

# OCONTO ECHO

Winter 2013



I hope that all of you have had a happy and healthy winter so far. The fall flew by and it is hard to believe that we are in the tail end of winter! We are excited for a new summer at Oconto. Staff are ready to go and camper registration is filling up quickly. We have a few camper spots left in August, so if you know anyone that is interested, please ask them to check out our new website!

We have been busy working hard on celebration plans for the 90<sup>th</sup> reunion, which will be happening in April and September of 2014. Watch out for big announcements! We are really looking forward to it and hope that you will all be able to help celebrate with us!

All the best for the spring!  
Lisa



# NEW AT OCONTO

We have some very exciting updates to share with you that have been happening in and around Oconto! A brand new set of cabins has been built up in Tad section. The new building which has replaced Tree Top, has a beautiful view of the lake where the campers will get an even closer listen to the wild loon calls at night!



We are also thrilled to announce that this summer, Oconto will have a climbing wall! Our campers and staff are very excited by this news. The climbing wall was built this fall in the old riding ring. As an addition to the low ropes course, our hope is that the climbing wall will further teach Oconto girls about teamwork, determination, perseverance, commitment, communication and leadership. We will be sure to post pictures on our Facebook page in the spring of the final product and in the summer of campers and staff in action!



# ALUMNAE UPDATES

CONGRATULATIONS to newlyweds Genevieve Giroday  
and Geoff Warren!



From left - Drew Labbett, Steph Kirk, Bruce Wilson, Lisa Wilson, Genn Giroday, Carolyn Burns, Jenn Withrow, Judith Muster

Genn and Geoff were married on  
Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. We  
wish them the best of luck as a newly  
married couple!



Know an Oconto alumnae who has recently got engaged, married or  
had a baby?? Let us know so we can feature it in the next Echo!  
Send us the details by email along with any pictures!

# ALUMNAE MEMORIES!

We need your help!



We are creating a book of Camp Oconto memories and we need yours!!

We are hoping to publish this in time for the 90th anniversary celebrations in 2014. Perhaps you have a favourite photo too? Send it along to us as well!

Let's get memories across the years. Use email, Facebook, video or pen and paper. Include your maiden name and the years you were at camp. We look forward to reading every memory!

Use the ideas below to jog your memory and jot them down – some may include:

**INDIVIDUALS** (camper, counsellor, kitchen staff, June and Cliff, Ferna Halliday, Lisa and Bruce)

**ACTIVITIES** (rainy days; antiphonal singing; solos; water activities; all camp all day programs; canoe trips; special days; musical productions)



**YEARLY TRADITIONS** (Indian Council/Native Gathering, Hiawatha, Little Blueberry, Bullrush ceremony, Flag raising, Sunday Evening Concerts, banquets, Tribes, Chapel, Vespers, Nothing books)

**FOOD** (cooks night out, sunday buns, banana boats, trip food)



**FADS** (browns - with the sleeves ripped out, groover scarves, autographs on pillow cases)

**BUILDINGS** (Chimo, Main Lodge, Chapel, new and old dining hall, Eagle Point, flag raising)

**SING-SONGS** (what's your favourite? Have you been to Camp Oconto, Misty Skies, Skyboat song, Jet Plane, One Tin Soldier, Barges)

**SOUNDS, SMELLS or SIGHTS** that evoke special memories (tent hopping, smelly pit toilets, campfires, sunsets, loons, squished mosquitos)

**FEELINGS** (times you were happy, scared, proud, excited, sad, giddy, returning to camp after a long winter, first cup of milk after a canoe trip, scared in a thunderstorm, going to the brown house alone at night, "boys" in camp)



**FRIENDSHIPS:** eg. warm thoughts, when you helped someone, someone helped you, difficult times...

**FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS:** eg .horses - Beau, Half Pint, Duncan, Choco, Dono, Flashy, Joey, 7 Up, raccoons, current horses...

**ALL CAMP GAMES or QC ALL CAMP:** eg. Martian day, Olympics, Jurassic Park, Sunday Picnic, Archie...

Email your memories and photos to [kirstyoconto@yahoo.co](mailto:kirstyoconto@yahoo.co)

# 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 are a few letters I received this year.

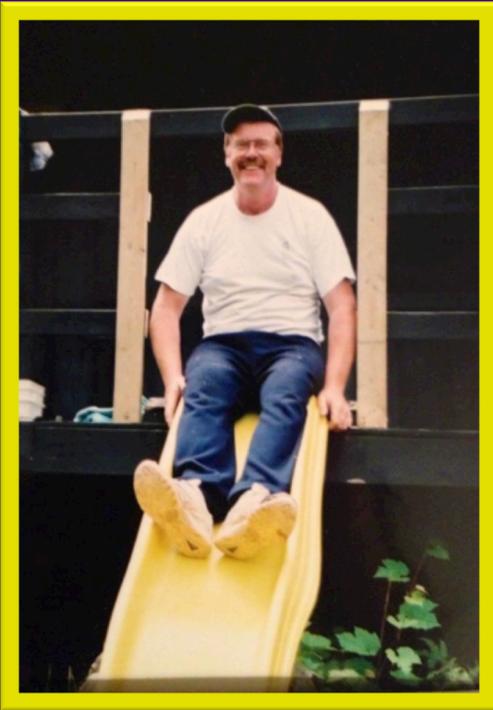
“Since the very first summer I spent on the shores of Eagle Lake, I’ve known that Oconto was an extraordinary place. It was so much more to me than a camp; it was home away from home. The sight of canoe dock after a long rainy trip, the smells of Sunday breakfast, the feeling of accomplishment after my first dive from tower, the rays of sunshine peeking through the leaves at chapel. Oconto is magical to me. Not only does Oconto instill confidence and independence into young girls but it also creates strong bonds of friendship and instills a sense of belonging. None of this would be possible without the wonderful staff of Oconto, and I would love nothing more than to be apart of that staff team.”



“Recently, I was visiting one of my good friends from camp in Toronto. We stopped for dinner on Yonge St. and within minutes of sitting down, I heard my name being called by three Chip girls at the top of their lungs! Seeing these girls in the city and so excited to see me, made me realize how much of an impact Oconto staff have on a camper’s staff at Oconto and how important it is to their overall experience and what they take back with them to the city. My time at Oconto has helped me overcome many fears, and has allowed me to create countless memories that will never fade from my mind and heart.”

# TREVOR JONES

1957-2012



For those of you who knew Trevor Jones, Oconto's beloved handy man, you shared our devastation by the news of his unexpected passing this past December. Trevor passed away suddenly while building his son's dream home in Denbigh on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at the age of 55. Trevor was such a huge part of the Oconto family. He was one of the most loving, kind, and patient men. Trevor ran to the rescue every time we managed to break something. He will be dearly missed and so fondly remember by everyone at Oconto for his huge caring heart, infectious smile and warm bear hugs.

## STAYING CONNECTED

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

**SNAIL MAIL** – If you know anyone who has been receiving the ECHO by Canada Post this means we don't have their email. Tell them to contact us!

# REMINDERS

## PLAQUES

In the dining hall at Oconto, we have 5, 10, 15, 25, second generation and third generation brass plaques. If you qualify for a plaque but are unsure as to whether you have one or not, contact us and we'll find out!

## 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!

## SLIDE SHOWS

Know a family who is interested in sending their daughter to Oconto? Let us know and Lisa will be more than happy to go to their house and show a slide show of Oconto!

## NEW WEBSITE!

Oconto has a new website that is up and running! Check it out at [www.campoconto.com](http://www.campoconto.com)

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/campoconto>  
Questions? Email us @ [info@campoconto.com](mailto:info@campoconto.com)

