



LJNA
Lake Joseph North
Association

July 2019 Newsletter



Sadly, the Pemberton family had to say goodbye to their historic boathouses on Dahwamah this spring. The ice and flooding shifted them off their cribs and ripped off the siding. Fortunately, the antique canoes were saved. Construction has already started to rebuild the boathouse to look just like the old one. The canoes will never know the difference! Photos: Nick Pemberton



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 or visit www.ljna.org.

2019 AGM - Saturday, August 3rd - 9 to 10:30 am

8:30 to 10:30 at Gordon Bay Marine - Boat showroom

Join us for coffee at 8:30 catch up with your neighbours. Meeting starts promptly at 9. Hear updates from the LJNA Board, Seguin Council and our local OPP marine unit.

President's Message:

Fellow Lake Joseph Residents and Cottagers

Happy Summer! I hope you are back to enjoying your favourite summer activities on the lake with friends and family.

The photos on the cover are a reminder of how severely the flooding affected many of us this spring. The province has initiated a task force and many people including the MLA, Seguin and the District are pushing for solutions. There are many issues to resolve and we look forward to hearing the recommendations soon.

This past year, once the election results were in, the board began been thinking ahead to the new Seguin Official Plan (OP). A lot has changed since the OP was first put together in 1998 when the towns of Christie, Foley, Humphrey, and the Village of Rosseau were amalgamated. In 1998 and again in 2005/06 when the plan was reviewed, the LJNA played a leadership role in advocating for changes supported by our membership. Recommendations included minimum lot sizes, maximum floor area, and boathouse guidelines. We hope to contribute in a positive way to the process once again and look forward to getting your input at the AGM and beyond.

Other news;

- We once again participated in planning the joint lake associations meeting in June. There were presentations from the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve, the Muskoka Watershed Council and Mayor MacDiarmid. It is a useful forum for the Seguin area lake associations to share ideas.
- We were pleased to show our community support as a sponsor of the Seguin Sled Dog Mail Run this winter. At our last AGM we decided to find and support local initiatives and events that are of interest to our members.
- Hamer Bay is home to many cottages, a very active resort and marina and has, at times, heavy boat traffic. A group of Hamer Bay neighbours, with support from the LJNA, Hamer Bay Marine and Rocky Crest Resort, is working to promote some neighbourly guidelines in the Bay. ***Please remember to respect the shared space on the bay. Keep speeds at reasonable levels. Stay clear of other boaters.***

After many years of hinting, Shawn Gordon has resigned from the board. A huge thank you to Shawn for his tireless efforts over the years to build the LJNA and for keeping watch over the town's finances and taxes among many other things. Shawn's list of contributions is long and we are so appreciative of his many years of service. We will miss you but know you will chime in where needed.

Also, long time board member, Andrew Watson, is stepping down. Andrew was, for a time, on both our board and the MLA Water Quality committee. We will miss his knowledge and clear-headed insights and wish him well in his future adventures.

We welcome two new board members. From Hamer Bay, Blair Sinclair has come on board. Blair was involved in the early days of the LJNA. We are happy to have him back. And from Dahwamah Island, Shelley Spence, a CA and a Senior Manager at Deloitte is taking over as Treasurer.

The full list of nominees for this year is below. Many thanks to each of the Board Members for their time and dedication to our lake and our association. Thanks also to the many other volunteers who help throughout the year doing water quality testing, the dock drop - especially to Nick Pemberton – our 'in-house' advisor on all things computer. And, last but not least, thank you, once again to Gordon Bay Marine.

We are always looking for fresh faces and ideas. Current needs include: municipal planning, website content editor, newsletter help, AGM organisers. The most important qualification is a passion for our lake. If you are interested in helping out, please contact me at info@ljna.org.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Saturday, August 3rd. It is hosted as usual by Gordon Bay Marine with coffee generously provided by Kelly of The Lakeside. And this AGM we will have delicious butter tarts from Aunt Jessie's and cookies from Deb's Sweeties.

Warmly,
Nancy Cohen

Proposed Directors for 2019/20

Nancy Cohen - President
James Buchanan - Municipal Affairs
Frances Carmichael - Municipal Affairs
Mike Finley - Secretary
Bruce Hatherley - Director
Cecil Hayhoe – Director
Elizabeth Jennings - Membership Director
Alex Magditsch - Water Quality Director
Harris Ord - Director
Shelley Spence – Treasurer

General Inquiries: info@ljna.org
Membership: membership@ljna.org
Treasurer: treasurer@ljna.org
Website: www.ljna.org

Lake Health Report:

Water quality and lake health is important for all of us since so much of our cottage experience relates to water. As such there are many different organizations that monitor and assess the water quality to help evaluate the health of our Lakes. The LJNA does its part to assist larger organizations in these initiatives.

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. The MLA's Water Quality Initiative is underway again in 2019. On behalf of all the members, the board of directors of the LJNA would like to thank the team of volunteers who collected water samples in the LJNA area in 2018. Thank you Cecil Hayhoe, John Offutt, Juliana Magditsch, Lynda McCarthy and Alex Magditsch.

In 2018, the MLA Water Quality Initiative program again collected water in four areas around north Lake Joseph. Phosphorus (a critical indicator of lake system health) was tested at four sites in Hamer Bay, two sites in Stanley Bay, one site in the main basin of the lake, east of Wegamind Island, and two sites in Gordon Bay. Bacteria (Total Coliforms) was tested at one site in Hamer Bay and one site in Gordon Bay.

The results for MLA's water sampling are presented in a report prepared by Beacon Environmental, titled 2018 Water Quality Initiative Report, which can be found on the MLA's website: <http://mla.on.ca/>. The 2018 results are within typical ranges for the areas and no concerns were noted with the exception of Gordon Bay where an increasing trend in Phosphorus was noted. While the level in the last three years have been increasing the Phosphorus levels are still within historical values.

Also released in July 2018 was a report by The Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) titled Muskoka Watershed Report Card. The Muskoka Watershed Report Card is a science-based evaluation of the state and health of the watersheds in Muskoka and is available at <https://www.muskokawatershed.org/programs/report-card/>. The report examines Lake health indicators such as Total Phosphorus, calcium, benthic macroinvertebrates and interior forest and also examines threat indicators such as climate change, species at risk, invasive species and fragmentation. The conclusions of the report state: "Muskoka...is in good ecological health. Our phosphorus levels are stabilizing, our benthic communities are 'typical' and thriving, and we are fortunate to have significant, large, continuous natural areas and interior forest habitats for all biota including species at risk. However, we cannot be complacent. Muskoka is also facing significant environmental issues..."

The water quality 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

- maintaining 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.

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

Alex Magditsch

Municipal Matters:

As most of you are aware, the township election in the fall of 2018 resulted in a new mayor, Ann MacDiarmid, and a new ward 4 Councillor, Terry Fellner. The new Council is busy addressing a new strategic plan for the township, leading to a review of the Official Plan (OP), and revisions to the zoning and other by-laws to implement the OP.

The strategic planning process is well underway. A public meeting was held on June 15th. A separate meeting for key stakeholders, including LJNA, was also held in June. A draft strategic plan was discussed at the July 15th Council meeting and available at the township website for your review. We expect this exercise to be concluded this summer so you are encouraged to comment to LJNA and the township asap.

The process for the OP review will begin immediately after that. The Ontario government requires every municipality to review its OP every five years. The OP establishes overall guidelines and specific criteria that guide overall development across the township. The review process is very early stage and is expected to extend into 2020. Members of the LJNA board have had a preliminary meeting with the township planning department to discuss the process and timing of the review. We will be working to identify the key issues for our members and expect to be actively involved over the next year or so. The LJNA will continue our history of constructive input to the municipal decision process and invites members to be in touch with thoughts.

Zoning by-laws and other enabling by-laws are subject to change on an ongoing basis. The OP review will likely result in a set of more significant changes over the next 12 to 18 months. We will attempt to monitor all of these as they occur to identify opportunities to represent the interests of our members.

James Buchanan and Frances Carmichael

Letter from Terry Fellner – Seguin Councillor Ward 4

July 12th, 2019

Hello to all

It's hard to believe that it has been over 6 months since the new council was authorized last December. It has been an interesting and sometime challenging exercise this past half year, but I think that the new council & mayor have done a good job getting up to speed on the issues at hand and now have a good blueprint for a course of action over the balance of the term.

Hopefully the poor weather this spring and flood conditions on the lakes did not cause significant damage to your property, our dock was damaged and we had lots of cleanup after the highwater but have finally got things back to normal. The mayor, council and staff are waiting for some findings from the task force appointed by the provincial government formed to determine the root causes of the problem. The public consultation process ended at the end of June so hopefully we will see a report sometime this summer.

Council has been working hard on the development of a new Strategic Plan. We have reached the point where the draft document is available for review and will formally presented and be discussed in the upcoming council meeting Monday July, 15th, the draft document can be found in the agenda for the meeting which is posted on the township website.

As well as regular council duties I have been appointed to three township committees: The Library Committee, The Museum Committee and the Committee of Adjustments.

The new council approved additional funds to the library for this year to expand programming and hours of service for the four branches in Seguin. During my brief time serving on the committee I have been impressed by the quality of our staff and dedication of the committee and staff to provide the best library experience for Seguin residents. If you have not already done so I would encourage you to drop by one of the branches (Rosseau & Humphrey Branches are the closest to you), meet Stephanie and her staff, join up and start enjoying the multitude of services available to you. The focus of the library committee is to strengthen the presence and role of the libraries in our community, we have enjoyed good results to date with a growing membership. I know Nancy has previously sent a link to you to use (<http://seguinpubliclibraries.ca/>) . Please explore what we have to offer.

The Seguin Museum is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. For those of you who are not aware of the museum it was originally built as a church, then converted to a schoolhouse and established as a museum in the 1970's. Its located on the corner of Hwy 141 & Museum Road (across from the Clear Lake Road) more information can be found on the township website. The museum committee has been working hard to organize a new sign and a celebration service to commemorate the anniversary which will be held at the Museum on July 21 at 10:00am, all are invited and encouraged to attend. Again, if you have never visited

the museum, please do so it is a beautiful setting and an important part of Seguin history. If you have any historical items you wish to donate please do not hesitate to contact me.

Looking forward to meeting with all of you at the AGM in August

Best regards
Terry

Home: (705) 732-1725
 Cell: (519) 831-5526
 Seguin Township Email: terryfellner@seguin.ca
 Personal Email: tfellner@hotmail.com

Some Important Information:

Bylaw infractions: Patrick Shoebottom, Fire Prevention Officer/By-Law Enforcement Officer
 T.: **705-732-4300 x 252**
 Toll Free:: **1-877-473-4846**
 After hours Answering Service at 705-751-0050

Recycling in Seguin:

The Township has established a re-use center, located at the Seguin Landfill Site, 39 Star Lake Road, Orrville. The re-use center accepts gently used items that others may be interested in. Purchasing of items is by donation. All proceeds collected are forwarded to Seguin Township Volunteer Fire Department. For more information check the waste & Recycling page on the town website: www.Seguin.ca

Ruth Dare Health Clinic Rosseau Nurse Practitioner Led Clinic Site

Regular Hours:
 by appointment only

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am- 12:00 pm

Weekend Hours Walk-in Clinic
July and August + Labour Day Weekend
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

For information on the Nursing Station or to make an appointment, call **(705) 732-1095**. Or visit: www.wpshec.com/nursingstations/

Treasurer's Report:

We are in the process of moving our financials to new software and unfortunately the statements are not ready for the newsletter. Complete financials will be presented at the AGM. Please be in touch to treasurer@ljna.org with any questions.

Shelley Spence

BOATER'S CODE

Respectful boating guidelines from Safe Quiet Lakes

1. I will never operate my boat beyond the level of my skills.
2. I will be aware of and obey all laws and regulations governing operation of my boat.
3. I will operate my boat with caution and courtesy to others at all times.
4. I will minimize my wake impact on shorelines, docks, structures and people.
5. I will always steer well clear of other boats, swimmers and wildlife.
6. I will set a speed and heading that is safe and comfortable for my passengers and others on the water.
7. I will provide safety instructions and offer appropriate life jackets or PFDs to everyone who travels in my boat.
8. I will carry all equipment necessary to operate my boat safely and within the law.
9. I will not consume drugs and alcohol in my boat or allow my boat to be operated by anyone who is impaired.
10. I understand that boating is a shared experience and I will not create excessive noise or operate my boat in a manner that disrupts the peaceful enjoyment of the lake by others.



Safe Quiet Lakes Update

The summer weather may have starting slowly, but Safe Quiet Lakes, as usual, was off to a flying start.

Getting the Word Out: On April 12th, we hosted our 8th annual Stakeholder meeting with a record number of participants including leaders of lake associations, OPP, marinas, municipal politicians. The meeting’s purpose is to share new ideas and feedback, and encourage everyone to get the “safe and responsible” boating message out to their membership. We’ve been invited to present at Lake Associations AGM’s and family events across Muskoka this summer including the MLA Seminar Series held on July 11th along with the officers from the OPP Marine Unit.

Our survey results continue to inform our work. Fifty percent or more of the respondents find that, compared to five years ago, there is now: more boat

traffic, more boat noise, greater impact of boat wakes. Respondents from north lake Joe shared this concerns and solutions. A strong majority of lake users favour solutions based on balanced use of the water and respect for others. Our “Share the lake” and “Safe and responsible” messages are more important than ever. We believe education, communication and getting the conversation going are important drivers of change

The Safe Quiet Lakes team is terrific, and recently has been augmented by two additions. Colleen Kennedy has joined the Board. Colleen is the executive Canada Club and along term cottager near Port Carling. I would also like to welcome Aaron Rusak, as our first year round employee. Aaron is already a wonderful help for our ever growing administration and communication activities.

A special thank you to LJNA and to Seguin township, two of our largest supporters. We appreciate your support in expanding the conversation about safe and respectful boating. I look forward to your feedback on how we can improve how we work together. Please contact me at chair@safequiet.ca.

Frances Carmichael, Chair - Safe Quiet Lakes

30 METRES IS EQUIVALENT TO

- x7
- x6
- x20
- x38

The OPP wants to hear from the community about dangerous boating or boats without mufflers.
1-888-310-1122

Mom Returns Three Years In a Row

Article and photos by Miles Langstaff

A large Snapping Turtle has laboriously dragged herself up the hill from the lake and nested in our driveway three years in a row: 1st year was 24 eggs the 2nd year 23 and this year 27. To our surprise a second turtle also made a nest and deposited 30 eggs. All the nests have been in the same 10 foot area.

We placed a bucket over the nests to discourage intruders and called Safe the Turtles At Risk Today (START) in Orillia (see below). Fortunately they were able to come and delicately dig out the eggs with their fingers one at a time and save them for incubation. At the end of August we will receive “tonnie” sized babies to release.



Safe the Turtles At Risk Today (START):

With 7 of 8 turtle species in Ontario listed as “at risk”, it is vitally important we actively work towards their conservation. In particular, you can find Midland Painted, Northern Map, Snapping, Musk, Blanding’s, and Spotted Turtles in our area.

The START Project works towards conserving turtle species at risk and the habitats they call home. Anthropogenic threats, such as road mortality, habitat loss, subsidized predators, collection and persecution are the primary causes of decline. But you can help!

With road mortality as the largest threat to turtles, simply by moving one turtle across the road is beneficial to the population. Calling in rare, nesting, injured or dead turtle sightings to our turtle hotline (705-955-4284) is another way to help save turtles. By protecting wetlands on your property, you can ensure turtles have a safe place to live. You can also protect nests from predators by constructing your own nest cage (instructions found at www.helptheturtles.ca). By donating directly to the START Project (email: startturtleproject@gmail.com), you can help our conservation work continue for many years to come!

Interesting Fact: *Snapping turtle survival in nature is 1 chance in 1400 to make it to sexual maturity at about age 25 years. They need our help.*

Friendship & Tennis on Lake Joe

For over 15 years, a social tennis group has been growing among North Lake Joe cottagers. It started with 3 women always hoping for a fourth player, back when the Rocky Crest courts and the rec centre were adjacent to the main office. We set our games for Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, because as busy mothers and cottage hosts, if it wasn't "locked in" it would never happen on a regular basis.

For a few years, together with the Rocky Crest program manager at the time, we organized local tennis pro Brian Shannon to come and run a round robin program for us and resort guests, and offer lessons to children as part of the rec centre program. Having Brian ready to "play in" meant we always were assured of a fourth! The program with Brian was discontinued when the new courts and rec centre were built, but our ad hoc tennis group kept growing and we often filled two courts. This year we have 28 players on our roster and have almost filled every date for the season!

The Lake Joe North Tennis group has grown in other ways. As the years have passed the bonds deepened. Our members have watched children grow, loved ones die, and countless guests pass through our cottage doors. Gathering at the net or on the sidelines, the women have shared everything from phone numbers for tradespeople to health concerns to recipes for the 30 people arriving that night for supper. This tennis group has become a wonderful, supportive community, an added gift to our amazing cottage life!

Two shout outs are in order here: We are grateful to Rocky Crest for welcoming us to the courts as neighbours and creating a way for us to continue this great tennis program. Second, we appreciate the role of The Lake Joe North Association, not only in helping negotiate our relationship with Rocky Crest, but in all they do to contribute to the strong sense of community we experience in this part of Muskoka.

**Karen McCullough, organizer
Lake Joe North Tennis group**





Saturday, August 24, 2019
CNIB Lake Joseph Centre
6:00pm - 11:00pm
19+ RAIN or SHINE

KICK UP YOUR BOOTS!

Join us on Saturday, August 24, 2019 at the CNIB Lake Joseph Centre for an evening of Live Country Entertainment, Local Craft Beer, Real Western BBQ, Whisky & Scotch Tastings, Mechanical Bull, Charity Auction, Fireworks Display & More!

All proceeds will help transform CNIB Lake Joe into a year-round camp with expanded program offerings, including snowshoeing, ice fishing, skating/hockey, and cross-country skiing.



Visit cnib.ca/cnibMuskoka to
Purchase Tickets or Make a Donation



THE LAKESIDE

THE BEST FOOD ON LAKE JOSEPH

WEEKENDS:
11 am - 7 pm

WEEKDAYS:
Tues to Fri 12 pm - 7 pm
*** CLOSED MONDAYS ***

BREAKFAST HOURS:
8 - 12 pm on Sat & Sun

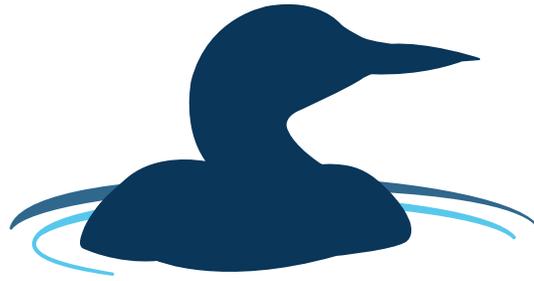
WE OFFER TAKE OUT & CATERING
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Traditions have always been a part of Muskoka Life!

And Jessie's Tarts continues this with the handing down of the original recipe from the Cottage life proclaimed Queen of Tarts! Devon Mullen the grandson of Jessie always shared the passion with his Jessie and is now bringing us home again with each bite!

Come by and experience a treat at the LJNA AGM August 3rd!



LJNA

- A N N U A L -
GENERAL MEETING

IN THE GORDON BAY SHOWROOM

SAT. AUG 3RD

9 am to 10:30 am

Join us for Coffee from 8:30 am

**CHECK LJNA.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION**



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