



Camp Nokomis Chatter

October 2010



NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR...It seems like yesterday that camp ended and yet it's been almost two months. Time flies, and especially during the summer! What a great camp season we had – unbelievable weather, a relatively warm lake from day one, excellent staff, first rate programs, quality meals, and a fabulous new kitchen in which to prepare them. Only those Red Sox let us down... Just wait 'til next year!

I left the island on the last Monday of September, satisfied that most things were safely stored away and excited that Marty and Laura had already begun the projects we plan before next summer. Top on that list is rebuilding Cabin Five. During the weeks of closing down, we enjoyed the usual off-season parade of wildlife through camp, especially the deer that grazed the ball field in late afternoon. One day I was convinced that their prancing near the basketball court meant that they had a great game going!

Except for Band Camp week, the weather remained top drawer.

To reflect on the summer is to rejoice about all the “cool” stuff that happened at camp. From the surprise visit of two UConn Women's basketball stars on July 4th to the “Alice in Wonderland” banquet in July and the “Circus” banquet at the end we had a lot going on every day. Daily activities were a hit, particularly those on the water – given the heat – as were our thirteen hikes and three kayaking expeditions. Our only rainy day program, music videos, was also a big success. For returning campers we had familiar program favorites like “Summerfest,” Tie Dye Fri-dye, Stockades, and Camp Lawrence Socials, mixed with new offerings like Minute to Win it, The Amazing Race, and Invention Convention. For everyone there were four original and well-received “special days” – Mario World (Please save Princess Peach), Wild, Wild West (love those ribs), Adventures in Toyland (Pixar rides again), and Olympics and some unique Unit Programs: Magical Creature Day (Juniors), a Sophie C Cruise (Middleers), and Waiter Wars (Seniors). Additionally, let's hear it for the theater department: excellent dance shows, including Scottish dancing, plus “The Importance of being Earnest,” and “The Emperor's New Clothes” (July); “Say it again, Sam” and “Into the Woods” (August). Not to be outdone, the Staff Skit offering was “The Velveteen Rabbit,” and the CITs “Carnival” CIT Fair provided a great summer's end frolic.

As always, the best part of the summer was the people and the genuine excitement that the camp community generates for each significant individual success. We gave out quite a few Full Lakes and a Full Hill, and recognized long-term members of our camp family with 48 five-year pins, 6 ten-year watches, and one fifteen-year necklace. Special kudos to **Caroline Higley** who earned her Sky in Water Skiing and to **Hannah Bedford** who earned her American Archer, two significant achievements that are not attained very often. Special recognition as well to our Best Sailor, **Toni Vitagliano**. Beyond that, we all know that what matters most in life is not what we do but who we our peers perceive us to be. Campers elected **Caroline Higley** as our Spirit of Thoughtfulness, **Sarah Papa** as Cooperation, **Erin Farrington** as Enthusiasm, and **Athena Hay** as Princess in July, and in August: **Anna Bradley-Webb** as Thoughtfulness, **Hannah Bedford** as Cooperation, **Moira Cronin** as Enthusiasm, and **Connor Curtis** as Princess. Our “typical Nokomis girl,” selected as our Best Camper, was **Morgan Prudden** and our model of Leadership was **Mags Lederfine Paskal**. Mags also received our first Miss Crafter award. Best of all, we established friendships with two wonderful new campers from Kenya, **Wambui** and **Wairumu Kimamo**.

Our enrollment for 2011 is filling rapidly. I have already heard from campers who had to go on the waiting list for the session of their choice. Second Session is essentially full, and Session Three is not far behind. Senior spots are becoming a rarity. We want you all back with us, so please don't delay your registration.

And that's “it” for Camp Nokomis 2010. I leave you with this autograph book message from my first camp counselor, “The world is like a mirror, reflecting what you do. If you face it smiling, it'll smile right back at you.” If someone needs a smile, give them one of yours... Remember, please, “Nice matters!” My love to you,

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Check our website for newsletters: www.mvymcacamps.org

DON'T FORGET:

Registration for the 2011 summer began on
September 15, 2010.

Sessions are filling up, so
call the Camp Office before it's too late!

