

Bring a Fireboat to Lake Joseph.

/// FAQs

Why is a fireboat necessary for Lake Joseph?

A fireboat does several things:

- 1/// It gives better emergency coverage to island dwellers and those on remote properties.
Many waterfront properties in Seguin are 30 minutes or more from the Humphrey fire station, some on remote one-way roads. A fireboat on Lake Joseph strengthens our network of emergency services that includes four fire stations, one fireboat on Lake Rosseau and other informal islander emergency boats provided by local marinas.
- 2/// It offers a faster response to medical emergencies, boating accidents, stranded boaters and nighttime search and rescue.
- 3/// It offers better access to water for fighting fires. Without a fireboat, firefighters use tanker shuttles to bring water to the property.
- 4/// A fireboat empowers first responders to see and confront a lakefront fire from multiple angles, enabling them to undertake a more accurate firefighting strategy. This also makes it safer for staff and volunteers.



Shouldn't my taxes pay for the fireboat?

How is the township helping?

Your municipal taxes pay for the fire stations, staff, volunteer training and ongoing fire services of Seguin Township. The fireboat will be an extension of these services.

The Township of Seguin has budgeted to pay for ongoing maintenance of the fireboat once it is in the water.

A purchase of this size is well beyond the finances of a small municipality like Seguin.

Council has agreed to add maintenance and operation of the fireboat to its annual budget.

The Lake Rosseau fireboat was and is funded in a similar manner.

What is the budget for the fireboat?

Our fundraising goal is \$150,000, which will cover the purchase of a used workboat and a retrofit for fire and other emergency equipment. As requested by the township, the fireboat should include:

- /// a high-powered pump system
- /// rope throw bags, water reach tools, axe, grass fire shovels, grass fire brooms, pike poles and other fire fighting equipment
- /// first aid materials including defibrillation equipment, medical bags and backboards
- /// loudspeaker, emergency lights, high beam spotlights and siren
- /// portable radios, GPS and navigational maps
- /// dry suits, lifejackets, and foil heat blankets

Do all lakefront cottages benefit?

Yes. The fireboat provides emergency services to lakefront cottagers, boaters and islanders as well as gives access to an endless source of water for fighting fires on both mainland and island properties.

It can arrive quickly to any emergency accessible by water, and serve as a giant hydrant feeding water to the firetruck pumps, by far the most efficient way to get water to a fire. Once the boat arrives, the crew will run hose from the boat to bring water to where it's needed.

My property is outside the boundaries of the Lake Joseph North Association. Why should I contribute?

While housed at Gordon Bay, the fireboat can be called to service any property on Lake Joseph, Lake Rosseau, or Little Lake Joe, as warranted by first responders. The boat would also service day-use boaters, guests at cottages and lakefront hotels, watersport enthusiasts and pleasure craft operators. The fireboat will be part of a co-operative network of emergency services that blankets the entire Muskoka region.

Can I get a tax receipt for my donation?

Yes, all donations will be eligible for a tax receipt from the Township of Seguin. Funds raised will be held by the Township in a trust account until we are ready to go ahead with the purchase. Tax receipts will be issued by the township in December 2020, once the project has been confirmed to go forward.

What is our timeline?

The fundraising for the fireboat will take place throughout 2020, although it has had a later start than planned due to COVID-19. Our goal is to raise awareness and funds throughout the summer and fall of 2020. We will partner with Gordon Bay Marine to help us find and purchase a used workboat in winter 2020/2021, empower the Seguin Fire Service to purchase the necessary equipment, and enable them to work with Gordon Bay to retrofit the boat so that it is launched for the 2021 boating season.

Our goal is to raise the full amount of \$150,000 by the end of 2020. The Township of Seguin is accepting donations and segregating them into a specific holding fund. The town has an agreement with the LJNA and cannot use these funds for any purpose other than the purchase of the fireboat. The LJNA Board will give the go-ahead to this project once 80% of our funds have been raised. Should we not reach that goal, the Board will need to assess whether to return donations or to continue the fundraising into 2021.

How long will the fireboat last?

The estimated life of a fireboat is 15 years. A by-law was passed at Seguin Town Council that dedicates ongoing funds to the maintenance of the fireboat as well as periodic replacement of equipment.

Will the fireboat reduce my cottage insurance premiums?

No, currently there is no impact on insurance premiums with the addition of a fireboat to your area. However, because our fire services have special accreditation around their use of tanker shuttles, rural residents within 8km of a fire station may be eligible for a rate reduction. For more information, visit:

<https://www.seguin.ca/en/explore-play/fireservices.aspx>

I already have a pump on my property. How will this compare?

A home use unit pumps approximately 60 gallons per minute. A fire vehicle can pump at approximately 550 gallons per minute, but empties its tank in 5 to 8 minutes, which is why tanker shuttles are required. A fireboat brings unlimited water at approximately 800 gallons of water per minute.