



Celebrate Camping!



The Second Century Campaign

CAMP LAWRENCE | CAMP NOKOMIS | CAMP OTTER



MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA
Camping Services Branch

Celebrate Camping! The Second Century Campaign

I can't imagine a happier way to grow up than to spend one's youthful summers at Camp Lawrence. For more than a quarter century I have carried with me the sights and sounds of Bear Island: sparkling Winnepesaukee; the wind rushing before a storm; the regal star show night after night; bonfires pushing back the darkness; all overseen by Mt. Washington from its lofty distance. These provided the setting for the real drama: the early discovery that one could live competently apart from parents; the pride in the exercise of budding skills; the growing sense of mastery over self and ability to hold one's own amongst peers; above all, the developing awareness of social bonds that the almost palpable solidarity of camp life required.

—Bruce Oatman
*Camp Lawrence Alumnus,
Camp Nokomis Parent*

WRITTEN IN 1982



A Letter from the Campaign Leadership

CELEBRATE CAMPING with us as we honor a century of making a difference. Camps Lawrence, Nokomis and Otter as well as Family Camp have had a positive effect on our lives and the lives of our families and friends. Now we are proud to have the chance to give back. When the Merrimack Valley YMCA established Camp Lawrence in 1907, we created a legacy to pass on to many generations. Whether camp's influence is allowing a child to feel comfortable away from home, whether its value is in teaching a child a new skill or boosting his or her confidence, or whether the camp's merit is in the opportunity to meet people that a child would never have known otherwise, it is easy to recognize the powerful impact that YMCA camping has had on thousands of youth.

Join us as we work to raise the \$1.2 million that will ensure that the island camps continue to serve the needs of hundreds of children each summer. The kitchens and dining halls are fundamental to the camp experience. These buildings are where generations have gathered to sing songs, to converse and to share the YMCA values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Endowing the buildings is the first step toward securing camp for the next century.

We all have been influenced by the camp experience—camp has enriched the lives of our sons and daughters, our spouses and ourselves. Help us to continue the legacy. Your contribution will be a significant step toward achieving our goal. Together we can ensure that many more generations will be blessed with memorable summers. *Please join us.*

VOLUNTEER CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP



Phyllis "Tuffy" S. Hamblet, Honorary Chairperson; Charles F. Perrault, Esq., Campaign Co-Chair;
Jorge A. Schwarz, Campaign Co-Chair



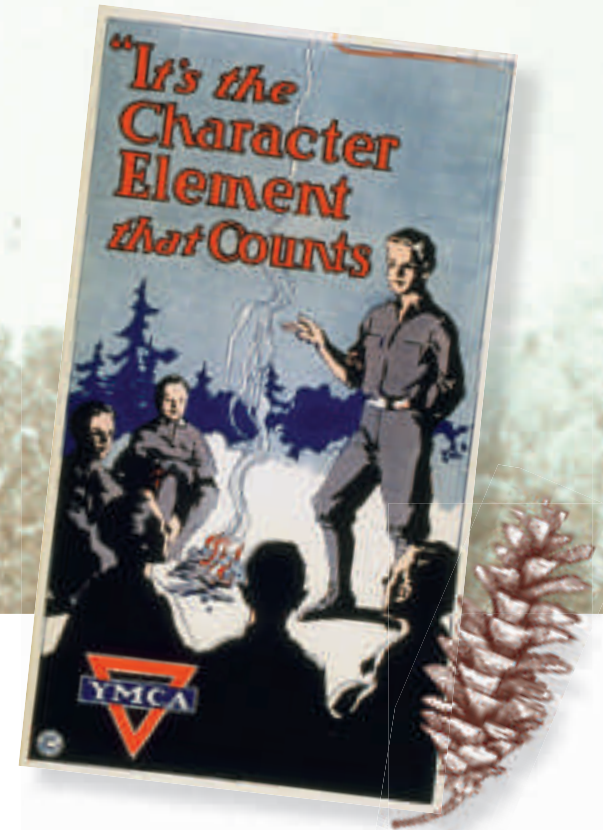
Merrimack Valley YMCA — 100 Years of Service to the Community through Camping



1907—2007

The First Century

THE SUMMER OF 2007 marked the 100th anniversary of the initial Merrimack Valley YMCA camping experience. Initiated in 1907 and solidified with the purchase of the southern end of Bear Island on Lake Winnepesaukee in 1921, the camping program offers young people a wonderful opportunity to come to a beautiful, natural environment



and experience the excitement and special community just as each previous generation has done. Last year 1,600 campers did just that, many of them from families who have been a part of our camps for generations.

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Our Objectives Remain Constant

Two resident camps and one day camp provide the settings for Merrimack Valley YMCA summer programs. All are accredited by the American Camp Association and licensed by the State of New Hampshire:

Camp Lawrence is a vital and engaging boy's camp on Bear Island. A staff of 55 hosts 167 campers, aged 8-16, in each of the four two-week sessions.

Camp Nokomis is a vibrant girl's camp situated in a sheltered cove one mile north of Camp Lawrence. 167 campers, aged 8-16, attend each of the four two-week sessions and are supervised by a staff of 55.

Camp Otter is located on 13 scenic acres on the sandy shores of Captain Pond in Salem, NH. A co-ed day camp brimming with energy, Otter operates ten one-week sessions, serving 180 children (aged 6 to 13) with a staff of 45.

Family Camp serves an average of 20 families for a 9-day session, with a staff of 40, at the end of the summer camping season. Operated at Nokomis for many years, the program has been run at Camp Lawrence in recent years.

Campers choose from an assortment of athletic and creative activities that challenge them to develop their skills and utilize the skills and talents of their peers. Athletic activities include archery, basketball, campcraft, canoeing, floor hockey, hiking, kayaking, lacrosse, life-guarding, ping pong, rope courses, rowing, sailing, soccer, snorkeling swimming, synchronized swimming, tennis, volleyball, waterskiing and windsurfing.

Creative arts include ceramics, copper enameling, dance, dramatics, general crafts, improvisational storytelling, leathercraft, outdoor education, photography and silvercraft.

Spiritual growth opportunities include cabin chats, Indian Pageant, campfires, chapel, and the "Thought for the Day." Boys and girls are drawn into the pulse of the camp experience, discovering new talents and strengths in themselves as they learn to trust themselves and others.

Wholesome fun, development of health and physique, knowledge and appreciation of nature, fellowship and cooperation, self expression, self reliance, leadership training, unselfish service, and character development...

—From a 1923 brochure



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Merrimack Valley YMCA Counselors

At our Y camps, there is no “back row.” Counselors, most of whom have come up through the camper ranks themselves, provide strong, accessible role models. Values and behaviors that too often remain on the sidelines take undisputed center stage: team play, sportsmanship, leadership, respect for others and for the simple things in life.

The quality of the camps’ staff is what has driven the extraordinary reputation enjoyed by Lawrence, Nokomis and Otter over the years. They are the role models for Y values, defining the camp experience for impressionable youngsters. Camp Directors David Hetherly, Debbie Parker and Bronwyn Crocker are passionate about their work and have been inspiring others to match their enthusiasm. Between 80 and 85 percent of staff return each summer.

After several years as a camper, youth (age 15 and older) may apply for the three-year Counselor-in-Training (CIT) program. As CITs, they learn fundamentals of safety, human relationships and basic teaching techniques, working to meet the needs and interests of children.

The Y is dedicated to making the camping experience available to all. Each year more than 120 young people receive financial assistance with camp fees, thanks in part to the investment of camp alumni, camper parents and other friends of the YMCA.

Camp Lawrence, Camp Nokomis and Camp Otter have represented a vital, life-changing opportunity for thousands of youth and their families over the past 100 years. The Merrimack Valley YMCA is committed to carrying on this tradition into the next century by securing the physical and financial future of all three camps now.



“How many campers have told us, “Camp made me what I am.”? ”

—Debbie Parker and David Hetherly
Island Camp Directors



The Next Century

The Camping Services Branch Board of Managers has been considering the long-term needs of the camp facilities for the past ten years. Extensive research and site planning have been accomplished and discussed. Now is the time to begin addressing the Master Plan for the future facility needs of all three camps in a disciplined, prioritized fashion.

The following priorities need to be addressed immediately to ensure that current and future campers have the same robust community experience as those who have gone before.

Keeping the camps maintained and operating at the high standards of the Y and the American Camp Association is a continual challenge in the face of the ongoing need to keep fees as low as possible.

The MVY Boards of Directors and Trustees have invested in several capital enhancements in recent years:

- 🌿 Completion of tennis courts and basketball courts at Camp Nokomis.
- 🌿 Completion of new bathrooms and renovation of 14 new camper cabins at Camp Lawrence.
- 🌿 Purchase of two Sunfish sailboats and a ski boat.
- 🌿 Replacement of the wastewater systems at both island camps.
- 🌿 Purchase of additional land and expanded programming facilities at Camp Otter.



“CAMP IS A PLACE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN.
You can trust Camp to stand by you
and not let you down.”

—Debbie Parker
Director of Camp Nokomis



The Heart and Soul of the Camp

The kitchens and dining areas are a significant part of the camps. Just as in a family's home, meals and mealtimes provide sustenance and connection, the essential building blocks for the real sense of community that is at the heart—not just the stomach—of the camping experience. They are family centers and a key to the next 100 years of spirit, bonding, laughter as well as physical and spiritual nourishment.

The Camp Lawrence Dining Hall is all about loud, boisterous boys. In an atmosphere of organized chaos, this facility is a center of community-building where songs are sung, announcements are made, and campers and staff come together to share personal news and discuss everything from news and sports scores to big fish stories. The Nokomis Dining Hall is a calmer environment but equally as fundamental to the mission and purpose of camping. Spontaneous songs with time-honored lyrics and earnest chatter: the dining hall is a place to come together to share the day's news and to bond with a diverse group of campers and staff.




Meals must be created in a clean, adequately equipped, safe kitchen. The 86-year-old Camp Lawrence kitchen is in desperate need of upgrades to ensure the safety and efficiency of meal preparation. Originally designed to serve less than 100, the kitchen now provides three meals a day to more than 250 campers and staff members. Stoves and ovens that have served admirably for decades need to be replaced. There is inadequate storage and refrigeration space. The electrical service and plumbing needs complete replacement. Dishwashers are inefficient and struggling to keep up with a work load for which they were never designed. The Camp Nokomis challenge is similar: inadequate stoves and ovens, undependable dishwashing equipment, an unreliable mixer, insufficient counter space, a floor that should be replaced and a range of structural problems.



IT IS AT THE DINING HALL TABLES
WHERE CAMP BECOMES A CAMP *COMMUNITY*
INSTEAD OF JUST A MENU OF PROGRAMS.

Preservation and Renovation

The systematic preservation, renovation or replacement of the camps' well-worn facilities and property will be required if tomorrow's young people are to have the camp experience they deserve.

-  Cabins, sports fields, the lodges and other program facilities require regular attention.
-  Within the next 15 years, the *Bear II* launch, required to ferry campers, staff, visitors and supplies to the island camps, will probably need to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$300,000.
-  Reducing our dependence on the operating budget to pay for capital expenses will enable us to keep camp tuition accessible.








“ I AM SO THRILLED that Annie has learned about sailing and waterskiing as well as some of life's bigger lessons like leadership roles and being kind to all. We are so lucky to have found Camp Nokomis. ”

—Sherrie McCarthy, *Parent and Family Camp Attendee*



Projected Budget



	Construction (<i>Hard and Soft Costs</i>).....	\$350,000
	Equipment: Both Island Camps	\$250,000
	Contingency for Construction and Equipment	\$150,000
	Endowment for the Future.....	\$300,000
	Fundraising Costs.....	\$90,000
	Alumni Stewardship	\$60,000
	Total Expenses	\$1,200,000



Please Join Us

The good friends, alumni and beneficiaries of our YMCA camps have been supporting Camp Lawrence, Camp Nokomis and Camp Otter through annual support and volunteer work since each camp's inception. Now is the time to take critical first steps to secure the future of the camping experience for the next century of young people seeking the magic of those summers.

Help us continue to enrich the lives of all who seek a camping experience, creating memories, dreams and values for a lifetime.



“DO YOU KNOW THE CREDIT CARD COMMERCIAL where there is a price attached to the items but the *experience is priceless*? Well, having to wash camp clothes twice to get them clean is one of those *priceless* experiences. It makes me so happy.”

—Celeste Taylor, *Parent*



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MISSION

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA, a community-based organization governed by its members, is dedicated to putting Christian principles into practice through programs, membership opportunities, and community services that strengthen spirit, mind, and body for all.

VISION

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA is a force for positive change, taking a leadership role in enhancing the quality of life in the Merrimack Valley region.

CORE VALUES

THE MERRIMACK VALLEY YMCA welcomes all people regardless of age, race, gender, religious affiliation, or socioeconomic background. The organization identifies and responds to community needs in areas including recreation, aquatics-based programming, housing for the homeless and near-homeless population, child-care, outdoor and camping opportunities, arts and humanities programming, teen development, community development, and community health and wellness.

