

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
 - Until June 15th - 12pm - 10pm, weekdays
 - Weekends - 12pm - 11pm
 - After June 15th - 12pm - 11pm weekdays,
 - Weekends 12pm - midnight
 - Live music - Fri.&Sat. 7-10pm
 - **The Rosseau**, upscale dining, beautiful setting 7 days/week - 5-9pm. As of June 26th - 7 days/week - 12 - 9pm
 - **High Tea** returns June 28th - a timeless tradition
 - **The Trading Post** - Artisanal goods & produce, charcuterie, souvenirs and more.
 - **Spa at Windermere** - Daily 9am - 6pm
- **Windermere Marina** - Thur., Fri, Sat. 9am - 5pm.
- **Windermere Golf Club** - Open to the public until June 25th. Open to all for lunch and dinner throughout the season at **Iron and Strings Restaurant**. - "**Wing Night**" - every Thursday with live entertainment.
- **Windermere Garden Centre** Mon.-Fri. - 8 - 5, Sat - 9 - 5, Sun 10 - 4
- **Taylor Farms** - Mon - Fri, 7am - 6pm. Sat. 9am - 5pm. Closed Sun. Great Cappuccino and Lattes at the cafe!
More details at taylorfarms.ca/market.
Or email strawberries@taylorfarms.ca

• **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.

Ice Cream Scoopers and gas attendants WANTED

@ the Windermere Marina!

A summer of fun!! Must be 16 years old.

E-mail Sherry @ windermere@muskokamarinas.ca

- **Christ Church Windermere** - services Sunday at 10:30am. Welcome all.
Strawberry Social - June 27th - 1 - 4pm
- **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 1 of 4** articles that we will share over the summer, thanks to this fascinating submission by Ian Turnbull, a recognized authority on Muskoka's wooden boat legacy. These were written by Ian for "**Classicboat**" - the quarterly magazine of **ACBS-Toronto** (Antique & Classic Boat Society - Toronto). As Windermere finds it's way into some of the legacy of the wooden boats in Muskoka, we thought our readers would enjoy this comprehensive overview.

Part 1 - by Ian Turnbull

Muskoka's hotels flourished from the turn of the last century until the late '60s. Most are gone, but many of the boats that squired their guests about the lakes are happily still with us. Imagine the guests' experience - cruising sedately in a long stable displacement craft amongst the islands of the lakes and along the rivers that connected them. If the boats could talk, their stories would be rich.

Amongst the first of Muskoka's hotel boats was 36' **Heather Belle**, built in 1890 in New Jersey, sold into Canada in 1902 and purchased in 1914 by George Thorel to serve the guests of Thorel House located near Morinus on Lake Rosseau not far from Minett. She served in that capacity until the hotel closed in the late '60s.

In December 1915 Captain Henry Wallace of Minett signed a contract with Ditchburn Boats for a purpose-built hotel boat. The contract stipulated \$50 payments on January 15 and March 1, 1916, plus \$500 when the boat was ready for delivery, with 'the balance to be paid September 1, 1916 after delivery of the motor boat afloat and complete in all respects.' Contract value excluding the motor was \$1041 for a 36' launch, with 3/4" cypress planking 'evenly matched for colour and grain, to be put on in long lengths with joints well distributed and broken.' He named the boat after his daughter **Viola**. Business must have been good because in 1929 Captain Wallace again contracted with Ditchburn to custom build the 38' 'livery boat' **Lady Elgin**, while his son Bruce took over operation of **Viola**. Both boats worked into the 1970s and since then have lived more sedate lives in private hands.

Sevlo is a 37' Ditchburn built in 1932 owned by Severn Lodge. Since 1946 and to this day she carries Lodge guests on the waters of Gloucester Pool near Port Severn.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Muskoka Arts and Crafts at the Village Hall!

Open Weekends until the end of June, 10am - 4pm and then 6 days a week for July and August.

June 10th @ 7:30pm @ Windermere United Church - *Zen Buddhist Meditation* group, led by Scott Morris, following the traditions of Thich Nhat Hanh (**also July 9th & August 6th**)

June 11th - Wing Night (every Thursday) - WG&CC

June 27th - "Strawberry Social" at Christ Church Windermere, 1-4pm at the church

July 13th - "Grand opening" of the Village Playground - All are welcome!! **Name the Bear contest**...more details coming soon!

July 15th @ 6:30pm @ Windermere United Church "*Peace and Presence in Taize Tradition*" - (**also August 12th**)

August 7 - 16

The Muskoka Chautauqua Festival A great line up of music, art, literary and kids events - watch for their flyers. Stay tuned for additional details here....(a few of the events...)

August 8th - CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR! **August 9th** - Caroline Marie Brooks

August 10 - Toronto All-Star Big Band

August 11 - Maggie's Wake

August 12 - Candlelit Taize

August 13 - The Muskoka Philharmonic Orchestra

August 14 - Beverly, Charlie & Friends

August 15th - Northern Lights Steel Orchestra

June 21st and once per month for the summer, our two churches will be holding joint worship services - to be held @ Christ Church.

July 26th - The churches are holding a joint outdoor worship service at the Wharf.

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 windermere@ar2lions.ca

By the 1940s Wigwassan Lodge on Tobin Island near Windermere had two Ditchburns. The hotel accommodated 225 guests and had 60 staff. 36' **Wigwassan IV** was built in 1916 for a cottager on Mazengah Island, Lake Rosseau. 31' **Wigwassan III** was built in 1924 for a cottager on nearby Skeleton Bay. The launches worked steadily day and night shuttling guests between the Lodge and Windermere, as well as cruising all three Lakes to far flung destinations - Port Carling for shopping and summer theatre; Santa's Village near Bracebridge; Dunn's Dance Pavilion in Bala; Cleveland's House dances twice weekly; and Natural Park on Little Lake Joseph for staff parties. Wigwassan closed in 1966. **Wigwassan IV** went to Temagami and **Wigwassan III** simply moved a little south on Tobin Island to her new home where she lives to this day.

Windermere was port of call for the Lodge and for **Viola** as Windermere House provided a steady supply of passengers. To compete, Basil Veitch of Windermere Marina acquired a 38' 1921 Ditchburn as a livery boat to offer cruises and deliver islanders to their cottages. He named her **Shirl Evon** after his daughters Shirley and Yvonne.

Come and Go built by Bert Minett in 1912 began life as a private launch belonging to the Mellon family of Squirrel Island on Lake Muskoka before becoming a livery boat for Beaumaris Marina. In 1918 Bert built 36' **Mineta** for Cleveland's House founded by his parents in 1869 in Minett. Thus the boat's name.

Remarkably, at an average age of 108 years, eight of the nine boats mentioned above are still cruising Muskoka's lakes, fortunate and secure in the care of responsible stewards.

The next articles in this series will delve into some of the stories the boats would tell, if they could.

