

## **Lake Windermere has a twin**

Did you know that our lake has a twin halfway across the world? The Cumbria region of northwest England is home to Windermere, England's largest natural lake. Situated within the Lake District National Park, England's Windermere area is well known as the birthplace of Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit! A very popular tourist destination, Windermere not only looks similar to our own Lake Windermere but also carries many of the same characteristics.

The Victorian town of Ambleside on the north end of England's Windermere is a long-standing holiday community like Invermere. Ambleside offers a variety of recreational opportunities, dining, quaint accommodations, arts and culture as well as scenic views.

What of the name? Did you know in Old English, 'winder' means windy and 'mere' means lake? Most English folk therefore do not call their lake 'Windermere Lake' as that would be tautologous. Ten points for those that can define that without looking in a dictionary! Since most people don't know what Windermere actually means we end up putting 'lake' beside it.

Both lakes are comparable in size, with England's Windermere at 16.9 km long and 1.6 km wide, and our Lake Windermere at a length of 17.7 km and a width of 1.1 km. But England's lake is deeper with a maximum depth of 67.1 meters and is situated at a much lower elevation of 40 meters than B.C.'s Lake Windermere at an elevation of 859 meters and a maximum depth of only 6.4 meters. Also, our lake is adjacent to mountains on either side and England's lake sits along beautiful rolling hills close to their highest mountain, Scafell, at 978 meters high.

Both lakes are extremely popular with water sports enthusiasts and boaters. England's Windermere even has a ferry service that runs its length. Growth in tourism and recreation has both lakes encountering the challenges of boating safety, environmental impacts and development. England's Windermere has become so congested with boaters and other watercraft that the National Park placed a 10 nautical miles per hour speed limit on the lake. Our own Lake Windermere could well be leading to a similar regulation in the future.

For more information contact the Lake Windermere Project at 341-6898. You can also visit the Project office located in the old District of Invermere office beside the Invermere Community Centre. The Lake Windermere Project is a long-term comprehensive stewardship program dedicated to safeguarding the health of our lake. The Lake Windermere Project is made possible by generous support from Wildsight, Environment Canada, Columbia Basin Trust and the B.C. Real Estate Foundation.