

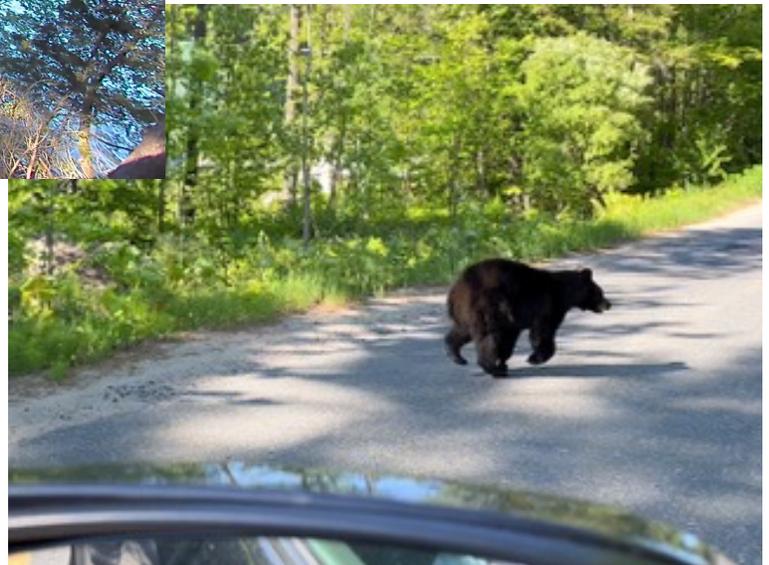


LJNA
Lake Joseph North
Association

July 2022 Newsletter



Cottagers, campers, wildlife share Lake Joseph. How can we co-exist? See page 12. Also in this issue we feature our much-anticipated fireboat, reports from the LJNA board and more... Happy reading!



INSIDE:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	2
TREASURER'S REPORT	3
MUNICIPAL REPORT	4
LAKE JOE NORTH FIREBOAT	5-8
WATER HEALTH	9
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2022	10
SAFE QUIET LAKES	11
BEAR ENCOUNTERS: WHAT TO DO	12

2022 Lake Joseph North Association Annual General Meeting Saturday July 30th, 9:00 AM at Gordon Bay Marine

Hear from the Board, meet the 2022 municipal candidates and connect with your neighbours. Coffee and snacks provided from 8:30 am.
Mark your calendar now!

Founded in 1996, the Lake Joseph North Association (LJNA) represents the interests of shoreline residents on the Seguin Township portion of Lake Joseph, including Portage Lake.

Volunteers 2021

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

Communications

Karen McCullough

Annual Dock Drop

Blair Sinclair-lead, 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, Bizzarri family.

Water Testing

Alex Magditsch-lead, Lynda McCarthy, Juliana Magditsch, Cecil Hayhoe, Keith Martin

Fireboat Committee

Jennifer Bizzarri, Terry Fellner, Deb Hoffman, Jay Morris, Diana Piquette

Volunteers bring fresh ideas to our work. Interested? Contact info@ljna.org.

President's Message

Welcome to the 2022 edition of our newsletter. It feels great to be back in summer mode!

Our newsletter brings you news from around the lake and of LJNA activities. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter!

A highlight this summer is our AGM on Saturday July 30th. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Gordon Bay Marine showroom. Coffee and treats will be available from 8:30 am and the meeting will start promptly at 9. We are planning to offer a hybrid option for those who prefer to join via Zoom. We look forward to seeing you and answering your questions on the July 30.

Another highlight will be the launch of our fireboat. We have confirmed that -- after long delays -- the boat is in production and scheduled for delivery at the end of August. We look forward to celebrating with the whole community! Stay tuned for more details.

LJNA has been very active this year on the municipal front; we will have lots to tell you about at this year's AGM. Our municipal affairs committee led by James Buchanan is heavily involved in providing input to revisions to the Seguin Official Plan, staying on top of council activities such as shoreline alteration by-laws, responding to requests for public input on Short Term Rentals and local land planning approvals.

A significant item on this year's calendar are the municipal elections taking place October 14th to 22nd. Enclosed are flyers from some of the candidates. We will include further election materials in our E-news closer to the election. All the candidates (Mayor, Ward 3 and Ward 4 Councillors) are invited to present at this year's AGM so you can hear from them directly.

Many thanks to our members for their trust and support, and especially to our volunteers for their commitment and leadership. We are very lucky to have so many dedicated community members with a passion for our lake.

Warmly,
Nancy Cohen

The LJNA summer newsletter is delivered to all the docks in the Seguin portion of North Lake Joseph and Portage Lake.

Treasurer's Report for the year ended March 31st, 2022

The last two to three years have brought a level of uncertainty to most not for profit organizations such as ours. We remained hopeful that we would continue to see our members support our work for our community. We are pleased to report that our membership has remained steady at 168, where two years ago, when the pandemic started, we were at 169. Thank you to everyone for your support. If you are new to the Lake Joe North, please consider joining by going to www.LJNA.org.

Over the years the board has specified a number of reserve funds that were to be used for various purposes such as water testing, planning, legal, etc. As time evolved the water testing, etc., continues yearly and is supported by the membership fees. To ensure the purpose of reserve funds are clear, the LJNA board decided to combine the reserve funds into one fund called LJNA Special Initiatives. This fund will enable us to act quickly to respond to one-time issues should the need arise. This will be a discussion topic at the AGM.

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

Total membership and voluntary contributions	\$ 24,675
Expenses	\$ <u>18,344</u>
Excess receipts over disbursements	\$ 6,311

Reserves:

LJNA Special Initiatives	\$ 25,714
Increase in reserve	\$ <u>6,311</u>
Ending reserve	\$ 32,045

Complete financials will be presented at the AGM.

Shelley Spence CPA, CA
LJNA Treasurer



Remembering Joe Bissonette

Joseph Prosper Bissonette was born in 1923 in the Bissonette family home at the end of Stanley House Road on the shores of Lake Joseph, where he lived for the next 75 years until he and his wife Roxanne moved to a smaller home on the Shadow River in Rosseau. He died on May 23 of this year. Joe served on municipal local councils and committees for 50 years. He was the Reeve of Humphrey Township and a councillor when Humphrey was amalgamated into Seguin. He loved Lake Joseph and loved this community and will be greatly missed.

Municipal Matters

Official Plan Review

LJNA continues to participate actively in Seguin Township's Official Plan (OP) Review through its Municipal committee with the support of Bob Lehman, a respected planning consultant. Municipalities are mandated by the Province to review their OPs every five years. Much of the *process* for the review is also mandated by the Province. This review is very important; it sets the parameters for future development in Seguin.

Seguin has released the first official draft of the updated plan and comments were invited until the end of June 2022. LJNA is submitting comments and these will be shared with the membership at the AGM. Generally, we are pleased with the tone of the OP, which continues to put the "environment first." According to our planning consultant, Seguin's draft is quite restrictive compared to plans of other townships. However, *we feel some parts are too vague, and some definitions and rationale are missing. For instance: the revised OP proposes replacing "recreational boating capacity" with "environmental carrying capacity" but so far this is not well-defined. We plan to survey the LJNA membership on key provisions of the draft prior to a second submission in August. We will continue to engage with the Township on these issues.*

Short-Term Cottage Rental Policy

In response to experience across the province, Seguin has recently decided to solicit public comment on this issue yet again. LJNA is guided by the 2018 members' survey on short-term rentals. Almost every one of the 200 respondents believes the tradition of occasional rental of family cottages should continue to be allowed with restrictions to ensure a safe and enjoyable cottage experience for everyone.

Site Alteration Bylaws

In the fall, the LJNA wrote to Council urging them to move forward swiftly to address excessive site alterations through stronger bylaws, effective enforcement and appropriate penalties. Our goal is to work constructively with Seguin to bring solutions to the table that preserve the "view from the canoe" and ensure property owners have reasonable options for their site. We expect Council to bring forward a proposal for consideration in the near future. Stay tuned ...

We continue to monitor requests for minor variances and zoning bylaw amendments. Where possible we consult with nearby affected cottage owners and if warranted present our position to Seguin Council. Contact one of us at info@ljna.org if you have any questions or want to talk about activities in your neighbourhood.

James Buchanan and Frances Carmichael
LJNA, Directors – Municipal Affairs

LAKE JOSEPH NORTH FIREBOAT

At the last in-person AGM of the Lake Joseph North Association in 2019, our Seguin Ward 4 Councillor Terry Fellner reported on a brush fire at the north end of Lake Joseph. Luckily this fire was spotted early and doused before irreparable damage occurred to nearby properties. An informative discussion followed at that AGM about fireboats and the possibility of procuring one for the north end of Lake Joe. LJNA member Jay Morris -- a firefighter himself -- stood up: "Why don't we have a show of hands now of who wants to see a fireboat in North Lake Joe?" The response was overwhelmingly in favour and the fireboat project was born.

That was three years ago. Spearheaded by the LJNA under the capable leadership of LJNA board member Diana Piquette, a committee was soon struck and by the end of the following summer they had raised an impressive sum of \$204,000 from the north Lake Joseph community, the amount needed to purchase a fireboat. Now, this summer the new fireboat will be launched at Gordon Bay Marine.

LJNA FIREBOAT COMMITTEE

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

Canvassers:
Jack Cashman,
Rob Jennings



Photo: Connor Industries



The Lake Rosseau North Association funded a fireboat through donations from the Lake Rosseau community in 2015. The boat has been pressed into service many times. Now it's our turn. Photo: Terry Fellner



Connor Industries, who supplies fireboats to communities all over Canada, is building the LJNA fireboat right in Parry Sound. It will be a 2022 Stanley Welded Aluminum 24' Landing Craft, with a 300 HP Mercury Verado motor. It is rare and special for a community to have a fireboat that was built "in their own backyard" as Councillor Terry Fellner puts it. Recently appointed Fire Chief Sean Carroll adds, "We are using the experience of recent fires to improve the specs for this boat. This boat will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology."

Terry Fellner felt that having a fireboat dedicated to North Lake Joe was long overdue. In 1985 his family's three-story log lodge "Tall Timbers," built in the 1930's by his wife's grandfather, burnt to the ground. The fire department responded and were able to protect the surrounding buildings, but the fire grew so quickly the main structure was sadly lost. Since then there have been a few significant building fires as well as numerous brush fires, one on the very north shoreline and one in Hamer Bay near Rocky Crest.

In 2014 a fireboat was purchased for the north end of Lake Rosseau (also in Seguin Township), made possible by generous donations from members of the Lake Rosseau North Association. The Rosseau fireboat has responded to numerous fires and medical emergencies, most recently a fire along the Shadow River in Rosseau where it is estimated to have saved two neighbouring cottages.

Before fireboats - which draw water from the lake - trucks had to transport all the water to put out a fire. Waterfront properties, often difficult to reach, have always been a particular challenge for firefighters. Terry recalls having a large fire pump on the cottage dock from Victoria Day weekend to after Labour Day. "More than a few times a brush fire would break out and we would throw the pump and hoses in a boat and head over, joined by a boat from Gordon Bay with more pumps to deal with the fire."

The value of having a fireboat in north Lake Joe cannot be underestimated. Many waterfront properties in Seguin are 30 minutes or more from the Humphrey Fire Station. Some are difficult to reach with fire trucks. But most importantly, a fireboat provides an unlimited supply of water at 800 gallons per minute, compared to a fire truck that can shoot 550 gallons per minute, but empties its tank in five to eight minutes, requiring an ongoing shuttle of tankers to bring refills.



May 2022 Fire in Rosseau on the Shadow River. Photo: Terry Fellner

According to Wib Bethune, Humphrey Fire Chief in the 70's and 80's, the firehall used to be the small wooden building beside the arena. A dedicated fire number to call to the township office during business hours was manned by volunteers after hours and on weekends. For fires on water access properties on Lake Joseph crews mobilized to Gordon Bay Marine, where Bruce Hatherley always had a boat available, crew and equipment were loaded up and off they would go, most of the time with staff from the marina. Today, everything has changed, new communication, new firehall, more staff, state-of-the-art equipment. But one thing hasn't changed – Bruce always makes a boat available.



Seguin fire truck ready to go. Photo: Seguin Township



Gordon Bay Marine has a long history of participating in Seguin firefighting efforts.

Today, townships work together to respond to fires in Muskoka. Just as the Foot's Bay fireboat (Town of Muskoka Lakes) has come to the aid of Seguin firefighters, our boat will also be available to serve other communities.

The LJNA fireboat will be owned by Seguin Township, who will take on the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining the boat. The Seguin Fire Department, under retired Fire Chief Don Hood, guided the process to select the right boat and ensure it will meet current needs.

The fireboat will do more than fight fires. It will respond to medical emergencies, boating accidents, stranded boaters and nighttime search and rescue. It will be part of a network of emergency services to all waterfront properties in Muskoka.



Seguin Fire Services staff stations in Rosseau, Humphrey, Christie and Foley with volunteer firefighters. The current roster of 42 firefighters respond to calls 24 hours a day when dispatched through pagers they carry. The Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and Administration Assistant are the only full-time members of the Seguin Fire Service. Fire fighters train weekly to stay sharp on skills such as water rescue, ice rescue, medical response and structural firefighting. Through the use of fire apparatus, portable pumps, boats, ATV's and snowmobiles they are able to cover all areas of the township all year long.

Fire Chief Sean Carrol talking to children about the work of a firefighter.

Photo: Seguin Township



Karen McCullough

Some information for this article has been taken from the LJNA fireboat project page on the LJNA website.

Water Health – Benthic Biomonitoring of North Lake Joseph (August 2021)

“We all are instrumental in maintaining this healthy ecosystem by taking proper actions in and around the lake.” Dr. Lynda McCarthy

The health of a lake is very much dependent on, and reflected by, its *benthos* – the biological community in the bottom sediment of a lake or river. The abundance and diversity of this living community in the littoral zone (shallow water nearest to dry land) can be indicative of the overall health of a lake. This zone is especially important to lake quality and is impacted by snowmelt, property runoff, and sedimentation. Thus, we all are instrumental in maintaining this healthy ecosystem by taking proper actions in and around the lake.

Benthic sampling on North Lake Joseph took place on August 18, 2021 with the expert assistance of Jess Lario, Biomonitoring Technician with the District of Muskoka and cottager volunteers. The overall results are available to LJNA members but in summary, the data indicated that the benthos is in good health.

Moving forward, Jess has recommended that sampling be done at the boat launch site again this summer and that another site be sampled in a different part of North Lake Joseph to establish representative trends of the lake. The location of the second site is currently being determined, with an established sampling date of August 20.

Jess lauded LJNA for caring about the lake and taking an active role in monitoring programs such as benthic analysis and cannot wait to help the members of LJNA sample the benthos.



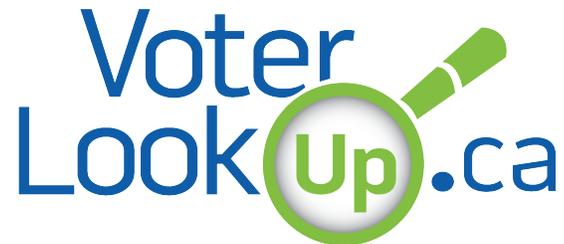
LJNA is looking for volunteers to help with the sampling in August. All are welcome and it is a fun and educational few hours in the sun. Please contact me at lyndamccarthy22@gmail.com.

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

*Sampling at the Boat Launch, Port Cockburn
 (North Lake Joseph 2021 sampling site)*

*The full article by Lynda McCarthy can be found on the LJNA website:
<https://ljna.org/Water-Quality>*

Municipal Elections 2022 – Are you on the Voters' List?



This fall municipal elections are being held across Ontario. You can vote if:

- you are a Canadian citizen
- you are aged 18 or older
- *and* you, or your spouse, own or rent property in Seguin Township.*

**You can vote in more than one municipality.*

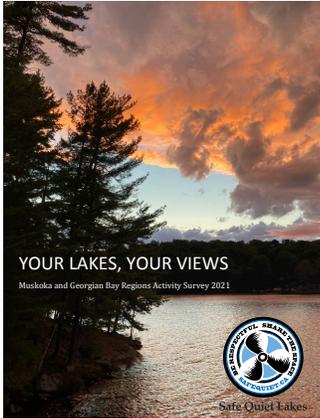
Most of the LJNA membership is in Ward 4 and some are in Ward 3. Waterfront residents represent the majority of electors in Ward 4. Our votes are important.

In Seguin voting will be by internet or telephone from Oct 11-24. We appreciate that Seguin has made voting possible this way, as not all municipalities are doing this. More information on the process will be provided to eligible voters via mail and on the Seguin website: <https://www.seguin.ca/en/township-services/elections.aspx>

MPAC maintains the electors list; go to www.voterslookup.ca to check that you are on the list.

Currently, our Mayor Ann MacDiarmid and our Ward 4 Councillor Terry Fellner are both standing for re-election. Nominations close on August 19.





Safe Quiet Lakes Update

Safe Quiet Lakes conducted one of the largest lake life and boating surveys in North America last summer, in cooperation with numerous Muskoka and Georgian Bay region lake and resident associations. 217 LJNA members responded. The survey shows an overwhelming consensus that we all have a responsibility to preserve the natural state of our lakes for the future and agreement that motorboat operators have more responsibility to ensure the safe coexistence of activities on the lakes.

The survey was conducted between May and July 2021 by ERIN Research in conjunction with The Marketing Research and Analysis program, Algonquin College, and had almost six thousand respondents - a 50% increase over the original studies that were conducted in 2017 and 2013.

The survey found virtually all cottagers, residents and visitors love life on and near the water, including swimming, boating and appreciating the sounds of nature. More than 90 per cent of respondents feel strongly that that all Muskoka residents and visitors have a responsibility to protect the natural beauty of the region for future generations. The mix of boating activities has changed over the eight years of surveys. Significantly more participants report enjoying both power boating and paddling with the largest increases in kayaking and paddleboards.

Respondents feel that boat traffic has increased and the overall perception of safety has gone down since 2017. More than 80 percent of respondents feel that the Muskoka lakes and waterways are busier and noisier than four years ago and that the level of safety has gone down; resulting in an overall quality of experience rating slipping by four percent.

The main concerns are consistent over the three surveys and are all associated with unsafe and inconsiderate boating: boat noise, especially from personal watercraft, boat wakes, boats operated at high speeds, especially when close to shore. Most prominently, there has been an increase in support for education about responsible boating, regulation, and enforcement. The survey found that there are double digit increases in readiness for solutions that have been commonly proposed. Key areas of support include:

- more education and communication
- stronger enforcement of boating while under the influence, and
- establishing decibel limits on noise made by boats
- no wake zones to protect people and wildlife in sensitive areas

To view the full report or for more information about Safe Quiet Lakes please go to our website: www.safequiet.ca.

Diana Piquette,
Chair of Safe Quiet Lakes

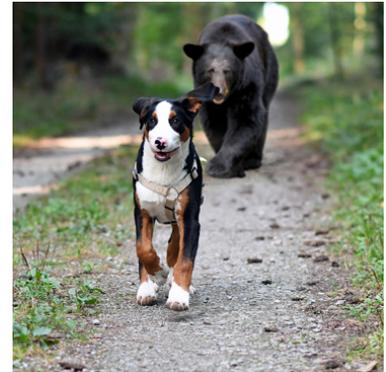
Be Bear Wise*

Emergency situations: Call 911 or your local police if a bear...

- enters a school yard when school is in session
- stalks people and lingers at the site
- enters or tries to enter a residence
- wanders into a public gathering
- kills livestock/pets and lingers at the site

Non-emergency situations: Call the Bear Wise reporting line at 1-866-514-2327 if a bear...

- roams around or checks garbage cans
- breaks into a shed where garbage or food is stored
- is in a tree
- pulls down a bird feeder or knocks over a barbecue
- moves through a backyard or field but does not linger



If you encounter a bear: *Stop. Do not panic. Remain calm.*

- Slowly back away while keeping the bear in sight and wait for it to leave.
- Throw objects, wave your arms and make noise if the bear does not leave.
- Prepare to use bear spray.
- Get inside a building or vehicle as a precaution.
- Drop any food you may be carrying and slowly move away.
- Leave a bear alone if it is in a tree. The bear will come down when it feels safe.
- Play dead - only if you encounter a mother bear with cubs.

Do not

- Run, climb a tree or swim.
- Make direct eye contact.
- Approach the bear to get a better look.
- Attempt to feed a bear.
- Let your dog off its leash.
- Play dead - unless you are attacked by a mother bear defending her cubs.

When out in bear country

Leash your dog to avoid dogs harassing a black bear and causing an attack.

Bears are smart, curious, powerful and potentially dangerous. They do not like surprises. If you see a cub or small bear, there is a good chance that the mother is nearby. Take caution.

**Extracted from the website of the MNRDF*