



# Camp Nokomis Chatter

October 2011



**NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR**...As you might guess, I was less than enthusiastic about the ending of the Red Sox season, but it is what it is, and we need to move on. “Wait ‘til next year!” say I, true fan that I am! Despite the end-of-season results, a big highlight of my post camp days was attending a Red Sox game at Fenway in mid September. Yes, the Sox lost – but not having been to Fenway since I was a kid made the adventure magical! Bill and I even ate a Fenway hotdog.

Of course there are things more important in life than the Red Sox as you heard me say during our final Chapel. High on that list of important things is the fact that so many of you are already registered for camp next summer. Hurrah! If you haven’t done that already, please do so and avoid those dread words “Waiting List.” My week old statistics show all sessions filling fast in every unit... Actually, Juniors and Seniors, here’s the best news!! Before I left camp two weeks ago, Marty had installed a new and larger hot water storage tank in our shower building. We are saying “farewell, forever” to cold showers. Thus, we can

rejoice and look ahead to better things!

After camp ended we hosted the usual special events – Band Camp, Alumnae weekend and an Open House as well as the “unusual” visitation by Hurricane Irene. It was the fourth hurricane I have experienced on the island and pretty much a non-event, especially by comparison with its predecessors. To our relief, damage was minimal, we had only three inches of rain, and the primary inconvenience was three days loss of power. That didn’t affect our days very much because we have several generators. After dark we caught up on our sleep – not a bad benefit. Our grounds were heavily littered with lots of leafy twigs and a few significant branches which Laura gradually cleaned up over time. One of those branches took down the power line between my cabin and Minus One – and Marty replaced it. Happily, there’s not much else to report.

As you all know, I love to watch the reemergence of island wildlife as the human population recedes. This year we had mushrooms everywhere – red, orange, yellow, brown, white, tan – some flat, some domed, some looking very much like seaside coral. Every day brought new growth. We also had an influx of those beautiful big pileated woodpeckers that we hear but seldom see during the summer. Marty and Laura and I watched four of them decimate a giant pine near the dock in just one day, stripping the bark from that tree in apparent search of the tiny white worms beneath. The damage to the tree was so severe that it had to be taken down. It truly was astounding to see a tree destroyed so rapidly!!!

Those early bed times after the hurricane allowed time for reflection about the fantastic summer we had with a wonderful staff, great campers, interesting and innovative programs and lots of flourishing friendships mixed with frivolity and fun. For starters, all of us benefited from the new sound system in the Lodge, upgraded windsurfing equipment, a new Aqua Finn Sailboat (similar to our Sunfish), and the replacement of Cabins Five and Seven. Session after session water skiing, archery, ceramics, copper, kayaking, sailing, silvercraft and windsurfing flourished as favorite activities. Classes in those activities were very full and lots of awards were earned. In the familiar fun department, we had such programs in the evenings as Minute to Win It, Summerfest, Dutch Auction, Hollywood Squares, Sing Down, Balderdash, and Olympics. Our traditional Cabin Skits had very untraditional themes: Country Music Song Titles (July) and How a dance craze (like “the bunny hop”) came to be. Winners were these: Juniors: Cabin 7, both months; Middlers: Cabin 12 in July and Cabin 14 in August; and Seniors: Cabins 1 (July) and 3 (August). For “fresh and new” the Juniors had Mad Scientist Day, a slumber party, Gold Rush Day, and line dancing while the Middlers made edible dirt, experienced Legends of the Fall, made tinfoil boats, created a band, played Four Square, or did nail painting and the Seniors held a Senior week, a staff trivia scavenger hunt, and played prison ball and Irish Dodge ball. The Aides created a “Phrase Craze” evening program and the CITs “Never land” CIT Fair was really fabulous. From time to time, at P.D.P., a large group gathered outside the dining hall for Zumba dancing. It was great to watch all those happy faces from the office!! Each Special Day had its unique qualities and was predictably proclaimed “the best ever.” This includes Amazing Race Day, Super Heroes and Villains Day, and Dr. Seuss Day. I can’t tell you which was my personal favorite because they were all entertaining to observe and per usual the staff costuming was ingenious! We also had four excellent plays, “Four for the Money” and “Cinderella” in July, and “Heaven isn’t so Bad” and “Thoroughly Modern Millie” (honestly, the best musical production I can recall in almost forever) in August. And the staff frolicked feverishly through their “Mary Poppins” Staff Skit. True to form, both banquets festively featured a lot of creative talent. We had a Harry Potter extravaganza in July and a Candy Shoppe in August.

Of course program is important, but what makes camp so special is the people and looking forward to renewing acquaintances and rewarding the successes of dear camp friends. We celebrated significant numbers of return campers this year, distributing 40 five year pins, 5 ten-year watches, and one fifteen year necklace and in the second month of camp alone handed out 17 full Lake Awards (Lakes earned in 12 activities plus a vote of the staff for general enthusiasm) and 3 Full Hills (14 Hills earned plus staff affirmation of Good Sportsmanship). We also held special recognition of **Lindsey Hamblet** as Best Sailor and Leadership Award winner, of **Liza Therkelsen** as our “typical Nokomis girl,” and Best Camper, and of **Athena Hay** as Miss Crafter for 2011. Beyond that, we remind ourselves all the time that the highest compliment of all is being recognized by our friends for who they perceive us to be rather than for what we do. In July, campers elected **Athena Hay** as our Spirit of Thoughtfulness, **Jane Higley** as Cooperation, **Meagan Body** as Enthusiasm, and **Lea Rice** as Princess; and in August they selected **Laura Bradley-Webb** as Thoughtfulness, **Siobhan Coleman** as Cooperation, **Evan Keare** as Enthusiasm, and **Athena Hay** as Princess. (Continued on the back...)

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(...Continued from the front) Just to complete the circle of recognition, the cabins that won the paddle for cleanest cabin most consistently were these: Juniors: Cabins 7 & 8; Middlers: Cabins 12 & 14; and Seniors: Cabin 6.

And that's "it" for Camp Nokomis 2011. As I write, the world news is all about Steve Jobs, founder of Apple Computer, Pixar, i-phones, etc. He has just died. Recognizing his tremendous impact on today's world, he is much quoted. These lines caught my attention: "Pursue your dreams, and see opportunities in life's setbacks. Have the courage to follow your heart and find what you love. The only way to do great work is to love what you do. It just gets better as you roll on." I think you all know that Camp Nokomis has been my love. May you find yours!

My love to you, *Debbie*



**DON'T FORGET:**  
Registration for the 2012 summer  
began on September 15, 2011.  
Sessions are filling up.  
Call the Camp Office before it's too late!

**SEND YOUR CAMP PHOTOS**  
To [csoohoo@mvymca.org](mailto:csoohoo@mvymca.org)  
Yours may be selected to be on the  
Camp Nokomis 2012 Calendar

