

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 - 12 - 11pm in Sept. 12 - 10pm in October.
 - **The Rosseau** - upscale dining in a beautiful setting. Open 7 days/wk through Sept 14th - 12 - 9pm, Sept 15th-27th - 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.



WINDERMERE & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

If you happen to go on the website for the Windermere and District Lions Club, you are warmly greeted with this first statement.

"Windermere & District Lions Will Always Welcome You"

Having recently chatted with Windermere resident, Maureen Veitch this summer, she filled me in on so many interesting things about this great community organization in Windermere and surrounding area, and it is understandable why this is so.

Some background

Lions began in the United States in 1917 when a group of independent clubs responded to an idea presented to them by a young Chicago insurance agent, Melvin Jones. He believed that local business clubs should expand their horizons from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large. This was heralded as a departure from the trend current at that time of forming clubs basically with a commercial motive - Jones' own group was the Business Circle of Chicago. An organizational meeting was held at a local hotel on June 7, 1917, and from this meeting the organization was born.

The association became "international" with the formation in 1920 of the "Border City Lions Club" of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Lions, identified afterward as the Windsor (Downtown) Lions Club. From that time on clubs were formed worldwide.

In Canada there are currently 1420 clubs and over 31,000 members.

Internationally, there are 49,000 clubs and 1.4 million members! Through the Lions Club International Foundation (established, 1968), they have awarded \$1.2 billion in funding to a variety of programs.

The Windermere & District Lions Club was chartered in 1968 (sponsored by the Port Carling Lions Club).

Charter members were William Skinner, William Shea, William Veitch, Norman Stripp and Bernard Beavan.

They, along with Albert Askin, Burton Dawson, Peter Dawson, Elgin Shea, Wilfred Shea, Ed Paulette, Clarence McClenaghan, Allen Parker, Milton Goltz, Morley Smith, Ernest Tidy, Antonie Van Hoevelaak, Ernest Watson, Helmut Colditz, and Archie Woods, formed the original Lions Club group.

Since that time, the Club has played an integral part in the welfare of the Windermere & District Community.

The Club presently stands at 12 members all of whom are dedicated in providing a service to their community. Over the years, the Club has been actively engaged in the District of Muskoka through its funding of district wide charities such as the Muskoka Hospital Foundation and special youth camps such as the CNIB Lake Joseph Camp.

The Club also fulfils its international obligations by contributing to Lions Club International Foundation. This foundation, which is an agent of Lions Club International, provides emergency relief to global disasters such as earthquakes and floods.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

-November 1st - 8am - 10am @ Raymond Community Centre - FREE community breakfast - hosted by the Lions Club - a thank you to the community!!

-Wing night Thursdays @WGCC 5-9pm

-Butcher Block Chef's Choice @ WGCC - Fridays

-Live music - Fridays and Saturdays @ Windermere House - until October 18th - 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

Maureen Veitch, whose husband was one of the charter members, recounted her many memories of the Lions Club over the years. The following is an abridged overview of what she shared....

Memories of the Lions Club:

A Community Built on Food, Fun, and Compassion

"My history is my memories," says Maureen Veitch — and those memories are rich with the warmth of community and the spirit of giving.

"The Lions Club was always cooking up something" she says.

- **Pancake and sausage breakfasts** at the **Sugar Bush**, every spring. And at other times the men played horseshoes while the ladies played bocce ball—simple fun that brought people together.
- **Buffalo** and (eventually as buffalo became too expensive) **"Beefalo" dinners**.
- **Italian suppers** at the Windermere schoolhouse (Community Centre).
- **Turkey shoots and turkey suppers**, now a major fundraiser at Milford Bay Hall drawing over 200 attendees.
- **Pig roasts**, with dedicated members starting the spit roast early in the morning.
- **Catered Christmas dinners** with old-fashioned gift exchanges.
- **Free community breakfasts** every November to thank locals for their support. After big events, members would gather for dinner—a cherished tradition of bonding and relaxation.

Community Support & School Involvement

The Lions Club has a strong legacy of giving:

- **Christmas hampers** for families in need.
- **Partnership with Watt Public School** to identify students needing clothing or support.
- **Scholarships** awarded at graduation, including one funded by Norm Stripp's will for outstanding citizenship.

They also support **campus for deaf and blind children**, showing their commitment to youth and inclusion.

Events & Togetherness

From helping at the **Terry Fox Run** to handing out goodie bags at the **Windermere United Church Christmas concert**, the Lions are always present. They were the driving force behind **Windermere Lions Fun Day**, which evolved into a larger community celebration, **The Windermere Family Fun Day**, with help from **Chautauqua**.

Despite being a small group - 12 - 14 members—they're deeply compassionate and tight-knit. Recruiting younger members is tough, but those involved don't see it as work. They see it as joy. Fridays at the dock are a highlight: reconnecting with seasonal visitors and sharing laughs.

"I'm such a people person," says Maureen.
"That's what drew me in."



More to come in the next volume of the Gazette - Upcoming events, photos and how to get involved.

Lion's Club at the Sugar Bush Every spring!