L food barrel. A typical day's menu could be bacon and egg burritos for breakfast, tuna melts for lunch, and spaghetti for dinner. The counsellor would also get all the equipment packed. Some of the equipment we use nowadays includes a wide variety of 4-person tents, from our newest marmot dome tents to the older A-frame tents that seem as if a strong gust of wind could knock them over, although it never does. All trips go with three metal billies, a spatula, a large frying pan, a trowel, metal utensils from the kitchen, a few old plates (Either plastic or Melmac), and a bunch of other odds and ends. This is all packed into our blue equipment packs. Sometime during this packing, the counsellor would go over the route plan with myself and pick up a med kit from the infirmary.

One of the changes I have seen in my time at Kilcoo has to do with water purification. When I was young, we used drops of bleach, but nowadays we have switched to aquatabs which clean the water more completely. The counsellors that go on trips in more remote areas will receive a satellite phone for emergencies.

Finally, one of the last things the counsellor will do is set aside canoes. Today our tripping fleet includes older cedar strips, 17' Winisks, and Dumoines. We are transitioning to a fleet of Swifts and trying to reserve the cedar strips for camp use only. Once all the camper's personal things and equipment are in their waterproof stuff sacks and are in the canoe packs, then it is ready to be put on the bus. All trips now start and end with a bus trip, other than the cabin one/two trips to Long Island. The bus will take the cabin to a drop off point, which could be anywhere across the province. This year we had canoe trips going to the nearby Leslie Frost Centre, Algonquin Park, the French River,



Lake Temagami, North Frontenac, the Missinabie River, the Dumoine River, and Killarney Provincial Park. There was also the Vancouver Island hiking trip, which takes two voyageur cabins across the country to B.C. for an awesome 2-week trip. All our trips range in length from three-day two-night trips of the Trailblazers, to the week or two-week long trips of the Voyageurs and 2nd year LITs. Each night the campers will stay on a new site. The trips either travel in a loop, where the drop off and pick up point is the same place, or travel in a linear path, where the goal is to travel from the drop off to the pickup spot. All in all, that is an overview of the trip program today, and I know it will most definitely change in the future, but the core lessons of grit, hard-work, and the beauty of nature will never change.

DANNY LABBE
2007 - PRESENT



NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCE

In looking back over the 14 years I spent at Kilcoo there were so many great memories and events that would be worthy of putting pen to paper. But my most memorable and enjoyable times by far were the 2 years spent on the waterfront staff teaching water skiing with my best friend Paul Hutton. Those were immortal days.

We awoke every day at 7am to the mist rising off the glass-like surface of Gull Lake for the traditional "early morning ski," with 8 eager campers waiting at the dock. In those days we had 2 ski boats: an 85HP bow rider which was the premier boat; and a small, very old, red 40HP, affectionately named "Ruby" by Chris Sainthill in years past. At the time, the ski dock was on Long Island, so we had to load up the gear every morning and take everyone out to the island before getting ready to ski. Paul and I tried to make it fun on the way over by tooling around and jumping each other's wakes, etc., especially for the kids who had to ride in the red boat. This was part of our regular routine.



On one fateful morning, I was driving the red boat and Paul had the 85. We loaded up the kids and off we went. I was leading, so I thought I'd give the kids in the front of Paul's boat a little spray by pulling up in front of him and making a quick turn to spray out the side. I just missed them, but they liked it, so back I came for another run. This time I came in a little closer to get them good…..made my sudden crank on the wheel to push the spray…..nothing happened. I suddenly realized the steering wheel had come off in my hands, and I had no control of the boat. We were heading right into the front of the 85 with impact imminent. Paul quickly throttled back and made a sharp turn to miss us by inches.

I remember looking back and seeing the underside of the 85 as we passed across the bow. I throttled back and I was sitting there in the lake with the boat idling and my heart in my throat. Paul drove over to us and with an uncomfortable chuckle said "Kliner, that was close." I just held the steering wheel up in the air with one hand….our eyes met….and we both realized how close it had really been. The next day I purchased a new wheel and cable kit and completely reinstalled everything myself front to back. That was not going to happen again. Thanks to Paul's quick reflexes, we survived to tell the story.

RANDY KLINE
1964-77

2019 FATHER-DAUGHTER WEEKEND

The 2019 Father-Daughter Weekend was, by the sounds of it, the year's highlight for many alumni who returned to Kilcoo with their girls. Shortly after, Michael Roland penned the following reflections in an e-mail to David Latimer.

David,

What a weekend. My drive down with Liv and Audrey was delicious in the content of our conversation. All three of us were topped up with Kilcoo magic and that infused the grounded, thankful and energized discussion we had as we wound our way back to the city.

Although I have to guard against hyperbole, I do truly believe we will be better off for a long time to come (individually and collectively) for having been surrounded by the powerfully positive essence of great people with common values spending genuine time in a sacred setting. That is tonic for the soul.

So many things about the weekend were terrific, but top among it was you. With the usual demands on your every second from Kilcoo men and Kilcoo daughters alike, you retain your boundless ability to make each and every person feel noticed, validated and important. Olivia, Audrey and I all felt that way…and it feels good. Thank you for that, my friend.

"Do you guys want to go see Kil-Boom?" Um...YES! That was a highlight - as were countless other little points of connection through those 40 hours. Each one meant a lot; together they added up to a sum far greater than mathematically possible.

The campfire was as good a setting on a late September Saturday night as any of us could have possibly wished for. I loved staying out by the fire for a while afterwards too…chatting and eating browned marshmallows and peeking up at the stars and feeling the warmth of embers and the warmth of good people.

A round of golf, 2 polar bears, off the tower with Audrey, archery with Parr, tossing a football while girls were scrambling around the aerial park, singsongs, LOSER bingo, prizes, a glorious beach party, a paddle through a shower around Ruth's Island with me in the princess seat and my girls in the bow and stern…and on and on and on…finding Audrey, Liv, Brooke, Caitlyn and Ellie on the top of the tower at 1 am Sunday…chatting and looking at the stars…listening to JT (what a voice) in the sun at Chapel Point, a hop, skip and a jump away from Chief…sharing the podium with my girls…and so, so, so much laughter.

Thank you. Thank you to Beth. Thank you to the terrific post-camp squad. You're the best. I am glad to hear you've got a "few more years" in you!

Thanks for making me feel like I am a better version of myself.

Mouse

MICHAEL ROLAND
1980-95

THE MIGHTY KAHUNA



The facts say that Bob Slingerland spent a remarkable twenty-one years as an instrumental leader at a magical place called Kilcoo in the Haliburton Highlands. Between 1961 and 1981 he positively impacted the lives of thousands of young people and became one of the most beloved characters in the history of this summer camp.

As the long-time assistant director, Bob was regarded by generations of Kilcoo campers and staff as a mentor, confidant, and most importantly, a trusted friend. He has countless devoted comrades because of the time he spent at Kilcoo. His legacy of believing steadfastly in the potential of youth remains a hallmark of the place he loved so much, and which he considered home for much of his adult life.

But those are just the facts, and in fact, Bob Slingerland was a legendary figure. He had several nicknames… "Sling," "Smoothie," "The Bronze God," "Poopsie," "Cuddles, "The Great One," and later, as he ascended to grandfatherhood, "Popi."

There is one other which I'll save for later. Much of Bob's legend had to do with Kilcoo and as my closest friends, Tim Currie and Bill McIlroy and I, visited him for the last time, we arrived at his home on the snow-laden shores of Georgian Bay. The only way we were properly able to identify Sling's house was the fact that someone, presumably his wife Deb, had draped a bright, green, windbreaker over the lamppost at the head of the driveway.

On the back of the coat in big, white, letters was the word KILCOO. We knew, immediately, that we were in the right place. There he was, same as ever, the easy smile, the low, deep, chuckle, and that way he had of putting his arm around your shoulder in greeting. It was the warmth of his affection. "Jeez…I knew you wingnuts would make it," he roared. He always called us wingnuts.

"Sling" crossed generations at camp and to put it simply he was universally beloved. He became different things to different people. To some, like me, he was the big brother we never had and the one person in the world who always seemed to know the right thing to do. To others he was the voice of reason. In a group of big personalities, "Sling" was the constant friend and just one of the guys. He led us in sing-songs because he loved music and we can all recall his urging us to join in the chorus of "Blood on the Saddle," "The Titanic," "The Kilcoo Blues," or, one of his favourites, "When you Walk Through a Storm." At camp he also led us in theatrical productions and he coached us in sport. He was the consummate teacher and forever eager to work with young people both at his school and at Kilcoo.

We played pranks on Bob and teased him endlessly. He sometimes faked anger, but never failed to forgive us. He was a kind person who would give you the shirt off his back. We'd often have a get-together on Thanksgiving weekend at his place at 1808 Queen Street in the Beach. Over the years some Kilcoo people boarded there with Bob: Dave Minnes, Maggie Reynolds, and Colin Williams who was a tennis instructor from England to name a few. Bob was so welcoming. He made the place feel like Kilcoo and very much like home. It was all about doing the right thing. That was Bob's way.

For each and every one of us, regardless of generation, "Sling" was the true and unconditional friend. He had a simple philosophy and strongly believed that friends are made for life, each friend being as valuable as the next.

Last spring as I walked down "Bob's Boulevard" which is the path that leads to the water of Gull Lake, I looked at the sign that bears his name and was reminded of what his daughter Mandi had said to me in an email following the visit that Tim, Bill, and I had with "Sling." "He always called you his little apostles," Mandi wrote. And here I always thought that he believed we were just wingnuts. I couldn't have been more wrong. In his own way, "Sling" was a devout person who steadfastly believed in an idea and that idea was that friendship was the greatest thing to share.

By the way, that last nickname which we often called Bob was, "The Mighty Kahuna." In surfing terms the "Kahuna" is the big wave. But in reality it's a Hawaiian word that refers to a respectful person, an important and wise person, who has a moral authority in society. As my comrade Tim Currie once said to me, "Sling," "The Kahuna," has always been our moral compass. It was just the way he had about him.

Now, as many of us recall the moments we spent with Bob, we feel the warmth of his embrace and his arm draped around our shoulders in such a familiar and loving way. We, who are lucky enough to be his extended Kilcoo family, will miss "The Mighty Kahuna" ever so much.

SCOTT RUSSELL
1971-83



For more than 20 years Kilcoo and a few of their alumni were the driving force behind The Highland Yard which raised funds for Amici. Check the picture above and see how many familiar faces there are.

REMEMBERING "THE SLING"

I first met the legendary Bob Slingerland in 1968, when my parents dropped me off at Kilcoo; I was in cabin 4 with Larry Kerr. I don't remember much about our first interaction, but my parents were very impressed with Bob and comfortable leaving me at camp.

Over the next few summers, like all at Kilcoo, I knew Bob and knew he played a significant role in the leadership and direction of our camp, but on a daily basis, I really didn't have much interaction with him.

It was not until 1975, that all this would change. I was lucky enough to be asked back as a counsellor in the Trailblazer section and even luckier to be teamed up with a great group of young counsellors that included Craig Beggs, Scott Russell, Billy McIlroy, Ray Lyons and Steve Chisholm. Sling was our leader and Section Director.

My first interaction with Bob that summer was on our staff overnight in pre-camp. Bob was delayed arriving at camp as he had to finish-up his responsibilities as a teacher. Regardless, our group hit it off and the overnight was an early indication of what would happen over the next 9 weeks. My respect and admiration for Bob grew instantly and quickly. Unfortunately for Bob, (back then) the only way I knew to get the attention of those I admired, was to push the limits of everything. Some of my antics were harmless, some were not.

Bob called me "Curr", when things were good and Currie when they were not. I had many "talks" with Bob and they generally started with ….Currie, you can't do that, Currie you can't say that and Currie you're going to have to apologize for that. I could tell you many stories about Bob and me, as we remained great friends for the next 44 years!

Bob was a motivated and inspirational teacher, a loving husband, a proud and dedicated father and a cornerstone at Kilcoo. He was a gifted teacher and constantly pushed all around him to be better, kinder individuals.

One of the most important lessons I learned from Sling, was that it's ever so important for you to tell those who have helped or mentored you, that you appreciate their support, confidence and trust. I miss Bob dreadfully, but I have the comfort and satisfaction in knowing that Bob knew how important he was to me, how he changed me and hopefully made me a better person. I pass this message on, out of respect for the man, his family and his camp!



I will never forget "the Sling" and that warm, friendly smile. Like many, I sincerely loved the guy!

TIM CURRIE
1968-80

THIS IS KILCOO 2019

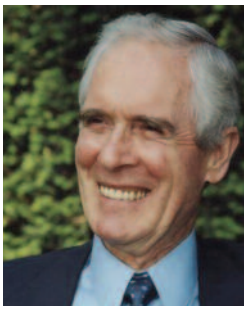
Many alumni will recall making their way to the infirmary by way of the steep up hill path spotted with boulders and surrounded by staghorn sumac (which might have made many cuts and scrapes worse!). Not so in 2019 with the wooden staircase built last year by staff member Aldrin Primaylon with 1st year LIT's as part of a skills project initiative.



Late October at Kilcoo: no docks, no people, coloured tree leaves quickly fading or falling; the final flag lowering 6 days away on November 1st and then the snow will come.



On behalf of the Kilcoo community we extend our condolences to the family of **Donald Bunt**. Donald attended Kilcoo from 1943 to 1946 and passed away on October 16th. Included among his family members is his grandson Zach Warne who has been on Kilcoo's staff since 2012.



A big congratulations from alumni to **Will Amos** who won re-election to Canada's parliament in the October 21st election. Opposed by 7 other candidates, Will won handily by more than 19,400 votes. Well done, Will!

