

THE WINDERMERE GAZETTE

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VILLAGE?

- **Windermere House** - Lots of things happening at WH. Stop in for a drink or meal at one of their lovely dining options.
 - **Windermere Pub & Patio** - Lunch & Dinner - patio open weather permitting. Reservations on Open Table
 - 12pm - 10pm Sunday - Thursday
 - 12pm - 11pm Friday & Saturday
 - **The Rosseau**, upscale dining, beautiful setting 7 days/week - 12-9pm **until Sept. 20th** After that - **Thursday, - Sunday - 5 - 9pm until October 11**
 - **The Trading Post** - Artisanal goods & produce, charcuterie, souvenirs and more.
 - **Spa at Windermere** - Daily 9am - 6pm
- **Windermere Marina** - 9am - 5pm until Labour Day. After Labour Day - Thurs. - Sat. 9-5 Sunday 10 - 5. Hiring for next year!! Will train now for next year. Great summer jobs!
- **Windermere Golf Club** - Open to all for lunch and dinner throughout the season at **Iron and Strings Restaurant**. -Sunday 11 - 7, **"Wing Night"** -every Thursday.
- **Windermere Garden Centre** Mon.-Fri. - 8 - 5, Sat & Sun - CLOSED Call for delivery
- **Taylor Farms** - Mon - Fri, 7am - 6pm. Sat. 9am - 5pm. CLOSED Sunday. Great Cappuccino and Lattes at the cafe! **More details at taylorfarms.ca/market. Or email strawberries@taylorfarms.ca**
- **Lagree by the Lake** - Fitness Studio right in Windermere. Friday - Sunday. Open until Thanksgiving. **lagreebythelake.com** for exact hours and classes.

Windermere Lions Club is offering a bottle drop off for your recyclables - this is part of their fundraising for all the great things they do for the community and beyond. Drop off at Taylor Farms.

- **Christ Church Windermere** - services Sunday at 10:30am. Welcome all.
- **Windermere United Church** -services Sunday at 10:30am. Check out "Upcoming Events" for Taize & meditation schedule.

Muskoka's Wooden Boat Legacy

This week's article of historical interest is **Part 4 of 4** articles that we are sharing over the summer, thanks to this fascinating submission by **Ian Turnbull**, a Muskoka Classic Boat "enthusiast" (& somewhat of an expert). These were written by Ian for **"Classicboat"** - the quarterly magazine of **ACBS-Toronto** (Antique & Classic Boat Society - Toronto).

Unique trips meant adventures. Dunn's Pavilion (now The Kee to Bala) on Lake Muskoka was far from Wigwagan Lodge on Lake Rosseau, but we took fully loaded Wiggy III & IV on a dark foggy night to see Louis Armstrong in July 1962. Pete Hill was head launchman in Wiggy IV. He could find his way anywhere anytime on all three Lakes by dead reckoning. In Wiggy III that night I gratefully followed Pete's stern light home in the fog of the wee hours of the morning.

Every summer we had a staff party at Natural Park at the top of Little Lake Joseph. With Wiggy III and IV filled with staff, wiener roast makings and appropriate beverages, we would make the journey in the gathering darkness from the Lodge up the Joseph River to the Park (now private property). It featured a flat rock lookout high above a perfect little lake that reflected the moon. The journey back meant threading the River one more time, arriving home about 2 AM.

We had challenges. When the wind fetched hard from the south it was tough to insert Wiggy III's 32' of fine mahogany into her narrow slip perpendicular to the rolling waves. We debated technique. Do you gauge drift slipping downwind aiming for the slip and hope you hit it right? Or do you power upwind in tight quarters against the wind into the slip? Mostly we made it, with hard reverses arresting high speed. Maybe that's why by the end of the season the engines in the boats tended to slide a little fore and aft on their mountings when shifting between forward and reverse. That action had the complicating effect of advancing or retarding the throttle at the worst possible moment in the landing. Thus we learned how to drive wooden boats.

Rigorous weekday schedules led to necessary repairs Saturday evenings during the dances, which sometimes proved a problem. Back then the boats had Babbitt bearings in the struts rather than the rubber bearings of today. As the cruising hours added up, the shudder of the shaft in reverse would tell us it was time to pour fresh bearings in the two struts. We would put the boat backwards in the slip, lift her stern on a belt leaving the bow floating, stand on the bottom under the boat and go through the process of changing the Babbitt using a blowtorch and other paraphernalia. We found that pouring Babbitt bearings did not go well with the bunny hops in the dance hall overhead. 100+ bunny hopping people set the boathouse hopping on its old cribs, along with the launch on the belt, all in unison. It's hard to pour liquid Babbitt in a strut on the bottom of a hopping boat.

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have a community event to announce, let us know!

Muskoka Arts and Crafts at the Village Hall!

Open weekends only until Thanksgiving.

Sept 16th @ 7:30pm @ Windermere United Church *"Peace and Presence in Taizé Tradition"* -

Sept. 20th - Terry Fox Run -
Registration @ 9am, Start @ 10am
Windermere Community Centre

Sept 10, October 8th @ 7:30pm
Windermere United Church is holding
Mindfulness Meditation in the Zen Buddhism tradition.

Oct. 1st - The **"Garden Club"** meeting at
Windermere Garden Centre - FREE for all
you interested gardeners.

30th annual Christmas Craft Sale,
Saturday November 14th 2026 at the
Ullswater Hall

9am - 3pm

Call Darlene to become a vendor @
705-380-3588 or email @ jdpoirier@live.com

The Terry Fox Run

Sunday, September 20th

10am - 12pm

Registration starts at 9am.

Windermere Community Centre

Submissions, content, or to subscribe
windermeregazette@icloud.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police - Non-Emergency 705-645-2211

Fire Department 705-765-3156

District of Muskoka Office 705-645-2100

By-Law Office Township 705-765-3156

Wharf Master 705-769-3611

Windermere Golf Club 705-769-3381

Windermere Marina 705-769-3661

Windermere House 705-769-3611

Taylor Farms 705-769-2368

Windermere Garden Centre 705-769-3238

Archives windermereandareaarchives@gmail.com

Lions Club - windermereclubmuskoka@gmail.com

Sunday mornings after bunny hops were times for reflection on the church cruise to Morinus. Beautiful St John's Church still graces the shore there. The hotel boats that gathered on Thursdays at Llanlar found themselves together again. The dock was filled with churchgoers' boats so we rafted offshore swapping tales while our guests were at worship.

By the mid 70's, their work done, hotel boats retired to private boathouses with less rigorous duties. When you see them cruising on the lake or dockside at a boat show, think about their stories and remember the joy they have imparted to so many over the last century.

Thank you to the Muskoka Arts and Crafts

for their summer presence in our Village Hall. It became a hub and creative epicentre, a gathering place to see amazing artisans, for children to participate in creative art programs, and an open door to some of Windermere's heritage and history.

They will continue to operate their gallery and boutique at the Village Hall on weekends only until Thanksgiving Weekend. The organization would like to express their gratitude to both the year round and seasonal residents for their generous support of this pilot project. If you have any feedback you would like to share with the organization as they plan for next year, please reach out to Miranda at

info@muskokaartsandcrafts.com

Mark your calendars! August 6th - 15th, 2027

The Muskoka Chautauqua Arts & Culture Festival will be back!

As we look back on this year's festival, it brought together artists, performers, authors, families, volunteers, visitors, and our wonderful Muskoka community for days filled with creativity, connection, and unforgettable experiences.

We're already looking forward to next summer!

The Gazette will not be publishing for the following two weeks.

We will be back September 30th and October 7th!