



# THE AMICI SPARK

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

[www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

SPRING 2009



## LET'S SPARK A MOVEMENT

What's new? Applications to Amici for summer camp subsidies are up, no surprise in these uncertain times; and once again, we will have a waiting list of campers and families hoping to get a chance to attend camp this summer.

The good news is that because of your support, we are on track to provide an additional 20 weeks of camp to under-privileged children this year. That's a total of over 300 weeks of camp! Without you, none of this would be possible. Thank you for making summer dreams come true for over 130 young people in 2009.

Also, in recent weeks, Amici has jumped into the 21st Century digital fray, through activities that are loosely termed 'social media' – Facebook, Twitter, micro-blogging - to raise awareness amongst our community of loyal fans and former campers. As someone who cares about camp, we hope you'll help us expand the Amici web community to include more people who want to use their passion for summer camp to inspire change in their communities.

Through this technology, we hope to connect with you and keep you informed by sharing stories, successes, events and warm-fuzzy milestones; to share Amici news items that will help you understand the profound impact of your support on the children and families we serve; to pass along words, sounds and images that will keep that magical camp feeling

glowing in your heart all year long! We would also like to hear all about what camp means to you: how it affected (and continues to affect) your life, your friends, your values; why you feel camp is more relevant today than ever before, and why you love your favourite camp-inspired photo albums and playlists.

You see, this is a movement. Amici, just like summer camp, is about all of us. As you have already discovered, camp is a place where kids can explore nature, meet friends from different backgrounds and play games outside. They also find new role models, acquire new skills, and discover what it means to care for the environment. When they return home, they bring with them confidence, independence, self-esteem and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Many of us have been lucky enough to experience camp ourselves and all of us are committed to passing on that experience to the next generation. We want to build a community of like-minded camp fans who are committed to ensuring that every child has access to this amazing experience, regardless of financial barriers. It's going to take all of us working together to accomplish this goal. We can't do it without you. You may have been interested in getting



involved with Amici in the past, but never had the time, opportunity or, let's face it...cash. Well, here's your chance! If you are already an active user of these forums, please stop by and check us out at [http://twitter.com/Amici\\_Charity](http://twitter.com/Amici_Charity) or at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search "Amici Camping Charity"; become a follower, friend and online pal of Amici. If you are wondering what all the buzz is about, but haven't yet explored the "Twitter-verse", now is the perfect time to find out.

So, while our online movement may not attract the same mass number of people (for now) as those interested in, say, the latest Britney Spears video, it's still – definitely - a movement. Thanks for tuning in and we hope you will be a part of it.

**Kate Horton**  
Executive Director  
[kate@amicicharity.org](mailto:kate@amicicharity.org)

## AMICI JOINS CHARITY CAR RECYCLING PROGRAM

Your Used Car Can Send Kids to Camp and Help the Environment! Be part of the green solution! If you have a vehicle that is no longer of any use to you and you're not quite sure what to do with it, please consider donating it to Amici through the End of Life Vehicles Charity Car Recycling Program. Your used vehicle will be picked up at no cost, safely recycled by a certified dealer and you will receive a tax receipt from Amici for the full value of the vehicle. Amici will receive 100% of the value of your vehicle. For more information, please visit [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org); or [www.charitycars.ca](http://www.charitycars.ca)



### Would you rather receive this newsletter by email?

By reading this newsletter on-line, you can help us reduce our paper and mailing costs, and direct more funds to our campership program. To receive the spring and fall newsletters by email, please send your name and contact email to: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org) (subject line: e-newsletter)

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: GEORGE WRIGHT

Super-volunteer George Wright has donated countless hours of time to Amici in many capacities over the last 10 years: as the Event Coordinator of the annual Ball Hockey Tournament and John R Latimer (JRL) Classic Golf Tournament, and lending his talents to many other events and activities along the way. This fall, George joined the Amici Board of Directors, contributing his leadership to the Volunteers portfolio. George spent many years as a camper and staff member at Kilcoo Camp; and in his current "day job" George is an Investment Advisor and Associate Portfolio Manager at CIBC Wood Gundy.

### Q: If a friend asked you why they should volunteer with Amici, what would you tell them?

If they had the same type of experiences at camp that I did, then I don't think it's a difficult 'sell'. Anytime I can tell people that they would be giving kids a shot at the type

of experiences we had growing up as campers, they seem very receptive. If they didn't go to camp, then I try to explain the value of camp – the people you meet, the lessons you learn, etc.

### Q: What do Amici volunteers do? How can someone get involved?

There are many ways to get involved. You might have a specific interest in one of our events or you may be interested other areas, such as fundraising, campership, finance etc. The best way to get involved is to contact myself, Kate or anyone else on the Board of Directors. We would then discuss what you had in mind or might enjoy the most. For me, I love hockey and golf so the fit with these two events was perfect for me.

### Q: Why is camp important to you?

By far the number one way camp affected me was through all the people I met there.

I went to camp for 15 years and met some of my best friends along the way - they remain my best friends to this day. I have since introduced a bunch of other friends to my camp buddies and so the 'web' has grown even further. Now whenever we see one another, there are always old camp jokes and greetings. I couldn't even imagine what my life would have been like without all these great people. I consider myself lucky this way which makes volunteering so easy – I help create the same friendships and experiences for kids less fortunate than me.



For more information on volunteering with Amici, please email George at: [george.wright@cibc.ca](mailto:george.wright@cibc.ca)

## 2009 AMICI EVENTS CALENDAR:

### Wednesday, May 20th Peter Taylor Art Show Women's Art Association

Stunning original works inspired by the great Canadian landscape: Georgian Bay, Creemore, Canadian shield. New this year is a large piece that Peter is offering for silent auction, with a portion of the proceeds going to Amici.

### Monday, June 1st John R. Latimer Classic Golf Tournament Lakeridge Links Golf Club

It's time to swing your clubs for kids and share the gift of summer camp! This year's event includes more on-course prizing, filet mignon dinner, beat the pro competition and a savings of \$25 per foursome over last year's pricing! Visit our website [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org) for more details and to pre-register. Early bird pricing expires May 20th.

### Saturday, June 20th Canoe Head for Kids Toronto Waterfront

A group of brave souls and former summer camp pals will once again strap canoes to their backs and portage and paddle a total of 40 km along Toronto's waterfront

(Victoria Park to the Humber River and back). Sign up to follow their progress in real time at [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

### Friday, July 31st The Highland Yard 5K, 10K, 2K Minden, Ontario

The 'Yard' is a long-standing tradition for Haliburton Highlands cottagers and residents, camp alumni and running clubs across Ontario. The Team Challenge 5K returns for another year and, new this year is a 2K Family Walk, post-race party and silent auction. See you there!



### Wednesday, October 7th The Amici Mile Woodbine Racetrack

Join us for Amici's night at the races! Evening includes buffet dinner, trackside tent, betting voucher and a full card of exciting thoroughbred action. Help make sending underprivileged kids to camp a sure bet - see you at the Amici Mile!



Want to be kept in the loop on Amici events?  
Please join our email list, by sending your contact info to: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org)



AN ART EXHIBIT OF PAINTINGS  
BY PETER TAYLOR IN SUPPORT  
OF AMICI TO HELP SHARE THE  
GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP

ONE NIGHT ONLY  
Wednesday May 20th, 2009  
5:30-11:00pm  
WOMAN'S ART ASSOCIATION  
23 Prince Arthur Avenue Toronto

Contact Peter if you're interested in  
pre-viewing any paintings

Peter Taylor



## Bruce's Golf REWARDS

Proudly presents...

### The 7th Annual John R Latimer (JRL) Classic in Support of Amici Camping Charity

Amici charity is proud to present Lakeridge Links as the new host site for our annual golf tournament. Come join us for a day of fun, exciting network opportunities, and to support a great charity!

#### The day will include:



- 18 Holes of golf
- Power Cart
- BBQ Lunch
- Filet mignon and chicken breast dinner
- Complimentary driving range
- Golf professional donated by Bruce's Golf Rewards
- Beat the pro
- On-course prizeing
- Silent auction
- Scramble format

**New location. Fantastic championship golf course. New amazing price.**

Proceeds to benefit Amici Camping Charity. Every \$1000 raised sends a child to camp.

**Date: Monday June 1st, 2009 | 1:00pm Shotgun Start**

\$150 per golfer	Advanced booking price. \$600 per foursome.
\$1000 Hole Sponsor	Includes foursome.
\$2500 Title Sponsor	Includes foursome. Package available upon request.

For driving directions to the golf course, visit [www.lakeridgelinks.com](http://www.lakeridgelinks.com)

To register online, visit [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

**Or mail cheques to:**  
Amici Camping Charity  
204-150 Eglinton Ave. East  
Toronto, Ontario, M4P 1E8

## 2008 Audited Financial Statements Now Available

Amici Camping Charity 2008 Audited Financial Statements are now available. If you would like to request a copy, please email: [info@amicicharity.org](mailto:info@amicicharity.org) or call 416-588-8026

## YOU CAN SPARK A CHANGE!

An Amici summer camp subsidy starts a child on a stable path to a brighter future through leadership training, new skills, healthy role models and lifelong friendships. Here are five ways you can help more deserving young people take that first step:

### 1. Donate by mail or online.

A gift of \$75 will give a child one action-packed, unforgettable day at an accredited partner camp. Of every dollar donated to Amici, 89 cents goes directly towards sending kids to camp.

### 2. Become a monthly donor through online giving.

Your gift of \$10, \$25, \$40 or another amount each month could send a child to camp for a week, or more! Donating monthly reduces our administrative expenses, allowing more of your gift to go directly to helping even more children.

**3. Explore employer-sponsored programs**, such as matching donations, employee fundraisers or deducted donations through United Way. It's easy to designate Amici as the recipient of these funds. For more information, please contact us.

### 4. Run your own impromptu fundraiser.

The next time you get together with camp friends for a summer BBQ, birthday, anniversary or patio party, ask attendees to make a small donation to Amici. Celebrate sharing the gift of summer camp!

### 5. Become an Amici volunteer.

Whether it's helping to run an event, assisting in the office, or joining one of our many board committees, there are lots of opportunities for volunteers at Amici. For more information, please contact George Wright, Volunteer Director: [george.wright@cibc.ca](mailto:george.wright@cibc.ca)

"The camping experience has been life-altering for all three of my kids. At first it was a reprieve from the stress of our homelife ... a place to try new activities and learn crafts... a treasure trove of new friendships. The most important thing was [the] opportunity to get to know themselves. They learned their own strengths and weaknesses and are better prepared to face the world that lies ahead of them.

...It is no surprise to me that, as former campers, you would band together to keep this wonderful warm camp spirit alive and share it with perfect strangers.

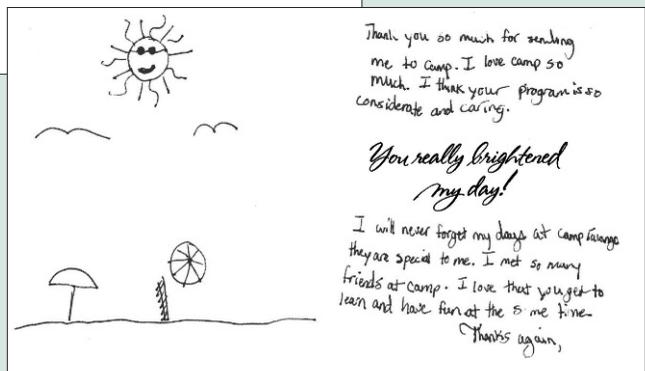
Your work has touched our lives and we will always remember."

- An Amici Parent, Summer 2008

Dear:

Amici organization thank you very much for sending me to a wonderful year at camp. I had enough fun for a lifetime and I own it all to you.

Thank you!



## FIVE REASONS YOUR CHILD NEEDS CAMP

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 and OCA continue to conduct research to help qualify and quantify the many benefits.

Below is our second installment, a reprint of research conducted by the American Camp Association (ACA) in 2008.

### Five Reasons Your Child Needs Camp.

**1. Camp forever changes your child... for the better** – American Camp Association® (ACA) research has confirmed that camps build skills necessary to prepare campers to assume roles as successful adults. Campers said that camp helped them make new friends (96%), get to know kids who are different from them (93%), feel good about themselves (92%), and try things they were afraid to do at first (74%).

**2. Camp teaches your child to "move it, move it"** – Camp provides children the opportunity to try new things and participate in human powered activities. According to surveys by both the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an American child is six times more likely to play a videogame on any given day than to ride a bike. An estimated 22 million of the world's children under the age of five are already considered obese. According to research conducted by ACA, 63 percent of children who learn new activities at camp tend to continue engaging in these activities after they return home.

This leads to continued physical exercise that lasts a lifetime.

**3. Camp keeps all that hard work from going to waste** – Camps understand the critical role they play in helping young people learn and grow. Many offer programs that help reduce summer learning loss, bolster academic enrichment and socialization, provide opportunities for leadership development, and ensure that campers achieve their full potential.

**4. Camp allows us to take a deep breath and feel the nature** – Camp is a great way for your child to unplug from the iPod® and plug into the world around them. According to a study by two Cornell University environmental psychologists, being close to nature can help boost a child's attention span. Additionally, a study conducted by the University of Essex in England concluded that nature can help people recover from pre-existing stresses or problems, has an immunizing effect that can protect from future stresses, and helps people to concentrate and think more clearly. In some instances, camp may be the only time a child is in contact with the natural world.

**5. Camp is fun** – It's true; kids do sing silly songs and play funny games at camp. Children are allowed to play in a safe and nurturing environment, and are allowed to just be kids. Play is a powerful form of learning that contributes mightily to the child's healthy physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development. According to an American Academy of Pediatrics report, creative free play protects a child's emotional development and reduces a child's risk of stress, anxiety, and depression.

## CAMP INSPIRATIONS: GUESS WHO WENT TO CAMP

For well over a century, the camping experience has been instrumental in sparking the imagination, and as well, a source of inspiration for young minds - creating artists, actors, musicians, business leaders, politicians, scientists, innovators and more.



**5 pts.** For more than four decades, he has been a leader in the entertainment industry.

**4 pts.** He began his career at ABC, where he helped take the network from No. 3 to No. 1 with such landmark shows as Happy Days and Barney Miller.

**3 pts.** In 1976, he became President of Paramount Pictures, and soon made the studio No. 1.

**2 pts.** In 1984, he assumed the position of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Walt Disney Co.

**1 pt.** His name rhymes with 'Like Al Wiser'

In our ongoing effort to espouse the benefits of camp, we've decided to introduce a new segment. "GUESS WHO WENT TO CAMP?" In every issue, we'll give you a bio, you guess the famed camper who has gone on to inspired work.

*Information courtesy of the American Camp Association®; copyright 2008 American Camping Association, Inc.*

Thank you to our Amazing Partner Camps!

**Camp Arrowhead**  
[www.arrowhead.on.ca](http://www.arrowhead.on.ca)

**Camp Awakening – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campawakening.com](http://www.campawakening.com)

**Camp Bellaleo**  
[www.campbellaleo.com](http://www.campbellaleo.com)

**Camp Can Aqua – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.canaqua.ca](http://www.canaqua.ca)

**Cedar Ridge Camp**  
[www.cedarridgecamp.ca](http://www.cedarridgecamp.ca)

**Camp Couchiching**  
[www.campcouchiching.com](http://www.campcouchiching.com)

**Frontier Trails Camp**  
[www.frontiertrailscamp.com](http://www.frontiertrailscamp.com)

**Glen Bernard Camp**  
[www.gbcamp.com](http://www.gbcamp.com)

**Camp Kandalore**  
[www.kandalore.com](http://www.kandalore.com)

**Camp Kawartha**  
[www.campkawartha.ca](http://www.campkawartha.ca)

**Camp Kennebec**  
[www.campkennebec.com](http://www.campkennebec.com)

**Kilcoo Camp**  
[www.kilcoo.com](http://www.kilcoo.com)

**Camp Kirk – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campkirk.com](http://www.campkirk.com)

**Camp Medeba**  
[www.medeba.com](http://www.medeba.com)

**Camp Mi-A-Kon-Da**  
[www.miakonda.com](http://www.miakonda.com)

**Camp Oconto**  
[www.campoconto.com](http://www.campoconto.com)

**Onondaga Camp**  
[www.onondagacamp.com](http://www.onondagacamp.com)

**Camp Otterdale**  
[www.campotterdale.com](http://www.campotterdale.com)

**Camp Tanamakoon**  
[www.tanamakoon.com](http://www.tanamakoon.com)

**Camp Tawingo**  
[www.tawingo.net](http://www.tawingo.net)

**Camp Wabikon**  
[www.wabikon.com](http://www.wabikon.com)

**Camp Winston – NEW in 2009!**  
[www.campwinston.com](http://www.campwinston.com)

**YMCA Camp Kitchikewana**  
[www.ymcaofsimcoemusoka.ca](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemusoka.ca)

**YMCA Camp Pine Crest**  
[www.camppinecrest.ca](http://www.camppinecrest.ca)

**YMCA Camp Queen Elizabeth**  
[www.campqueenelizabeth.ca](http://www.campqueenelizabeth.ca)

**YMCA Camp Wanakita**  
[www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca](http://www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca)