

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** "Closed for renovations, call ahead for bulk material and delivery, visit us at our Port Carling location for all of your fall planting needs"
- **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.

The Osler Family in Windermere

Excerpts from an interview with Lawton Osler by C.E. Lodge, Muskoka Region publication - December 29th, 2019.

In 1894 Dr. Rev Charles Henry Mockridge, a minister from Philadelphia came to the region and purchased land in Windermere, along the Lake Rosseau shoreline, from settler Francis Forge. Mockridge was the son of the Reverend James Mockridge and his wife, Sara (Lemon). It's of interest that when Mockridge bought the property, he did not purchase the jewel in the crown, the beautiful peninsula or point of land from Forge. That would be purchased at a later date by the Eaton family. Instead he paid \$650 for a severed portion of the 200 acres which Forge was selling. Charles and wife Sophia had seven children, with their eldest son, John, marrying Beatrice Bath Osler (sister to Britton Osler).

Mockridge played a key role in establishing Christ Church, completed in 1904. Clergy Cottage, which is beside Christ Church, was built in 1921 so that visiting, seasonal clergy, with young families could summer there, for one month at a time in July and August. It was renamed Mockridge Hall in the 1990s in honour of Mockridge. In 1894, Mockridge renovated one of Forge's little cabins on his newly acquired property. The first place was named Pinehurst. In 1912, Britton had local builder Charles Cox build 'Tredinnock' cottage and the Tredinnock boathouse. Cox also built Christ Church in Windermere. The Osler and Mockridge cottages came from a small portion of Forge's 200 acre land grant. Only a few original sail boathouses remain on the lakes today. Due to its height to accommodate the sails, it was designed with counterweight doors. Nine decades



later, the original build and unaltered design still stands.

Lawton emphasized how Henry Longhurst

was a very important person to the Oslers and to the community. Longhurst was instrumental in establishing the Windermere Hydro Company. He started up an organization in the area which was a forerunner of The Children's Aid Society. He spearheaded the building of the first public school in Windermere. Until the school was built in the later 1920s, a teacher conducted classes in Henry's home for the local children. The school still stands and is now the Windermere Community Centre. Today Susan Goltz, Henry Longhurst's granddaughter, is on the original Forge farm. That stunning point of land which Mockridge neglected to buy in 1894, was later purchased by the Eaton family. Here they eventually built their three story Eaton summer estate named "Ravenscrag". Floor three was the servants' quarters.

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.

- Chair Yoga and Fitness with Bev Longhurst starting after Thanksgiving in Ullswater - details coming soon!

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

- **Butcher Block Chef's Choice** @ WGCC - Fridays

- **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

This was a glamorous period when high society would flock from the cities to the region for adventure, rest, sport. The guests of the famous Eaton neighbours were treated like Canadian royalty. Wanda III served as a private livery for the Eatons. The elegant steamship would greet the Eaton guests arriving at the lake and transport them to their famous Muskoka summer estate Ravenscrag, and later when they left Windermere, to their Kawandag estate, now home to Rosseau Lake College in the town of Rosseau.

Things changed again when the Eatons left Windermere. Mrs. Timothy Eaton (Margaret Wilson Eaton, nee Beattie) died in 1933. Once the Eaton estate settled, Marion Osler – widowed at that time – purchased the land from them in 1949. The deed for this transaction is of historical significance, as it bears the signature of Billy Bishop (William Avery Bishop) as witness. Bishop was married to Margaret Eaton Burden of the Eaton family. With the Marion Osler purchase, the property came full circle, as the family would finally own both of Forges severed properties. When Eaton's Ravenscrag came down, Lawton recalls as a child his father telling him "the sky was black with bats".

Via the Oslers, much of the Ravenscrag contents and the building materials were distributed and repurposed throughout the community. An example of this is the dismantling and later the re-build of the old Eaton log cabin. The cabin was built for Timothy Eaton in 1901 by Longhurst. It was used for storage and such, however local lore has it that as Timothy Eaton's health was failing, he used it as a sleeping cabin for respite from the noise and activity in the main cottage. It was destined for firewood when Eric Parker (grandson of Longhurst) asked his friend Ian Turnbull if he wanted it. Turnbull moved it, rebuilt it, and it now rests on Echo Point in Port Carling.

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.