



2007 Parent Testimonials:

Camp Director Randy's first sign that he was on the right track with all the Y's summer camp programs was the cheers of delight and smiling faces on all the kids every day. That enthusiasm resonated to the parents faces, too! He received numerous notes like these from parents:

"My two children had a blast! The instructional programs and staff were wonderful."

"My son has gone to C.S. for two years in a row and can't wait to go again."

"The kids wanted to go back. They formed friendships. They had fun, we felt they were in good hands."

Sargent's Word Scramble

r c r k e t s b a c m y t
 w a t e r f r o n t t r m
 s m r a o r o a a l l e o
 n p u k c o l t t o t h r
 p m a c a n e i i t t c m
 n a a a r t s n c r a r c
 d r g m n f n g o n i a t
 s i n i i u n o y m p i
 d i r v e o e k p d t s
 o n k r a l c i e g d o l
 e f i e l d t r i p s n b
 y i h m n r s p o r t s w
 c a b i n r o r c d t r p

Find these words

In Any Direction

camp	naticook	merrimack
ymca	counselors	cabin
waterfront	boating	canoe
front field	field trips	hiking
art	campers	lodge
spirit	mind	body
carnival	archery	sports

Want to save paper? To receive the Camp Sargent Lookout via email, just let Randy know at rmenken@nymymca.org.

YMCA of Greater Nashua

6 Henry Clay Drive
 Merrimack, NH 03054
 (Winter Address)



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Inaugural (Collector's edition) Newsletter Distributed

YMCA Camp Sargent has been looking for a way to become more connected with campers, parents, Y members, and other friends of the Y in the "off season." Our solution was the "Camp Sargent Lookout." In the non-summer months, it will run as a bi-monthly newsletter. During the camp season, it will run as a bi-weekly periodical keeping you up to date on everything Camp Sargent! "Communication is key when dealing with our parents, not only during the summer, but this time of year as well" says Camp Director Randy. There are always so many

things going on at camp that informing the parents once camp starts will give them something to be excited about in the winter months, when we all wish summer was sooner. There will be constant staples in each issue, such as "Did you know" trivia, a note from the director (year round), "This Week at Camp," "Next Week at Camp," as well as tips for parents (summer issues). "The greatest part is that our campers will produce this newsletter during camp. The kids will conduct interviews, write stories, and even take pictures. Then, with the help of the

media director, they will prepare each issue." — Randy. The creative mind to come up with the catchy title is our very own Gail Lucey, (Marketing Director). Next time you see her at the Y, be sure to ask her the story behind the creation of the name! Do you have an idea for future articles you'd like to see in the Lookout? Email rmenken@nymymca.org, and we'll do our best to include it. You may even be asked to guest write the article! Everyone at YMCA Camp Sargent hopes you enjoy the newsletter.



Calling All Alumni

Shortly after the close of last year's summer camp, the Camp Sargent Preservation Council was developed to research Sargent's past. The largest part of its celebrated past are the people that filled it, beginning in 1924. Between counselors, campers, and administrators, thousands of people have called Camp Sargent home for the summer. We need YOUR help to re-connect with these people! An August 2008 alumni event is planned, and we'd love for you to attend. To register for the event now or to volunteer to help with the event's activities, please email Randy Menken at rmenken@nymymca.org or call (603) 881-7778. It is FREE to register; and there is no commitment except to keep informed of what's going on at Camp Sargent. Thank you for helping us continue to give children in Greater Nashua the very special gift of Camp Sargent.

Camp Sargent Trivia

Did you know ...

The History of Camp Sargent's Bell?

Years ago, before the age of cell phones and regular telephones, the only way to call for emergency help was by ringing a bell very loudly. Such a bell was placed near Camp Sargent's waterfront. However, the bell was later replaced by telephone lines; so it was moved to the front of the lodge where it has remained for over 80 years!

And now you know ...

The History of Camp Sargent's Bell



YMCA of Greater Nashua
 We build strong kids,
 strong families,
 strong communities.

2007 — A Banner Year for Camp Sargent!

There were a lot of new things at Camp Sargent in 2007— new improvements, new programs, new counselors, not to mention a new camp director, Randy Menken. First day of Camp Sargent 2007 was June 18, 2007. We had about 300 campers per day — about 70 more campers per day than in past years. Approximately \$150,000 in renovations and building & grounds additions were invested into the camp over the last few years. Seeing the community embrace the additions by registering in record numbers makes it all worth while! In terms of programs, Nature & Exploration, Teen Leadership, Media & Technology, and Sports/Archery were new specialty

campers that all sold out within weeks of open registrations! These specialty camps acted as a camp within the camp. Because of the overwhelming response, sessions have been added to each specialty camp along with some new specialty camps for 2008! The 5th Annual Shaw's Family Carnival and Fundraiser Golf Ball Drop was a great success with over \$7,000 in proceeds from golf ball sales to benefit future camp buildings, supplies, projects and camper scholarships to children who normally wouldn't be able to afford Camp Sargent. Also, the hole-in-one grand prize was increased from \$1,000 to \$25,000. Unfortunately, nobody went home

\$25,000 richer; but other large cash prizes were awarded during the golf ball drop.

Everyone had a great time with a clear, sunny day, wonderful food, and lots of entertainment for all ages!



Near hole-in-one golf balls during Carnival.

Stay tuned for more details coming soon on Carnival 2008.

New Projects for 2008

There are many exciting new projects scheduled for completion by the end of Spring 2008. Made possible by a grant, four in-ground pedestal water fountains will be placed around camp. A Carnival & Golf Ball Drop committee has been created and is accepting volunteers. See our story on page 3 about our new Arts & Crafts building. A grant also made possible a wonderful

amphitheatre, which will house the new Performing Arts specialty camps. We will host two Saturday Family Camp days. Another addition is the covered announcement board near the lodge donated by the camp director's parents after a tour of the camp in the Fall. They wanted to add a special touch to a camp with so much history. See information about "Early bird"

online registration (page 3). Alumni Association and Camp Sargent Preservation Council (page 1). A bi-monthly Fall, Winter and Spring newsletter & bi-weekly during the summer.

For more information on all these exciting projects and programs, go to www.campsargent.org or check out future issues of Camp Sargent Lookout!

A note from the Director...

Campers, parents, alumni and other friends of YMCA Camp Sargent — thank you for an amazing summer! As my first summer being a part of the rich history that Camp Sargent embodies, it was truly special for me. Each and every day was a joy experiencing the great wonder that is Camp Sargent. Our dedicated staff played a major



part in making this summer a special one. They all not just looked at it as a summer job but rather as an opportunity to create a memory-filled summer for each and every camper. From the parents' responses, I am confident that the staff truly succeeded in doing so. Of course, the campers play the other major role in making Camp Sargent special on a daily basis. My conversations with campers whose

faces lit up when we discussed upcoming theme days or exciting field trips or guest speakers reminded me every day why I do what I do. You all helped to make my first year as camp director a terrific one, and I look forward to sharing many more wonderful summers with you. Thank you!

Questions, comments, or concerns for me? rmenken@nymymca.org

Strong Kids Campaign becomes stronger with YOUR help



In 2007, \$37,574 in Camp Sargent tuition was awarded to children through camp scholarships thanks to the Strong Kids Campaign

Thanksgiving has passed; and it's time for Christmas, New Years, and then summer camp. That sounds great except what about the children in our Greater Nashua community who don't get the opportunity to experience Camp Sargent, because of a particular financial hardship their family may face? Thanks to the Strong Kids Campaign (SKC), the YMCA can offer the Camp Sargent experience to any child who wishes to attend! This year's SKC campaign goal is \$200,000 which will benefit families in our community who otherwise could not afford certain programs such as swim

lessons, art classes, after school and, of course, Camp Sargent. During staff orientation prior to the start of the 2007 camp season, our very own Camp Sargent staff collectively donated \$687 out of their own pockets to SKC.

That is the equivalent to seven weeks of camp! Most of us take for granted what we have until it's gone. Let's team up and help those who don't get the same chances we are fortunate enough to have. This is the "giving" time of year, so let's do just that — give to those who truly need our help. For more information on SKC and how you can help, email Randy Menken at rmenken@nymymca.org or call (603) 881-7778 or just ask for me next time you're at the Merrimack YMCA.

Thank you and have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!

New "user friendly" registration for 2008!

Along with the new projects in place for 2008 (page 2), you will notice a few new policies set up as well. Most notably, the camp "balance due" policy has changed. Here are the changes: \$25 per week/per child (non refundable) deposit due at time of registration. On or by May 1st, balances are due for children going to camp weeks 1-5. On or by June 1st, balances are due for children going to camp weeks 6-10. Beginning February 1st is the *new*

online "early bird" registration, and March 1st kicks off walk-in registration at both YMCAs. At registration, if you choose to pay via auto draft, your balance will be due by August 1st. If registering for camp after August 1st, full payment will be due at registration. You will receive a courtesy balance-due reminder two weeks prior to your due date. If there is still a balance after your deadlines pass, your child will be removed from those weeks' roster.

Like years past, state regulations require that a current physical be on file **prior** to your child's first day of camp, or you may risk having them taken off the roster with no refund given. Please note, there are no exceptions to our balance-due policy or our state mandated physical form policy.

"These changes were designed to help us better serve our camp members in a more timely fashion." - Director Menken

Construction Begins on the New Arts & Crafts Building

In late August, it became official. Muriel Shaw, wife of Frederick Shaw (Shaw Pavilion), graciously agreed to cover the cost of a new arts & crafts building. The new building (to be in the same location as the previous one) will have many more features that the old one never had; *e.g.*, a concrete floor, electricity, running water, and an attached covered pavilion! "The work space for campers will more than double in size, expanding what

campers will be able to do in the camp day."- camp Dir. Randy Menken. It all began when Mike LaChance (CEO) had a brief meeting with Mrs. Shaw about an unrelated subject. She asked how Camp Sargent was going and if any future projects were planned. Mike mentioned the art building project; and the rest, as they say, is history.

Thank you to Muriel Shaw for making this dream become a reality for our future artists!



The concrete floor is poured; and lumber for the roof sits next to it, soon to be erected.