

# 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** - Lots of things happening at WH this summer. Check out all the changes that have been made over the winter. Stop in for a drink or meal at one of their lovely dining options.
  - **Windermere Pub & Patio** - Lunch & Dinner served 7 days/wk. Enjoy the entertainment -Fri.&Sat. 7-10pm
  - **The Rosseau** - upscale dining in a beautiful setting. Open 7 days/week - 12 to 9pm
  - **High Tea** - Sundays in summer, 2-4pm
  - **The Trading Post is open!** Artisanal goods and produce, charcuterie, souvenirs and more.
- **Windermere Marina** -open - Sun.-Thur. 9am - 5pm, Fri, Sat. 9am - 6pm.
- **Windermere Golf Club** - private golf club for July & August. Open to all for lunch and dinner throughout the season.
  - **"Wing Night"** -every Thursday with live entertainment.
  - **"Euchre Night"** every Tuesday @ 5:45pm - \$25 includes dinner.
  - **"Brunch"** - every Sunday 10am - 1pm - open to all
- **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!!
  - **Farm to Table Summer Produce Box** - Sign up for one week or all summer - 7-10 items - fruit and veggies - local Ontario. -Small or Large Box. Order by 6pm on a Sunday. Pick up at Taylor Farms on Thursdays, Crossfit in Port Carling on Thursday, or Bracebridge on Wednesday. **More details at [taylorfarms.ca/market](http://taylorfarms.ca/market).** Or email [strawberries@taylorfarms.ca](mailto:strawberries@taylorfarms.ca)
- **Christ Church Windermere** -services Sunday at 10:30am
- **Windermere United Church** -services Sunday at 10:30am

## With the summer season just started, we thought it timely to share the following article submitted by Marcia Shortreed

Marcia Hill Shortreed was the daughter of a clergy family that served Christ Church Windermere in the 40s and 50s and stayed in the Clergy Cottage. The family built a summer cottage on Florence Island in 1956. Marcia worked at Windermere House during her undergraduate years at Western. In the 70s she and husband John Shortreed also built on Florence. They are parents of Susan, Sarah, Jennifer and Megan and have 6 grandchildren.

### FIRE!

Church bells had been used for more than the regular Sunday morning call to worship in the early and mid twentieth century in Windermere. Rung at odd hours, they warned the village of a fire. People came running with their buckets to help. The family at the Anglican Clergy Cottage were blithely unaware of a fire in their backyard until two villagers pushed the car out of the driveway. Burley TiCats players staying at The Baldwins were suddenly carrying all the furniture out of the house. The cedar hedge behind the cottage was gone.

It had apparently grown so tall it scraped the power line above it.

One night, very late, the little white United Church burned down, again the fire bell rang and everyone rushed to help. Too little, too late. The church was rebuilt with the lovely stonework we see today.

Windermere marina lost its big boathouse and repair shops, but that was in the winter when bellringers were not available. Then there was the big one: Windermere House, also a winter fire. By now there was a fire department in Windermere made up of valiant volunteers with real equipment. But the hotel fire required the help of brigades from Port Carling and Bracebridge. It too, was rebuilt, better than the old.

So be careful of fire folks. Do you really need that marshmallow roast or fireworks at your wedding. The forest is usually dry and we have a lot of trees.

## And for historical reference to the above article, it seems appropriate to share the story of the Windermere House Fire.

In February 1996, tragedy struck at Windermere House during the filming of the Hollywood movie, The Long Kiss Goodnight. During the shooting of a night scene, a room on the second floor burst into flames. Windermere firemen tried desperately to control it, but there was a light freezing rain that turned the roads into a sheet of ice. It took hours before other fire departments could get there. Fortunately there was no wind and it burned straight down. No other buildings in the village were affected. By morning, only the stone work and fireplaces remained.

A petition asking owners to restore the historical building was distributed and response came from all over North America. That summer, boaters were lost on the lake without the hotel for navigation. In 1997, 15 months after the fire, Windermere House re-opened - looking the same, only fresher.



Many thanks to the **Windermere Garden Centre** who have so kindly offered to supply and plant the flowers in the planter on the pier!

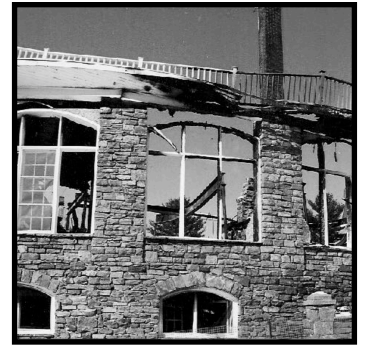
## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 4th** - Wing night with entertainment... Taryn Rose performing @ WGCC.
- **July 5th** - Sawyer Lance @ Windermere House
- **July 6th** - Klinsvin @ Windermere House
- **July 9th & every Tuesday @ 5:45pm** - Euchre Night @ WGCC - \$25 - includes dinner
- **Every Friday for the summer**, a lunchtime BBQ at the Windermere Wharf - in support of the Windermere and District Lions Club.
- **July 5th** - Windermere Anniversary Celebration - Village Hall 11am - 4pm
- **July 13th - 11 - 2** = BBQ at Taylor Farms
- **August 10th** - Christ Church @ 7pm in the Garden- 120 years Anniversary Celebration! -

Submissions, content, or to subscribe  
[windermeregazette@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:windermereandareaarchive@gmail.com)
- **Lions Club**  
[windermere@ar2lions.ca](mailto:windermere@ar2lions.ca)



"It was really sad", said Russ Boychuk (Windermere resident and a previous director of WH). The only thing that survived was all of the stonework, the veranda, and the foundation. It was all wood and there were no fire stops. The first, second and third floors there'd be long vertical beams with nothing in-between to stop. These days, there's fire stops every eight feet. When the place went up, it just travelled the whole three stories and skipped from room to room through the rafters. Nothing could be saved."

**Friday, July 5th - 11:00 - 4:00**

**at The Village Hall**

## The Windermere Anniversary Celebration

**1924 - 2024**

**100 years since incorporation**

Let's Celebrate! Learn more about the village. Plans for the next 100 years? Your voice counts!

The Archives of the Windermere Women's Institute will be showcasing some of Windermere's history, as well as the occasion of incorporation 100 years ago.

Live Music      Lions Club BBQ      Souvenirs  
 Cake      Community Feedback Opportunities

**And special guest speakers @ 1:00pm**

Allen Edwards (councillor), Peter Kelley (mayor) and Graydon Smith (MPP) will be there to help celebrate this event.

**Volunteers needed for the Windermere Family Fun Day - August 11th.**  
 E-mail - [mci@artsinmuskoka.com](mailto:mci@artsinmuskoka.com)