If you weren't at the Windsor Center on Wednesday, Aug. 18, you probably could hear the shouting and cheering from just about any corner in town.

"Always… Patsy Cline" just about brought down the house, and to say it was "a good time for all" would be an understatement.

The two stars, imported for the occasion by the Friends of Camp Batawagama – Maggy Norden (as Patsy) and Gail Westerfield (as Louise) -- wowed the capacity filled auditorium at Windsor.

It was quite a night and, for some of us, brought back some youthful memories of hearing "the one and only Patsy Cline." She truly had one of the most unique voices and song-styling of her era. And her hits from that era still remain a popular fare with music fans today.

As mentioned, "Always … Patsy Cline" was sponsored by the Friends of Camp Batawagama as a fundraiser to support programs at the popular Youth Camp.

It was a good fit, as they say.

Memories of Patsy Cline as still as vivid as when she was alive back in the late '50s and early '60s. (She died in an airplane crash in Tennessee in 1963 at the young age of 30.)

So too are the memories most of us have of Camp Batawagama. Whether you were lucky enough to be at camp every year or just a few years, your memories of being "at camp" have remained as vivid as if they happened yesterday.

At the performance Wednesday, Camp Batawagama was called "a jewel" of Iron County. And that it is.

The Youth Camp has been around for a great number of years and many, many local youth have had the opportunity and the excitement of spending a week or two at the popular site.

It's a unique place, a very special place for youngsters. A place where most of us learned how to swim, how to express our artistic, and sometimes not so artistic talents, how to interact with other kids from other parts of Iron County as well as outside the area.

We learned a lot about personal responsibility and a little bit about self-confidence, all under the watchful and encouraging direction of our camp counselors.

Talk to a former camper and the excitement of those days just pours out as they related a special memory of being at camp.

The Friends of Camp Batawagama, many if not all of them, former campers there, have taken the camp under their wings and have worked hard and selflessly to raise funds to provide the extras at the camp for the youngsters who call camp "home" for a week or so.

They are to be commended for their enthusiasm and their dedication to a very special place in Iron County.

And they are to be commended for bringing all of us a very special evening of entertainment with Patsy and Louise.

--Allyce Westphal