



Chikopi Chant

January 2010

Beef-O-Bob

Happy New Year

The school year has been skipping by so fast that before we know it, summer will be upon us. Yet, summer seems like a long way off, doesn't it?



I hope you have been making the best of your schoolwork. As difficult as studies may be sometimes, always keep in mind the old Chikopi proverb, “Nothing easy is worth doing”. Improvements are made by challenging yourself to do better. Getting good grades in school is important, as generally, good grades equate with good learning. We continue to learn all of our lives, but the formal education received during a twenty-year period of our early lives is paramount towards achieving success.

We all have to go to school. Make the best of it and learn as much as you can. Read, study, go to the library, practice your math tables, improve your writing skills, use the computer, do your homework, do your homework on time, get a tutor if you need one, practice writing essays or short stories (send one here to the *Chant* and we will print it), look up words in the dictionary, ask for help from your teacher, put an effort into all your classes, study your grammar, etc. Most importantly, do as your parent(s) ask – do your homework before going out, get involved in extracurricular activities i.e.: sports, music, theatre, etc., take out the garbage, walk the dog, wash the dishes, clean up the yard, sweep the floors, rake up the leaves, say thank you after being driven to school or practice, keep your room clean, wash the car and so many other household chores.

In summary, a good education helps to create good citizens who are knowledgeable and can make worthy decisions. Good citizens are good for community and country – and Chikopi.

Joe's Perspective

Old Value #3: You are your brother's keeper - By Joe Menter

How many of you have been in this situation? You were trying your hardest to hit a baseball, but just couldn't make contact. When you got back to the bench your buddy told you to keep your eye on the ball. You were so mad at him for telling you what to do. What did he know? After your temper and emotions cooled you thought about it, maybe he was right. You practiced keeping your eye on the ball, making sure your chin went from shoulder to shoulder, and the next game you had two hits.



How about this situation? You've been working hard all summer, pushing yourself in everything you have done. You get down to the main dock for early bird and it's one of those mornings where you ache all over. The water is a bit brisk from the rain the night before and you know it is going to be uncomfortable, not unbearable, just uncomfortable. You dive in, swim a few dock to rocks and get out of the water feeling proud. You know your friends at home would never do this, and you "pushed" yourself to get in the water. But when your buddies sit down next to you at breakfast they're teasing you about getting out early. You can't believe it.

Being a brother can be defined many different ways, but at Chikopi we don't just define it, we live it. As a brother it is your responsibility to make sure the person next to you is doing the best they can all the time. This doesn't necessarily mean you have to make them feel good about themselves all the time; sometimes the hard facts and a dose of reality are what they need. You pat them on the back when they deserve it and you give them the extra push when they need it. You know if your brother needs a rest or if they are just feeling sorry for themselves, because they're a little uncomfortable. Being your brother's keeper, "you keep an eye and an ear open to him and you take care to take care," you help him grow into a stronger person. You know they are going to do the same for you.

Zack's Flame!

Olympic Journey – by Zack Hurd



2010 is already here! With the new year comes new challenges, new responsibilities, new adventures and new memories... One of the most exciting things to come is the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. It has been twenty-two years since Canada has hosted the Winter Olympic Games. I was only a year old when the Olympic Torch was brought into the stadium for the Calgary Olympics of 1988, so in my life-time I had yet to see the Olympic flame here in Canada, until this year.

Just before Christmas I headed back to Canada from Florida to spend the holiday with my family. Luck would have it that while I was here in Ontario the Olympic Torch Relay would pass through... On the 29th of December, the Olympic Flame reached my home town of Barrie. It was an impressive sight to see; everyone from the city was out that night lining the streets just to catch a glimpse of the flame as it wisped by. To see how that Olympic spirit can bring an entire city together; to see the Flame alone shows the true power the Olympics have to unite one another.

The next day I was in the car and headed up north to Ryan Smiths cottage on Ahmic Lake, just down from Chikopi. Seeing Camp in the winter is a site to be had: the frozen lake, deer everywhere and snow piled higher than you could think possible, making it perfect for an ice luge! Ryan, his sister Katie and I, along with a few other friends laboured for 2 days to make our own Olympic-style Bobsled track on the hills of Beaver Lake, (the opening to the left across the lake from Chikopi). It was approximately 200 meters long with 5 sharp turns and speeds reaching close to 70 km/h. We always think safety first at Chikopi so we made sure to wear our snow mobile helmets as we raced down the icy slopes.

As night began to fall on the 30th I was about to see the Olympic Torch again, as it came north up Highway 69 from Barrie to Parry Sound to Magnetawan. Imagine that, twice in two days in two different places. Everyone from Magnetawan to Ahmic Harbour came out to support the Olympic Torch Relay as it was to make its way from Parry Sound to Sundridge. But because the relay was behind schedule, the flame had to be driven with haste down Highway 124, making it very difficult to be seen. Still, there was a group of about 40 people gathered together right near Kneopfli to cheer on the convoy in the negative 20 degree weather!

As the vans zoomed by and I watched the Olympic Flame pass by Chikopi Road, I took a moment to stop and think of the numerous athletes who have run to that stop sign...the blood, sweat and tears that have been shed on that very same ground. To think of the people from all over the world who have turned that corner at the Quiet Bay Motel and driven on that winding road to start their summer at Chikopi. To think of some of those Chikopi Men who got their start on Ahmic Lake who have gone on to become Olympians themselves.

The spirit of the Olympics is very similar to the Chikopi spirit, that being one of the reasons why we keep coming back, why Chikopi is an oasis away from the rest of the world and why Chikopi is a starting point for greatness and determination in both sport and in life.

The Olympics represent peace, sport, community. They represent people from nations across the globe being able to come together and to work towards the same goal; the goal to compete and push themselves and their country mates to be the best, but yet at the same time, to be part of an Olympic Family. Chikopi holds all of those same characteristics. It is a place where people from every stretch of this planet come to push themselves to that next level, to go above and beyond the possible, to push one another towards greatness. This environment that is created at Chikopi, the place that is Chikopi, is the reason why great things can happen, why greatness has been developed, and why great athletes will continue to come out of Camp Chikopi.

The Olympics are only a week away. Most of the world will be watching at least part of the Games. It is only every two years we get to experience the Olympic Spirit. We are just lucky that we do not have to wait two years between each time we get to go to Chikopi.

Good luck, work hard, dream big and like we say in Canada... "Keep your stick on the ice!"

Your friend,
Zack

Memories

Memory Of A Friend – By Peter Michienzi

We all have memories and accumulate them throughout our lives. . . especially at Camp Chikopi.

Take last summer for example; even the unusually soggy weather could not minimize the beauty of the camp, it's surroundings and the gorgeous sunsets that we were still able to witness and enjoy almost every evening.

Memories are similar to having a treasure chest filled with a variety of jewels - the ones that sparkle the most are the ones that we can hardly wait to share with our family and friends.



I, of course, have an overflowing treasure chest of memories from Camp Chikopi, having accumulated them over the past forty-six years, (starting in 1963) and I assure you, I never pass up the opportunity to brag about the character-building quality and beauty of the camp!

The most rewarding memories for me are; being able to witness the transformation and progress of the campers. In particular, the few that almost seem to stumble the first time they step on the wrestling mat; very timid and with very little confidence in themselves. However, as the days, weeks and sometimes years have passed by, I, at times, have had a hard time believing that they are the same people. Just like a small acorn that grows into a proud and majestic tree; these are the jewels that sparkle the most in my treasure chest.

As some of you may already know, I have been coming to camp a long time. My three children - Piero, Marina and Mario were campers, and my late wife, Margaret, served as the camp's nurse for the duration of our stay each summer.

The person who provided the opportunity for me to start going to Camp's Chikopi and Ak-O-Mak was Bob Foxcroft. He knew Buck and RoseMary Dawson; directors and owners of Camp Ak-O-Mak, when they lived in London, Ontario in 1962. By introducing me to them, he helped me fill my "treasure chest".

"Foxy" as Bob was known by everyone at the two camps, was an Olympic Fencer, he coached at both of the camps for many years, and he also served as the Director for Camp Ak-O-Mak.

The first two summers that I attended the camps, I traveled with Foxy. Then my wife, Margaret, started going to camp with me and we always tried to make sure that we were all there at the same time. Even after Foxy had moved to Toronto in the mid-seventies, he always kept in touch.

Foxy always had some fantastic stories and plenty of jokes to tell to keep us all amused. I remember one night, a group of us coaches were gathered in the Green House at Ak-O-Mak. Foxy was telling one of his amazing stories again and we were all laughing very loud. Of course, you know how things echo at night, well, RoseMary shouted to us, "Keep it down, the rest of camp is sleeping!" That was a night I will remember for ever.

On November 20, 2009, I received a phone call informing me that Foxy had passed away. Oh, how I will miss his humor. We have all lost a very good friend.

Always take the time to remember the days behind you and wonder about the days ahead. Chikopi 2010 is just around the corner. Remember how you felt at the end of Chikopi 2009? You were in the best physical shape of your life, you made new friends from around the world and memories that will last a lifetime. Now is the time to start getting your body and mind prepared for those brisk morning activities.

Memories. I have lots of great ones. Hope you do too. Looking forward to seeing you in July!

Peter A. Michienzi

Tom's Thoughts

Its midwinter – I bet we all miss Chikopi! - by Tom Lawson

Chikopi thoughts in midwinter? What kind of thoughts do we all have?? Camp is probably buried under many feet of snow – and “you can’t get there from here!”

But I know we all think of Chikopi throughout the winter. It only takes a few weeks presence there to have it become a part of our life. All of our life experiences are building blocks into the foundation of what we are – and the Chikopi blocks are one of the valuable ones that taught us so much. We learned how much we could achieve more than ever before: as we managed early bird for the first time, or as we learned to share a noisy cabin with a bunch of people we just met.

As the winter sports seasons progress, lets all remind ourselves of the growth lessons we learned at Chikopi and apply them to our present efforts.

- Remember canoeing into the wind?? That is the same effort we need when we are pushing to complete a 500 free without letting our stroke collapse, and maintaining our effort so our splits don’t slow.
- Remember laughing at tough challenges team comp had us try?? It's the same when we face a tough test at practice, school, or work – Chikopi has made us mentally stronger to face these challenges.
- Remember the camaraderie at meal time?? That’s the same spirit we aspire to in team competition, or even joint school projects.

I hope we all remember our personal growth at Chikopi – to remember that we have our own self together, let’s aspire to be more selfless than selfish, to help our peers, and to take responsibility for more than ourselves. One lesson I learn over and over again: in sports, in work, in life: our most worthwhile accomplishments were much more successful through the help and support of others – most everything we do is a team effort.

And lastly, let’s remember how much **fun** we had at Chikopi, and how that was achieved through constant activity, camaraderie with friends, and healthy exercise and competition. These are goals to include in our lives year round. Lets turn off the electronics and do something! I look forward to seeing you all this summer and hearing how emulating Chikopi has made your winter more fun than ever!



Alumni Alley

Visits

Chris Manning, sister Katie and others with Coach Mike Finch, from Brantford, visited Bob for a tour of the International Swimming Hall Of Fame when they were in town for some outdoor winter training.

Chikopi and Ak-O-Mak alumni meet at the winter home of Chikopi's book keeper Elizabeth Nagy, ('74-'79), following the 40th International Swimming Hall Of Fame Ocean Mile Swim, started by Buck Dawson in 1969 on Fort Lauderdale Beach.



Denise Dickie Isreals, Colette Duenkel, Catherine McCandie, Natalie Nagy, Elizabeth Nagy, Bob Duenkel



Denise Dickie Isreals, Colette Duenkel, Catherine McCandie, Herb Denny, Natalie Nagy, Teagan Duenkel, Elizabeth Nagy, Bob Duenkel, Marion Denny



Teagan and Ak-O-Mak Alumni, Marion Denny, on Deerfield Beach

Chikopi alumnus and UMBC Head Swim Coach, Chad Cradock, visits the home of the Duenkels' with his team of 70 swimmers and divers for a sit down dinner New Years Eve. Followed by the Annual Bowling Alley competition. The team were in town for their outdoor winter training.



Old Photos

These forgotten photos are screen shots of football video my Dad had. They are set in Michigan Stadium in June 1989 at the Michigan High School football camp. I am No.24 in front wearing the Michigan Helmet. Michigan's Head Coach, the famed, Bo Schembechler, is on the bottom left in the yellow shirt and Les Myles, the current LSU head coach (a Michigan Assistant coach at the time as the Offensive Line Coach), is in the white T-shirt and blue shorts to Bo's right. We just finished running out of the Michigan Stadium tunnel where Les Myles was doing his recruiting pitch. This is where I got the idea for the Chikopi Football Jerseys Awarded at Chikopi's Annual Banquet. – **Dave MacNeil** – Alumnus and Chikopi Board of Director



Most Memorable Experience At Camp Chikopi

By: Tom Wattles 1993 – 11 Years Old

The most memorable time I had at Chikopi was the first time I ever swam the Chikopi Mile. I had been real nervous for a couple days, wondering whether or not I would be able to finish it, I had never even swam half that distance before. On the morning that I had to swim it, I woke up with butterflies in my stomach. I was scared!

I went down to the dock with the rest of the camp, we were all going to swim it and I started to think that it would not be that bad. We lined up on the edge of the Main Dock, Bob started counting down, "Five, Four, Three, Two, One, Go!!" We were off. I started thinking of other things while I was swimming, when I thought that I had been swimming forever I looked up. To my surprise and horror, I had not even finished the first dock to rock!

The butterflies that were in my stomach seemed to fly all over my body now, I was sure that my heart was bouncing up and down in my stomach. I must have gone back to day-dreaming again because when I came back from my own little world, I was so happy to realize that I was halfway back from my last dock to rock.

When it was over, I hopped out and sprinted into the Boat House, only thinking about how hungry I was. Once in there a feeling came over me that made me feel like a million dollars. I had accomplished something that I never thought possible, I was so proud of myself. It was a great feeling.

Tom Wattles – tomwattles@aol.com

2010 Chikopi Summer Registration

Pass This On To Your Parents

Your 2010 registration form and information package is attached to this email. Bad news for late registrations: It is final, after many months of meetings with The Ontario Government, the OCA has been unable to obtain a special dispensation to stop the tax increase due to take effect in Ontario July 1st 2010. The reduced Tax, residential summer camps received, will be gone and anyone who pays their invoice or registers after July 1st, 2010, will be subject to the new tax, an increase of 5%.

Chikopi Web Site

We know, we have been teasing you with the “New Web Site” for months, but it is true, just a few more days and it will be live! Look for photographs, updates and news coming weekly to the new site: 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 February Newsletter.

February Newsletter

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



See You All Soon! Bob