

OCONTO ECHO

Spring 2014

Dear Alumnae,

What a wonderful spring it has been so far! My mother, Bruce and I were so thrilled to see such a wonderful turn out to the 90th Reunion event that happened on April 12th at the Toronto Reference Library. Over 200 former campers and staff attended the reunion to celebrate Oconto and reconnect with old friends. Delicious camp-inspired food, lively renditions of old camp songs and countless memories shared amongst old friends made for a truly wonderful evening. We hope that you can join us for the follow up event taking place this coming fall; the weekend-long celebration will be hosted at camp from September 19th-21st and will include the opportunity to enjoy camp activities, campfire, chapel and more! Information on how to register is included in this edition of the Echo.



Semis '79 at the 90th Reunion

Although it feels like spring has been late to arrive, things are already in full swing at camp! The work camp staff have arrived and have already started to tackle the long list of tasks that need to be completed before campers arrive in just under two months. It's hard to believe the summer is coming so quickly! We are looking forward to keeping you updated as things move forward, and hopefully to see a few of you over the course of the summer!

All my best,
Lisa Wilson



Register now for the 90th Reunion Fall Weekend!

Join us for a weekend-long celebration of Oconto's 90th anniversary from September 19th-21st, 2014. Activities offered will include swimming, canoeing, sailing, kayaking, tennis, as well as our brand new climbing wall. Don't miss out on this chance to relive your favourite camp memories with some of your oldest friends. It will be an event to remember!

To register, visit the alumnae section of our website, listed below:

http://www.campoconto.com/html/90th_anniversary_weekend.html

To purchase a copy of the Camp Oconto Memory book, created by Kristy Griffiths in celebration of the Oconto's 90th Reunion, please be in touch with our office at 613-375-6678.

SIGN UP TODAY AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

OCONTO CAMBERSHIP FUND



The Oconto Campership Fund was created to help girls that have previously attended Oconto and are for whatever reason, be it family illness, job loss or divorce, no longer able to afford the cost of camp. Each year, funds collected from alumnae go to subsidize two or three campers to return to camp. As we all know, Oconto can become a cornerstone of a young person's life, and to take Oconto away at such a tumultuous and difficult time could be devastating to the individual. The campership fund exists to avoid that situation and it is your contributions that make it possible.

To donate to the fund or to purchase a limited edition Oconto Wooden Cheese Board with proceeds benefitting the fund, please call our summer office at 613-375-6678.

Tax receipts are available for any donation over \$10.00!

Included below is a letter from a former Oconto girl that attended camp for many years, including two summers that were made possible by the Oconto Campership Fund.

The years between 1998 and 2000 were tough for my older sister and me. She and I had witnessed the divorce of our parents. We moved away from the family home that we had known our whole lives. We had to balance living in two new homes as we moved back and forth between our mom and dad's. We said goodbye to all our old friends that we knew and started at new schools. Although every aspect of our family life had changed, we were still able to go to Camp Oconto for one month, something that we had done previous summers. Camp was a time that we could forget about how our family was breaking up. It was a time that we could see the friends we knew and loved. It was one thing that was a constant in a time when everything seemed to be changing around us.

*Unbeknownst to us though, my parents could no longer afford to send us to camp. In addition to the emotional losses they were experiencing, money was really tight. Thankfully, with the financial support of the Campership Fund, my sister and I could continue our summers at camp. I am so grateful for the Campership Fund. I am not sure what my summers would have consisted of were I not able to return to Camp Oconto. I do know that without camp, **the one** constant in my life at that time, I would have felt lost and without a home.*

My years at Camp Oconto have shaped who I am today in many ways. Most obviously, my time at camp sparked my love of the outdoors. At the moment I am doing graduate research on mercury bioaccumulation in fish in Northern Ontario. The canoe trips, the swamp walks and the paddles down the Nile undoubtedly influenced this path that I have taken. The natural world is often not available to young girls, especially those living in cities. Camp is a place where girls can get their knees dirty and explore nature.

Thanks to the Campership Fund, my sister and I had a way to put aside the uncertainties and the worries that we were experiencing at home. We had a way to just be kids.

This year, we do have more campers in need than funds to cover them. If you would like to help sponsor a camper this summer, please contact Linda Ford Sutherland or send a cheque to
Oconto Campership Fund, 307-2855 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke, Ontario, M8X 3A1

KEEPING IN TOUCH

We love to hear updates from our alumnae! Please keep us in the loop on any new happenings in your life – a wedding, a new baby, a new professional endeavor or an exciting travel adventure – we would love to share with the alumnae community!



Emmett

Anne (Goodbrand) Carty and her husband Luke welcomed their first baby on February 19th, 2014. Anne reports that their son, Emmett William Carty, likes long walks on the beach and lying on his tummy. Congratulations to Anne and Luke!



Oliver

Christine Farrugia and her husband Sean Davis have also welcomed their first baby boy! Oliver Roland Davis was born on January 4th, 2014. He's obviously already got a great smile and wardrobe – congratulations to Christine and Sean!



We have received a number of wonderful photos from the 90th reunion. Please feel free to continue sending them to norahammond@gmail.com if you haven't already! We are compiling them to share with the larger alumnae community on our website. Stay tuned for updates soon!





Long time Oconto camper and staff Kate Bryson has officially become Kate Bearse! She married Peter Bearse on October 27th, 2012. Peter is a fellow camper – while Kate was attending Oconto, he was busy working at Camp Hyanto. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Bearse!

COME VISIT US

We would love for you to stop by anytime you are in the area throughout the summer. Call our office at 613-375-6678 to let us know you are stopping by. We are always happy to squeeze a few extra people in for lunch and have got wonderful staff that can take you around the property, pointing out things that may have changed since your time on Eagle Lake, and many things that I'm sure have stayed the same! Please try to schedule visits outside of our busiest days (camper arrival and departure days, visitor's day, etc!). For a list of pertinent dates, please visit our website!

ALUMNAE REGISTRATION

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 of any alumnae that are not currently registered, 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 check out our website and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

Website: www.campoconto.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/campoconto

Twitter and Instagram: @campoconto

