

THE WINDERMERE GAZETTE

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE VILLAGE?

- **Windermere celebrates 100 years since incorporation.** It was founded in 1870, but in 1924, under the leadership of Henry Longhurst, the village applied for independent village status with the government of Ontario. Longhurst became the first Reeve (Mayor) of Windermere.
- **Windermere House** - Open year round. Stop in for a drink or meal at one of their lovely dining options.
 - **Windermere Pub & Patio** - Open 7 days a week: 12pm-10pm, late night menu from 9-10pm
 - **The Rosseau** - Open Saturday and Sunday 12 to 9pm, Thursdays & Fridays 5-9pm
Closed - Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
 - **The Trading Post is open!** Artisanal goods and produce, charcuterie, souvenirs and more.
- **Windermere Marina** - **OFF-SEASON hours as follows:**
Thursday - Sunday 9am - 5pm
- **Windermere Golf Club** - open to the public
Restaurant hours:
Sun. - Wed. - 11am - 6pm
Thurs. - Sat. - 11am - 9pm
Wing night - Thursday 5pm
- **Windermere Garden Centre**
Mon.-Fri. - 8 - 5, Sat - 9 - 5, Sun 10 - 4
Lots of fall specials going on. Visit them!!
- **Taylor Farms** - Mon - Fri, 7am - 6pm. Sat. 9am - 5pm. Closed Sun. **Order fresh Turkey for Thanksgiving while supplies last.** Lots of strawberries, raspberries and corn available. Open until Thanksgiving.
- **Christ Church Windermere** - services Sunday at 10:30am
- **Windermere United Church** - services Sunday at 10:30am -
(The church is closed from November - April - Evergreen Pastoral Charge worships at Raymond Hall Sundays @ 10:30 am.)

HELP SAVE OUR COMMUNITY HALLS!

The Township of Muskoka Lakes is currently determining what we need in the community and how best to deliver that with finite funds. Community halls have been eyed as a drain on the budget, especially as they age and need renovations and repair. There is talk that some should fold to support larger facilities such as arenas and recreational complexes.

They fail to understand that each of these halls and community centres serve as vital community hubs, housing activities and essential services that would otherwise be difficult for many, especially vulnerable seniors, to access given the traveling distances in our township. That is why small rural halls exist and why community volunteers spend numerous hours supporting these treasured spaces.

These halls provide social connection, a sense of belonging and community and free WiFi. We gather, celebrate, play, learn, collaborate, receive support, do business, fundraisers, and pay our respects in them. They also provide affordable rental space for public and private events, meetings and special occasions - online booking at muskokalakes.ca/en/recreation/community-centres.aspx

Each hall is unique, reflecting the history, interest and specific needs of the communities they represent and serve.

WINDERMERE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Originally the Windermere Public School, built in 1913. It still retains the elements of the one-room schoolhouse with chalkboard, school lights and requisite piano. It received a "Muskoka Build Heritage Award" in 2002, and in 2009 the local Women's Institute founded the Windermere and Area Archives, which operates in its basement. Both the WI and the Lion's Club use the building as their home base, as does the annual Terry Fox Run fundraiser and the Christ Church's Strawberry Social.



WINDERMERE VILLAGE HALL

Originally the village's council hall, it was built in 1953, complete with walk in vault for municipal records. It served as a public washroom and meeting place until activities were transferred to the larger Windermere Community Centre.



It was refurbished/renovated by the Women's Institute and Lion's Club to create a rental venue for local artisans and events. Rentals continue to this day. July 5th 2024, the Windermere and Area Archives held a historical photo exhibit in the hall to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Village's incorporation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Sept. 27th - Mitch Beube**
@ Windermere House
- **Sept. 28th- Jake Dudas.**
@Windermere House
- **October 5th, 7 - 9pm - @**
Windermere United Church
Music Night Fundraiser - Live
foot-tapping music featuring the
Creasors, Kuepfers & Balodis.
*We will also have desserts! Bid on an
original painting of our beautiful church
from local artist - Marilyn Goslin. Check
out her FB page soon for an early peek.*
**All donations support Windermere
United Church**
- **October 13th - 11am-3pm -**
Thanksgiving Brunch @ Windermere
House in The Rosseau dining room.
Reserve Now - 705-769-3611
- **Wednesdays at the Ullswater
Hall - Games Night - 7-9pm**
Board Games, Cards, etc. Come
meet your neighbours!

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**
windermereandareaarchive@gmail.com
- **Lions Club**
windermere@ar2lions.ca

**Vendors
Wanted**
for the
**28th
Christmas
Craft Sale**
Ullswater
Hall
November
16th
For more
information
call Darlene -
705-769-3830

RAYMOND HALL

The oldest purpose-built hall in the area, the Raymond Hall was built in 1921 at the urging of the Women's Institute and drew 450 people at their opening Fowl Supper. It was a popular venue for country dances, Christmas concerts and Halloween costume parties. Nowadays it offers bid euchre/poker, a photography club, potluck dinners, community appreciation breakfasts and winter church services. It is also used as a warming centre and social/coffee/luncheon club.

**ULLSWATER HALL**

Built in 1960 for the Ullswater Women's Institute, it was operated by the community until the township took over in 2002 and set up a satellite library in its basement. In 2009 the building was deemed unsafe due to critical roof and accessibility issues and risked being permanently closed. The tremendous community activism enabled the hall to be saved. It offers game nights, exercise classes, potluck dinners, district senior's programs, CPR training, Christmas Crafts Sale and a Children's Christmas party with Santa Claus.



We need your help to let the township know how invaluable our halls and community centres are. Please complete their **survey** by visiting

<https://engagemuskokalakes.ca>

and select the "**Asset Management Levels of Services Study**" Page. You may need to register first via a link at the top of the Engage Muskoka Lakes page.

A very Happy 100th Birthday to Ella Raciot (Bilz)!

Born in Sprucedale on September 28th, 1924 to Elizabeth and Harry Bilz along with siblings Howard, Mabel, Eva, Norman, Gladys, Harold and Edwin.

Ella moved to Windermere as a young child, going to the one-room schoolhouse, S.S.#5, later known as Windermere Public School. Moving to Toronto in her late teens, with her sister Gladys, she worked at Herman Furs in the 50's & 60's on Spadina Avenue as a receptionist and coat model.

Ella married the love of her life, James Raciot and had one daughter, Anne. They lived in Rexdale for many years. Ella and Jim retired back to Beatrice in 1990 where she resides today.

Best wishes Ella from your friends and family!

