

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 - June** - Sun. - Thurs. 12pm - 11pm. Fri. & Sat. 12pm - midnight. **July** - 7 days a week - 12pm - midnight
 - **The Rosseau** - upscale dining in a beautiful setting. Until June 20th - Sat & Sun 12 - 9pm, Mon - Fri - 5-9pm. After June 20th Open 7 days/week - 12 to 9pm
 - **Smokehouse BBQ Packages** - launching June, pre-order for pick up at WH
 - **Trading Post!** Artisanal goods & produce, charcuterie, souvenirs & more.
 - **The New Spa at Windermere House**
spa@windermerehouse.com
- **Windermere Marina** -spring hours
Thur. Fri. Sat. Sun. - 9am - 5pm
- **Windermere Golf Club** -open to the public until June 26th, private golf club from June 27th - Labour Day. Open to all for lunch and dinner throughout the season.
 - "**Wing Night**" -5pm Thurs- live entertainment
 - "**Euchre Night**" every Tuesday @ 5:45pm
\$25 includes dinner.
 - "**Brunch**" - every Sun. 10am -1pm- open to all
- **Windermere Garden Centre**
Mon.-Fri. - 8 - 5, Sat - 9 - 5, Sun 10 - 4
Fully stocked for the season. Stay tuned for upcoming events!
- **Taylor Farms** - Mon - Fri, 7am - 6pm.
Sat. 9am - 5pm. Closed Sun. Great Cappuccino and Lattes at the cafe!!
Pick your own strawberries early to mid June.
 - **Farm to Table Summer Produce Box** Sign up for one week or all summer - 7-10 items - fruit & veggies - local Ontario. Order by 6pm on a Sunday. Pick up at Taylor Farms or Huntsville on Thursdays, Bracebridge and the Crossfit in Port Carling on Wednesdays -**More details at taylorfarms.ca/market**, or email strawberries@taylorfarms.ca
- **Christ Church Windermere** -services
Sunday at 10:30am
- **Windermere United Church** -services
Sunday at 10:30am. Monthly summer meditative Candlelight Taize Music of Unity and Peace - starting June 18th. 6:30 - 7:30pm

Some Windermere and Windermere House history

Excerpts from "*Muskoka Past and Present*"
(by Geraldine Coombe, published, 1976)

As most people know, Thomas Aitken, David Fife, young pioneer Scots, and Francis Forges, a young Brit, settled on Lake Rosseau at a place that became known as Windermere.

Forge began farming, while Fife & Aitken began accommodating stray adventurers and sportsmen in search of new fishing grounds, and eventually Aitken's first small house grew to be the Windermere House of today, and Fife's became Fife House.

By 1890, the Windermere House main building and adjoining cottages had accommodation for 220 guests. The rates were \$1.50 per day, with special rates for families. The main dining room could seat 200, and children and their nurses ate in a separate and smaller dining-room. Long verandahs or "piazzas" of over one-eighth of a mile in extent surrounded the building, affording comfort and shade at all hours of the day and pleasant views of the lake. A sand beach for bathing (safe for ladies and children in their cumbersome 1890 bathing costumes), tennis, croquet, quoits and the good old English game of bowls provided recreation. Guests hired horses and buggies for driving, and a favourite drive was five miles along the government road to Skeleton Lake. All the rivers and lakes of the surrounding country provided good fishing. An important attraction to visitors of that era, the nearby Mechanics' Institute contained volumes of philosophy, mechanics, science, art, history. Poetry, biography and general literature, and provisions were made for the giving of lectures and other literary entertainments. The Free Reading Room was furnished with draughts, dominoes, periodicals, standard magazines, the Toronto newspapers and several of the New York and Chicago dailies.

Equipment at Windermere House was constantly updated over the years. The kitchen was rebuilt, the wooden verandahs were replaced with handsome stone and an enclosed sun room in the 1930's, a bar and outdoor patio were added to the restaurant on the lower level in 1972, "The Terrace" was opened (a new building adjacent to the main lodge) with each of its ten luxury suites named after a Canadian province. Mary Elizabeth Aitken, built a number of winterized efficiency units, named "Settlers Bay, on the adjacent property where Fife House, a resort build by pioneer David Fife, was located, before it was demolished in 1970.

Notable events taking place in Windermere over the years included the Lions' Club pancake and maple syrup festival in April, the regatta day in Summer, Thanksgiving dinner for 500 at the United Church, the winter carnival in early March - snow-sculpture, bean supper and snowmobile 10 mile "Poker Run", as well as many Community Centre activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Chair Yoga** - Every Wednesday - 9:30am
@ the Windermere Community Centre
- **Windermere Bridge Group**
Monday evenings @ the Diamond In
The Ruff Golf Club starting June 16th.
- **Wing night** Thursdays @ WGCC 5-9pm
- **Butcher Block Chef's Choice** @
WGCC - Fridays starting June 27th
- **Taryn Rose Live** - July 4th - 5pm - @
WGCC
- **Euchre Night** @ WGCC Tuesdays @
5:45pm starting July 8 - \$25 includes dinner
- **Live music** - Fridays and Saturdays
@ Windermere House - from 7-10pm
- **Every Friday for the summer**,
a lunchtime BBQ at the Windermere
Wharf - in support of the Windermere
and District Lions Club.
- **The Chautauqua Festival**
August 1st - August 10th - stay
tuned for details and events.
- **August 6th - Community**
Conversation @4pm - Windermere

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

Some other "little known facts"

City Nicholas, the 16 year old Toronto girl who, in 1974, set a record time for swimming across Lake Ontario - 32 miles in 15 hours and 15 minutes, trained at Windermere and nearby. Her coach was Al Waites, director of Windermere swimming classes.

A memorial window the the Windermere United Church honours the three pioneers, Thomas Aitken, David Fife and Francis Forge. Francis Forge, the singing boatman who sold farm produce, owned the land south of David Fife's and worked for Timothy Eaton, wealthy Toronto merchant who built a summer residence at Windermere.

Windermere Village Playground

Children's Playground coming this year to Windermere!! Details can be found on the township website here:

Windermere Playground

Stay tuned for finalized design. We will be posting in the Gazette.

And please consider a **DONATION** to our playground. It will be a wonderful addition to the village and a gathering place around the historic Village Hall.

Online Bill Payment (If your bank supports this method)

Payee Name Available As: Muskoka Lakes Township Other. Please use
PLAYG001 as the account reference.

Wire Transfer Instructions

Please email ar@muskokalakess.ca

In Person (Monday to Friday from 8:15 am to 4:00 pm)

Township of Muskoka Lakes Municipal Office

1 Bailey Street

Port Carling, Ontario P0B 1J0

We accept cash, cheque, debit, and credit card (subject to surcharge) in person at the office. We also have a secure drop box at the office for afterhours use.

Mail – Cheques can be made out to Township of Muskoka Lakes

Township of Muskoka Lakes

Attn: Property Taxes

P.O. Box 129 - 1 Bailey Street

Port Carling, ON P0B 1J0

To request a receipt for income tax purposes please include a mailing address or email at the time of donation. Requests can be sent to ar@muskokalakess.ca

The Chautauqua Festival is looking for local residents and cottagers to consider billeting artists and support staff between August 1st - 10th. If you might have an extra bedroom or small cabin to house one or more people for one or more nights, please contact

toriwinnes@gmail.com

Special access to events as way of compensation.