

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 - 11pm weekdays, Weekends 12pm - midnight
 - Live music - Fri.&Sat. 7-10pm
 - **The Rosseau**, upscale dining, beautiful setting 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** NEW HOURS! - 7 days a week - 9am - 5pm.
- **Windermere Golf Club** - Open to all for lunch and dinner throughout the season at **Iron and Strings Restaurant**. - "**Wing Night**" - every Thursday with live entertainment. **Tuesday night is Euchre Night!**
- **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
- **Lagree by the Lake** - Fitness Studio right in Windermere. Check out lagreebythelake.com for 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.

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.
- **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 2 of 4** articles that we will share 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). 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.

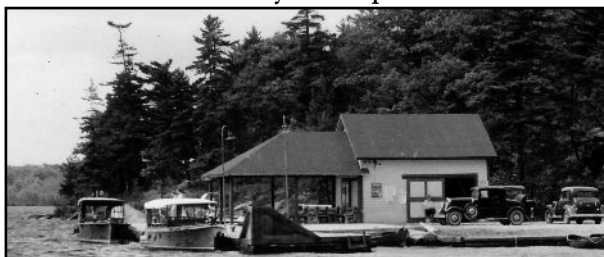
As a cottager kid in the '50s on the Indian River, I'd see and hear hotel boats heading downstream to Port Carling, morning and night. Viola was distinctive with her purring flathead V8 and a white hull topped with flush turquoise decks. Lady Elgin was haughty in comparison, her deck raised above a big Kermath engine and throwing a rooster-tail wake when she had a full load of about 25 passengers.

The '60s arrived and I got lucky with a job as a launchman at Wigwassan Lodge on Tobin Island near Windermere on Lake Rosseau. Wiggy was my home for six magical summers. The magic was the island location, fun-loving staff and guests, constant action, sunny days, summer nights, and more than anything - wooden boats. They were the 24/7 connection to the mainland at Windermere, for the to and fro of guests, incoming supplies (food goods, mail, and beer), and most importantly - cruising to the far reaches of Lakes Rosseau, Joseph and Muskoka. We lived in the boats. And we loved them.

We launchmen lived in rooms adjacent to the boats in the boathouse under the dance hall. There were two launches and a pontoon freight boat in the working fleet. The freight 'boat' was an inglorious pontoon affair powered by a balky Buccaneer 25 hp outboard engine. We used it to transport everything from gravel to lumber to propane tanks to food goods to beer. The beauties though were Wigwassan III and Wigwassan IV. We called them Wiggy III and Wiggy IV. They were workhorse 'hotel boats' for transport of guests and staff. We'd carry up to 15 people in Wiggy III and 18 in Wiggy IV.

Both launches had cockpits forward. We packed them with luggage for arriving and departing guests. Navy tops were up and down according to the weather. Large life rings on the aft decks provided an official aura. We spent hours in the boats from dawn till early morning the next day.

Milk run to Windermere was daily before 7 AM to pick up fresh milk from Windermere Dairy. We were supposed to use the pontoon boat for the milk run but that meant getting the Buccaneer to go, standing in the open in the morning weather, and plodding across the lake on a plywood platform attached to pontoons. Or we could turn the key in a Ditchburn, sit comfortably behind the windshield with a mahogany deck out front, load the milk crates in the front cockpit and cruise in style. We preferred the latter.



If you missed **Part 1** of this series, you can find it in Volume 2 of this year's Gazette - June 10th

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Muskoka Arts and Crafts at the Village Hall!
Open 6 days a week for July and August.

July 26th, The churches are holding a community outdoor church service under the tents at 1018 Fife Rd. Come join us!..

July 31st @ WGCC @ 7:30 - Taryn Rose performing live

August 12th & Sept 16th @ 7:30pm @ Windermere United Church *"Peace and Presence in Taizé Tradition"* -

August 7 - 16

The Muskoka Chautauqua Festival -

Great line up of music, art, literary and kids events Stay tuned for additional details here....Evening highlights:

August 7th - Rising Stars- Singers Songwriters

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 Taizé

August 13 - The Muskoka Philharmonic Orchestra

August 14 - Beverlie & Friends

August 15th - Northern Lights Steel Orchestra

August 16th - Family Fun Day

Every Friday all summer long!!
The Windermere and District Lions Club
will be hosting their fabulous BBQ!
On the Wharf - 11:30am - 2:00pm

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

Daily schedules were filled with variety. Monday mornings meant loading the guests' children and minder staff for the two-hour voyage from the Lodge through Port Carling and down Lake Muskoka to Santa's Village on the Muskoka River near Bracebridge. Wiggy IV was the preferred vessel, mostly because she had a large engine room. After delivering the kids to Santa's Village, we'd cruise a few more miles up the River to the public wharf at Bracebridge, hail a cab and head for the beer store. Guest and staff orders were filled, the cab loaded and our precious cargo transferred to Wiggy IV's engine room. Arriving back at the Lodge late afternoon, tiny tots and bubbly brew were warmly welcomed home. (Stay tuned for Part 3 of 4 - in another Volume of the Gazette this summer!)



**Our
Playground
Bear has a
name!!**

"Windy Bear"

Drop by to say hi! Have lunch at the golf club or the Windermere Pub. Bring a picnic!



The series continues!!

**"Treasured Islands
The Next Generation!"**

The stories of Muskoka's Islands and Islanders

Looking for stories, pictures & drawings from
"THE NEXT GENERATION"

Traditions • History • Comedy
Mystery • Making Memories

Submit by January, 2027 to
boatkathyv@gmail.com

Publish date - July, 2027

Chautauqua's "Creative Kids"

At the Village Hall

Monday - Friday until August 5th - Muskoka 10am - 12pm
(Arts and crafts for kids ages 4 - 12)

August 8th...mark your calendar, buy your tickets!
CHOIR!CHOIR!CHOIR!

at the Chautauqua Festival!

An EPIC 80s Sing-Along!

Belt out the hits with **Choir! Choir! Choir!** A fun, interactive live music experience! All voices welcome, no experience necessary.

They Teach, You Sing! Everyone Wins!

BUYTICKETS Or visit the Chautauqua Festival website