



**LJNA**  
Lake Joseph North  
Association

# July 2023 Newsletter



*The official launch celebration for our long-awaited fireboat was held at Gordon Bay Marina on Saturday, September 3rd, 2022. Thank you to the many donors and volunteers in the LJNA community who made the fireboat possible!*

*Photos courtesy of Al Otis.*

Join us for the 2023 Lake Joseph North Association  
Annual General Meeting

**Saturday August 5th, 9:00 to 10:30am at Gordon Bay Marine**

Connect with your neighbours, meet our municipal Councillors and  
hear updates on LJNA activities.

Coffee and snacks provided from 8:30am.

## Volunteers this past year

*Many thanks to the members who helped out last year!*

### LJNA Directors:

James Buchanan,  
Frances Carmichael,  
Nancy Cohen,  
Bruce Hatherley,  
Elizabeth Jennings,  
Alex Magditsch, Harris Ord,  
Diana Piquette, Blair Sinclair,  
Shelley Spence

### Bookkeeping & Tech

Nick Pemberton

### Newsletter

Editor: Karen McCullough  
Stuffing: Judy Braaten,  
Wendy Ritzer, Shirley Imbeau,  
Alice Hayhoe, Karla Prager

### Annual Dock Drop

Lead: Blair Sinclair,  
Andrew Brown, John Burgess,  
Sarah Cashman & family,  
John Durland, Lois & Al Fraser,  
Cecil Hayhoe, Deb Hoffman,  
Alex Magditsch,  
Tom & Karen McCullough,  
Cathie Mostowyk, Peter Newton,  
Nick Pemberton, John Tittel,  
Carol Wildgoose,  
Jennifer Bizzarri & family

### Water Testing

Lead: Alex Magditsch,  
Cecil Hayhoe, Jeff Hayhoe  
Juliana Magditsch,  
Lynda McCarthy, Storey Badger

### Fireboat Committee

Lead: Diana Piquette  
Jennifer Bizzarri, Terry Fellner,  
Deb Hoffman, Jay Morris,  
Nancy Cohen

Volunteers bring fresh ideas to our work. Interested? Contact [info@ljna.org](mailto:info@ljna.org).

## President's Message

Welcome to the 2023 edition of our newsletter. It feels great to be back on the dock and enjoying summer cottage fun!

Our summer newsletter brings you updates from around the lake and of LJNA activities. It is delivered to every dock on the north part of Lake Joe by a team of volunteers to reach out and include all the families, businesses, camps and visitors in our community. A big thank you to the team!

In this edition, we pay tribute to long time board member Bruce Hatherley who is retiring from the board after almost 20 years. In addition to his tremendous support for the work of the LJNA, Bruce is well known in the community for his quiet support of many worthy projects. Thank you Bruce!

LJNA activities are motivated by and focused on working together to find the best ways to share our beautiful Lake Joe. We continue to focus on the priorities of the membership - responsible development, water quality, safe boating, and strong community - highlighted in our 2020 survey.

A highlight of the summer is our AGM. This year's will be on Saturday August 5th. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with neighbours and friends and talk about the work we do to share and protect our cottage environment. This year, in addition to updates from Seguin Council and the board, our member Scott Francisco will be leading us in a conversation on our shared values, hopes and concerns for Lake Joe. We are really looking forward to hearing from everyone.

Many thanks to our members for their trust and support, and especially to our volunteers for their deep commitment to our beautiful Lake Joe.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our events this summer and hope you enjoy reading this newsletter!

Warmly,

***Nancy Cohen,***  
***President***



## Treasurer's Report for the year ended March 31st, 2023

---

The financials for the year ended March 31st, 2023, showed a small excess of receipts over disbursements. This is despite our membership falling slightly from 168 to 164. If you are new to the Lake Joe North, please consider supporting the great work our association does by going to [www.LJNA.org](http://www.LJNA.org) and joining.

We are pleased that we continue to do the work that we do while staying within our yearly budget, without drawing on reserves.

Financial Highlights for the fiscal year ending March 31st are:

Total membership and voluntary contributions	\$ 27,820
Disbursements	\$ 22,428
Excess contributions over disbursements	<u>\$ 5,392</u>
Reserves:	
Opening LJNA special initiatives reserve	\$ 28,654
Increase in reserves	\$ 5,392
Ending LJNA special initiatives reserve	<u>\$ 34,045</u>

Complete financials will be presented at the AGM

***Shelley Spence CPA, CA***  
***LJNA Treasurer***

## Municipal Matters

---

### Working with Council

Our goal is to work constructively and communicate openly with Council and Seguin staff. Our President, Nancy Cohen, and Ward 4 Councillor Terry Fellner are in regular communication. Terry has provided this newsletter with a great article on municipal matters.

Despite recent changes due to Ontario Bill 23, we continue to monitor applications for minor variances and zoning bylaw amendments. When appropriate, we attempt to get input from neighbouring properties and, if warranted, present our position to Council. Preserving “the view from the canoe” and water quality are our guiding principles.

### Shoreline Alteration Bylaws

Over the last several years, we have been engaged with Council about addressing excessive shoreline alteration. A review of Seguin's bylaws for blasting, fill and tree cutting was initiated by Council in the fall of 2021. Our submission was reported in our Winter 2022 news. We are pleased that this spring Seguin presented draft bylaws for public comment. Our reading of the proposed bylaws is that they balance protection of the shoreline, water quality, and natural environment with the rights of property owners as well as providing clear guidelines for approval.

## Floating Cottages / Homes

As many members know, floating homes have become an issue as they are poorly regulated. A group of cottage associations led by Gloucester Pool is actively working to improve the regulations (<https://gpca.wildapricot.org/RegulateFloatHomes/>). We are watching this closely.

## Seguin Official Plan Review

LJNA and, in particular LJNA Director James Buchanan, have been heavily involved in this project. However as reported in our February news, the draft received by the consultants was not implementable in the opinion of Seguin planning staff. The consultants are no longer involved and the planning staff are committed to a major overhaul. Stay tuned...

Contact one of us at [info@ljna.org](mailto:info@ljna.org) if you have any questions or want to talk about activities in your neighbourhood.

***Frances Carmichael and James Buchanan***  
***LJNA, Directors – Municipal Affairs***

## Lake Health Report

---

The health of our lake is important for all of us since so much of our cottage experience relates to water.

The major initiative that is supported financially and with LJNA volunteers is the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) Water Quality Initiative. This initiative collects data from 196 locations throughout the Muskoka watershed including four on North Lake Joseph.

The results for MLA's water sampling are presented in a report prepared by Hutchinson Environmental which can be found on the MLA's website: <https://mla.on.ca/Water-Quality-Reports>. The 2022 results are within typical ranges for our areas and no concerns were noted.

Another LJNA endeavour, initiated in 2021, is the **benthic monitoring** program. The 2022 Newsletter detailed our successful benthic endeavour of the previous summer (2021) and in August of last year, the benthic program was extended to include two sites and an incredible increase in volunteers. The data indicated high benthic biodiversity, a key indicator of good overall lake health. We will continue this program this year, with an anticipated sampling date of **Saturday August 19th** and greatly welcome all those interested in learning more about the "bugs in the mud".

The lake health at the north end of Lake Joseph continues to be the envy of the rest of Muskoka. Our position at the top of the watershed ensures that we have very few concerns in our area; however increasing environmental issues including climate change require us to stay vigilant.

This means at a minimum:

- maintain a vegetated shoreline (don't clear shrubs and trees away from the shore)
- avoid using fertilizers
- ensure your septic system is properly maintained and is operating well.



And kudos to Seguin for enhancing the shoreline alteration bylaws.

We must all do our part to ensure a healthy and thriving lake for now and the future.

**Alex Magditsch**  
**LJNA Board, Water Quality**

**Dr. Lynda McCarthy**  
**Professor and Director, McCarthy Ecotox Lab, Toronto Metropolitan University**  
**(and LJNA member)**

*An article by Lynda McCarthy with background on the Benthic Sampling Program can be found on the LJNA website: <https://ljna.org/Water-Quality>*



*LJNA members at the Benthic testing day with Jess Lario, Biomonitoring Technician at the District Municipality of Muskoka. Photos courtesy of Stephen Goldhar.*

## A Conversation With Bruce Hatherley

---

*In early June, LJNA member Karen McCullough sat down with Bruce Hatherley, founder and owner of Gordon Bay Marine from 1960-2022, to hear the story of the marina and the man behind it all those years.*

The year was 1960. Gordon Bay Marine was born of humble beginnings, just like founder and owner Bruce Hatherley. “I got into the business by accident. Two people wanted to park their boats here and I said yeah.”

The real impetus was Bruce’s desire to stay in Muskoka. “I went to Toronto, and I actually hated it. I was going to go into sales and make my millions and it just wasn’t me. Honestly.”

Bruce was born (literally) in the gray framed house across the road from the marina, on the stream connecting Portage Lake and Lake Joseph. He stuck it out in the city a few winters but every April he was back in Gordon Bay, doing cottage maintenance and dock work with his dad. He thought he might get into building cottages but realized he wasn’t a builder.

At the outset he serviced motors, hauling them to the second floor of the original boathouse to work on them. Sales started in the early 60s with McCulloch and Scott motors. It was a big thing when Bruce got an account with Mercury motors in 1963. And he began to sell gas. “Actually, I was doing everything. I don’t regret any of it. And I wasn’t real busy, you know.”

The first boats Bruce sold were Ross wooden boats made in Orillia. Boats changed over time with the shift from transportation to recreation and the dramatic increase in wealth in Muskoka. This has impacted Bruce more than he would have chosen, but he has kept his values and passed them on to his sons. Ben, his eldest, has been at the helm of Gordon Bay Marine for several years. “I was trying to make a living. Now we have too

much. But I really wasn’t doing it to make a lot of money. It just happened.”

Customers today are varied, not only from North Lake Joe but a number from Georgian Bay. A lot of multigenerational families among his clients, like my own? To my surprise he says there are not. Many long-standing families in the area could no longer afford to be in Muskoka.

When Bruce talks about his customers and staff, many who have been friends for a long time, the words I hear are “best of the best,”





“nice guy,” “great people.” He calls himself lucky. Are we the lucky ones?

I press him a little for a story about a difficult customer. He has trouble thinking of one. But he admits



people in general are more demanding these days. “They want it done yesterday!” I can only imagine what it was like to deal with disgruntled customers during Covid!

I’m still looking for stories. Sixty years is a long time. Any wild animal stories? A bear came in the marina once, but Bruce seems to have been unfazed. “They’re not here to harm us. You just have to let them do their thing...He came in, looked around and left, basically.”

Wild weather? Bruce remembers way back in 1954, before the marina, when Hurricane Hazel came through a little way south of Gordon Bay. “It was pretty scary, unbelievable what the wind can do. A swath about 300 feet wide and everything gone.”

Then he recalls, as if long forgotten, his worst setback, when the boat storage collapsed.



“Yeah, that was a bad day,” he says, and laughs a little. “There were about 150 boats in there. But it was a long time ago...You don’t sit there and cry about it. You get on your horse and get going basically.” Indeed, what he seems to remember most was the great support he received from his customers.

When we broach the subject of the sale of Gordon Bay Marine, Bruce gets misty-eyed. No surprise. The marina has been his life for 60 years. His staff and customers are what made it great. Will things change? “I’m hoping not much. I really am. I want this to be looked after the way it should be.”

We end on a lighter note: “Of all the boats over all the years, what stands out as your favourite?” Bruce doesn’t hesitate: “You may think it stupid and foolish, but I love my Stanleys. You can do anything with them, you can’t hurt them. “

A down-to-earth boat for a down-to earth-guy.

***By Karen McCullough***



*Photos courtesy of Ben Hatherley.*

## Letter from Terry Fellner – Seguin Councillor Ward 4

---

Summer is fast approaching, and I hope everyone had a good winter.

The last six months for the new township council & staff have been busy ones and we have many ongoing projects and initiatives I would like to update you on.

Once again last February the Seguin Dogsled Mail Run was held, this was the 38th year for this event and it was very well attended with over 400 pancake breakfasts being served in the township arena. Sled dog teams from Canada and the US participated and carried mail from the township arena to the post office in Rosseau, following the local snowmobile trails and across a few inland lakes. It's a great event and I would encourage anyone who has never attended to do so.

In March, council passed two new “quality of life” bylaws, one dealing with noise and the second dealing with nuisance. It was felt by council that increased bylaw enforcement and increased penalties would act as an immediate deterrent to the owners of the properties that are being managed improperly throughout the township. The township has added two full time dedicated bylaw officers to staff. A member of this staff will be available to residents 24 hours per day, 7 days a week. More information on the bylaw can be found on the township website: <https://www.seguin.ca/en/news/seguin-township-introduces-two-new-quality-of-life-bylaws.aspx>

Short Term Cottage Rentals, as everyone is aware, have been a very contentious subject for many of our residents. The council considered a staff report earlier this year that recommended licensing to regulate short term rentals. Currently Seguin does not have a bylaw in place to specifically regulate STR's. Our current zoning bylaw does however prohibit any type of commercial operations on lake front lands zoned residential. Some other cottage country municipalities have introduced licensing or initiated prosecution through their zoning bylaws to combat problematic rental properties. Results to date are inconclusive, with many cases still before the courts. Further, municipal licensing programs are still in their infancy. Considering these factors, council elected to direct staff to monitor both the pending lawsuits and licensing programs in other municipalities and to aggressively pursue problem properties using the new quality of life bylaws. The council will reconsider the options available early in 2024 when more data is available.

The township request for a Ministerial Zoning Order was approved in March as well. This order will allow approximately 700 acres of land adjacent to the Town of Parry Sound to be developed for “attainable” housing. A few developers have obtained property within this zone and are expected to present draft plans to the township this year.

The airport runway project is nearing completion. The airport is currently out of service while the new portion of the runway is configured into the original one. Paving of the new runway is scheduled for the first week of July, with the expanded facilities open for business in early August.

Finally, our new proposed Site Alteration Bylaw and Tree Protection Bylaw are in their draft form and have been circulated for public comment. When passed these bylaws will provide more protection for the natural topography and vegetation of the shoreline areas ensuring for more





responsible development along the lakeshore areas of the township. Drafts of these bylaws can be found at <https://letsconnectseguin.ca/>.

Hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer, hope to see many of you at the AGM!

Best regards,

Terry

**Terry Fellner**  
**Ward 4 Councillor, Seguin Township**

Cell: (519) 831-5526

Seguin Township Email: [terryfellner@seguin.ca](mailto:terryfellner@seguin.ca)



*Seguin's 38th Sled Dog Mail Run took place on Saturday, February 25, 2023. LJNA is proud to support this community event.*

*Photo courtesy of Ina Miglin.*

## Safe Quiet Lakes Update

Thank you to LJNA for your continued support and involvement in our projects!

As you know Safe Quiet Lakes is a Muskoka-based organization dedicated to the sustained enjoyment of our lakes. It has been a busy year as we continue on our mission to be a leading voice in promoting safe and respectful boating through education, advocacy and legislative change. We are making an impact on many fronts. Our national Decibel Coalition has been successfully working with stakeholders and Transport Canada to shape plans for legislation on decibel limits for boat manufactures and operators. We expect the regulations to come into force by 2025. In the meantime, we are meeting with policy makers and enforcement agencies to discuss solutions to easily enforce the new regulations.

We are also focusing our efforts on excessive wakes. The environmental and safety impact of excessive boat wakes was identified as a top concern in our latest survey and was the focus of our Annual Stakeholder meeting. At that meeting we heard about the latest research and policies from around the world. It is a matter of great interest and many of the U.S. States are passing legislation to address the growing concerns. Transport Canada has recently opened consultation on a proposal to create separate VORR regulations for wake surfing. On a local level we are working with the MLA and FOCA on education and awareness with our [Be #WakeAware](#) campaign.

We continue to be involved in the community and talk to cottagers to explore ideas. Many of you tell us that the no wake signs and boating code posters help start the conversation. The results of our speed radar project with the MLA have been positive with a marked reduction in speed as boaters go through the sign in the Foreman Narrows near Port Carling. We welcome involvement from different individuals and groups who want to help us make a difference. If you are interested, please contact me at [chair@safequiet.ca](mailto:chair@safequiet.ca). You can also have a look at our website ([safequiet.ca](http://safequiet.ca)) for more details on our most recent survey and to sign up to get our newsletters.

We are grateful to LJNA as a founding partner. We appreciate your support and leadership in expanding the conversation about safe and respectful boating. Wishing you all a wonderful and safe summer!

Warm regards,

**Diana Piquette**  
**Chair, Safe Quiet Lakes**  
**[chair@safequiet.ca](mailto:chair@safequiet.ca)**

### How to Be #WakeAware.

- Reduce speed to 10 km/h or less within 30m of shore, boats, docks and swimmers.
- Water-ski, tube, surf and wake-board 200 meters from all shorelines.
- Position your passengers evenly throughout the boat to reduce the time spent getting to planing speed.
- Look behind you to minimize the impact of your wake on shorelines, docks or structures.
- Consider the size of your wake produced when purchasing a new boat.

Be #WakeAware

Be part of the solution  
[bewakeaware.com](http://bewakeaware.com)

mla  
 FOCA  
 Member of Ontario Cottageboat Association



## Fire Boat Update

Anchors Aweigh! The new Fire Boat, Marine 47 was successfully launched on September 3, 2022. A date we'll never forget! Many of the community's residents attended to watch the exciting launch at Gordon Bay Marine.



Since the official launch we have received delivery of a 680 gallon per minute fire pump, which has been installed and thoroughly tested. The emergency light package and siren were installed by Connor Industries in early spring, as well as a few other items that were not in place last fall due to delivery delays.

Marine 47 is now ready for the 2023 summer season! It was once again launched in April of this year and has been very busy training firefighting personnel from our Humphrey and Foley stations. The vessel is equipped for emergency medical response, search and rescue operations, and of course wildland and structural fire response.

All money remaining from the funds raised by LJNA will be used to purchase equipment to further improve the response services we provide. To date, Marine 47 has been used for one emergency medical call to assist EMS with access to a patient on Island F in the fall of 2022.



Photo courtesy of Al Otis.

Thank you to Gordon Bay Marine and Connor Industries for the continued support in ensuring Marine 47 is ready to serve the community.

A very BIG thank you to Lake Joe North Association for making this happen. Marine 47 is a huge asset to our fire department and will greatly improve emergency response services provided to the cottagers and residents on Lake Joseph North.

**Sean Carroll**  
**Fire Chief, Seguin Fire Services**



[seguin.ca/en/explore-play/emergencyservices.aspx](https://seguin.ca/en/explore-play/emergencyservices.aspx)



Seguin Fire Services



@seguinfireservices

### Summer LJNA Activities: Hope to see you!

- Sat. Jul 1st - Fireboat out on Lake Joe
- Sat. Jul 22nd - Forest Walk with Sarah Wilson
- Sat. Aug 5th - Annual General Meeting
- Sat. Aug 19th - Benthic Sampling Day

Watch your email for more details or get in touch: [info@ljna.org](mailto:info@ljna.org)

LJNA have put together an Emergency Safety Sheet. Print a copy for your fridge from the LJNA Website: [www.ljna.org](http://www.ljna.org)



## Forest Health

---

We all know that physical activity is good for our health. But did you know that simply being in nature is healthy?

Spending time in nature – along a wild shoreline, in a forest – isn't just an enjoyable activity, it's actually good for you. Trees in forests release compounds into the air that reduce stress, anxiety, and depression; help you concentrate; and boost immune system function – including the cells that fight cancer. Children in particular benefit from 'free play' in nature, and kids who do enough of it have better coordination, spatial awareness, fine motor skills, and fewer mood disorders than peers who don't.

All nature isn't created equal. 'Wild nature' – rugged and undisturbed - provides more benefits than manicured green spaces like parks and golf courses.

In Muskoka, wild nature is everywhere. From tiny micro lichen forests to life-filled wetlands to towering white pine groves, nature is what draws us to this place. Cherishing and respecting wild spaces is part of Muskoka's cottage country heritage, and can be as big as setting aside protected areas or as small as choosing rocks, mosses and wildflowers over lawns and turf.

To learn more about the nature in your own backyard, join me and bring your family for a guided walk on **Saturday July 22nd**. More details to come. Or contact me via [info@ljna.org](mailto:info@ljna.org).

### **Sarah Wilson**

*Sarah is a forest geographer (PhD and LJNA member) who researches why and how people choose to conserve and restore their forests. Her work has taken her to cloud forests in the Ecuadorian Andes and Nepalese Himalaya, lowland jungles in Guatemala, temperate forests in Vermont and Quebec. As an award-winning educator she helps people of all ages understand and cherish the nature that surrounds us everyday. Read more about how forests benefit people everywhere in her latest publication, [Better Forests Better Cities](#).*



*Photo courtesy of Sarah Wilson.*

**THE LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION** was established in 1996 to represent the interests of shoreline residents on the Seguin section of Lake Joseph, including Portage Lake. The Association is focused on building our lakeside community, safeguarding our water quality and natural environment, advocating for fair taxes and reasonable development, and educating members on responsible and safe boating activities. Contact us at [info@ljna.org](mailto:info@ljna.org) or visit [www.ljna.org](http://www.ljna.org)