

# Oconto Echo

Winter 2014

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season spending time with loved ones. We are thrilled to ring in 2014 as this year is Oconto's 90<sup>th</sup> year! Excitement is quickly building for the reunion dinner on April 12<sup>th</sup> in Toronto as well as the reunion weekend at Oconto on September 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup>

Please register for the April Dinner and the September Weekend as soon as possible.

Please be sure your Oconto friends know about the reunion celebrations and encourage them to attend the dinner and weekend!

Interested in sponsoring an alumnus to one of these events? Please consider purchasing a second ticket for an alumnus that cannot afford to attend.

This may include an alumnus from Oconto, or Camp



Awakening (the camp for girls with physical disabilities that runs at Oconto). If we collect more money than we need to sponsor those in need, excess funds will go to the Oconto Campership Fund.

Enjoy the rest of winter, stay warm and I hope to see you all in April at the 90<sup>th</sup>!

All the best,  
Lisa



December 2013, Eagle Lake Freezes Up

# Alumnae Updates



Congratulations to Sally Burtenshaw (Oconto gal 1990-2000) who married Christopher Shaw on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Burlington Ontario. Post wedding, they travelled to Canmore and Banff for their honeymoon! Wishing the newlyweds all the best!

Chloe Dulude and partner David Moreaux, joyfully announce the birth of their son Louis Arthur Moreaux on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Montreal. Congrats to their family!



Steph Kirk deWaard and husband, Jeremy welcomed Weston Kirk deWaard on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Weston weighed 6lbs 11oz and 18" (narrowing missing a delivery in Algonquin Park!). Steph and Jeremy are living in Guelph where they both work for the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario at the University of Guelph. Congrats!!

**We love hearing from Alumnae! If you, or an Oconto alumnus you know, have 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.**

# Keeping in Touch

*Thirty eight years, a chair lift ride, and luck! A girl from Mexico and an Oconto staff member friendship is rekindled! "What?", you say. Here is the story.*



Dagmar & Linda Skeries (née Back), August 1976

It was a cold January day just a few weeks ago when I was out skiing with my family. As I got off the chairlift, I bumped into Oconto alumnae, Kirsty Stevenson who was also enjoying skiing on this wintery day.

She introduced me to alumnae counsellor Linda Back Skeries who had worked at Oconto in the 70s. We chatted for a bit and then Linda said, "Did you ever keep in touch with a camper named Dagmar Erdman who came to Oconto from Mexico?"

Now, a little history...

Dagmar contacted me several years ago in search of a boys' camp similar to Oconto that her sons could attend. Having all boys, Dagmar was disappointed that she would never be able to send any

of her children to Oconto but wanted her boys to experience camp like she did. Her sons have since enjoyed many years at Camp Ponacka.

As we reconnected, Dagmar invited Bruce and I to come to her home in Mexico City to visit current families from Mexico attending Oconto, as well as some families who were interested in sending their girls to Oconto. We had a wonderful visit with Dagmar and her family in 2011 and have even been invited to return! Dagmar has since been to Oconto with her family for a visit. This experience of visiting Mexico and the many conversations with these friends and families, I learned the deep impact and love that Dagmar has for Oconto.



Dagmar Erdman, August 1976

Back to the present. When Linda asked about Dagmar, I was able to say, "Absolutely, and I know that Dagmar would love to hear from you!" A flurry of emails (which flew across the miles!) reconnected Dagmar and Linda.

Such a beautiful story that truly warms one's heart! Here is an excerpt from Dagmar's letter to Linda.

"I was so excited when I read this email!! Of course, one of my most cherished memories from Oconto is one of "Linda Back" the

great counsellor who directed the Charlie Brown musical, who played piano wonderfully, who was so nice and always available to me... When camp was over she took me to her home and to the airport and in between to a mall to buy Helen Reddy's "I Am A Woman" album, and I missed her the next year as she was not back!!!"

In the letter, Dagmar gives an update on her life and then carries on with warmth and friendship.

Bruce and I feel very fortunate to run Oconto, and to be a catalyst for so many life-long friendships.



Other Oconto Staff from 1976



Dear Camp Oconto Friends,

Camp Oconto is celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2014! We are marking this occasion with two special events.

### **A Party in Toronto**

Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 @ 6:00pm

Bluma Appel Salon, Toronto Reference Library (near Yonge and Bloor)

Flagraising fun begins at 7:00pm.

City Campfire Tapas style dinner catered by Daniel et Daniel

Wine and beer available - first drink on the Oconto tab!

\$65.00 tax included, before March 28<sup>th</sup> or \$75.00 tax included after March 28<sup>th</sup>

### **Weekend at CAMP OCONTO!**

Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 \$140.00 Tax included.

Please register online by August 24<sup>th</sup>.

We look forward to seeing you at these events!

June, Lisa and Bruce, and the Reunion Committee

We know that financial circumstances sometimes prevent alumnae from participating in these special events.

For information, please contact Lisa at [lisa@campoconto.com](mailto:lisa@campoconto.com).

# 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!

## Reminders

Don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

<https://www.facebook.com/campoconto>

<https://twitter.com/campoconto>



Check Out  
Our Website



Also, visit our website at [www.campoconto.com](http://www.campoconto.com) to register, find up to date information, and receive more information about the 90<sup>th</sup> Reunion!