



# THE OCONTO ECHO

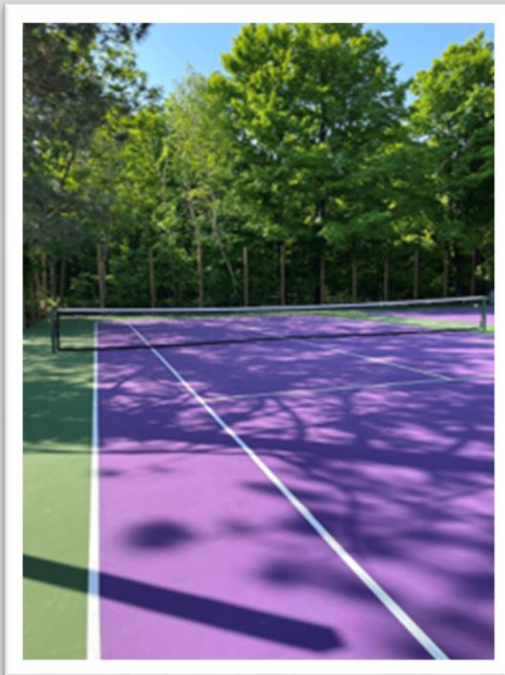
*Spring 2022*

## **Blueberry Blurb**

After a fantastic in-person summer last year, we are looking forward to another incredible one at Camp Oconto. It was truly heartwarming to see the joy on the campers' faces as they were finally able to be back at Oconto, forming new friendships and accomplishing their goals at activities. Although last summer certainly came with its challenges of juggling Covid protocols, seeing how happy the campers and staff were to be together made it all worth it! With the changing environment, some of our protocols have been modified from last summer while still keeping with the spirit of providing our campers and staff with a safe environment. We look forward to continuing to use our beautiful outdoor deck again which not only allowed for more social distancing inside the dining hall but it also provided a cooler



space to eat during hot summer days! The experience of having Sunday Evening Concerts outside last summer has also provided camp with the option to continue doing so on occasion should we desire a larger space or want to be outdoors in the nice weather.



For the past few weeks, our Work Camp Crew has been hard at work preparing everything at camp. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them again for all of their efforts: Erika Munz, Mackenzie Blakeley, Megan Doyle, Natalie Cochrane, Charlotte Taylor, Sam Lewis, Jess Lewis, Miranda Beaton, Sara Marley, Erica Bertram, Maddy Fisher, Claire Leffler, Annie Leffler, Mike Lowery, Sharon Quinn, and Mitch Cox. Without them, camp would not be possible! This year, they are also joined by a small crew who are redoing the tennis courts with an "Ultra Violet" colour. We can't wait for campers and staff to see the colourful new courts as well as a few other changes around Oconto. The first few days of camp

have come and gone and we are so happy to see themed dress-ups, a lively dining hall, and seeing campers out on Eagle Lake. We look forward to keeping you updated through the year and hope to see many of you at our upcoming alumnae events as we begin to celebrate Camp Oconto's 100th season!

All the best,  
Bronwyn and Ted

## The View from Misty Cove

Wow! Friday was Opening day at Oconto. It was wonderful to see so many very excited campers back at Oconto. The staff are well prepared and so keen to give the kids a fun and adventure filled Summer at Oconto.

A more normal Summer will be enjoyed by hundreds of children this year. There are also many alumnae bursting at the thought of their children enjoying Oconto for their first or 12<sup>th</sup> Summer! Bruce and I get such a thrill from meeting campers and staff who have been around for a very long time, often the children of alumnae. I often look into eyes of a child, and I can see their mom!

The Covid protocols this Summer will thankfully be much less demanding than they were last year. There will still be testing, and great care and attention to anyone getting any symptoms, however many games and events will be able to return to a more normal setting, including different sections of camp being able to do things together. A great Summer will be had, and as we have heard so often this past year:

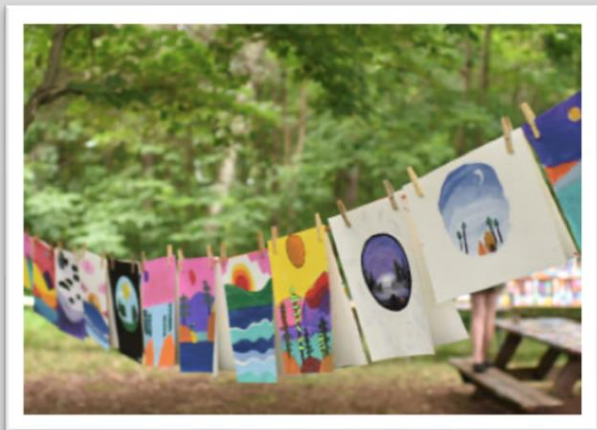
Our kids need camp!

We are looking forward to seeing the sailboats and windsurfers in Main Bay, and helping out on occasion, especially with our grandchildren, Eliza (3) and Sebastian (6).

The Reunion will be September 16 to 18. We sure hope you will be joining us!

As you may know, several improvements have happened in time for the Summer, including new tennis courts and a new shower house for Eagles and Seniors. I think more than one of you will enjoy the new showers at the reunion in September! If you have not made plans to join us, please do. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and enjoying lots of great conversations, laughs on Main Beach, and seeing many friendships renewed.

It warms our heart to see photos and hear stories of friendships that started or were deepened while at Oconto. Please send in photos and stories, we would love to share. We also love to hear what alumnae are doing. A new job, an interesting venture, weddings, babies, any news you would like to share, we would love to pass on to the Oconto community.



**Oconto Outfitters** Be sure to check out Oconto Outfitters for cool Oconto items to purchase. Come to the reunion and you can pick up the items then! Or, we can ship them to you.

**Special Thanks** go out to Jenn Palacios, leader of the pack, Lesley Harmer and Julia Steegstra who are working to put together a great weekend!

Many of you have asked about our son Mark. He is now living in downtown Toronto and works for Turntide Technologies, a company that manufactures energy efficient equipment for various

applications. Mark continues his love of the environment by working in green technologies, The mission of Turntide is “we-re a world-class team on a mission to turn the tide on climate change.” Mark also enjoys a few canoe trips every Summer, this year his big one is the Pontax River, in Quebec, that flows into James Bay.

Enjoy your Summer!

Please join us September 16 to 18 at Oconto!

Keep well, with warm hugs to all,

**Lisa & Bruce**



## Alumnae Reunion Weekend September 16-18

After two-years of delay the Alumnae Weekend is a go! Get ready to reunite with old friends and celebrate the joy that is camp, adult version! As usual, we're packing the equivalent of two months of camp into two days - activities, camp fires, Saturday Evening Concert, Chapel and just good old hanging out at Main Lodge or on the dock chatting.

The cost for the weekend is \$225.00 + HST- which includes accommodation, all meals - including Saturday evening Banquet and activities. To register for the Alumnae weekend please click [HERE](#) or go directly to: <https://campoontoalumnae.campbrainregistration.com>

## Oconto Creates Educational Opportunities for QCs

By Vanessa Wade (1989-1999, 2002-2005, 2018-2022)

In its fourth summer since starting, the "Oconto School" continues to deliver an Ontario Ministry of Education approved credit program for our camp's Quarter-Counsellors (QC's). The Leadership and Peer Support course (GPP3O) offers QCs a highly personalized and hands-on learning experience while participating in the well-known and well-loved leaders-in-training program Oconto has been delivering for decades. QCs are expected to complete journal entries throughout the month and complete a few manageable assignments, which will support them in their growth as leaders. Observations of QCs at activities and in section, along with reflective conversations about their progress as counsellors-in-training are all folded into the busy and exciting month of their stay. The QCs continue to create QC All Camp, go on their much anticipated 5-day trip to Algonquin, and engage meaningfully with campers as they themselves participate in activities and camp life. It has been a wonderful addition to our camp programming and we are hopeful that it can continue for years to come.



## OCONTO WOMEN OUT AND ABOUT!

### Enduring Friendships:

Meredith Jackson Donohue and Vickie Morgan Campbell re-connected after many years. Both were campers and staff in the 70's and early 80's.



### Impromptu Reunions:

From six cities across Ontario and from one in Alberta this group met up in Muskoka in September 2021. Each of the Oconto Alumnae intend to be the reunion in September 2022.

Clockwise from top: Katie Ritter, Lesley Harmer, Jennifer Bocking, Michelle Kelly, Emma (Pigeon) Pace, Deborah Powell, Anne Powell, Katie Emond  
Campers and staff from the late 80's and early 90's



## **Mother's Day golf for the Farr Family:**

Kim Farr, Sandy (Sholes) Farr, Kristi Farr and Tory Farr. (Julie Farr is in Whistler.)  
Sandy was a camper and staff in the 1970's and 80's. Her daughters, Kim, Kristi, Julie and Tori were campers and counsellors in the early 2000's



## ALUMNAE CHALLENGE!

**What is this?** The first three people who send a correct response along with their mailing address to [bronwyn@campoconto.com](mailto:bronwyn@campoconto.com) will win a special item from tuck The correct answer will be in the next edition of the Oconto Echo.



Answer to the Challenge from the last issue: Chapel, featuring Semi-Rock.

## Celebrating the new additions to our Oconto Family!

**Rhiannon Langford** (2006-2012) and her husband Cameron Cotton-O'Brien welcomed their baby girl Eloise Mabel on June 5th, 2021. Already chatting and loving to swim, she's counting down the days till she can be a Chickadee!



**Stephanie Farrell** (1997-2003) and her husband Chris Greenwood welcomed their second child, Thomas Louis Greenwood, on April 17, 2022. Big sister Annie (July 9, 2020) adores her little brother! Annie and Thomas are the first two grandchildren for Joanne (nee Abraham) Farrell. Jennifer and Patti Farrell are also proud aunties

**Leigh Guertin** (1996-2003) announces that big sister, Audrey, was thrilled to welcome her brother, Logan Marcus King, on May 6, 2020. Logan proved to be the the fighter he needed to be as he underwent open heart surgery shortly after birth! Fortunately, our Heart Warrior is doing wonderfully! His favourite Oconto songs are Barges and Great Big Moose!



## Remembrances

The family of **Cara Ellen Soules Farquharson**, camper and counsellor approx. 2008 - 2018 have shared this update with Cara's Oconto friends: Cara's Memorial Bench is now installed at the Soules Family Plot at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto.

So many of you have chosen special ways to honour and remember Cara. For 'Cara's Tree Project', the first was planted by family friends in Cape Town, SA - as they said "with the magnificent Twelve Apostles Mountain forever watching over Cara's conifer" - and as near as Bennington Heights Schoolground, beside the home where Cara grew up. And more trees are planned to be planted. Another friend has produced a music album dedicated to Cara and still another did a 100 km bike ride to raise money for mental health in Cara's name. Camp Oconto is installing a donor pillar in their dining hall, and Cara's name will be there thanks to those of you who generously donated to the campership fund to send a girl to camp. And some of you have made donations to other charities in Cara's name. The 'Cara Ripple' is how it has been described to me. For me, Cara is present everywhere - in the Lily-Of-The-Valley that are all over our property in the spring and the paperwhite moths that accompany the blossoming of their delicate white bells, in the joy of summer camp, in her laughter with the fall of autumn leaves, in the first snow fall, and in the faces and conversations of her maturing friends. It is astonishing and comforting that she is ever present.

Thank you all for honouring Cara in your own way and please feel welcome to visit our Mount Pleasant site and, as the bench welcomes you to, 'sit awhile'.

Location: Mount Pleasant Cemetery - Soules Lot 20 / Plot 3 (diagonally opposite the Mausoleum / between Yonge St. & Mt. Pleasant).

All the best,  
Sherry & John





SAVE THE DATE!

# CAMP OCONTO ALUMNAE REUNION!

Friday Sept. 16 to Sunday Sept. 18, 2022 at camp!



Want to stay caught up with Camp Oconto through social media?  
Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube!



