

General Store

Location: Winthrop, Ontario
Year built: c. 1955

THE WEE STORE in Winthrop has served the community for well over 100 years—not the same store building, but virtually the same location. Alex Murchie, the original owner, came to Canada with his wife and two small children in 1858. He built a house a few miles north of Seaforth at a corner of the North Gravel Road (North Line), called Ballabay or Bailey Bay. Several years later, he started carrying merchandise to trade with an increasing number of families in the area. A post office was opened here in 1868 and named Winthrop.



The Winthrop store as it looks today.

When Murchie died, his wife continued in business and had the post office fitted with boxes for the mail. Mrs. Murchie died in 1913. The store was bought by John Montgomery who operated it until 1951.

The store was next sold to Austin Dolmage. He took the original house-store down and built another store in its place, further back from the road. He sold to Stanley M. Gillies. Lloyd McCluskie took over the business in 1958. He built a large addition and made other improvements.
