

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** - Open 7 days a week - 12pm - midnight
 - **The Rosseau** - upscale dining in a beautiful setting. Open 7 days/wk - 12 - 9pm
 - **Smokehouse BBQ Packages** - pre-order for pick up at WH
 - **Trading Post!** Artisanal goods & produce, charcuterie, souvenirs & more.
 - **The Spa at Windermere House** spa@windermerehouse.com
- **Windermere Marina** - Open Labour Day Monday 10am - 4pm. Effective Thursday, Sept 4th - Open Thursday through Sundays 9 - 5pm until Thanksgiving.
- **Windermere Golf Club** - Open to the public from September 3rd - October 11th
- **Windermere Garden Centre** Mon.-Fri. - 8 - 5, Sat - 9 - 5, Sun - Closed.
Lots of specials!
- **Taylor Farms** - Mon - Fri, 7am - 6pm. Sat. 9am - 5pm. Closed Sun. Great Cappuccino and Lattes at the cafe!! **Open until Thanksgiving!**
- **Christ Church Windermere** - services Sunday at 10:30am
- **Windermere United Church** - services Sunday at 10:30am. All welcome. Upcoming Evening Taize Service - Sept 24 @ 6:30pm.

This week's article was contributed by David Grant, a lifelong summer cottager. David recalls his story of being a newspaper delivery boy in the Windermere area - beginning mid 1960's - delivering the Globe and Mail to the docks each morning by small boat.

Delivering newspapers by boat was a bit of a dream job for a young teenager. All by yourself out on the lake before the sun came up - sometimes crystal clear skies with not a ripple on the lake, sometimes a strong cold north wind with a touch of rain, sometimes cool, pea soup fog in August that tested your nerves crossing open stretches (and where you might end up back where you came from!) And then home again for a warm breakfast with your Mom and siblings, and off to sailing classes or chores around the cottage.

As a paper delivery boy of the Telegram in Port Credit, I thought that having your paper delivered by boat here on the lake during the summer, would be a great idea, so in 1966, age 12, I went around to all my grandfather's friends around Windermere thinking they would be my first customers. Was I surprised when 100% of them told me that their favourite part of the day was going to see Ed Paulette at the general store to get the mail, and talk with their friends at the store where they picked up the Globe and Mail!

Luckily, there were a few younger prospects who said they would be customers if my delivery was timely, and the papers didn't end up in the lake.

Although worried about my future media career, the following spring, I pressed on by ordering 35 papers each day for two weeks from the Globe & Mail. My plan was to drop papers on the dock of the naysayers to test their Ed Paulette connection!

That first morning July 1st 1967, I was staying at my grandmother's cottage, Ambleside in Windermere Bay. I was so worried something would go haywire, I got up at 5am and spent the next 2 hours waiting in the cold, wondering if the Globe truck would ever show up. Finally at 7am it appeared and dropped the papers under the freight shed.

Notable - that edition was Canada's 100th birthday July 1st 1967 and the Globe reprinted their paper same day for 1867. I still have it.

This first paper was quite thick due to all the articles and ads, so folding papers in a light 10 HP Johnson "tin boat" with a "tiller" steering was pretty challenging.

Luckily, Mr. Purves came to rescue! When I arrived at their dock the 2nd day, Mr. Purves was standing on their dock. He was always a larger than life person - and that day was no exception. He said "Grant - if you are ever going to make it, you had better learn how to fold a newspaper!" I was clearly worried about "not making it", so we spent the next hour folding and tossing papers from the dock up to their front door, until I learned exactly how to tuck the one corner very tightly so almost no matter how hard you threw it, it couldn't come apart. (Which didn't change until another about 3 years later a paper delivery person in Lake Joseph sourced a plastic bag just for newspaper delivery. What an innovation! We could hit a dock from 50 feet way perfectly in almost any wind)

I dropped them off from Miss Sweeney's at Llanllar to the Purves' in Brackenrig Bay, and at the end of those first 2 weeks, almost all switched to boat delivery at \$1 per week. It seems they all enjoyed the service! Was I lucky!!

It took a while to get used to the skinny dipping customers - making the paper land where it was supposed to, while averting one's eyes from the skinny dippers became a fine art. My brother Dan often came with me to help with folding. He was totally taken by surprise by quite an elderly woman who leapt out of the water with nothing on, to take the paper. I am pretty sure he remembers that moment to this day!

A fun aspect of the route was getting to know the dogs on the route. They were all real characters - friendly and fun - who made sure the paper never got wet or blew away.

They were much appreciated - except for two quite nasty Alsations who tried every morning to pull me out of the boat as I raced down their dock at full speed parallel to their biting teeth. In five years they missed by inches but never landed a bite.

The Globe's delivery service to Windermere was not very predictable, so one morning when I was dreadfully late, one of the Burton's who owned Robert Simpsons the department store, asked me why I was so late? By the time I got back to our island, my mom was standing with the phone speaking to a senior manager at the Globe who asked me who I was and why I was causing him so much trouble. Given Simpsons was such a large advertiser with the Globe, he had been told how difficult he had made the cottagers' lives this morning, wanted to know my part in this. They switched the delivery from Windermere to Port Carling to make it earlier - and I reversed my route to start at Brackenrig. But my customer base was always Windermere centric, as that was where we had grown up, and that was our part of the lake's source of fun.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 14th - The Windermere TERRY FOX RUN!

- 9am Registration - @ the Community Centre

- 10am Race Start

BBQ, Live Music, Face Painting, Kids Games, Silent Auction "Dinosaur Disco"

- **Sept. 24, 6:30pm - Evening Taize** @ the Windermere United Church.

- **Wing night** Thursdays @ WGCC 5-9pm

- **Butcher Block Chef's Choice** @ WGCC - Fridays starting June 27th

- **Live music** - Fridays and Saturdays @ Windermere House - from 7-10pm

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



I had started my route at 35 papers, it grew steadily to 100, and eventually topped out at 150 starting from Bass Island just outside of Brackenrig Bay extending to Penman's Island, over to Juddhaven Hotel, Family Island, Linger Longer and home to Vacuna Island down the west side of Tobin's.

The most interesting part was getting to know all my customers who hailed from all over North America. Although collecting was unusually time consuming, it was so

interesting. Every customer would start out my "drop in" visit with milk and very good cookies or cakes, so it was difficult to get away in less than 30 minutes. It would take a couple of weeks to get around to them all.

But always a very interesting 30 minutes to hear how they came to Muskoka, fascinating histories of their cottages, and of course - the best gossip around from some marvelous story tellers! (Mr McKendrick in the log cabin behind the Matthews island always kept me laughing, mostly about the my grandfather and his four adventurous brothers that he knew from Galt, Ontario. My grandfather was quite a character, so everyone around the town had some humorous story to tell.)

A bit of a different morning entailed taking two eight year olds on the route after their mother talked me into it. Apparently the two boys loved watching me drive a few inches from the dock at full speed to deliver a paper! I hope it didn't impact their future boating skills!

They came from every walk of life, some new to the lake, but many others with a long history of pioneering around Windermere. I was very lucky to have met so many fine people. They were more like friends by the time I finished doing my route, which my brother and two sisters extended by taking over the route. It then migrated over to the Duncan family of Maple Leaf Bay.

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Windermere Terry Fox Run

Registration: 9:00 a.m.

Run Start: 10:00 a.m.

For 26 years, this small-town gathering has been more than just a run. It's been a reunion of neighbours, families, and friends, all walking, running, biking—or simply showing up to cheer—in the name of hope. Over the years, Windermere's dedication has raised over \$660,000 for cancer research. Not bad for a little town with a big heart!

The Terry Fox Run has always been about connection. Parents running alongside their kids. Grandparents cheering from lawn chairs. Volunteers handing out water with wide smiles. This year, the celebration stretches even further with a full lineup of community fun:

A **Barbecue** to fuel hungry runners (and non-runners too).

Live music to keep the good vibes rolling- 1980's "Dinosaur Disco"

Face painting and kids' games to make sure even the littlest participants have a blast.

A **silent auction and social gathering** - because giving and visiting are just as important as running.

And since 2025 marks the 45th anniversary of Terry's Marathon of Hope, we're also adding a playful new feature: a Dinosaur Disco, spinning tunes straight out of 1980, the year Terry began his journey. Expect retro beats, big smiles, and maybe even a few questionable dance moves before and after the run.

Whether you run the route, walk with a stroller, bike with a buddy, or just come for the barbecue, auction, and music—your presence matters. Every step, every laugh, every bid, and every donation adds to a legacy that stretches far beyond Windermere.

So bring your running shoes, your family, and maybe a few disco moves.

Let's continue what Terry started—together.

Because in Windermere, we don't just run - we gather, we celebrate, and we carry hope forward.