



Camp Nokomis Chatter

April 2010



NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR...By the time you read this, March Madness will be history, and you will know whether my UConn Women's Basketball team has remained the National Champions or whether the torch has been passed to someone else. As of this writing, my husband Bill and I are preparing to fly to San Antonio to visit Camp Lawrence Director David Hetherly and attend the Women's Championship games. We will see UConn play Baylor in the semi-finals on Easter night. Can you imagine how excited I am? Thanks, David, for enabling me to fulfill a long-time dream!

On Lake Winnepesaukee, the ice has gone out unusually early, and the construction crew for the kitchen projects and the CR are already hard at work. Marty and Laura returned from Myrtle Beach on April 1 and will make sure that things are done right. I met last week with the people who have been shepherding the project, and they seem confident all systems will be "go" by Memorial Day weekend when our spring work crew gathers to engage in serious preparation for the summer. I sure hope the rainy season will be over by then!

Throughout the winter, I've been in contact with lots of staff—old and new. Although the "real world" has claimed some staff that we all love, we are joined by some wonderful *new* people with interesting life experiences (such as Highland Dancing, playing the fiddle for the Queen, mastering the harp, and participating in championship tennis tournaments). The Leadership Team is essentially intact with Associate Director and Risk Management Supervisor **Karen Parker**; Associate Director and Waterfront Director **Sarah Spalding**; Staff Development Supervisor and Bookkeeper **Gretchen Seifert**; Program Director **Alex Grindle**; Junior Unit Head and Craft Shop Director **Jaimie Merrell**; Middler Unit Head and Ropes Course Coordinator **Faryn Shiro**; Senior Unit Head and Assistant Waterfront Director **Sarah "Spam" McGuire**; and Trip Director **Jessica Parker**. The other cabin/activity leaders are as follows: **Erin and Robin Armstrong**, **Jessie Baker** (another Assistant Waterfront Director and Head of Sailing), **Cassie Condon**, **Amy Croxon** (from Scotland), **Becky DeMott**, **Lisa Doedel** (from the Netherlands), **Emily Freund**, **Nicole Hamblet**, **Helena Hay**, **Bethan Hooper** (from the UK), **Julie Howard**, **Lianne Lairmore**, **Amelia Landais** (from France), **Ella Lemos**, **Hillary Nadworny**, **Katie Patience** (from Scotland), **Kelsey Perkins**, **Molly Prudden**, **Julia Reedy**, **Caitlyn Semanie**, and **Laura Styles**. Our wonderful nurses—**Beth Benham**, **Charlene McCarron**, **Kate de Kanter** and **Stoney**—will be back as our health care team along with a truly delightful new nurse, **Donna Pierce**, who will be there third session. The C.I.T.s complete our cabin/activity staff and are as follows: **Courtney Anglin**, **Emily Baker**, **Molly Cannon**, **Rebecca Hoskins**, **Emily Kent**, **Margaret Lederfine Paskal**, **Emma MacAllister**, **Lydia Mesler**, **Lucy O'Keeffe**, **Marina Plesons**, **Morgan Prudden**, **Meghan Styles** and **Melissa Templeton**. Life is good!

Our new kitchen will be in good hands with **Sally Niezelski** returning as our lead cook and **Clark Husted** as her first assistant. The remainder of our kitchen staff will include three returning staff—**Thomas Owen** and **Gina Young** (from Wales) and **Lina Vaquiro Rondon** (from Columbia)—and three new staff: Lina's brother **Carlos** along with **Tzu-Ching Hung** and **Yi-Ying Wang** (both from Taiwan). **Marty Fletcher** remains our invaluable Facilities Manager, assisted by his wife **Laura**. The Transportation crew is "in flux." **Alastair Gray** (from the UK) will be joining us, and others are yet to be hired.

As I write this, Camp Nokomis still has openings for Seniors in the first and fourth sessions and Middlers in the first session. No one should miss the chance to join in our merriment, so tell your friends that we still have some openings, please! Additionally, everyone should have received an Activity Sheet by now, so by all means, call the office if yours hasn't arrived. Remember it's important to mail it to me promptly, especially if you want to take waterskiing. "Let's Get Acquainted" sheets and Medical Forms, if they are ready, can be mailed in the same envelope.

There aren't many new camper and staff updates, but I do have a few interesting "tidbits." Perhaps the most exciting thing is that **Moira Cronin**, a Junior in high school and one of our 2010 Aides, has tied the national record for the high jump with a jump of 5'10". She is tied with three others, all Seniors. Her goal is to jump 6', a little higher than she is tall. She was interviewed by the Lawrence Eagle Tribune and featured in a great piece on the evening news. **Camilla and Allison Battoni** sent greetings from Italy, asking to be remembered to all of their "fun, fantastic, memorable and unforgettable" camp friends. They had planned to return to camp this summer but have been lured to a family tour of the Grand Canyon instead. We can hope to see them again in 2011. **Jill Benham** has been performing in "Fiddler on the Roof." She's looking forward to bringing a friend to camp with her this summer but sad that the tunnel to Camp Lawrence could not be salvaged when the CR came down! One of her Camp Lawrence friends named his cat Noko. **Sara Holby**'s business, *Ajiri Tea*, is doing well. The company employs 40 Kenyan women and has already sent six orphans to school in Kenya. Two girls whom Sara knows from *(continued on back)*

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Check our website for newsletters: www.mvymcacamps.org



Our island location makes us unique...
but difficult to show off to family and friends.

WANT TO TOUR CAMP? Join us:

Sunday, May 30, 2010

10 AM and 2 PM Boat Departure

Saturday, June 12, 2010

10 AM and 2 PM Boat Departure

Sunday, June 13, 2010

10 AM Boat Departure

Call 978-975-1330 to make a reserve a spot.



Kenya are attending fourth session. I'm very excited about that!! **Julia Howard** has been working hard to raise money for Haiti. After this winter's weather, she's eagerly looking forward to attending Scripps College in California this fall. **Angelina Lionetta** is participating in the Destination Imagination competition, has won the Regionals and is hoping to win the States as well. She enthusiastically told me all about it when she dropped by our Andover Open House. **Emma MacAllister** spent some time in Texas this winter training for crew. The **McCarrons**, like my family, were without power for four days during one of the infamous winter storms and survived the cold due to their generator and wood stove. **Kelsey Perkins** was accepted to the College of Charleston and will go there in the fall. **Katie Savard** was excited to make the Varsity Basketball team at her school.

That does it for now. I hope life is good where you are and that we will see you at camp this summer. In the meantime, ponder these wise words from an unknown source, "Through experiences of life, you are growing and you are unfolding the great potentials that are within you. Everything is working for good." Be the best you that you can be. You do matter!

Forever the optimist, I say, "Go, UConn" and "Go, Red Sox!"

My love to you, *Debbie*