AGQ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

With the help of generous donors, the Ann Arbor Y has invested $2,215,000 in capital improvements over the past five years to enhance and secure the Camp Al-Gon-Quian experience for current and future generations. Completed projects include Rowe Hall, Northside Cabins, the Sharon Swindell Health Center, the Equestrian Center, and the purchase of the Director’s Cabin, which sits on land previously owned by Camp Al-Gon-Quian. We’re not done yet!

The second phase of the Capital Campaign is rebuilding the North Lodge and remodeling the kitchen, while keeping the iconic stone porch still intact. North Lodge is the heart of AGQ, and is often the building people think of most when viewing Camp from Burt Lake. After deep discussions and extensive meetings with our architect, contractor, Board of Directors, key supporters of AGQ and leadership staff, the decision to rebuild, rather than remodel, was deemed to be the best option to create a safe environment for campers and staff. The Lodge and Kitchen are two vital spaces for both campers and staff, and we’re excited for the potential that this rebuild and remodel can bring to our ever-expanding program. The impact of camp is felt from the youngest of campers to our alum who are sending their children and grandchildren to have the same experiences they had at Camp.

Turn to Page 4 for more information on ways to get involved!
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

KEITH BORGERSON (CAMPER: 1945-47)

L. Keith Borgerson spent three formative summers (1945 - 1947) at Camp Al-Gon-Quian. Camp provided him with a treasure trove of learning and doing, and Keith dove into camp activities with characteristic enthusiasm and a spirit of innovation. Daily opportunities for sailing, horseback riding, and archery fed his creativity, his sense of independence, and his desire to acquire new skills. During an August 1945 Camp session, he joined a wilderness canoe trip, keeping in touch with news of the outside world with a short wave radio. The group learned over the airwaves that the USA had dropped atom bombs on Japan. When they emerged from the woods and rivers, he recalls there was no toilet paper left in Sault Saint Marie, as people there had thrown all their rolls into the air to celebrate the end of the war.

In a later year, ahead of a special ceremonial campfire, Keith remembers helping to create a “special effect” by digging a narrow trench that ran from the central campfire to a hidden pit nearby, laying in a fuse and burying it. When the right moment came, Keith secretly ignited the fuse and the campfire burst into flames as if by magic! He also organized decorations for the end of the camp banquet, encouraging everyone to bring their camp blankets to the dining hall where he hung these colorful bedcovers from the rafters like celebratory woolen banners.

Perhaps his strongest attachment to his years at Camp come from the people he met there. In 1948, he walked into the UM Sigma Nu fraternity during Rush and was greeted by Camp Al-Gon-Quian buddies, maybe even a former camp counselor, who made him feel right at home. Keith’s camp friends, remembering his flair for decoration and drama, immediately made him Sigma Nu Social Chairman.

Importantly, too, Keith remembers the mentorship of Camp owner and director Herbert Twining who personally complimented him on his positive, enthusiastic attitude and dedication to making the Camp summers special and rewarding. ‘If the Camp gave out a camper of the year award,’ Twining told him, ‘that award would go to you’. Keith had never thought there was anything unusual about the way he approached the world, but his experiences at Camp Al-Gon-Quian gave him the sense that he had something unique to offer, and he has never forgotten Twinings’ surprising, encouraging words.

Do you know of an AGQ Alumni who should be featured in our next newsletter? Contact us at camping@annarborymca.org!
ALUMNI MEMORIES THROUGH PHOTOS

David and Mary-Jo Kolde were the Program Director and Camp Nurse during 1968 and 1969, the first two years that the Ann Arbor YMCA owned Camp Al-Gon-Quian. Ed Baker was the Director at the time. They had such positive things to say about their experience at Al-Gon-Quian, and about Ed. After their visit in the summer of 2018, they sent along a series of photos, which we’ve included here.

In describing the picture on the left, Dave wrote “A bell, on the Lodge roof was rung for meals and assemblies. Ed came up with the idea of stringing the rope down the chimney. On rainy days, we showed several old western movies (old 16 mm which kept breaking). We really needed fewer rainy days and more movies!!! The Camp meant so much to us that Mary-Jo’s two sisters, Wendy and Jeanne Goist were on staff for three or four years and worked with the horses. Great memories and fun years.”

Dave also wrote that “The group picture is of our staff and counselors. The front row is Ed Baker, our beloved "Fern" and Mary-Jo. We had two starters on the Michigan football team.”

IN MEMORIAM: CAMP AL-GON-QUIAN ALUMNI

STEPHEN DOUGLAS JEFFERY

Stephen Douglas Jeffrey, of Columbus, OH, passed away on December 24, 2018. He spent almost every summer of his life -at least 85 of them- on Burt Lake. He told many stories of going to Camp Al-Gon-Quian in the 1920s through the early 1940s. His older brother, John Richard (Dick) Jeffrey also went to the Camp.

Photo 1 (Truck): Stephen Jeffrey’s daughter, Lake Jeffrey, came across this gem of a post card that probably dates from the mid-1930s. Her father is the young man with glasses on the far right of the photo.

Photo 2 (2 boys): Our family recently came across this old photo probably from the early 1930s. My father, known as Dick Jeffrey, is on the left (with the “A” on his shirt) and my uncle, known as Steve Jeffrey, is on the right.

Photos and text supplied by Kay Jeffrey (Stephen’s niece and Dick’s daughter).
AGQ CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We know you love AGQ! Here are some great ways to show your love and support:

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

In recognition of our generous contributors, naming opportunities are available throughout Camp. Included in these opportunities are 16 Cabins, and an Equestrian Center. These donations can be pledged over 3-5 years.

Contact Liz Conley, VP of Mission Advancement at lconley@annarborymca.org or Katie Milne, AGQ Director at kmilne@annarborymca.org for more information.

PAVER PROJECT

This paver project will create landscaping around the Lodge following its reconstruction. Your donation will support the rebuilding of the North Lodge and provide long-term recognition for your family.

Purchase your brick today by using this form! (https://forms.gle/1TUxcdsabuxEKSv17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donation</th>
<th>Brick Size</th>
<th>Engraving Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$250</td>
<td>3”x8”</td>
<td>Up to 3 lines and up to 14 characters/ line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$500</td>
<td>6”x9”</td>
<td>Up to 4 lines and up to 15 characters/ line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>9”x12”</td>
<td>Up to 6 line 16 characters/ line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>12”x21”</td>
<td>Up to 9 lines 25 characters/ line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ENDOWMENT OPPORTUNITIES—PRESERVING CAMP IN PERPETUITY

The AGQ Endowment is committed to serving youth and sustaining the future of Camp for generations to come. The Endowment will be divided in to three areas.

AGQ CONSERVATION FUND

This fund is dedicated to preserving, protecting and restoring the property and lakeshore of Camp in perpetuity. Contributions collected today, and future gifts pledges, will ensure that the property is conserved and protected for today, tomorrow and forever as Camp Al-Gon-Quian.

AGQ SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This fund is dedicated to using interest income from endowment funds for “camperships”. Funds contributed support financial assistance to support campers to ensure all youth have the opportunity to actively participate at Camp.

AGQ PRESERVATION FUND

This fund is dedicated to providing income for the on-going maintenance of Camp facilities.

ALUMNI AMBASSADOR

Join us in sharing Camp AGQ through your network or host a get together either at your home or in your community and invite your AGQ network. Please contact Liz Conley lconley@annarborymca.org or Katie Milne kmilne@annarborymca.org for more information.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

Interested in giving a child the chance to experience the magic of Camp AGQ this summer? You can donate to our annual scholarship campaign by visiting www.annarborymca.org/give. Select ‘2020 Annual Campaign’ in the dropdown. Stay tuned for an Ann Arbor area event for AGQ Alumni taking place during the 2020 campaign season in March!
STAFF & CAMPER AWARDS

**Frodo Bird Egg:** Tommy Lammers (2018) & Sofia Gambini (2019)

The Frodo Bird Egg Award is given to the returning staff member who best exemplifies the four pillars of Camp AGQ: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Caring. Each winner is elected by their peers at the end of the summer.

Tommy Lammers was presented with the Frodo Bird Egg in 2018. Tommy first began his AGQ career as a camper in 2007. As a Leader In Training (LIT), Tommy was recognized by his peers when he received the Hiawatha Award. He later went on to become a Counselor In Training (CIT) and Full Summer Staff Member. Leading up to this honorable recognition, Tommy held roles as an Senior Counselor, Day Trips Director, LIT Director, and finally two summers as Head Male.

In 2019, Tommy paid a special visit during the final staff banquet to present the Frodo Bird Egg to Sofia Gambini (AKA Bini). Bini first began her AGQ career as a camper in 2008. She climbed the ladder from her CIT role all the way to her current position as full time Assistant Director. Leading up to this honorable recognition, Bini held roles including Photographer, Sailing Specialist, Assistant Health Officer (2), Waterfront Director (2), and Program Director.

Tommy and Bini have had a positive impact on hundreds, if not thousands, of campers’ lives. They both embody the core values of AGQ on a daily basis and serve as role models to campers and staff alike. We cannot express how thankful we are for their service to our beautiful home.

**Wayomana Award:** Serena Varner (2018) & Alexa Easter (2019)

The Wayomana Award is given to the first year staff member who best exemplifies the four pillars. Each winner is elected by their peers at the end of the summer.

In 2018, Serena Varner received the award. Serena has been a positive role model for many campers and staff, and took on an especially demanding role as our Photographer and Social Media Specialist in 2018. Her ability to work and relate to a variety of ages is admirable, and she never ceases to have a positive attitude. She went on to become the CIT Director in 2019, once again proving her ability as a leader and mentor for our young staff.

This past summer, Serena presented the 2019 Wayomana Award to Alexa Easter. Serena captured the essence of Alexa when describing her during the award’s presentation: “This person’s ability to reach and inspire such a large variety of people is incredible. Their full commitment to everything they set out to do does not go unappreciated. Nor does their consistent authenticity. If Camp is to ever have a 5th pillar it could very well be named after Alexa Easter.”

**Hiawatha Award**

The Hiawatha Award is given to one LIT camper per two-week session. This individual is elected by their peers as someone who truly embodies AGQ’s core values. This emerging leader has gone above and beyond within the leadership program to establish meaningful connections and help drive those within the program to give back to AGQ through service projects and leadership initiatives. Congratulations to the following individuals who received the Hiawatha Award this summer, one for each LIT Program we run. Thank you for being leaders on camp!

2018 Winners: Ginny Ordonez, Ellis Allen, & Fischer Caplin

2019 Winners: Samuel Alpern, Luke Packard, Oliver Lete-Straka, Mya Hicks, & Shamar Napier

---

AGQ BY THE NUMBERS!

**2019**

**ENROLLMENT:** 1,288

**STAFF:** 120

**FULL SUMMER:** 51

**J-STAFF:** 23

**CITS:** 46

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** 180

**MEALS:** 51,433

**HORSES:** 10

**BOATS:** 18

**CABINS:** 24

**CAPACITY:** 320

---

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Staff Reunion** | Dec 22
- **Winter Leadership Camp** | Dec 27-30
- **AGQ Alumni Event** | March TBD
- **Alumni Work Weekend** | May 29-31
- **Staff Training** | June 2-20
- **Session 1** | June 20-27
- **Session 2** | June 27-July 11
- **Session 3** | July 11-16
- **Session 4** | July 26-Aug 9
- **Session 5** | Aug 9-16
- **Session 6** | Aug 16-23
- **Mini Camp** | Aug 1-19
- **Family Camp** | Aug 25-29
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR: REFLECTIONS ON OUR HISTORY

As I embark on my third season as the Director of AGQ, I can’t help but continue to feel a profound sense of gratitude for our beloved AGQ. Gratitude became a theme in 2019. My leadership team (Sofia Gambini, Giancarlo Robert, Elle Konrad) and I each tried to reflect on what we were grateful for during all the chaos that inevitably ensued each day. It’s easy to get wrapped up in the drama of running a summer camp, which is why it became crucial that we took time to be present and acknowledge the magnitude of the work we’re doing. It’s nothing short of “magic”. I have to think that magic has always been in the waters of Camp AGQ though. The more time I spend learning about our history, the more connected I feel to our purpose. Sure, we are no longer the all-boys’ camp that Herb Twining initially envisioned, but our values remain intact. In this letter to his parents during the 1947-48 season, Herb said “The program of a good summer camp offers children the opportunity to enjoy living in the out-of-doors, to develop self-reliance, initiative, confidence, and the ability to live happily in a group.” These aspects he described continue to be at the heart of Camp Al-Gon-Quian, and I’m so grateful I get to be a part of it. Yours sincerely, Katie Milne

CAMP BABIES!

It’s widely known that a lot of AGQ Alumni end up finding their significant other through either working together at camp, or through the close ties of our AGQ family network. AGQ magic must have really been in the air this past year, as many future campers of alumni parents were born.

Sloane Aida Ambrosino-Peshke
Born December 4th, 2018 (Parents are former campers/staff members and Frodo Bird Egg Award recipients Coert Ambrosino and Jordan Peshke)

Lochlan Arran Petty
Born September 8th, 2018 (Parents are current Ann Arbor Y VP/Former staff Steve Petty and former staff Gem Petty)

Shiloh Grace McKinnon
Born October 14, 2018 (Parents are former AGQ Director Sarah Kurtz McKinnon and former staff member Robert McKinnon)