



CAMP ABNAKI

HERALD

A program of the Greater Burlington YMCA

Volume 111, Issue 1

www.campabnaki.org



www.gbymca.org

Winter 2010
2008

Summer Camp Dates 2010

Two Week Sessions:

Session I:

July 4-17

Session II:

July 18-31

Session III:

August 1-14

One Week Session:

Session A:

August 15-21

Minicamps:

Mini Camp I (age 6-9):

August 1-4

Mini Camp II (ages 8-11):

August 8-14

Waterfront Renovations Continue

The Skipper Shack, completed before the summer of 2009, was the first (and, perhaps, most visible) phase of the ongoing development and improvement of the Camp Abnaki waterfront. The beautiful new building, however, called even greater attention to the condition of the retaining wall.

So, this January, Island Excavating spent a few days at camp tearing out the old wall (which had been comprised of wooden railroad ties) and installing the new one, comprised of stone. The wall has also been extended, the boat ramp enlarged, and a new set of stairs installed to help campers access the boat dock area.

These ongoing improvements have occurred thanks to the generosity of everyone who gave to our Save Our Shack campaign in 2008 and 2009.

The physical structures of the waterfront are but one aspect of our waterfront improvements. The Camp Abnaki Alumni Association is in the midst of fundraising

to replace kayaks at camp, and are tentatively planning to fundraise for new sailboats in the coming years.

The program at the waterfront is also being improved, with the quality of skill class instruction improving, and in-house lifeguard training now a component of the Counselor-in-Training program.

With these improvements in place, the Camp Abnaki waterfront is sure to be THE place to be for a long time to come.



The new retaining wall during construction.

Camp Abnaki Motto: "Help the Other Fellow"

2010 Staff Update

With summer just around the corner, the camp office has been busy ensuring the 2010 Camp Abnaki staff is our best yet.

A key part of this is to ensure the outstanding members of the 2009 team return. On the counselor side, camp is excited to welcome back **Paul 'Reggie Fish' Kline, Ethan Simmons, Jarid Raftery, Will Price, and Warren Rixon.**

The administrative staff welcomes back Program Director **David Dustin**, CIT Director **Nick Irwin-Testa**, Village Director **Gari Jones**, and Day Camp Director **Nick Gallant**. The property team continues to be led by **Rhet Amos**, who will be joined this year by former counselor and CIT Director **Allister MacMartin**.

Of course, strong new staff are also essential to the success of camp. We are pleased to welcome Waterfront Director **Joshua Scott**, who comes to camp with nearly a decade of waterfront experience. We are also excited to welcome Cabin Counselors **Ethan Neff, Chardrick Copeland, Tucker Grant, Ben Florance, Stuart Gallacher, and Peter Gummerson.**

CITs: Doing More than Dishes

The Counselor-in-Training (CIT) Program is Camp Abnaki's leadership development program. It is designed to benefit both the participants and Camp.

The 2009 CITs attended camp for either 5 weeks (Session I) or 4 weeks (Session II). The nine young men who dedicated part of their summer to "helping the other fellow" had an experience which will stay with them forever.

The CITs are asked to help camp in any number of ways. They are given responsibilities which are important to the overall success of camp. Perhaps their most visible role is in the Dining Hall, where they serve as the Super Slinger and dish room attendants. However, they help out behind the scenes in other ways, as well. CITs sort the mail each day, provide support in the Camp Store, tend to the pigs and ORT, assist in skill class instruction, plan special events, and help run an evening program and one weekend pro-



Session II CITs (l-r): Eli Werth, Tucker Grant, Ben Lane, CIT Director Nick Irwin-Testa, Philip Jacobsen, Devin DeBurlo, and Ben Florance



Session I CITs (l-r): Eliot Crawford, Brendan McKnight, and Nick Kleinert

gram.

So what do the CITs get in exchange for all their hard work? The CITs receive the benefit of understanding better what it takes to make camp run. The CITs receive training in child development, group leadership, and program development.

The CITs also gain hard skills which can help them in future employment. In 2009, CITs had the opportunity to earn their Life Guarding, first aid and CPR certifications from the Red Cross. CITs gain experiences in areas of leadership, form strong bonds with each other, and take the next step to becoming Camp Abnaki counselors.

The 2009 CITs are going to become some of our 2010 Role Models. It is safe to say that they are a valuable part of the fabric of YMCA Camp Abnaki.

2010 Family Program Dates and Rates

Family Camp

Memorial Day:

May 28-31

Labor Day:

September 3-6

Fee:

Adults (16+): \$150

Children 5-15: \$85

Children under 5: Free

Max. Fee: \$495

Mother/Child Weekend

September 17-19

Father/Son Weekend

October 1-3

Fee:

Adults (16+): \$100

Children 5-15: \$60

Children under 5: Free

Max. Fee: \$195

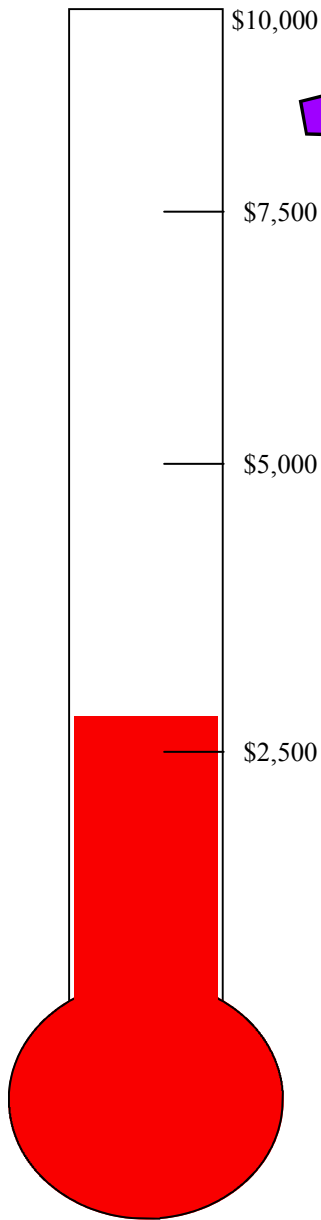
What Does "ACA Accredited" Mean?

YMCA Camp Abnaki is accredited by the American Camp Association, the nation's largest camp organization. For over 100 years, the ACA has provided professional training and support, advocacy, and accreditation for summer camps of all shapes and sizes throughout the United States.

As an ACA Accredited camp, YMCA Camp Abnaki adheres to over 200 standards in all areas of its operations. In 2010, Camp Abnaki will be visited to renew its accreditation status (camps are visited every 3 years). Many of the standards camps are evaluated on relate directly to safety, from the placement of guardrails on top bunks to emergency procedures. Camps are also evaluated on areas of communication, program quality, staff hiring practices, food service, facility maintenance, camper health care, and much more. Jon Kuypers, Camp Abnaki Director, has served as a visitor who visits other camps during their accreditation for the past 4 years.



2010 Alumni Kayak Campaign



Thank you to **West Marine** whose grant program provided camp with 13 new lifejackets in 2009

The Director's Corner



In the spirit of our camp motto "Help the Other Fellow", I thought I'd take this opportunity to thank some of the people and organizations that have helped out camp in the last year.

First and foremost, thanks to our dedicated list of volunteers on our Camping Services Committee. This loyal group helps us year round with guidance and support. Chaired by our fearless leader, **Ray Jacoby**, the team included in 2009: **John Alden, Bob Cain, Janice Valgoi, Vickie Brown, Jim Van Orden, David Dustin, Jen Adrian and Jeff Morin.**

Each year we are also very fortunate to have the support of local companies



IBM employees

helping us with projects at camp. A big thanks to **Ben and Jerry's** and **IBM Corporation** for your continued support at camp over the years. We couldn't open and close up camp each year without your help!



Ben and Jerry's employees

-Jon Kuypers

Day Camp Grows in 2010

The summer of 2009 saw the successful launch of Day Camp at Camp Abnaki. By offering a "greatest hits" of camp programming each week, day campers had the opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends, and enjoy the wonderful natural environment that make for an outstanding summer experience.

The success of the 2009 program has encouraged camp to make some changes designed to help Day Camp expand in 2010.

The first change is the inclusion of a camp-provided lunch for all day campers. This will allow day campers to pack less each day, and adds great value to the experience.

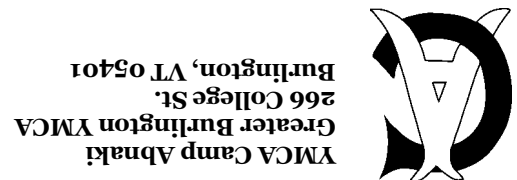
The other change to the program is the addition of bus transportation for day campers. In partnership with YWCA Camp Hochelaga's day camp program for girls, Camp Abnaki will be offering bus transportation for families.

The bus will begin it's route at the Chimney Corners Park & Ride, make a stop in Colchester (at Bear Trap Road), and proceed to Camp Hochelaga. From Hochelaga, the bus will make stops at Folsom Education and Community Center and Grand Isle School to pick up more Abnaki day campers. The final stop of the day is Camp Abnaki.

The bus service will make it more convenient for families from Milton, Burlington, Colchester and Essex to attend the Abnaki Day Camp. Parents will still have the option of dropping off and picking up their boys in person at camp.

Thanks to our partnership with Hochelaga, we are able to do all of this while raising our rates only slightly (to \$175/week).

If you would like more information about this program, do not hesitate to contact the camp office.



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Help the Other Fellow Camp Abnaki Wish List:

1. Gently used pick-up truck
2. Fishing poles
3. Plywood
4. Horseshoes
5. Guitars/musical instruments
6. Razor scooters
7. 2x4's
8. Baseballs
9. Hammocks
10. Trees
11. New laptop computer
12. Skateboard helmets
13. Dead climbing rope
14. Model rocket kits
15. TV/DVD player

Upcoming Events

Every winter, Camp Abnaki works to provide events for campers, staff, and alumni, with the goal of providing ways to keep the camp spirit alive during the long winter days. This winter, Camp Abnaki is hosting the following events:

- **Winter Carnival and Camper Reunion:** On February 13, 2010, experience camp like never before! Campers, staff, their friends and families are invited to spend a day of winter fun at camp! This free event takes place at camp from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sled down Chippe hill, play broomball on the frozen lake, and have an epic snowball battle on the soccer field! Camp will be providing lunch (and plenty of hot cocoa!). Please RSVP to the camp office if you are attending.
- **Spring Help the Other Fellow Day.** While winter may still be in the air, camp is only 4 months away from it's first group of the spring. Join us at camp on Saturday, April 24 for opening projects and cleaning. Your time and efforts will help camp be ready for the nearly 1,000 people who will visit before the start of camp in June. To help, contact the camp office for details.

Contact us: jkuypers@gbymca.org (802) 862-8993 ext. 129