

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
 - **Smokeyhouse BBQ Packages** - 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. Licensed Patio, serving Piano Piano Pizza and Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream
- **Windermere Golf Club** Private golf club until Labour Day, but 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
- **Windermere United Church**
-services Sunday at 10:30am. Monthly summer meditative Candlelight Taize Music of Unity and Peace - next one is August 5th @ 6:30pm

Portage Bay - some background on the history, with a preface on the Indigenous communities that would have lived and travelled in the area.

Muskoka is the traditional territories of the Anishnaabeg, which includes the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, collectively known as the Three Fires Confederacy. The Huron-Wendat and the Haudenosaunee Nations have also walked on this territory over time. Southern portions of Muskoka were the traditional territory of the Wendat when they resided in Simcoe County between AD 1300 and 1650 and they travelled regularly through Muskoka during those centuries. Today Muskoka is home to three sovereign nations: Wahta Mohawks First Nations, Moose Deer Point First Nation, and the Moon River Métis.

Lenore Young (author of "Portage Bay - Memories 1865 - 1945"), describes Portage Bay as an area regularly traversed by the Ojibwe, who had encampments, first on Tobin Island, and later at the Baisong rapids at Port Carling. They would paddle across the big lake up any one of the three channels created by the two large islands of Wellesley and Florence, which led into the quiet shallows of Portage Bay. Landing at the sand beach at the end, they would hoist canoes on to their shoulders and portage to the hunting grounds around Three Mile Lake, Skeleton Lake and beyond.

It was in the 1860's that the first settlers arrived in Muskoka, advertised as a district rich in farmland. The Public Land Act of 1860 was amended by the Free Grants Act of 1868, and many Europeans saw this as a land of opportunity. The land was "free" for the taking, on condition that the settler agree to clear a minimum of two acres, erected a dwelling at least 16 feet by 20 feet, and live on the property not less than six months of the year. All pine trees were reserved by the Crown, except those cut in clearing the land. For building a dwelling, or to use as fuel. The futility of trying to grow crops in the barren ground soon became apparent.

Nonetheless, hardy individuals arrived with hope in their hearts and a willingness to work hard. The first to arrive in the area established claims around Three Mile Lake, and soon the Sheas, Vetches, and others and had built homes and welcomed their families to this part of Muskoka.

At about the same time, Thomas Aitken took up land at the site of the Village of Windermere, along with some of his Scottish cousins and another relative, David Fife. Francis Forge from Yorkshire settled on the bay overlooking Wellesley Island. Forge was soon followed by William Dawson, who established a farm on Portage Bay.

Another man also arrived about the same time. Very little is known about this man, other than he came from England, he was a bachelor, and the son of a "well-to-do" family who had left home to seek his fortune. His name was William (Billy) Smallbone. He picked a 62 acre spot on the sand beach in Portage Bay, built his shanty and cleared enough land to plant a garden. He eked out a meagre existence with the game he shot and the fish he caught.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 23rd - "Cook's night off"** - in the garden at Christ Church - a BBQ - 4:30 - 6:30 - Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Dessert and refreshments - Cost is just a donation.

- **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

- **Euchre Night @ WGCC** Tuesdays @ 5:45pm \$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 - Program & Tickets to Events are here:

www.muskokachautauqua.com

- **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**

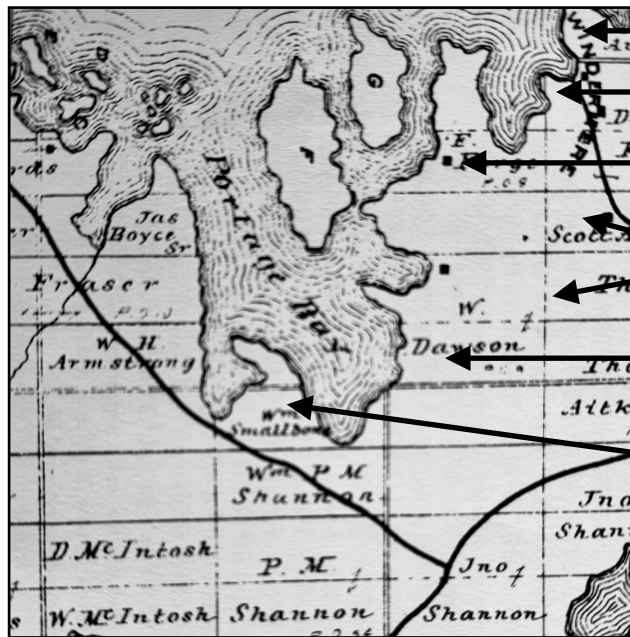
(705)-769-3238

- **Archives**

windermereandareaarchive@gmail.com

- **Lions Club**

windermere@ar2lions.ca



More on Portage Bay in upcoming Gazette issues.

Playground Update

We are excited to let everyone know that we are on target for a fall installation! We have raised the funds for the playground equipment, along with some "donations in kind" from a couple of local contractors who are helping with excavation of the site! Thank you to all who have donated to this community playground. We are still hoping to raise the funds necessary for the Basketball Half Court, along with a bench and some necessary landscaping to "finish it off". Please consider a donation to help make this the "Best park in the District"! Our goal is to have this park totally finished this fall, ready for play!

It will be a wonderful meeting place for every age.

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.