

OCONTO ECHO

NOVEMBER 2011



Labbett Lodge, October 2011

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Alumnae,

Fall is really flying by as the winter holiday quickly approaches! It is hard to believe that almost three months have gone by since our campers and staff packed up their trunks and headed back home to start another school year. Bruce and I have been back in Unionville for just over a month and have finally gotten the office organized and the ball rolling on summer 2012. Some of the major things we are working on include preparing for the installation of a new septic tank and researching equipment for new activities. We are very interested in the prospect of a high ropes course. No final decisions have been made yet but we will keep you posted as things progress!

Another exciting change for summer 2012 comes with the recent opening of registration for our next season; we are now accepting credit cards as a form of payment for all camper fees! This will really make it easy for parents as they register their daughters online, and save us trips to the bank with all the cheques that are usually used.

Bruce and I are looking forward to taking a small vacation over the next couple of weeks. We will be driving through the northern and midwestern United States, enjoying the scenery and taking a break from the hustle and bustle of the city and office. We have dropped our dog Joey off in Kingston to spend the time with our son Mark as he studies at Queens. We've heard word that several Oconto girls that are also studying at the university have already volunteered to be dog walkers! Bronwyn is working hard at a Corporate Social Responsibility internship with a major firm in Toronto. She just recently celebrated her 24th birthday with family and friends and is really enjoying her time in the city.

As always, it's nice to keep in touch with each of you and be able to update you on all things Oconto. I hope you will do the same, and let us know what is new and exciting in all of your lives. We love to hear from you! Enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Warmest wishes,

Lisa



The diving board will not be out again until next spring.



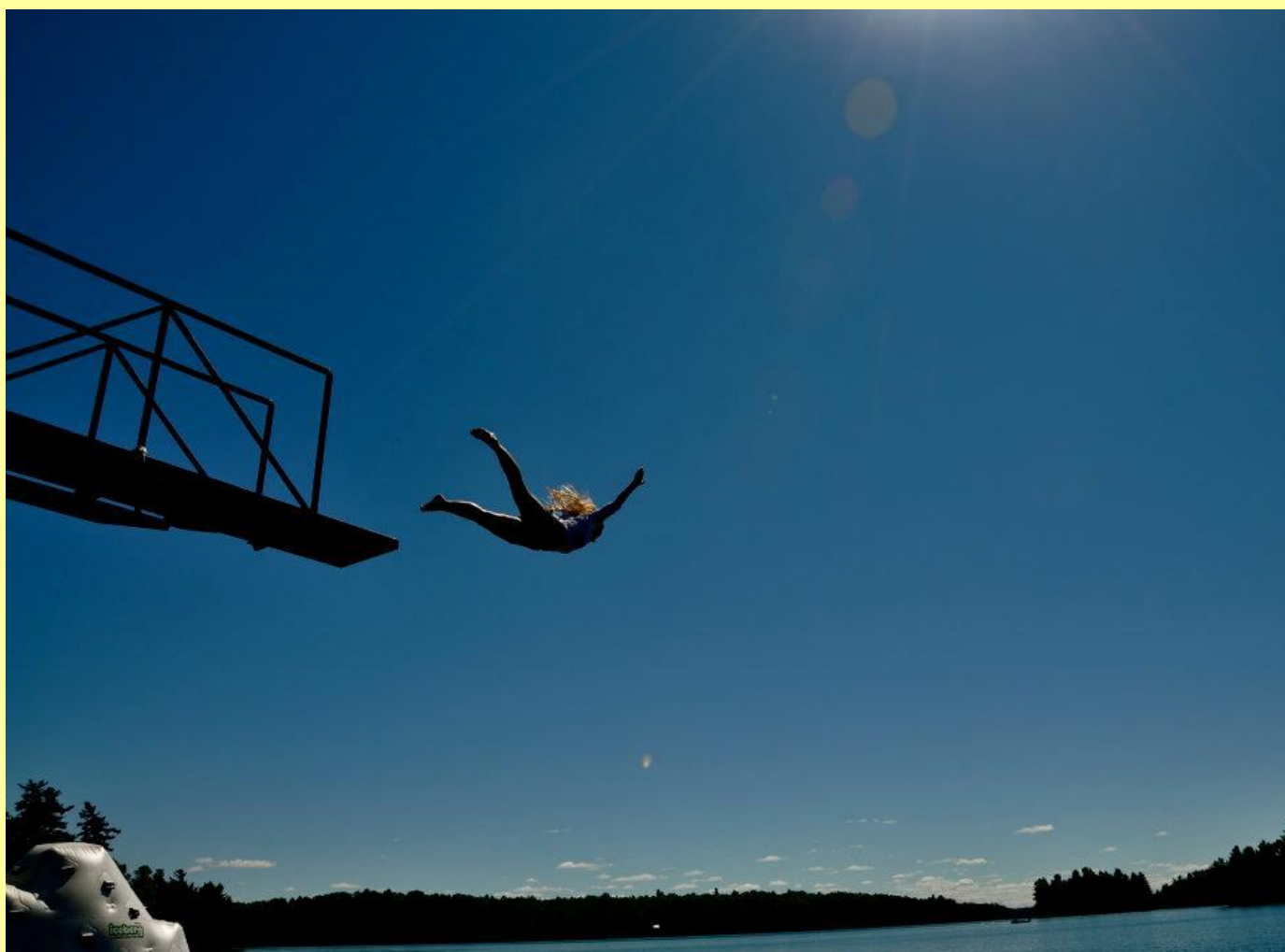
Most of the docks have been stored for the winter.



There will be plenty of raking for Work Camp 2012!

THE OCONTO CAMBERSHIP FUND

KEEPING DREAMS ALIVE



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. We appreciate your support and hope that you will think of the Oconto Campership Fund when making decisions about giving for 2012.

THE OCONTO CAMBERSHIP FUND IN ACTION

Over the years, the OCF has helped many girls continue to develop important life skills, create lasting friendships, and benefit from the experience of spending a summer outdoors. The biggest priority of the fund is to couple the financial help provided with complete anonymity. Camp staff and other campers are kept completely unaware of a person's involvement with the fund, so that each girl can dive into camp as excited, confident and care free as her cabin mates.

Keeping this in mind, we would like to share with you the stories of a few girls that have benefitted from the Oconto Campership Fund over the years. The first is a young girl that first attended camp with one of her closest friends from home. The two are inseparable throughout the year and have enjoyed several summers under the sun, making new friends and pushing themselves to try new things and acquire new skills. Although timid at first, camp brings out the best in this young woman, giving her an environment in which she feels comfortable letting loose and speaking her mind.

Another recipient of the OCF is a true success story: after several years spent as a camper, during which she really broke out of her shell, she continued on at camp as a valued staff member. She successfully completed the QC and Semi programs and went on to become a counsellor and activity head. Throughout her time as staff, she never took a day at camp for granted and was praised for both her competency in leadership and her creativity. She was well loved by campers and staff alike and proved herself to be a capable, fun-loving counsellor.

The Oconto Campership Fund has helped to shape the lives of these two young woman and many more! Please help us to continue this tradition by donating.

How to Donate

Please make cheques out to The Oconto Campership Fun and send them to:

Linda Ford Sutherland
2855 Bloor St. W, Suite 307
Toronto, ON
M8X 3A1

KEEPING IN TOUCH



Susie Cruess (Semi of 1999) recently became Susie Ammerman! She met her husband, Rob Ammerman in Ottawa. Throughout their relationship, Rob has been able to spend quite a bit of time on Eagle Lake at the Cruess family cottage and is well versed in all things Tichborne. He proposed on the Rideau Canal during an evening skate last winter, and the two were married in Halifax, Nova Scotia on October 1, 2011. They currently live in Ottawa, and look forward to honeymooning in Thailand for three weeks.

Congratulations Susie and Rob!

HAVE YOU GOT NEWS TO SHARE?

Please keep us informed! Send any and all updates to info@campoconto.com, along with a picture and you could be in the next issue of the Echo!

CLOSING THOUGHTS



Four of the 2011 Section Heads and I deflating the Ice Berg on the last day of camp.

One of my favourite parts of being a Camp Director is allowing young woman a space in which to be completely comfortable and carefree, away from the stresses of boys, school, media image and more. At Oconto, we encourage wacky, out of the ordinary, creative behaviour every single day and hope that our girls can go home at the end of the summer bringing with them a sense of lightness that comes with being true to yourself. I am lucky to have a life and a job that allows me to have fun every single day, and I hope that you are fortunate enough to have the same.

I hope you enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. We will be toasting to all of you at our annual Staff Christmas Party, and will be sure to keep you updated on all things Oconto in the new year!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!