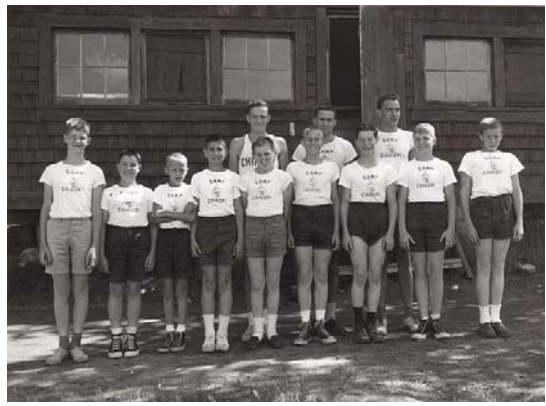




Chikopi Chant

Beef-O-Bob

February 2010



Chikopi 1935

This summer will be the 91st year of Camp Chikopi, making it one of the oldest camps in Canada, if not North America. The whole summer camp movement began in North America, and then spread to Europe and South America. Today there are hundreds if not thousands of camps from which to choose. Both Chikopi and Ak-O-Mak have been leaders in providing a full, residential camp program. At Chikopi, under the over-all leadership of Matt and Lea Mann (1920 – 1962), Matty and Buffy Mann (1962 – 1975), Buck and RoseMary Dawson with Pat and Jackie Hayhurst (1976 – 1979) and Mike and Marilyn Corson Whitney (1980) and Bob and Colette Duenkel (1981 – present), the camp continues to offer the traditions and values which existed from the very beginning.

Recently, Bob discovered some old Chikopi literature and brochures from years past. The following information is taken from the brochures:

Chikopi's 1931 brochure lists the heading as, "where the foundations of body and mind are made strong, "mid nature's grandeur." Travel from Michigan is listed via the Grand Trunk Railway with the "camp party having its own special train from Detroit to Burks Falls," followed by a ride of 25 miles down the picturesque Magnetawan River by steamboat. Chikopi's post office address is simply, "Chikopi", Chikopi, Ontario. Telegraph and Phone Address: via Magnetawan, Ont. For campers aged 6 – 16. Tuition charge - \$350 with \$5 for laundry.

In 1935, Chikopi was limited to 60 campers (35 at Ak-O-Mak). The sports mentioned were swimming, canoeing, sailing, campcraft, football, forestry, tennis, archery, baseball, track, basketball and golf. A \$25 deposit was requested for the \$225 tuition fee.

As many of the kids came from the eastern Michigan area, a special card was issued providing directions for families driving to camp on the one or two lane "highways". Titled, How To Get There By Automobile 1935, the brochure read - "Cross on the ferry at Windsor (miles were then given from city to city from Chatham to Toronto). Once in Toronto, go north on Yonge Street, through Barrie to Burks Falls". Border identification said, "Be sure to carry your State Registration Slip of your car at Windsor crossing".

The changes from 1931 and 1935 to today are very obvious. Travel is certainly easier today which allows more boys from all over North America and the world to attend Chikopi. But in all these years, the program remains very much the same; the staff faces have changed but their teachings have not. When you return this summer, remember all the boys who came before you because they will have met the same challenges that you will have this summer. They will have had the same fun canoe trips, lake swimming and camp meals that you will have. They are your "trailblazers" much like you are the "trailblazers" for those who come after you.

Keep The Chikopi Spirit and Keep Chikopi's Spontaneous Traditions

Zack's Back!

Olympic Journey – by Zack Hurd

Well I was at it again! Just recently I got back on the road, this time to a proverbial place; and for those of you who see my Facebook updates from time to time know that I never spend very long in one locality. I have just come home from one of the greatest city's that you could ever experience, a city built within a rainforest, a metropolis that is encased by mountains to the North, East and South, a conurbation that presses right up to the roaring Pacific Ocean, a city that was for a brief time my home, a urban centre that is host to the World for the 2010 Olympic Games: Vancouver.



Vancouver is contrasting to most metropolitan areas around the world. On every street corner is a park, garden or piece of art which is graced by people every day rain or shine. In every direction there are glass covered buildings that reach the sky and soaring even higher then those are the snow crowned mountains of the North Shore and the colossal volcanic Mt. Baker to the south. The rainforests and mountains touch both the sky and the sea as the cold dark Pacific Ocean washes-up right next to downtown Vancouver along the shores of Stanley Park. It is a city of cultures from around the world, of short but dramatic history, and a city known for its adventure and sport.

I have been to Vancouver many times, even living there for 6 months, but never has it seemed as alive as it did these past two weeks...as the rest of the World had a chance to experience a fraction of what Canada has to offer. The 2010 Olympics have brought a change to Canada, a positive outcry of patriotism and spirit not normally expressed by Canadians'. It is not just the people of this country who have joined in the powerful draw of the Olympics. As far as the eye could see flags of nations from around the world flew on shirts and hats. Like Chikopi, the Olympics bring together people of every culture, race, creed, and nationality together through sport and produce some of the most uplifting, life changing moments. I have been fortunate enough to have many of my friends compete in the Olympic Games over the past few years, and knowing what it takes to reach that level in sport.

"It is the inspiration of the Olympic Games that drives people not only to compete but to improve, and to bring lasting spiritual and moral benefits to the athlete and inspiration to those lucky enough to witness the athletic dedication". --Herb Elliott

If there is one thing I have noticed, it's the people who care about their sport and the people in the sport around them, those who love what they do, and those who show true sportsmanship towards others that become Olympians. Its why the Olympic stage is one of such power and performance. It is those athletes' that bring about positive change that build the Olympics to the towering spectacle that it is. So for me, to get to go and experience an Olympics first hand in my own country was one of the greatest things I have ever done. To see the Olympic flame light up the night sky after seeing the torch pass by Chikopi two months prior over 4,000 km away, and to see the hundreds of thousands of people gathered on the city streets as friends, as peers was a sight that will forever be a positive memory for me. No other place could you see a Russian Olympic Hockey player and an Olympic Alpine Skier from Switzerland sitting at a Tim Hortons right next to 3 Olympic Snowboarders from the United States.

"There can be distractions, but if you're isolated from the heart of the Games, the Olympics become just another competition." --Mary Lou Retton

On the first day of the Olympics' the athletes walk in with their countries, and on the last day they walk into the stadium together. Well I can tell you that from that first day of the Olympics it is one team not separate countries, all united on common ground. We may cheer for our home countries, and want to win the most medals of course (which for all us non-Americans' is but a dream) but there at the Games, just as we are at camp, the world is one. Olympians' become ordinary people and ordinary people become Olympians as they share the pride and honor, the respect and the disappointment together.

It may be a general goal among many of us at Camp Chikopi to be in the Olympics someday, or to compete at the highest level of our sport; not for the glory and the honor but for the brotherhood and the spirit and the pride. If we put into ourselves and into those around us, enough of that Olympic passion and poise, we will all benefit from the power that each of us has to influence one another to do great things.

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well." --Pierre de Coubertin

Be that person who works for themselves, for their team, for one another...be that person who is in first and out last, be that Chikopi man that does everything in his power to help others succeed around him, hold that Olympic spirit with you in everything you do. There are no limits on greatness, go ahead...dream big. - Zack Hurd

Joe's Perspective

Old Value #4: You Conform Your Thing To Our Thing For Seven Weeks - By Joe Menter



When Mike Mullins wrote this old value, he was talking about some of the precious liberties that all of us give up when we come to Chikopi for the summer. For counselors this might mean a few weeks away from your girlfriend or giving up a summer of partying with your college buddies. For campers this usually means going without video games, cell phones, t.v. and computers. Year after year, although missing these liberties, we come back to camp.

We know that camp is fun, it makes a better athlete and person, and we even have a greater appreciation for these liberties when we go back home. But when you conform your thing to our thing, it is much more than giving up a few precious liberties. You learn what it means to make a sacrifice. Everything you left behind only clears the way for you to focus on your goals. You learn to push yourself out of your comfort zone, you learn to lead, you learn to follow, and you learn not only how to be on a team, but what really makes a team work. When you're at Chikopi, you're in an environment where everyone is trying to push themselves a little further. You may not realize until a month or two after camp, being home with your friends who were "comfortable" all summer, everything you have gained; you realize that when you give up a little part of yourself, you gain a whole lot more.

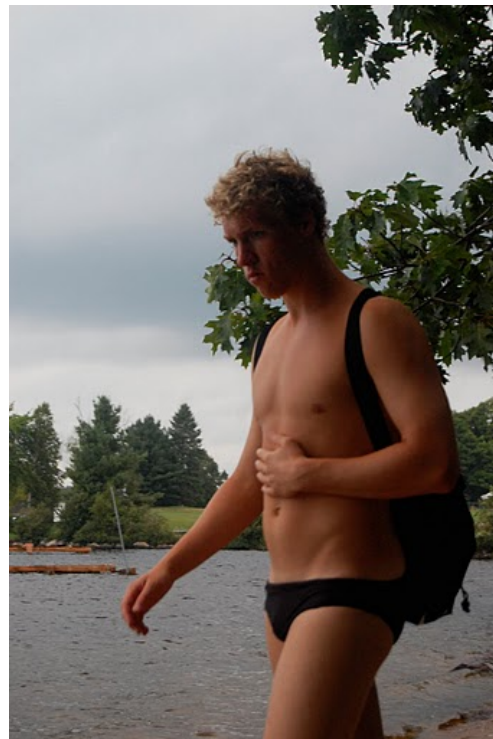
Evan's Dream

Dreaming of Chikopi – by Evan Carey

Camp Chikopi has become a huge part of my life. Each year as school comes to a close, I begin to dream about returning to camp, seeing all of the friends I have made there, and all of the goods times I will have. The experience is almost too great to put into words.

For me, one of the most significant experiences is meeting the swimmers from all around the world and having the opportunity to swim and compete with them. Meeting and becoming friends with people from everywhere in the world really opens your mind and allows you to see how similar everyone is. The people you meet at camp, during the summer, become your family. There will be so many good times you share with each other. I believe the friendships I have made at Chikopi will be lifelong.

Chikopi gives the opportunity to get away from the "hustle and bustle" of everyday life and to relax. It is a great chance to refocus for the year to come and build a good base for the swim season. At Chikopi you will learn to overcome and perform under all types of conditions. There are life lessons learned at Chikopi that are rarely found anywhere else. Camp Chikopi is a great place to learn and grow!



Max On The Run!

Early Bird Runs – by Max Anderson

I began my running career at Camp Chikopi, during the Early Bird runs. At first, as a second grader, I did not really know much about running at all, but I liked it more than swimming and these were the two, Early Bird, choices available to me. One of my first memories of Chikopi is Dermot, a counselor from Ireland, helping push me to the half way mark down Chikopi Road, (just a mile). Dermot offered many words of encouragement even though I was not able to go the entire way without stopping. One of the benefits of being a seven week camper is the ability to develop real skills in a sport over an extended period of time, and throughout my first summer I progressed until, I was able to run the entire road without stopping. One amazing thing about Chikopi is the variety of skill sets the campers and counselors hold; from the eight year old that can barely run half-way down the road, to the aspiring, successful collegiate athletes at their respective sports. One day this past summer I went for an early-early bird with four other guys, about six miles into the run we realized that each of us represented five different countries; Ireland, US, Mexico, Canada, and Germany, it was a moment where I really came to appreciate the diversity of Chikopi, and the ability to meet and train with others from around the world.

Over the years, through the encouragement of the counselors, and Bob and Colette, I found a passion for the sport that was supported by other runners and developed a real camaraderie with the rest of the guys. Now I am a senior in high school. I run three seasons: cross country in the fall, indoor track in the winter, and outdoor track in the spring. I specialize in mid-distance races; 500, 800, and 1600. I am the school record holder of these three events, and I was voted MVP of the Virginia Prep League for indoor and outdoor track last year. Just two weekends ago I was state champion in the 500 and achieved a personal best, 4:22, in the indoor mile. I competed at Nike Indoor Nationals last spring in Boston, and will compete again next month. I look forward to joining the cross country, track and field teams in college, and am looking at the University of South Carolina, University of Richmond, American University, and Rhodes College. These schools have good international studies programs as well as really good track programs.



Max Anderson, head down going for the win in the 800m heat at Nike Indoor Nationals.

Returning to Chikopi, as a C.I.T. and then as a J.C., I tried to bring my love of running to the campers. I wanted to show them that they too could develop their talents at Chikopi by trying new things and being open to developing new interests. As I sit here in the midst of another snowstorm, I again look forward to Chikopi, which has been my home away from home every summer (except one), since I was in second grade! I welcome all campers to try something new (hopefully running with me) and wish to see everybody out there at 7:15 this upcoming summer at early-bird!

Because Of Camp Chikopi

Chikopi Men Are Made O'Gold – Cameron McKnight



Camp Chikopi is founded on songs, sayings and incantations. These are at the back bone of the camps dynamic program. Through my camp experiences these sayings have made their way into my life and changed who I am as a person as well as an athlete. Camp life teaches you how process is equally as important as the result and how routine can make the difference in your life. For me, this swim season has been the ultimate test and it has been my camp background that has kept me at the top of my game.

On Halloween night, after running the door for my clubs Halloween fundraiser, I was involved in a car accident on my way home. Living in the country, I lost control after hitting a pothole on a gravel road and spun into a guard rail. Luckily no one else was involved and it was only me in the car. I was able to walk away with only a few scratches or so I thought. Being the devoted swimmer I am the next day I was back in the water at 5:30 AM. It was not until a week later that my accident took its toll. I was suddenly in so much pain I could barely walk. After visiting my doctor I discovered that my back had been affected by the accident and the sacral-iliac joint in my hip had been fused. I thought that surely my swim season was over. Nevertheless, my time at camp taught me one thing very well, “Chikopi men are made o’gold”. This saying can mean different things to every camper, but to me it means that you never give up. Those of us who spend our summers on that hallowed ground in Magnetawan are different from the rest. We are Chikopi men and we can do anything we set our minds to. We swim early bird every day not because we love that brisk Ahmic lake water or because we have to, we swim it because doing it is what makes us great; doing it is what sets us apart.

After my accident I had a long battle with chiropractic and was only able to train once a day moderately for over 3 months. I was not even able to race until now. Then with only 3 weeks of hard training under my belt was able to qualify for provincials and go 5 best times at the Ontario Regional Championships; I even medalled in the 200 meter freestyle. It just goes to show that Chikopi men, through perseverance and determination, can make it back on top no matter what obstacle stands in their way. Swim hard boys and keep up the good work! - Cameron McKnight

Because Of Camp Chikopi

What Camp Chikopi Means To Me – By Brett D’Souza

Chikopi a place of friendship, camaraderie and brotherhood. A place when young boys become men. A place where hard work and team work really makes all the difference. Chikopi is a place like no other in the world. It holds true to the traditions that it was founded on in 1920. The camp every year is raised and lowered only by the power of Chikopi men . This is something that no machine can do . Chikopi teaches people that no one is too small to help out, you may be 7 or 17 but every hand is needed to complete the job. I have attended camp for the past 6 years and every year I learn something new and have new experiences.



Every year I walk away with a sense of accomplishment of a job well done. Chikopi is a place that you can leave the rush of everyday life behind and come and just be who you are. Come and have a good time with old friends and make new ones too. Chikopi is and always will be a huge part of me. The skills and things you learn permeate themselves into everyday life and help overcome challenges. The things you learn at camp aren't just there for use at camp but are there for use in life.

Because Of Camp Chikopi

What Camp Chikopi Means To Me – By Chris Manning

Hi everybody! Hope your swimming (and other sport) seasons are going awesome! The other day, long after dinner had finished, my Dad and I were reflecting on Camp and about all the amazing opportunities Chikopi has given me. As we were talking, there were two memories that came to mind as particularly special.

The first was a particular early-bird swim last summer. What made this early-bird particularly memorable was the fact that I was swimming stroke for stroke next to Canada's greatest swimmer, Alex Baumann. I remember as we rounded the last buoy, there was a simultaneous change in our pace as we both sped up towards the finish. Looking back on that experience, I realized what an amazing experience that was. I was lucky enough to have swum stroke-for-stroke next to Alex Baumann in Ahmic Lake. Things couldn't get any cooler! (Literally! BURRR!!)

The second memory that instantly came to mind was a canoe trip a few years back. What made this trip particularly memorable was that I paddled in Bob's canoe and consequently, made it was one of the toughest and most rewarding experiences of my life. There were times in that trip where I thought it would never end! Although, looking back on it now, I wish it hadn't. I'm still convinced my unwillingness to disappoint Bob kept me going! A few nights later back at camp, some of the campers will tell you, the only negative side effect of me going on that trip was me saying "No more portage!" in my sleep throughout the night following the trip! Looking back on that trip, I realized how challenging it was but the experience and impact those two and a half days had on me will remain with me for a lifetime.



Following our after dinner conversation, I spent a bit of time thinking about all the great times I've had up at Chikopi. This year is going to be much different from the past though. I will not be able to attend 2-week camp for 2010. I have accepted a scholarship to Auburn University in Alabama to swim for Brett Hawke and the defending NCAA champion Tigers. As I head off, I will take all the amazing lessons that I've learned at Chikopi and use them to be as successful as I can possibly be. I'm planning on coming up for a visit to Chikopi prior to leaving so I can say goodbye to the people and the place that had such a profound influence on me. One thing you can be sure of, I'll find my way back to Chikopi!

Keep up the hard work! Chris Manning

Alumni Alley

Geoff Cloud and his mom, Mio, visited Bob for a tour of the International Swimming Hall Of Fame when they came through town en route to Orlando for some outdoor rowing training with sister Jackie.



Geoff Cloud, Teagan and Bob

Kyle Kerner 1989 – 2005



Congratulations on your recent Marriage.

Teagan's soccer team, Aztecs, won the Championships for division Boys aged 6-7. Losing only one game all season. Yes, Teagan plays defense on a boys' team. Her coach, Alum, Wil Cannon, is off to San Diego in August as a freshman.



Jonathan Pilon stopped into the International Swimming Hall of Fame to do some research on women in the 1912 Olympic Games. Bob showed Jon some scrapbooks from two women swimmers who competed that year in Stockholm. Jon promised to send us a final copy of his report.



Sam Bell (2005 & 2007), will be returning to Chikopi for a short time in summer 2010.



The News

2010 Chikopi Summer Registration

Pass This On To Your Parents

Your 2010 registration form is attached to this email. News for late registrations: It is final, after many months of meetings with The Ontario Government, the Ontario Camping Association, (OCA), has been unable to obtain a special dispensation to stop the tax increase, on summer camps, due to take effect in Ontario July 1st 2010. The reduced Tax, residential summer camps have received for the past 35 years, will be gone. Anyone who pays their invoice or registers after July 1st, 2010, will be subject to the new tax, 13%, an increase of 5%.

Chikopi FaceBook

Coming SoonCamp Chikopi Official Facebook Site - Established With The Support And Consent Of The Camp Chikopi Board Of Directors.

Countries 2010

So far the following countries are being represented at Camp Chikopi for the summer 2010.
Will your flag be "Flying High" at the entrance?



- Australia
- Canada
- Colombia
- England
- Germany
- India
- Ireland
- Kenya
- Mexico
- Poland
- Qatar
- Russia
- Scotland
- USA

Chikopi Web Site

Have you checked it out yet, we have received hundreds of compliments on the new site. Hope you, your families and friends have enjoyed the new look too. www.campchikopi.com

Because

On the new site we would like to post blurbs from our campers and parents, each one is to start with: "Because of Camp Chikopi" Please email us your submission to post on the new site and enter in the March Newsletter.

Bunk1 Notes

We are excited to tell you about Camp Chikopi's partnership with www.Bunk1.com! Bunk1's secure, easy to use, summer website services will allow parents, family and friends to stay in touch with staff and campers via email all summer!

Chikopi Clothing

In our endeavours to provide the style and clothing that you would like to see sold in the Bilderback 5 & Dime store, we are asking you to email us the colours and styles you like to wear. We will pass this information onto the Chikopi clothing manufacturer to see what is possible for 2010.

Chikopi Winter

These photographs of Chikopi were sent to us this week, brrrr!!!!



Burks Falls near Chikopi



Cabin 5 - Chikopi

March Newsletter

Any news to share? Send it in via email with a photo, if you have one, and it will be included in March's issue. Submission deadline March 22nd.



Stay Strong and Healthy!
Bye For Now,
Bob