

OCONTO ECHO

Fall 2013

Summer flew by and it's hard to believe that we're halfway through the fall! It is going to be a busy year as the 90th reunion is quickly approaching and our daughter, Bronwyn is getting married to Ted Gorsline in June 2014! Our son Mark is currently in his 3rd year at Queens studying Environmental Issues and loving it!

Camp is looking great! We had a group of hard working staff stay up this fall to help out with some maintenance and school groups. In other news, my Mom has moved into a beautiful retirement home on Main St. Unionville. She actually grew up about 220m up the street and the house is still there, however it is a business office now. Her sister-in-law also lives right across the street.



Mom looks north out of the 7th floor over a high school playing field – constant entertainment! She would love to hear from you!

June Labbett
34 Main St., #712
Unionville, Ont
L3R 2E4

All the best, Lisa



Mark and some of our fall working camp staff about to take a dip in Eagle Lake on October 9th!



Mom enjoying a paddle on Eagle Lake during Thanksgiving Weekend

SUMMER 2013

What another great and successful summer! The fun started on May 12th, when fifteen hard working and enthusiastic staff members arrived for work camp and didn't stop until the buses pulled away on August 24th. The summer was filled with dance parties in the dining hall, camp fires on main beach, canoe trip into Algonquin park, two Chickadee weekends – the fun and excitement never stopped!



CLIMBING WALL

This summer we welcomed a climbing wall to Oconto! The purpose of the climbing wall is quite extensive. The wall taught campers about trust, communication, and setting goals. It was so amazing to see the girls work together and climb the 40 foot wall, cheering each other on, learning about trust and teamwork. It was a huge hit!



ALUMNAE UPDATES

Erin Cook and husband Steve welcome their first child into their family! Leia Joyce Hillen was born on November 2nd 2012 weighting 8lbs 2oz. A huge congrats to them!



Bronwyn (Lewis) and Geoff Appleyard got married in January of 2008 and a year later welcomed their daughter Gillian on October 7, 2009 (weighing 7 lbs, 8 oz). On August 7, 2012 they welcomed twin boys! David Archer weighing 6 lbs 9 oz, and Victor Patrick weighing 8 lbs, 7 oz. Congrats to the lovely family!



Signe (Macdonald) Scammell's son turned 1 year old on May 13th. Here's a picture of him as a new born! Never too young to start paddling! What a happy little camper !

On February 26th 2013, JM Banjian and husband, Tom Maeder welcomed their daughter Julia Maeder into the family! Congrats to you both!



Julia Keilty and Brett Hayhurst (Kilcoo alumnus) of Toronto welcomed Molly Jean Hayhurst on January 24th, 2013. Miss Molly is already working on her swimming, boating and dress-up skills in anticipation of Chickadees 2017!

We are happy to announce that our daughter, Bronwyn recently got engaged to Ted Gorsline (Ponacka alumnus) this past spring! We will officially be welcoming Ted into the family June 14, 2014!



KEEPING IN TOUCH

Letter from an Alumnae

Hi Lisa,

My summers at Oconto hold some of my favourite memories. My daughter, Claire, just turned 6 years old, and she is planning to be a chickadee next summer. I know that she will love the same things that I did about camp: friendship, opportunities to try new things, becoming more independent, and spending time in the outdoors.

This past summer, my husband, Jeff, and I did something that I have not done since my Oconto years (before 1997!). We went on a backcountry canoe trip in Algonquin park complete with portages. While I remembered several things (how to put up a tent, pack a waterproof bag, cook with a single burner stove, and hang our food pack in the trees), I had forgotten about developing blisters on my hands and sore shoulders.

I am living in London and have been working as an occupational therapist with infants and young children who have developmental disabilities for the past 10 years. My husband and I will be celebrating our 8th wedding anniversary later this month and we have two children. My mom, Susan Lawley (nee Vila), was a counsellor and sailing instructor at Oconto in the late 1960s or early 1970s. She is retired and also living in London. She spends her time crafting and travelling. She has a big trip planned to Australia and the South Pacific this winter. Hope all is well with your family – I think of Oconto often.

Sincerely,
Michelle Tucker (nee Lawley)

We love hearing from Alumnae! If you or an Oconto alumnae you know has news that would like to be shared, let us know and we'll feature it in the next ECHO! Send us the details by email.

OCONTO 90th REUNION!



CAMP OCONTO 90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Please plan to join us to celebrate 90 years of Camp Oconto
Mark your calendar NOW
Saturday, April 12th, 2014 Celebrations begin at 4:00 p.m.
Cocktail Party and Dinner | Bram & Bluma Appel Salon
Toronto Reference Library, near Yonge and Bloor – fully accessible

September 19th – 21st, 2014
Weekend at CAMP OCONTO

Watch for your invitation in early January.

Can we get your help? It would love for this event to include as many of your old friends, staff and campers as possible. Please consider contacting with your fellow alumni and encouraging them to register at www.campoconto.com. Thank you!

We hope to see you at one or both of the reunion celebrations!
Lise and Bruce White, and the Oconto 90th reunion committee

Memory Book

Some years ago June Labbett had an idea to create a book of Camp Oconto memories. Various people have worked on this project and now we are lucky to have Kirsty Griffiths take on the leadership! We have re-kindled this project and are hoping to publish it in time for the 90th anniversary celebrations in April 2014. What are your Camp Oconto memories, stories, favourites? Perhaps you have a favourite photo too? Send it along to us! Let's get memories from across 90 years!

Please send your information to:
Kirsty Griffiths at cjgriffiths51@gmail.com

Write a few words or many words. Include your maiden name and the years you were at camp.



STAYING CONNECTED

We try very hard to keep in touch with as many alumnae as possible. If you know of any Oconto alumnae who are not receiving the Echo, please let them know to contact us so we can put their info into our database!

If you know the emails of the following people, please let us know! We would love to get in touch with them and make sure that they are up-to-date on all things Oconto!

Joanne McWilliam
K. Green
S. Demers
Merlyn Emry
Leah Glassow-Hill
Bea Robertson

Sarah MacMillian
Emma Jowett
Selena Roddick
Diane Keenan
Nancy Min
Alyson Parker

Mallory McKay
J. McHardy
J. Wright
Sally Burtenshaw
Heather Cook
Bev Warner

REMINDERS

SEMI REPS

We are looking for alumnae who were a Semi in 1966, 1971, 1977-1981 to be the alumnae representative of their year. If you are interested in fulfilling this position, please contact us!

NEW WEBSITE!

Oconto has a new website that is up and running! Check it out at www.campoconto.com

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/campoconto> and
Instagram at CampOconto



OCONTO CAMBERSHIP FUND

Who is eligible for the fund?

Girls who have been at Oconto but of unforeseen reasons, finances prohibit their return to Oconto. Or the child of alumnae who cannot afford to send their daughter to Oconto, but desperately want their child to have the Oconto experience!

Our goal is to continue to advance the child's education and outdoor adventures through an experience at Oconto. Oconto offers stability, fun and friendship in a time of need.



To apply for the fund, if you or someone you know are presently going through a difficult time and would like to discuss the option of becoming a possible candidate for the fund please contact Lisa Wilson at the Camp Office.

Decisions by the Board concerning who to sponsor are made each April.

Donations are welcome at any time. If you wish to make a donation in support, and payable to the

Oconto Campership Fund

c/o Linda Sutherland
307-2855 Bloor St. W
Etobicoke, ON M8X 3A1



The Oconto Campership Fund is a registered charity, managed by a Board of Directors that consists of Oconto Alumnae. Donations are tax deductible and tax receipts will be issued.

SEMI LETTERS

I am often told that alumnae love to hear about what the semis say in their letters explaining to me why they want to come back to camp. Here is a letters I received this year.

“There are 101 reasons why I would love to come back to Oconto as a Semi this year. My six years at Camp Oconto have made me the person I am, being a big influence on my life. There are many life lessons that are learnt best in this magic place. Some of the life lessons that I have learned at camp are ones that you could never learn anywhere else, or would not have the same value as they do now. Being put in a cabin with three or four other girls who you never knew before is scary. This taught me to be a better communicator and how we all have something in common, even with girls that come from the other side of the world.

Camp has made me become more independent and confident with who I am. It has showed me how to build strong friendships, ones that you can never forget. My leadership skills have grown and developed at camp, which I bring back to my everyday life as part of my school athletic council, as a swimming and ski instructor. Camp Oconto has taught me that I can be whoever I wish, and that being you is one of the most precious gifts.

Camp has taught me different values then life in the city could ever teach me. It has taught me how to make the best of any situation, how to dance in the rain and how to keep entertained and remain optimistic during a thunderstorm.

Thank you for all these amazing opportunities Oconto, but you are not finished with me yet. I still have so much to learn and really look forward to the chance of becoming a semi.”

Written by a Semi of 2013