

OCONTO ECHO

SPRING 2011

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Alumnae,

I can't believe we are only two months away from opening the gates to our work camp staff and starting to really prepare for summer 2011. This year seems to have flown by as we continue to work hard at making Camp Oconto the best it can possibly be! Registration for camp is progressing well; however we do still have space in each session. It is shaping up to be a wonderful camp season! We have hosted several information sessions around Ontario, and Quebec with a higher concentration in Toronto. When campers attend these sessions, they are all typically incredibly excited, and eager to learn more about our beautiful facility and to finally try out all the cool activities they see in the pictures in our slide show!

There is still space in camp throughout the summer, so if you know of any young girls looking for a new adventure, please give them our website

www.campoconto.com ! I am happy to come to people's homes to show them all about Oconto and answer any questions that they have. If you know anyone who wants to learn more, please call the camp office at 905.470.2030.



Main Dock in January



Bronwyn, Mark, Bruce and I on Bronwyn's 23rd birthday in November, in her Toronto apartment

It has been a busy year and one full of change! Mark is very much enjoying his first year at Queen's University, while we continue to adjust to our suddenly empty nest! Bronwyn has been working hard in Toronto, exploring different job opportunities and helping me with slideshows and new developments around the camp office. Bruce and I have been dividing our time between preparing for the summer, spending time with my parents, and enjoying the great outdoors up north in Collingwood. This has been a wonderful ski season, and we've been trying to take full advantage of all the snow!

Please take a look at all we've outlined in this issue of the Echo, paying particular attention to the Oconto Campership Fund as well as our Chickadee and fall weekend programs! We would love for you to get involved. Enjoy these last few weeks of winter. I will be sure to keep you updated with how things are progressing for summer 2011 come spring!

We wish you a healthy and happy spring!

Lisa Wilson

THE OCONTO CAMBERSHIP FUND

KEEPING DREAMS ALIVE!



The Oconto Campership Fund was created to help girls that have previously attended Oconto and are for whatever reason, be it family illness, job loss or divorce, no longer able to afford the cost of camp. Each year, funds collected from alumnae go to subsidize two or three campers to return to camp. As we all know, Oconto can become a cornerstone of a young person's life, and to take Oconto away at such a tumultuous and difficult time could be devastating to the individual. The campership fund exists to avoid that situation and it is YOUR contributions that make it possible. Yes, donations receive a tax receipt. We appreciate your support and hope that you will think of the Oconto Campership Fund when making decisions about giving for 2011.

"I am so grateful to the Oconto Campership Fund. Without it, I wouldn't have met all the friends I've met at Oconto. I wouldn't have experienced activities like capture the flag, QC all-camp, and decathlon. Oconto has made me not afraid to be myself. I feel I'm a better person because of everything I've learned at camp."

– A camper benefitted by the OCF

"My divorce meant many things in my children's lives would change. The one thing I really wanted to remain constant was camp. The Oconto Campership Fund made that possible, and I know that being able to spend a month at Oconto with friends is quite likely the single most important thing that helped my daughter survive those tumultuous years. I am extremely grateful."

– A mother benefitted by the OCF

CHICKADEES 2011

This summer, we are very excited to be running our kinder camp program, Chickadees, for the second year in a row. For one weekend in June and one weekend in August, we open camp to girls ages 4 to 8 looking for adventure and a taste of life away from Mom and Dad! During their stay, they get the opportunity to try out many of our activities on both land and water, while meeting new friends and gaining the independence that comes with spending time away from home. We have several staff on hand to travel along with the group as they explore camp and get a taste of what it is to be an Oconto girl! If you know of a young girl that is eager to try out a stay at camp, please think of Oconto Chickadees! It is the perfect way to ease into the camp life!



The June 2010 Chickadees in their brand new t-shirts!

The 2011 Chickadee weekends will take place on the following dates:

- Friday, June 17th to Sunday, June 19th
- Friday, August 19th to Sunday, August 21st

Please visit www.campoconto.com to register, or call us at 905.470.2030 with any questions!

FALL WEEKENDS



As in other years, we will again be running several fall weekends in 2011 as an opportunity for our camp families to get up to Eagle Lake and enjoy all camp has to offer!

Labour Day Weekend Getaway – September 2nd to 5th

This weekend is intended for families to come up and enjoy camp the way they might enjoy a cottage. We will have minimal staff on hand, but you will have access to canoes, kayaks, our swimming area, dry activities and your own cabin or zebo to sleep in. Think of it as a cottage weekend- you supervise your own children at Oconto!

Women's Weekend – September 9th to 11th

The weekend will be open to women over the age of 19. This weekend will include activity programming and provides a wonderful chance to get away with your girlfriends and enjoy a peaceful weekend with Mother Nature!

Mother/Daughter weekend – September 16th to 18th

It is a wonderful way for mothers to experience what their daughters come home raving about at the end of the summer. Or, it's also a wonderful introduction to camp for new girls and their moms to see what the facility looks like and really get to try out all Oconto has to offer.

Prices and registration forms for each of these weekends will be available on our website in the coming month. So mark us in your calendars and stay tuned!

FIRST ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH, 2011

Please come and enjoy Oconto for the day!
Tour Oconto with your family and enjoy a swim and complimentary lunch.

Please RSVP to info@campoconto.com
or call 905.470.2030 (before May 1st)
613.375.6678 (after May 1st)

We hope you'll join us!

GROUP RENTALS

Do you know of a school or other group wanting camp space?

The Oconto facilities are available for rent throughout the spring and fall! For years, we have opened our gates to many schools, Queen's University and other organizations from across Ontario to run leadership programs and conferences in a safe outdoors environment. We will continue to cater to Queens, but would love to get involved with some new groups! If your local community centre, private organization, or school is looking for a great location for an outdoors program, please give them our website. Rates vary depending on menus, and facility requirements.

Rental groups in 2010 included:

Cataraqui Woods Public School, Kingston
Sharbot Lake Public School
Clarendon Public School
Bayridge Public School
Queen's University, School of Kinesiology and Health Studies
Queen's University, School of Family Medicine.
Turnbull Learning Centre, Ottawa.
Queen's University, Health Promotion Program
Lorne Park Secondary School

We are actively looking for new business in the spring and fall so please help us to spread the word!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

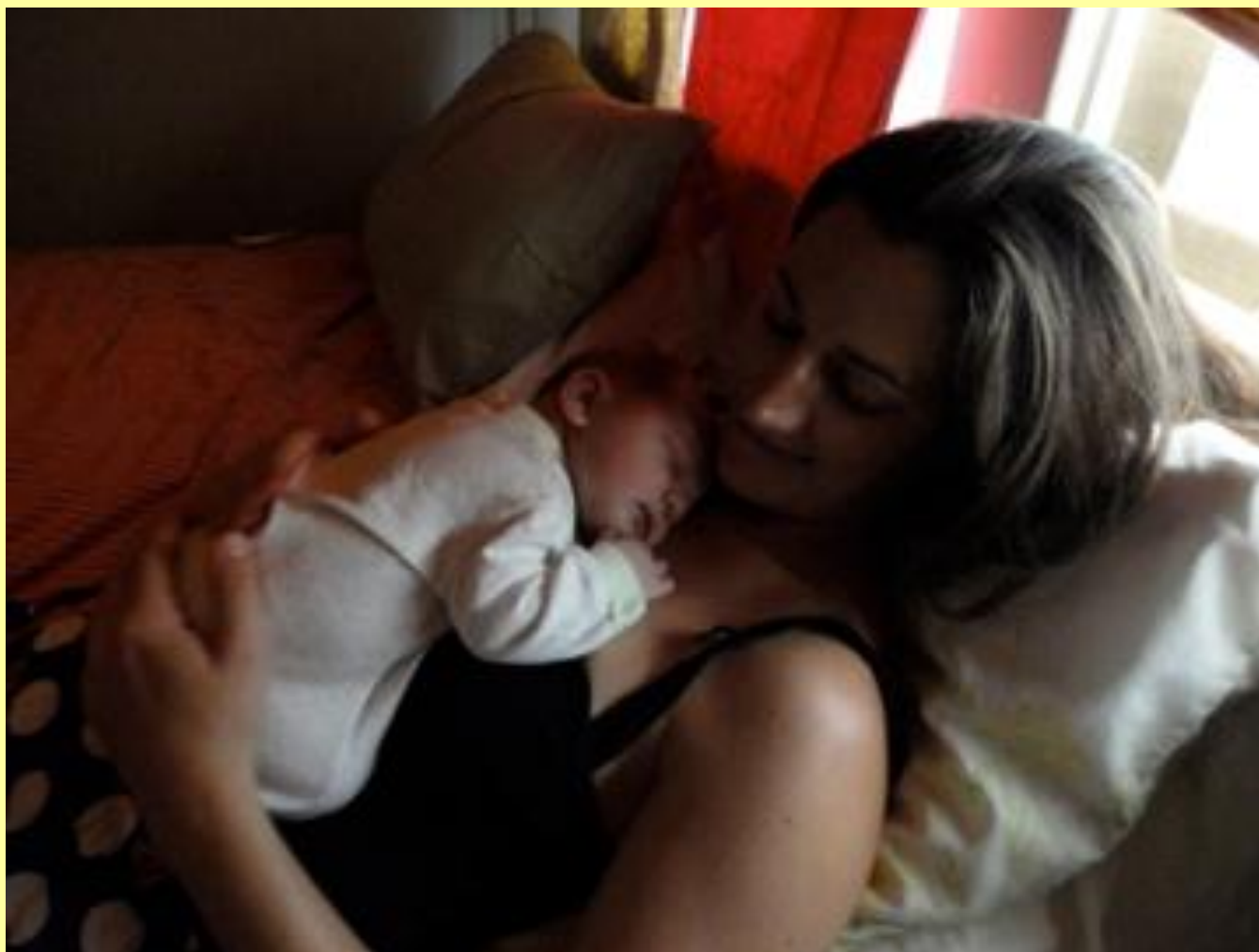
Jenny Ryan-Eveleigh and her husband Dan welcomed their first child on July 1st, 2010. Get a load of the handsome Mr. Callum James Eveleigh!



The Del Grande Family embarked on a grand adventure to Guatemala to work with a team from The Guatemala Stove Project this February. Bob, Leslie, Rowan and Lara travelled south to help build stoves for needy families in Guatemala's Western Highlands. Lucky for us, they detailed their adventure on a blog! To check out more about what they did visit <http://www.rowanandlesliesexcellentadventure.com>.

For more information on the Guatemala Stove Project and how to get involved, visit <http://www.guatemalastoveproject.org>

Val James and her partner Scott Taylor welcomed their first child on November 3, 2010. This is a beautiful picture of Val and Toby James Taylor right after he was born.



Val has been very busy! She also graduated from the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in May 2010 and will be starting practice as a Naturopathic Doctor this fall in the Minden/Haliburton area where she now lives with her new family. Congratulations Val!

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS TO SHARE?

SEND IT TO INFO@CAMPOCONTO.COM AND WE WILL

INCLUDE IT IN THE NEXT ECHO!

CLOSING THOUGHTS



Camp remains as peaceful and as beautiful as ever, and Bruce and I are very much looking forward to moving up to the lake for the summer. That being said, we hope that you will look forward to coming to visit as well! We are always happy to host alumnae for daytime visits throughout the summer. When it comes down to it, a handful of extra mouths to feed make no difference when we're already prepared to feed three hundred! Let us know when you'll be in the area and stop by for a meal and a tour of camp. We've got wonderful staff that can take you around the property, pointing out things that may have changed since your time on Eagle Lake, and many things that I'm sure have stayed the same! Bring your family or friends to experience the camp that you have known and loved for years! I would be thrilled to have the opportunity to reconnect while you enjoy a walk down memory lane!

Have a happy spring!

Lisa

**ONLY 121 DAYS UNTIL JULY OPENING
WEEKEND!**