

## Camp Nokomis Chatter—December 2009

Dear Camp Friends,

Change and improvements can be a great thing, and I'm very excited to tell you about what has happened at camp this fall. Many people knew of our plan to renovate the kitchen and dishhouse, beginning right after Labor Day. Well, one thing led to another and as of this writing we have upgraded our hot water supply, replaced the dining hall lights and demolished the Counselor Room as well. The details probably won't interest many of you, but the end result will—more hot water for the showers, properly installed lighting in the dining hall, and a safer, environmentally friendly room in which the staff can relax. Sadly, I have to report that we were unable to add that sauna that you all have heard about across the years nor could we salvage the “secret” tunnel to Camp Lawrence—but we did save the fireplace, a sometimes source of warmth for arriving campers on Change Days and a pleasant gathering place for staff relaxation.

The heroes of all this have been Marty and Laura who stayed on the island through the month of November, reroofed the Office and Cabin 15, taxied workmen and Y staff from camp to camp, took care of the C.R. demolition, and managed many other projects that have been on our “to do” list in recent months. Fortunately for them, and for our construction people, the weather was unusually warm. I actually stayed at camp until October 5<sup>th</sup> and then rushed home when my husband needed emergency eye surgery. Marty took lots of pictures and regularly emailed them to me so that I could stay abreast of what was going on.

Now I'm eagerly looking ahead to next summer. The first step is the selection of special people to lead Camp Nokomis into a glorious future, so I'm pleased to publish this list of Aides of 2010: Anna Bradley-Webb, Kathryn Brebner, Siobhan Coleman, Moira Cronin, Erin Farrington, Lindsey Hamblet, Caroline Higley, Michela Maczko, Sarah Papa, Maggierose Smith, Antonia Vitagliano, and Lizzie Weisman. Don't those names make you happy?! They represent the energy and enthusiasm and commitment to camp values that 72 summers of Camp Nokomis camping inevitably inspire. I expect that significant numbers of returning Staff and CITs will enhance that group, making for another memorable camp season next summer.

In February, we plan to share a lot of camper and staff news. I do have a few “advance” bulletins, so here they are. Grace Brigham, our beloved camp violinist, is demonstrating another of her talents by performing a lead role in her sixth grade play, *Seussical, Junior*. Her Mom, Stephanie Kline Brigham Desjardins, a former Program Director, has acquainted me with a great source of musicals designed for young performers. I'm truly excited that we may be able to add some fabulous new productions to our camp repertoire. Kelly Debenham visited Stoney in late September and was enchanted by fall colors in New England. Stoney has actually seen four moose this fall. Julia Howard and Val Bradley worked hard on a school fundraiser and as a bonus were privileged to meet Madeleine Albright, our former Secretary of State and former Ambassador to the UN. Allyson McCarron earned high honors in school and Gillian McCarron is enjoying her dance classes four times a week, plus doing well in school. Charlene McCarron currently works two nursing jobs. Kelsey Perkins is busy babysitting, rowing, and working on church fund raisers. Julia Reedy loves college life and joined the Sailing Club and the Outing Club. She's done some competitive sailing and some whitewater rafting, and will visit a former foreign exchange student in Chile during her winter break. A nice note from Lesly Torres indicates that she enjoyed camp and misses camp people.

Looking ahead, our usual Camp Open House will take place at the Andover/North Andover YMCA on March 28 from 2-5 p.m. We'd love to have you bring or send your friends so they can discover our great island camps. Right now we have openings for Juniors in first, third and fourth periods, and a few spaces for Middlers and Seniors in Sessions one and four. We'd love to have a full camp by the end of March and we know that former campers are our best ambassadors. So, spread the word. Camp is fun! (And we root for the Red Sox.) Thanks for your help!

As 2009 draws to an end, the holiday season brightens our lives. Please join with me in the commitment to “Make a Difference” in the lives of others by sharing and caring. See the Camp Nokomis Songbook, page 34. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. Shalom. Peace be with you all.

Love,



P.S. Save the date: We are having a phone-a-thon on February 6<sup>th</sup> in Lawrence, MA and hope you can join us to help raise money for camp.