

LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION

2013 – SUMMER NEWSLETTER

The Association's focus remains on preservation of the natural environment, water quality, fair taxation and accountability in municipal budgets. We support the activities of the Muskoka Conservancy, preserving the natural Muskoka that we love, for future generations.

The Annual Meeting of the Lake Joseph North Association will be held at Gordon Bay Marine on Saturday August 3rd, 2013 at 8:30AM. Please join us for discussions on the state of Lake Joseph, issues surrounding Seguin and presentations from Mayor Conn, Councilors Sainsbury and Osborne representing Wards 3 and 4.

Please complete the membership card at the back of this newsletter and mail it with your cheque for \$100 in the envelope provided.

Since the last Annual General Meeting your association has undertaken a number of initiatives.

- In the fall of 2012 the LJNA engaged with Clublink, with limited success, to attempt to work together and share the cost of conclusively determining the source of Phosphorus accumulation in Hamer Bay. When Clublink appeared to be dragging the process we embarked on testing the flow of the creek from Rocky Crest into Hamer Bay on our own. This cost is being funded from our reserves and shared with the MLA. Recently the Ministry of the Environment has become engaged. See Water Quality Report below.
- Very recently we received complaints about the expansion of the CN spur line along Highway 69 and the impact of the chemical compounds used on Lake Joseph water quality. Andrew Watson, director of the LJNA and the MLA and our head of water quality is looking into the allegations.
- The LJNA continued support for the grass roots "Safe Quiet Boating Committee". We should be proud of the LJNA directors and members leading this initiative; specifically Frances Carmichael, Nancy Cohen and

Greg Wilkinson. This group has galvanized multiple lake associations, townships and police cooperation in a way not previously seen. The cooperation between the lake associations has now moved beyond boating.

- In December 2012 the LJNA started planning and working with all the Seguin lake associations to organize support for like-minded candidates in the October 2014 municipal elections. This will play out over the next year.

The following are our Committee reports:

Water Quality Report

Water quality at the north end of Lake Joseph continues to be the envy of Muskoka. We are blessed with some of the clearest and cleanest water in all of Muskoka. The north end of the lake is the top of the watershed for this area and even with plenty of new development still features a tremendous amount of undeveloped shoreline. The Lake Joseph North Association continues to commit a great deal of time and resources toward ensuring our lake remains pristine for future generations.

This is the twelfth year that Hamer Bay has been included in the Muskoka Lakes Association's (MLA) Water Quality Initiative, while both Gordon Bay and Stanley Bay were added in 2004. The Water Quality Initiative includes an extensive water testing program. Between Victoria Day and Labour Day, Hamer Bay, Stanley Bay and Gordon Bay are being tested for a combination of water clarity, total phosphorous, dissolved organic carbon (DOC), and a variety of coliform bacteria, including E. coli. Many volunteers have helped collect and analyze samples in the past. This year, Cecil Hayhoe, John Offutt, and Andrew Watson are doing the work. It's important to have cottagers involved as citizen scientists so we can learn about water quality issues and how to address problems should they arise.

Although the water quality at the north end of Lake Joseph is quite high, the Lake Joseph North Association continues to have concerns about the impact that Clublink's Rocky Crest Golf Course may be having on the water quality in Hamer Bay. According to reports commissioned by both the MLA and the Lake Joseph North Association, phosphorous levels in Hamer Bay have consistently been above threshold levels, and in some years double the threshold value. In a 2012 report commissioned by the Lake Joseph North Association, RiverStone Environmental Solutions (RiverStone) wrote that "it appears that TP [total phosphorous] concentrations in Hamer Bay have been increasing and that the activities on the Rocky Crest Property could be related to this increase. The available data suggests

that the quantity of phosphorous in the fertilizer applied to Rocky Crest Property is the key factor contributing to the changes in TP concentrations in Hamer Bay.” The three recommendations from that report were that the Lake Joseph North Association (1) initiate a more rigorous monitoring and analysis of phosphorus loading Hamer Bay, (2) have an independent peer review conducted of all the available data for Hamer Bay, and (3) contact the Ministry of Environment to ensure Rocky Crest is not polluting the lake.

To this end, in partnership with the MLA, the Lake Joseph North Association has retained the services of RiverStone to carry out a study of the stream entering Hamer Bay from Rocky Crest. This stream study monitors both the flow rate and the phosphorous concentrations of the water in order to determine whether Rocky Crest is loading enough phosphorous into Hamer Bay to account for the high phosphorous readings collected by the MLA over the past twelve years. The stream study began in November 2012, with several samples taken over the winter of 2012/2013, and many more taken during the spring and summer. The study will be completed in the fall of 2013, at which point RiverStone will review the data to determine if the readings indicate that Rocky Crest’s golf course operations are a significant source of phosphorous entering Hamer Bay.

If you have any water quality questions, would like to learn more about the Hamer Bay stream study, or want to get involved with the MLA’s Water Quality Initiative as a volunteer, please email Andrew Watson, Director and Chairman of Water Quality at the LJNA (awatson8381@hotmail.com).



SAFE QUIET LAKES

Our objective: To make the lakes safer and quieter to ensure the sustainable enjoyment of a treasured shared resource by starting the conversation with all stakeholders.

With help from the LJNA, LRNA, LLJA, MLA and others in 2012, we began the conversation by engaging law enforcement and government officials in our region.

We told our story in articles in the Mukokan, distributed our postcards & posters by dock drop, at retailers, at the Rosseau Friday market and at many other events. We spoke at Association AGM's throughout the region.

The \$15,000 raised from associations and municipalities was augmented by generous pro bono support from professionals who provided creative concepts, artwork, website design and strategic support for our communications program. We are grateful for the support but know there is still a lot more to do.

Earlier this spring, more than 50 directors of lake associations, local politicians and law enforcement gathered for our second annual stakeholder update. Presentations helped us to understand how best to talk to inconsiderate boaters, report incidents, consider special signage or marker buoys and generally work together to educate and inform thought leaders and boaters. A new version of our Boaters Code and artwork were unveiled. A detailed report is posted on our website: safequiet.ca.

One of the most important activities for the 2013 season is the launch of an online survey. It will give community members a voice to help direct the communication, education and advocacy priorities of Safe Quiet Lakes. The survey is being distributed by email through partner lake associations and will be available at safequiet.ca. A report will be published mid-summer.

We request and encourage all boaters to complete the boating survey located at safequiet.ca.

We all share in the responsibility of keeping our lakes safe, quiet and sustainable. You can help by championing these ideas with your neighbours and friends, by **volunteering or by making a donation.** Please see our website for more details or contact us at safequieter@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to building this partnership.

The following information is reprinted from the Lake Rosseau North Association (LRNA) Summer Newsletter.

The extended hours at the nursing station are provided by donations and the support of the LRNA.

Weekend hours at the Ruth Dare Nursing Station in the town of Rosseau are Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am to 4 pm from June 29 & 30 through to Sept. 1.

The Lighthouse Rocks!

This year the LRNA focus is on fund raising for the restoration of the historic Rosseau Shoal Lighthouse.

The Township of Seguin has submitted an application to the Federal DFO to take over the ownership and continued maintenance of the Lighthouse in partnership with LRNA's assistance with its renovation.

The LRNA Board of Directors has pledged a minimum of \$ 10,000 towards the estimated cost of \$ 20,000 for the restoration.

The LRNA has embarked on a campaign "**The Lighthouse Rocks**" to raise the necessary funds.

The campaign will culminate at an evening **Gala on July 27, 2013**. Donors of \$100 and up will be invited to celebrate at the Gala featuring silent and live auctions, live music, a buffet and refreshments including wine and beer, in a spectacular lake side setting.

There are three categories of family gifting: Friends: \$100 to \$249; **Patrons:** \$250 to \$499 and **Benefactors:** \$500 plus. You are asked to make a cheque payable to "Seguin Township/Rosseau Lighthouse" if you wish a tax receipt and mail it to LRNA, P.O. Box 245, Rosseau, ON, POC 1J0 along with your membership renewal, that cheque endorsed to LRNA.

We hope that you will help to preserve an important community icon and landmark!

2013 Speaker Series

LRNA in partnership with Seguin Township is pleased to announce the 2013 Speaker Series. Special thanks go to LRNA Directors Corinne Hagerman and Ken Bodnar for the creation and organization of these informative sessions.

Gardening at the Waters' Edge - Elaine Vida July 3

Living in Harmony with Wildlife - Tony Grant July 17

Mapping Canoe Routes in Canada and Muskoka - Hap Wilson July 31

Safe and Quiet Lakes - Frances Carmichael August 14

All sessions run from 4-5 PM at the Rosseau Community Centre. Children are welcome.

Rosseau Farmers' Market

Over 80 vendors will welcome you. The popular market will be open Fridays from June 28 through to September from 9 am to 2 pm at the Rosseau Waterfront.

Local entertainment is featured at the Market. If anyone knows of local bands/musicians who may be interested in performing please contact Lyniss Royea at loghollo@vianet.ca

Movie Nights in Rosseau

Summer movie nights will be every Monday at 7 pm, starting on Monday July 1st with GI Joe-Retaliation at 7 pm at the Rosseau Memorial Hall. Please check the website at www.movienightinrosseau.ca for a list of upcoming films.

Rosseau Regatta

The 48th Annual Rosseau Regatta will be held on July 27th at the Rosseau Waterfront. Save the date!

**LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION
MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

August 4, 2012

1. Treasurer's Report

Shawn Gordon presented the Treasurer's Report. In particular:

- (a) The Financial Statements for 2011/2012 were presented and approved;
- (b) The Budget for 2013 was presented and approved;

2. Directors and Officers

The Board of Directors and the Officers of the Association were introduced. In particular, two new members of the Board of Directors were introduced, i.e., Nancy Cohen and Andrew Watson.

The slate of Directors and Officers was approved. John MacKenzie, President; Frances Carmichael, Nancy Cohen, Pierre Gagnon, Shawn Gordon, Bruce Hatherley, Cecil Hayhoe, Brad Nullmeyer, Paul Morrison, Brian Smith, Andrew Watson.

3. Seguin Township Matters

A number of matters in connection with Seguin Township were presented and discussion ensued.

In particular:

- (a) The financial highlights/financial status of Seguin Township were presented by Shawn Gordon. Mayor Conn answered questions from Association members with respect to financial issues.

(b) Other Municipal Matters

Councillor Doug Sainsbury presented a status report with respect to a number of issues. Highlights included that there was no property tax increase for 2012 in Seguin Township. Councillor Sainsbury reported upon the maintenance and upgrade project for the Stanley House Road. Councillor Sainsbury also presented a report with respect to the new nursing station in the Town of Rosseau. Finally, Councillor Sainsbury reported that the municipal airport had achieved a profit of \$100,000 in the past year.

(c) Feeding Bears

There was a discussion as to problems associated with feeding bears, in particular as occurs at or near the Hamer Bay Store. It was reported that a bylaw has now been passed to deal with unlawful feeding of bears. Hence, the bylaw can be cited to officials in the MNR and at the Township in order to control the feeding of bears.

4. Water Quality Report

The water quality report was presented by Brian Smith. Brian reported that the area of most concern is Hamer Bay, which is now causing higher total phosphorous levels in the main Lake Joseph basin. Ongoing efforts are being made to deal with Club Link and the Rocky Crest Resort in connection with these issues. It was reported that Clear Lake is also affected and the Clear Lake Association is joining in efforts to pursue a remedy with Club Link.

It was also suggested that pressure needs to be exerted on the Ministry of the Environment to require Club Link to respond to these issues.

5. Safe Quiet Lakes

Frances Carmichael presented the report of the Safe Quiet Lakes Committee. This Committee is composed of representatives from many of the regional Muskoka Lakes associations. Greg Wilkinson also presented a report with respect to the communication strategy, including introduction of the website, safequiet.ca.

The report indicated a focus for the coming year upon communications/awareness of Safe Quiet Lakes issues, enforcement of violations and efforts to strengthen applicable regulations.

6. Muskoka Heritage Trust

Cecil Hayhoe presented the report of the Muskoka Heritage Trust. It was reported that through donations of land and funding, over 12,000 feet of shoreline in northern and central Lake Joseph have now been preserved. Ongoing efforts are being made to bring additional properties within the Trust. Donations are welcome to help cover annual operating costs.