



# AMICI SPEAKS



"SHARE THE GIFT OF SUMMER CAMP"  
[www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org)

Autumn 2005

## WHAT IS AMICI CAMPING CHARITY?

**Y**ou mean you don't know? You haven't heard of us? And you don't know how to pronounce "AMICI" (ah-MEE-kee)? Sigh, it appears we're not as popular as we'd like to think.

But some of you DO know us. Some of you have known about us since we first began sending children from financially challenged families to summer camp in 1966. Some of you have been there since day one, supporting us through donations, attending our events, volunteering and helping us form the great charity that we are today, almost 40 years later.

Whether you're new to AMICI, or you know our name like the back of your canoe, this newsletter is designed with both of you in mind.

In 1966 we sent one boy to Kilcoo Camp (where AMICI was created and shaped into what it is now). Last summer we sent 84 boys and girls to 17 camps in Ontario (see the bottom of this page for a list of AMICI Partner Camps).

So now you're thinking, "Hmmm, AMICI does seem like a great cause. Perhaps I'll keep reading."

(We're glad you are). As some of you know, once AMICI sponsors a child to attend camp, we commit to sending them each summer until they are too old to attend, or until the financial need no longer exists. Like many

of you, we've been to camp and we understand the opportunities that it provides boys and girls; the chance to grow, to gain confidence, to learn about leadership and develop character. This can't all happen in one summer alone. It also gives them a healthy dose of what every kid deserves: fun! Like rolling-around-on-the-ground-holding-your-sides-laughing kind of fun. And all this happens while surrounded by the beauty of the Ontario wilderness.

"Whether you're new to AMICI, or you know our name like the back of your canoe, this newsletter is designed with both of you in mind."

"Okay", you're thinking, "I get it. But this newsletter, this stylish, impossible-to-put-down newsletter? Where did it come from?"

Thank you for asking. 2005 has been a big year for AMICI and this new format is one result. Having been run by volunteers for almost 40 years, AMICI had reached its potential but wanted to keep growing. As a result, AMICI hired its first Executive Director (moi) to help expand further and to "Share the Gift of Summer Camp" with even more children. We've got more news from this year as well - check out "Highlights from 2005" on this page.

And we're just beginning.

This new format for an AMICI newsletter reaches more people. It will eventually go to all of our partner camps, our volunteers and



our donors. Hopefully more and more people from different backgrounds will want to get involved with AMICI. It will help us "Share the Gift of Summer Camp" with more children than ever before, without forgetting our roots which form the basis of who we are.

What? You want to learn more? You're as excited about what AMICI does as we are? Well I'm only a phone call away and I'd love to hear from you.

**BILLY ANDERSON**  
Executive Director  
AMICI Camping Charity  
416-588-8026

## AMICI HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2005

- we sent more children to summer camp than ever before: 84 !
- we're focusing on improving our relationships with our partner camps, our campers and their families, and our donors.
- the AMICI Board has undergone a makeover, designating specific portfolio responsibilities.
- we developed a new database to help us do our job better.



### UPCOMING AMICI EVENTS

Ball Hockey Tournament - April

Peter Taylor Art Show - May

JRL Classic Golf Tournament - July

Highland Yard - August

AMICI Mile - September

# CAMPERSHIP: 84 CAMPERS AND GROWING

I am proud to say we have completed another safe and successful summer. AMICI sponsored 84 children to 17 camps across Southern Ontario in 2005. This was an increase of 4 children over the previous summer. We focused on lowering our cost per camper: And for the second year we were able to reduce our average cost per camper, while not compromising on the experience that each and every one of our children enjoyed.

You have probably read about some of the exciting changes at AMICI, and the Campership committee is no different. We are streamlining our processes and becoming a more efficient group. We continue to strengthen the relationships with both our Partner Camps and Camper Families, and have begun to introduce AMICI's Executive Director, Billy Anderson onto the committee. Billy's involvement will help develop the new committee structure and lend credibility to the Campership process.

As we prepare for 2006, Jonathan Millman and I are working to update some of AMICI's strategies, to achieve our goal of significant camper growth. With Billy's assistance 2006 is looking to be even better than 2005. We have already received a number of renewal applications, and even a scattering of new applications.

Last year was the first year that AMICI had more applications than we had funds to



support. No matter how much it hurt us to do so; we did have to turn down some applications. Please ensure if you have any referral children to AMICI this year, you get their applications in by the deadlines. The renewal camper deadline is December 15, 2005, new applications will be accepted starting on January 1, 2006, after which we can no longer guarantee space to renewals if not received.

We are always looking for new campers and great stories. If you have any new campers, please contact Billy at the AMICI office, he will be more than happy to guide you through the application office. Applications can also be downloaded off the website at [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org).

Have a great winter, on the slopes or in a lodge by the fire!

## **BRENT KNIGHTLEY**

Campership Director  
AMICI Camping Charity

# LETTERS

Dear AMICI,

It was my first year at camp it was probably the best year I'll have there. Counselors were great and activity was better. It was the best experience in my short life. Thanks for everything!

PS: I love camp and hope I can come again.

AMICI camper, age 8

Dear AMICI,

Without the kind sponsorship of your organization our child would never be able to have that wonderful camping experience enjoying nature, friends and activities.

AMICI parent

Dear AMICI,

Thank you so much for sending me to camp. I think your program is so considerate and caring. I will never forget my days at camp, they are special to me. I met so many friends at camp. I love that you get to learn and have fun at the same time.

AMICI camper, age 13

Dear AMICI,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my greatest appreciation to your charity for your continued support that has allowed my son the opportunity to attend camp two years in a row. It was such a wonderful life changing experience at camp that he will cherish for the rest of his life.

Thank you thank you thank you thank you from the top, bottom and centre of my heart.

AMICI parent

## 2005 PARTNER CAMPS - Thank you for your support

**Camp Bellaleo**  
[www.bellaleo.cjb.net](http://www.bellaleo.cjb.net)  
Fergus, Ontario  
co-ed

**Camp Couchiching**  
[www.campcouchiching.com](http://www.campcouchiching.com)  
Longford Mills, Ontario  
co-ed

**Frontier Trails**  
[www.frontiertrailscamp.com](http://www.frontiertrailscamp.com)  
Eganville, Ontario  
co-ed

**Glen Bernard Camp**  
[www.gbcamp.com](http://www.gbcamp.com)  
Sundridge, Ontario  
girls only

**Camp Kandalore**  
[www.kandalore.com](http://www.kandalore.com)  
Minden, Ontario  
co-ed

**Camp Kawartha**  
[www.campkawartha.ca](http://www.campkawartha.ca)  
Lakefield, Ontario  
co-ed

**Camp Kennebec**  
[www.campkennebec.com](http://www.campkennebec.com)  
Arden, Ontario  
co-ed

**Kilcoo Camp**  
[www.kilcoo.com](http://www.kilcoo.com)  
Minden, Ontario  
boys only

**Camp Kitchikewana**  
[www.ymcaofsimcoemuskokoka.ca/kitchi](http://www.ymcaofsimcoemuskokoka.ca/kitchi)  
Honey Harbour, Ontario  
co-ed

**Medeba**  
[www.medeba.com](http://www.medeba.com)  
West Guilford, Ontario  
co-ed

**Camp Oonto**  
[www.campoonto.com](http://www.campoonto.com)  
Tichborne, Ontario  
girls only

**Onondaga Camp**  
[www.onondagacamp.com](http://www.onondagacamp.com)  
Minden, Ontario  
co-ed

**Camp PineCrest**  
[www.camppinecrest.ca](http://www.camppinecrest.ca)  
Torrance, Ontario  
co-ed

**Camp Tanamakoon**  
[www.tanamakoon.com](http://www.tanamakoon.com)  
Algonquin Park, Ontario  
girls only

**Camp Tawingo**  
[www.tawingo.net](http://www.tawingo.net)  
Huntsville, Ontario  
co-ed

**Camp Wanakita**  
[www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca](http://www.ymca-wanakita.on.ca)  
Haliburton, Ontario  
co-ed

**Camp Kawabi**  
Sadly, no longer running.



# INVESTORS GROUP BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO THE HIGHLAND YARD

On July 29th, 2005, Main Street in Minden was bursting with energy. Peter Oyler and his crew of committed volunteers worked diligently to prepare the course and finish line; scaffolding went up, water buckets were filled and runners registered while dedicated Yard supporters lined the sidewalks. The stage was set for another year, another race; however this year, the scene looked ... different, and dare I say a bit more polished? Perhaps somewhat more orderly? But who or what, you ask, could have instigated this change? It took one look up Main Street to discover that the answer to these questions was entirely



clear as it hung brilliantly across the finish line: the sign read "The Investors Group Highland Yard". Our race had a new name, a new sponsor and gratefully, new life. Thanks to the generous support of our new title sponsor: Investors Group and our second tier sponsor Hydro One, the Yard had a new appeal.

As all 227 runners charged across the finish line, they were met by an enthusiastic group of Investors Group and Hydro One volunteers selling tickets for a post-run barbeque. Runners, their families and friends gathered around the finish line; eating, listening to music and enjoying the beautiful sunny day. Once the last runner crossed the finish line the awards ceremony began on an outdoor stage provided by the Township of Minden. The awards ceremony was well attended and definitely ended the event on a high note. Our top male runner this year was Paul Leduc with

a time of 23:59. Our top female runner this year was May Allison with a time of 27:34. For a full list of results please see the AMICI website at [www.amicicharity.org](http://www.amicicharity.org).



The race would not have taken place without the outstanding collaboration of its volunteers. Thanks to Peter Oyler and all the volunteers who assisted him in preparing and overseeing the race.

We are extremely thankful for the support provided by Investors Group, Hydro One and all the other many wonderful sponsors. If you are interested in helping in any way with the Investors Group Highland Yard this year please contact Jenn Roden at [Jennifer.roden@tel.tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Jennifer.roden@tel.tdsb.on.ca).

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES - 2ND ANNUAL AMICI MILE PUTS THE KIDS IN THE WINNERS CIRCLE

Once again there were winners and losers and some who "pretty much broke even" (I learned years ago from my father that "pretty much broke even" usually means nothing of the sort, but is rather what you are supposed to tell your mother should she ask you how the old man fared). And, as in 2004, the food was great, the camaraderie better, and the racing as exciting as it gets. All for a fantastic cause. By all accounts, a good time was had by all at both Miles. But that may be where the similarities end. And that's encouraging.

The First Annual AMICI Mile at Woodbine Racetrack saw a massive long shot cross the wire first on a cloudless, sweltering, early autumn night. The Second Annual AMICI Mile, held September 28th, started with a nip in the air, a somewhat foreboding sky, and the odds-on favourite – Elfros – taking the title in the third race. In 2004, we managed to entice thirty-five or so people to come out for the inaugural event and raised about \$2000 for the kids. Adding what we learned from our first effort to the

very generous and much-appreciated sponsorship of both Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP and the Woodbine Entertainment Group, we were able to increase the number of attendees to 108 and nearly quintuple the funds raised to around \$10,000. That is a pretty amazing leap in one year. Everyone who helped put the evening together should be commended for their efforts.

And there's no reason to believe that this growth won't continue as we look ahead to the 3rd Annual AMICI Mile. (As space in the Trackside Tent goes fast, we've already booked Wednesday September 27th, 2006 for Mile number 3 – mark it in your calendar!) The crowd for last month's event was encouragingly diverse – well beyond "a bunch of guys I went to camp with" – and word of mouth from all of those who came out and had a great time should really help with next year. Katie Roland has volunteered to head up efforts to put together a really fabulous silent auction for Mile number 3. One of my favourite moments

of this year's Mile was watching as Katie's husband Michael "Mouse" Roland tried desperately to explain to Katie that placing the highest bid on an auction item wasn't like winning a prize, that it actually cost money. To Katie I say, when the proceeds are going to AMICI, go out there and try to win 'em all!

To everyone who attended, thanks for your support and I hope we can count on you again in 2006. To those of you who couldn't make it, hope to see you next year. You won't be disappointed.

