



THE OCONTO ECHO

THE OFFICIAL CAMP OCONTO ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER • Fall 2009

Director's Note

Dear Alumnae,

What a great year! 85 years of Oconto! It's hard to believe we just celebrated our 85th summer of camp! Since 1924 there have been only 3 Directors of Camp Oconto; Miss Halliday, my parents, June & Cliff Labbett, and Bruce & myself. I feel honored to be part of such a rich camping tradition that has been a part of so many young women's lives.

Do you know that there have been approximately 10 500 young women who have attended Camp Oconto over the last 85 years? That's a lot of Oconto Alumnae out there!

This past season we were so glad that so many alumnae were able to come out and celebrate our wonderful camp at the luncheon and/or the weekend at camp. There were about 90 of us that enjoyed a great lunch and wonderful slide show at the Weston Golf and Country Club in April. We had Alumnae from as far back as the 1930s and as recent as 2008. It was such a thrill for our whole family to be part of the celebrations. We hope to keep the momentum going for another 5 years when we celebrate 90 years!

While many things have likely changed at camp from your days as a camper or staff, we think you'd be relieved to hear that so many of the great things that you remember have stayed the same. One Alumnae mom was so excited to hear from her daughter this summer that Bruce and I have resurrected the "Hiawatha" song for our Native Gathering (formerly known as Indian Council). It brought back such great memories for her. We had roughly 110 2nd and 3rd generation campers this summer. It was such a thrill for their Mom's to visit on visitor's day and get a chance to see the camp in action again (and sing "Have you been to Camp Oconto" on Main Beach, of course.)

Over the years it has become apparent to us that Oconto means so much too so many people, for many reasons, primarily because of very strong friendships that started at Oconto. We know that sometimes "life" can get in the way of staying and keeping in touch with your camp friends so we wanted to figure out a way to help encourage that "warm fuzzy" feeling you got while you were at camp. As a way of connecting with our Alumnae, we'd like to introduce;

Please also remember the Echo as a place to announce a new business venture. This is the perfect place to share information about your business or network with fellow alumnae! In this issue, two of our Alumnae, Heidi Richter Girvan and Jenn Sisk Krueger are advertising their businesses.

Thanks for keeping in touch. Our Alumnae are so important to us – you are part of our rich history and we want to stay connected with you! I look forward to hearing from you!!

*Best Wishes,
Lisa*

PROJECT RE-CONNECT!!!

To start this project, we have decided to create Semi year reps. We hope this will work like year or decade reps with schools. The purpose of these Semi reps will be to try and re-connect and touch base with camp friends starting with their particular Semi group. Not everyone of course was a Semi and we don't want anyone left out... we thought this was a great way to start. We hope this will help us get current email and mailing addresses for as many Alumnae as possible. That way, we can share news, information, births, marriages, and successes of our fellow alumnae in the Echo. It is great to read about your fellow campers and staff and it is just fun to know who is doing what.

I would like to introduce the inaugural Camp Oconto Alumnae Semi Reps and thank them so much for their enthusiasm with *Project Re-Connect*:

1960-1965: Grace Fulford Nesbitt

1966: Betty Richards

1967:

1968: Linda Ford Sutherland

1969: Kirsty Griffiths

1970: Mary Vic Mann Buckley

1971: Mary Bell Spring

1972:

1973: Ann Corrigan Bull

1974: Sandy Scoles Farr

1975: Katherine Mann Nutt

1976: Lisa Moore Stanashyn

1977: Anne McPherson Batten

1978: Sue Keating MacDonald &
Michele Nadeau

1979:

1980:

1981: Ellie Penner

1982: Jane Richards &
Allison Billings Gilbert

1983:

1984:

1985: Sarah Macrae Blakeley

1986: Jane Hiscock

1987:

1988: Susie Macrae

1989:

1990: Jenn Sisk Krueger

1991:

1992: Michelle (Mitch) Kelly

1993: Val James

1994: Vanessa Wade

1995: Sarah Keenleyside

1996: Danielle Cameron

1997: Kara Lister & Jay Robson

1998:

1999: Susie Cruess

2000: Christy Hood & Erin Cook

2001: Sky Mitchell

2002: Hilary Farson & Allison Cook

2003: Caroline Olechowski

2004: Nora Hammond

2005: Alexa Ironside

2006: Heidi Parker

We still have some missing years to fill! If you or someone you know would help out by being the Semi rep for your year, please contact Lisa at lisa@campoconto.com. We would love your help!!!

OCONTO HISTORY

This object was found this summer at camp after one of our many huge rainfalls! The rains caused serious erosion this year in certain places around camp, exposing treasures from the past.

A couple of staff saw a corner of this object sticking out of the hill down by Main beach, dug it out and Voila!

Any archeologists out there???? We will be displaying it in the Dining Hall at camp – so come and see it for yourself!



On your next visit to the Ottawa area, check out The Museum of Civilization and Man in Gatineau, Quebec (yes, across the river from Ottawa). There is a wonderful display of Iroquois arrowheads there. You never know, you might be looking at one that was found at Oconto several years ago!

Did you know that Main Lodge is famous??? (And not just because you starred in a Sunday Evening Concert there...). It is historically significant because it represents architecture from the 1920s. If you look at it from the flag pole, it has a 'barn shaped' roof with dormer windows, apparently that is of significance! Main Lodge at the Museum! That's right... The drawings and measurements have been made to build a life size replica of the Oconto Main Lodge (now called Labbett Lodge to honor June and Cliff Labbett) If the necessary funding is received, a life size lodge will be built in the Museum of Civilization & Man.

OCONTO PRE TADS

Friday, June 18th to Sunday, June 20th 2010

We are happy to announce the new Pre Tads Program for summer 2010! For the first time ever, Oconto is offering a short camp experience for girls ages 4 to 7 years old. We know that sometimes the thought of leaving home for an extended period of time can be daunting (for both kids and parents) – what better way to “ease” into camp?

This is a great opportunity for girls to have an introduction to camp, make new friends and participate in all the camp activities such as canoeing, sailing, archery, dance, arts & crafts, and lots more!

Campers will live in cabins with electricity and a washroom. Each group will be supervised by 3 or 4 staff, who will also sleep in the same building. Meals will be served in the dining hall, family style, along with a mid afternoon and evening snack. Please contact the Oconto office for more information about this great new addition to camp.

YOU ARE MORE THAN WELCOME TO VISIT

As Oconto Alumnae, we want you to know that you are ALWAYS welcome at camp. If you are ever nearby, please come for a visit. We love having alumnae stop in. During the Summer, or the off-season. We always want you to feel welcome! During the off-season, chances are Wally and Trevor, our maintenance men will be around camp, or in the workshop making Oconto paddles. Let them know you are in camp, and have a tour, a hike, a cross country ski or a swim enjoy a picnic. If the Dining Hall is open, join us for the next meal. Honestly, we love seeing alumnae. Please come in and take a trip down memory lane!

THE BUNG

Looking for a cozy getaway? Want to use the Bung? The Bung is winterized and very peaceful! If you would like to go to Oconto during the Winter let us know, you can stay in the Bung! There is a full kitchen, lovely fireplace – it is a peaceful paradise! It can sleep 12 comfortably in beds, more if you are ok with a foamy on the floor. It is great for a getaway weekend.

FACEBOOK

In our continuing efforts with “Project Reconnect” we have decided to start an “Official CAMP OCONTO ALUMNAE” FACEBOOK group. Many Thanks to Vanessa Wade who has spear-headed this for us. You must be a member of Facebook to participate. Social media has become a great way to connect with your friends, share pictures and share memories. Facebook is a great way of networking, but in order to be sure it is used in an appropriate way, Vanessa will be administering it and making sure that no one joins unless they are Oconto alumnae.

Want to join? Once you are a member of Facebook you can search for it in the search box by plugging in Official Camp Oconto Alumnae. Then simply join the group by clicking the "join" button located next to the group title. Hope to see you on our Facebook Page!

Keeping in Touch...

What's New?

We're always so excited to hear from alumnae and happy to share their life stories and their personal memories of Oconto with you! Please continue to keep in touch!

Elliott, Kristi (80s & 90s) has a quick Oconto experience to share... "A few years ago, I went and saw a theatre production in Newmarket and saw that the producer, director and star was Sarah Langford Kyle. The thought ran through my head - 'could this be Jane Langford's sister?' When I saw Sarah on stage, I had very little doubt she was related to Jane!!!

Fast forward a few years - my job and time was now allowing me to join a theatre group and Sarah's theatre group was first on my list to contact because of the Oconto connection. And Sarah says that it was because of Camp Oconto that she "hired" me on the spot.

We have become fast friends and I am now going to be starting my sixth show with them as the sound operator. I love it and probably have Oconto to thank for such a great experience."

Enticknap, Meagan (80s & 90s) and her husband are very excited to announce the arrival of their newest addition - a beautiful little girl, born on Sunday October 4 at 8:15pm. She weighed in at exactly 8lbs and half an ounce. Her name is Olwen Maeve Enticknap-Smith. Everyone is doing very well and her older siblings, Ellie and Finn, are happy that the baby is finally here!

Frederking, Laretta Conklin (80s) currently lives in Portland, Oregon with her husband Clete, daughter, Amelia and son, Nathanael.

Girvan, Heidi Richter (80s) has launched a new business called "Happy Helperz". It is a line of 3 educational, learning tools for children (ages 2 – 10) to use at home. These fun and easy systems enable kids to "pitch-in" and take more responsibility at home. The "Happy Helperz" products foster independence and bolster self-esteem. As a former teacher, and mother of 3 kids under 6, Heidi knows first hand how well these systems work!

www.happyhelperz.com

Hood, Kelly (80s, 90s, & 00s)

married Cam Walls on September 26th at the Gananoque Inn. They honeymooned in Egypt before returning home to Switzerland.

Hurd, Karen McKelvey (70s)

Was in touch with us this summer regarding a camp program she was running and needed some paddles. We got a chance to catch up and a wonderful story was relayed. It begins with Mary at 8 years old as a camper earning her "Merry Maiden" armband which led to many years of archery and eventually competitions and teaching archery, until she ran several programs and camps as an adult. Those early lessons of trying hard, and getting a Merry Maiden led to many years of competition, but more important, enjoyment! Watch for further details of this story in later editions of the Echo.

Krueger, Jenn Sisk (80s)

is the new Canadian Regional Manager for Global Corporate Challenge (GCC). Global Corporate Challenge is a health & wellbeing initiative that entertains employees as they move in a virtual journey around the world. Last year 60,000 people from 55 countries took part in the May-September event. With a daily target of 10,000 steps, employees use pedometers to record their daily activity levels, while "visiting" incredible places brought to life through the GCC award-winning website. The GCC's mission is to "get the world moving" www.gettheworldmoving.com by helping companies increase their staff fitness levels, employee

engagement, positive competitive spirit, and overall productivity. You can contact Jenn at jenniferk@gettheworldmoving.com or 416-988-9071 for more information about the GCC or just to get caught up on Tad Staff!

Lemieux, Pat Elvidge (40's & 50's).

Writes... "What a trip down Memory Lane. How we all loved being back at Oconto, seeing old friends, re-connecting with friends, seeing June and Cliff, sitting on the dock, walking through Junior, Junior Brownie, Senior Brownie, Intermedes and Senior sections... so many super times and memories flooded back. We would not have missed it for the world, and sitting in "Chapel" was very special and just to know how much Alumnae campers thought of Mr. and Mrs. Labbett and how they would look forward to camp each and every summer.

Again, thank you SO much for hosting Oconto's 85th Anniversary – I'll cherish the memories."

Stikeman, Vicky (70s)

- Baby Chloe Stikeman Hudacin was born Tuesday November 3rd at noon, weighing 5lbs 6oz. She is the sister of Clara 6, who is almost ready for Oconto. For those of you who were at the reunion weekend, in September, Vicky is the woman who swam to Blueberry! yep 7 months pregnant - and fast!

VanderBurgh, Meg Currie (80s)

and her husband Will had a baby girl Abigail in January.

PHOTOS



Chloe Stikeman Hudacín
(Vicky Stikeman is her mom)



Katie (15 months) & Jack (3.5 years)
Krueger on Halloween
(Jenn Sisk Krueger is their Mom)



Clara & Chloe Stikeman Hudacín
(Vicky Stikeman is their mom)



Olwen Maeve Enticknap-Smith
(Meg Enticknap is her mom)

85th REUNION WEEKEND



Jay Robson, Shannon Corbett,
Kara Lister, & Vanessa Wade



Anne Stacey



Anne Stacey & Mary Vic Mann Buckley



Leslie Dewart Giroday &
June Kennedy Labbett



Lisa Labbett Wilson
(reading The Giving Tree in Chapel)



Beth Heckman Kavanagh,
Martha Wheelwright Griffin,
& Vicky Stikeman