

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. 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** - open now 7 days a week 9am - 5pm. Fridays & Saturdays are 9am - 6pm.
- **Windermere Golf Club** 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
Vegetables - Buy one, Get one Free. Perennials and shrubs arriving weekly.
- **Taylor Farms** - Mon - Fri, 7am - 6pm. Sat. 9am - 5pm. Closed Sun. Great Cappuccino and Lattes at the cafe!! Pick your own strawberries. Call or check FB page to confirm hours of picking.
 - **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, Strawberry Social & Bakesale, June 28th 1 - 4pm
- **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

Interview with Pat (Parker) Holden

In the summer of 2019, Pat was filmed and interviewed, as part of the "Stories" for The Windermere History Project. She sadly passed away in November, 2020. Pat and her family ran Parkers Marina. She was a descendant on her mother's side, of one of the original families of Windermere, Francis Forge, who came to the area in the late 1860's. Her father's family were the Parkers, Arthur Parker having come to the Windermere area in the late 1890's. Arthur purchased land in Portage Bay from David Fife. Having had a business in market gardening in Etobicoke, the Parker family eventually set up market gardening in the area.

(Interview Transcription)

Well, this land I am on was Forge's property. Aiken and Fife came around the same time Grandpa Forge did. He received a land grant, so when Mom and Dad were married, that's what they got for a wedding gift. He would walk all the way to Washego to get supplies and he could come home with a bag of flour on his back. Can you imagine?! Then he got a horse. You just can't imagine this wilderness. He got the land grant and started farming but realized that farming wasn't Muskoka, but he did raise sheep and lamb. I don't think he grew many vegetables. It was more meat and milk. He went out on the lake and couldn't swim. He would row all around the lake and evidently, he was a great singer. They would hear him rowing and singing, selling his wares. The story is that he was offered Wellesley Island, but he couldn't afford the taxes. It was only like \$25 or something. But he owned all of Eaton's Point and then sold a lot of it off. He built a place down near the water. That was the original farm house, down Dawson Road, where Robert and Susan Goltz live. That was the original farm. My grandmother, Edith, was the youngest of the Forge family. She married Henry Longhurst, and they farmed on their farm before moving up to what we called Top House. If you turn onto the Longhurst road, it's the first house on your left. My dad, Lloyd Parker, developed the Marina. Around 1960, he started digging out the ponds. Before that, he toured the lake in a boat, selling vegetables and fruit. Dad did market gardening and eventually went into building, but keeping the gardens and everything else related to vegetables. Oh man! Then, we had a truck that came in twice a week with vegetables and fruit that he didn't grow. They plowed the roads with planks, as I remember them, sort of like that. One man would stand on the back of it. That's how they plowed the road. A team of horses. Dad built a saw and would cut the ice. He would go along, cutting the big blocks, and then they would just sort of chip it. It wouldn't go right absolutely through. It would break away. Then, they'd have two or three teams of horses that would take them to the ice house. Back then, everyone had an ice house. It's amazing how it lasted all summer. They just put a bit of sawdust between the blocks, and it would just keep. Sometimes, they might go and stay up at the Royal Muskoka. They would go and maybe stay for three or four days, filling ice. My dad always fell in once a year. He would just hope that he was near home. Our phone number in the summer was 49. All of us could work the switchboard. It was up behind where the post office is now. It was pretty easy. You just took a plug and when the thing showed up, you hooked the back one up to the number. And of course, when my cousins had come from the city and the phone rang, they would want to go and answer it. And of course, they would listen in. Oh, my mother would get really mad. "You don't listen in on the phone. It's private conversation." Of course, everybody knew everything! Oh, goodness. Yeah, that was the day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Strawberry Social & Bakesale**
in the garden at Christ Church
Windermere - June 28th - 1pm - 4pm.
- **Windermere Bridge Group**
Monday evenings @ the Diamond In
The Ruff Golf Club
- **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
House

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

All my family belonged to the United Church. One day my friend Arlene said to me that they were going to have movies at the Anglican Church at Easter time and she asked me to come.

I asked my mother, and she said, "yes, so long as the two of you don't sit at the back and giggle and make a racket". So I went and the minister asked if anybody played the organ. Well I could play the pump organ so I got involved that way.

And then I just joined the church. So, I'm the only Anglican in the family. For a long time it was only open in the summer and different ministers would come stay. Peter Hill's parents were one of them, and they came and stayed in the Clergy Cottage. They eventually opened year round.

There weren't many of us.

My husband, John Holden, his mother and her sister came to Chautauqua in the 1930s and built a cottage there, in Snowshoe Bay. I don't know how they heard about it. They would come for two weeks maybe and come by steamer.

And of course, when they built the cottage, they didn't have any lights or anything like that.

In my day, it was mainly the tourist industry in Windermere. It really hasn't changed that much,..... which is sort of nice.....

(Film and Interview can be seen on this link - <https://vimeo.com/418076168>)

**Help build the
Windermere Village
Playground!**

A play area for all ages
Village Hall Park



Basketball



Climb
& Slide





Creative Climbing



Multi-age
Swings

Questions?
Contact windermeregazette@icloud.com



Scan here for
information on
how to donate
via the
Township.
Charitable
receipts for all
donations over
\$20.

**DONATE
Now!**

Please consider a
donation to the
Windermere Village
Playground!

With a 6-8 week lead
time, and hoping to
install this fall, we
need your donations
soon! A BIG thank
you from the
Playground
Committee!!



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

toriwines@gmail.com

Special access to events as way of compensation.

**Strawberry Social and Bake Sale in the Garden
at Christ Church Windermere - Saturday June 28th -
1pm - 4pm All Welcome!
Adults - \$12, Children under 6 - \$5**