



THE
OCONTO

ECHO

Fall 2016

The View from the Bung

Wow! We had a great summer at Oconto

But, first I would like to talk about Oconto friendships!

The on-going, long standing, often repeated strength of Oconto, is friendship.

The friends made at Oconto are fostered through the years, and continue into adulthood.

There are many friendships that started at Oconto and they are extremely strong.

I frequently hear of groups of friends getting together throughout all seasons.

Many friendships started at Oconto, and have been a pillar of strength through difficult times, as well as at celebrations, such as weddings, births, graduations, and simply getting together!

Oconto feels proud!

Bruce and I are so grateful that these friendships are so strong and influential.

Please enjoy some of the photos of Oconto alumnae with their camp friends now.



Miranda Clark, Jen Palacios, Peggie Gentles,
Leslie Maunder, Allison Billings Gilbert



Carolyn Burns, Melissa Thacker Colonno,
Catherine Dubuc Robson, Jen Withrow



Linda Ford Sutherland and Lynn Somers



A group of staff from 2016



Top row: Bev Keith, Sharon Fritz Roth, Peggy Keyes Kelly, Kirsty Griffiths, Vicky Taylor Bedford, Carol Keyes Deimling
Bottom: Sandra Buzza Atkinson, Sally Young Theysmeyer, June Kennedy Labbett, Jane Simonett Kline



Lisa Labbett Wilson, Martha Wheelwright Griffin, Sue Keating Macdonald, Beth Heckman Kavanagh, Vicky Stikeman



Marsha Hunter, Michele Nadeau, Jennifer (Hunter) Giuffrida, Martha Kirby



Top: Carolyn Davidson, Chloe Kristenbrun, Jen Gillean
Middle: Mel (Hamilton) Porter, Lisa Labbett Wilson
Bottom: Robin (Pitcher) Simpson, Leigh Pitcher, Hillary Pitcher, Kara Lister Wade, Vanessa Lister Wade



Back row: Kate Jamieson, Julie Kinnear, Steph Long-Riley, Heidi (Richter) Girvan
Front row: Jen Palacios, Sarah Macrae Blakeley



Vanessa Lister Wade, Glenn Griffin, Kara Lister Wade

Now, more about summer 2016.

Oconto is proud to welcome children from all over the world.

We have campers from many different countries, including Barbados, Belgium, China, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States.

Over the fall I have received many letters from staff and campers. I would like to share with you some bits from various letters:

- Oconto encouraged me to take leadership opportunities at a young age, and to take risks.
- Oconto is an environment where I have always felt safe, and can express my creativity while showing the girls the potential and capacity of their own creativity.
- Oconto changed my life! I would never have met my amazing friends or made some of my best memories if I had not come to Oconto.

Refugees from Syria: We offered eight spots to refugees from Syria for 2016 through a program set up by the Ontario Camps Association, to give refugees a chance to go to summer camp. Unfortunately the OCA was unable to fill the spots on time, as it is critical to the success of the program that girls be prepared and well matched to the particular camp, a very time consuming process. We hope to welcome recent immigrants to Canada at Oconto in 2017.



Alumnae Updates

Susie Cruess Ameerman and her husband Rob welcomed a daughter on May 13th, 2016! Her name is Agnes Leah Ammerman, and her big brother Otis is over the moon about his new sister. Agnes loved getting to spend time at Eagle Lake this summer.



Kelly Hood and her husband Cameron are excited to announce the birth of their first child! Evelyn Jay Walls was born on September 14th, 2016. Kelly and Cameron are loving being parents and are looking forward to sending baby Lynn to Oconto one day!

Susan Brown Duquette became a first time Grandma on May 12th, 2016. It has been the greatest experience. His name is Theodore Mercanti and the whole family loves him to bits!



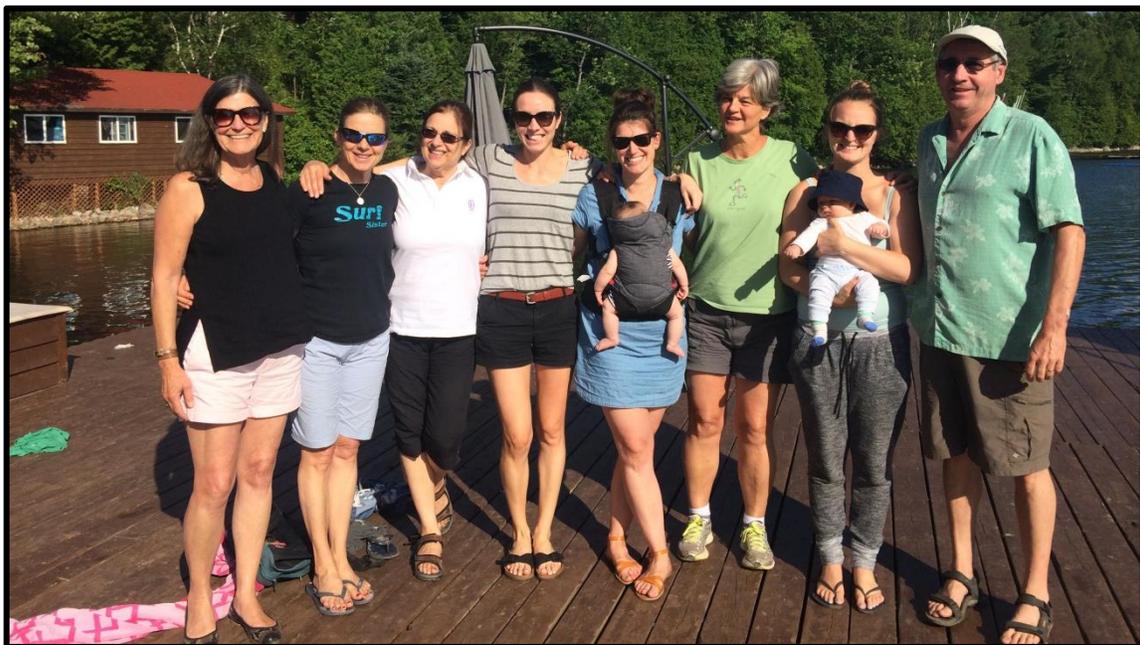
Bronwyn Wilson Gorsline and her husband Ted joyfully welcomed Sebastian William Bruce Gorsline into the world on May 14th, 2016. Sebastian's maternal grandparents are Lisa and Bruce Wilson and his paternal grandparents are William and the late Doreen Gorsline. Sebastian has already enjoyed several visits to Oconto and has even dipped his toes in beautiful Eagle Lake!



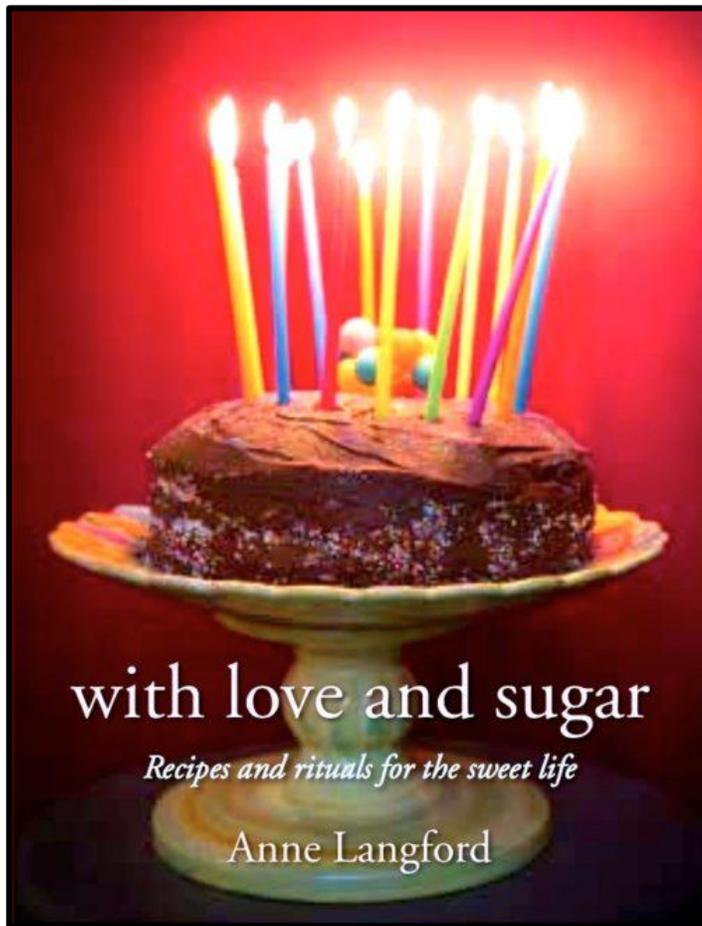
Sebastian at 3 weeks old



Sebastian at 6 months old



Sebastian loved meeting Oconto alumnae on one of his trips to Eagle Lake. Here he is on Main Dock with Laurie Hayhurst Cruess, Katherine Mann Nutt, Mari Vic Mann Buckley, Tori Buckley, Susie Cruess and his new friend Agnes, as well as Lisa, Bronwyn, and Bruce.



Alumna Ann Langford's Book Launch

Monday November 28th, 2016

7pm-8:30pm

Nibbles and Cider

Mabel's Fables Bookstore

662 Mt. Pleasant Rd.

I will be signing copies of my food memoir,

with love and sugar:

recipes and rituals for the sweet life

by Anne Langford

Feel free to browse and shop for everyone on your holiday gift list as the shelves in this Toronto gem are packed with beautiful books.

The store will be closed to the public as space is limited.

Entrance only by rsvp as requested by the owner annehome1@rogers.com

Can't make it?

preorders available

Toronto deliveries before November 30th

mamas & CO



Green at Home

This August Emma Rohmann left her corporate engineering job to pursue two businesses. She now co-leads Mamas & Co. (www.mamasandco.ca), a networking and education community of nearly 250 moms who run their own businesses. Emma also founded Green at Home (www.greenathome.ca) to help families create healthier, greener homes. Emma's excited for this next chapter as an entrepreneur!

“You can take the girl out of Oconto but you can’t take Oconto out of the girl”

Lisa’s Vespers Speech from 2016



What I hope that means, is that you will keep the life lessons you have learned here at Oconto and take them to your life at home.

You will respect other people and their things.

Live in your cabin or zebo, not use other people’s things without asking, keep your space tidy, so others can enjoy their space

You will consider how your words and actions affect others

Think before you speak. If you have angry feelings, do your best to STOP, count to, 10 THINK then speak.

You will appreciate nature and the environment by doing what you can to protect it, and influence others to do the same. We only have one planet, we need to treat it well.

You will respect other people who are different than you.

Every person deserves to be treated with respect.

It does not matter where they come from, or their occupation.

Learn about other cultures, religions, ways of life. Try to understand why they do, what they do and why they do it.

If we all go back to our respective lives and do these few things, we will continue to make ripples of positive change.

Yes, we are all young people here (except sort of me), but as a group of young people, we have tremendous power to influence.

So keep the spirit of Oconto in you.

Respect ALL other people.

Consider how your words affect others.

Appreciate and respect the environment.

Respect other people that are different from you and your family.

Learn from them.

Finally, remember the words to the song.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Help Us Stay in Touch

Please forward this Echo to your camp friends.

If they didn’t receive it directly from us, ask them to send us their email addresses.