



# YOU OTTER KNOW

October 2010



**NOTES from the CAMP DIRECTOR**...It is the last day of September, and I cannot believe that camp has already been over for a month. Doug spent all of September working hard to close down camp. Now that Otter is ready for the winter, Doug has left the YMCA and has safely made his way out to Detroit, MI, where he hopes to work for another YMCA. He wanted me to tell everyone that he misses you all and hopes to visit next summer. With Doug gone, Ryan Middlemiss, the new Assistant Camp Director, and I have spent time reflecting on the summer of 2010, which I will try and recap for you.

This summer Camp Otter served close to 700 campers. We had a great staff and amazing weather. We added new activities, while keeping the Otter traditions alive. Many campers were able to earn caring, honesty, respect, responsibility, or bravery beads. Some even earned a bracelet for receiving all five beads. Each week the campers who were voted Most Caring, Most Honest, Most Respectful, and Most Responsible by the staff received a t-shirt, which had never been done before.

The theme weeks were a great success, ensuring everyone had fun from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. In the first week, “*Otterpalooza*,” we had a scavenger hunt and Davy Alaimo’s band wowed us in the pavilion. With “*Holiday Hoopla*” came a self made haunted house and a visit from the Salem, NH Fire Department. During “*Otter Fantasyland*” we had a carnival with a dunk tank. Week Four’s theme was “*Otter’s Got Talent*,” and we certainly proved that we are full of talent. Some of the acts in our talent show included: Maya Staples hula hooping to the Gummy Bear song, Lindsey D’Addario dancing, Tate Blazonis tumbling across the stage, and of course the Senior Staff’s rendition of “*Every Time We Camp*.” Camp Otter brought out great teamwork and sportsmanship in “*Otterlympics*.” Congratulations to Norway, winners of “*Otterlympics 2010*.” “*H2Otter*” featured a water carnival with a huge water slide, a water balloon toss, and other water related games. During Week Seven, we all were able to “*Survive Otter Island*” by successfully completing a treasure hunt, which led us all around camp digging for treasure. We also got to witness a pirate act in our own council ring. Everyone who came to camp Week Eight shattered a personal record for the “*Guinness Book of Otter Records*.” Some may have jump roped their way into the record books, while others may have gimped their way into Otter history. We were all winners after “*Otter’s Got Game...Shows*” week. This week featured a Dress Like Your Favorite Game Show Host Day, Minute to Win It, Family Feud, and Otter’s Best Dance Crew. During the final week, “*Otter 2010: Take 2*,” we held our annual farewell dance in the pavilion with an ice cream social and karaoke. In addition to the all camps, dress up days, and special guests, everyone got to participate in nine different activity areas where many campers received awards for their tremendous efforts. We were definitely busy this year!

Camp Otter was not the only happening thing this summer; our Road Rangers Camp also was packed with excitement. In a mere five weeks we were able to golf at Garrison’s Golf Course, surf at Hampton Beach, and ride horses at Ironstone Farm in Andover, MA. We travelled to Water Country, Canobie Lake Park, Coco Key Water Resort, and Liquid Planet Water Park; boated with Charles River Canoe and Kayak; and watched a Lowell Spinners baseball game. After meeting with Shannon Delany and Jeff Cardoso at the end of the camp season, we are excited to announce that we will be adding more Road Ranger weeks for the Summer of 2011.

I want to wish you a happy autumn, and I encourage you to keep in touch with me ([csoohoo@mvmymca.org](mailto:csoohoo@mvmymca.org)) over the year. Good luck with school and your other activities and know that you are not the only one counting down the days until next summer.

With Otter Cheer, *Claudia Jim Bartho*



## SAVE THE DATES:

Camp Registration Begins:  
Monday, January 3, 2011

Camp Otter Opens:  
Monday, June 20, 2011



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Lawrence, MA 01840



Check our website for newsletters: [www.mvymcacamps.org](http://www.mvymcacamps.org)



### And the Award went to...

Congratulations to these great Otter people who were honored for their character and achievements this summer:



**Camper of the Year:**

**Rachael Utegg**

**Staff of the Year:**

**Dave Holloway**

**Rookie of the Year:**

**Jon Plumb**

**Unsung Hero:**

**Ryan Burke**

**Program Staff of the Year:**

**Greg Agrofiotis**

**Waterfront Staff of the Year:**

**Bryan Golden**

**Cabin Staff of the Year:**

**Kaylie Sweet**



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