

# LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOC. NEWSLETTER



The **LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION** was established in the late 1990's as a sister organization to the Lake Rosseau North Association and Little Lake Joe Association which had been active on Lake related issues for many years. The Association is focused on environmental concerns that affect our quality of life and enjoyment of the Lake Joseph North area such as water quality, shoreline development and boating activities. Over the past 12 years the Association has been active in supporting sound financial management at the Township level which has a direct impact on the taxes we pay. On this topic please note our current concern:

## **14% PROPERTY TAX INCREASE in 2015.**

The effect of the Liberal government's proposed OPP Funding model will be an increase in taxes of 11%. The actual tax rate may be another 3% higher due to increase wages and operating expenses.

Come to the annual meeting to find out how you may help fight this outrageous tax increase. In the interim please join Seguin's letter writing campaign to Premier Wynne, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Mr. Naqvi. The letter and the email addresses for the Premier, the Minister and your MPP are all organized on the Seguin website. <http://www.seguin.ca/en/township/OPP.asp>

Your local MPP is Norm Miller, riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka. Please ensure that you include your email address and date.

**The Annual Meeting this year will be held at Gordon Bay Marine on Saturday August 30 at 8:30 a.m.** and will last 90 minutes. We ask that you join the Association by completing the attached card and mail it in this month. Also we look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and there will be time for input from the members as well as brief presentations on the key issues.

This year is an election year and the candidates for Mayor and Councillors for our Wards; 4 & 3 will give a brief presentation and respond to questions at the Annual Meeting.

## **SAFE QUIET LAKES UPDATE**

Many thanks to the association members of North Lake Joseph whose founding support and volunteer leadership has been key to our success to date. Thank-you also to the many Lake Joe North cottagers who filled in the survey last summer. It has been reported widely (please check out the details our site <http://safequiet.ca/news/>) and is informing our priorities this summer.

The response to last summer's survey was overwhelming and reconfirmed that Canadians are passionate about our lakes and lake activities; almost 2300 people participated and added over 130 pages of suggestions. Respondents identified significant concerns that spark fear and often anger. The most commonly cited problems are:

- Boats going too fast too close to shore;
- Loud boat engines;
- Large wakes; and,
- Unsafe and inconsiderate boating.

Over the past year we have been sharing the results with key stakeholders in the boating community including lake associations, boating organizations, policy makers and elected officials, marine manufacturers and marinas.

This summer Safe Quiet Lakes is working hard to share our message throughout Muskoka and beyond. Supported in part by a generous grant from Transport Canada's Boating Safety Contribution Program, and with the help of our first ever summer intern, we have already put in place close to 20 Boaters Code signs at marinas and boat launches. We hope you've noticed our two billboards with the reminder that "You're Not Alone on the Water" on your way to the cottage. And we are publishing articles on respectful and responsible boating regularly in the Muskokan thanks to support from the MLA. Look for us at upcoming boating events and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Respectful and responsible boating is a shared responsibility. You can do your part by discussing safety and courtesy with your neighbours and friends. Together we can create the change we all want to see.

As always, we look forward to your feedback at [safequieter@gmail.com](mailto:safequieter@gmail.com). If you would like to learn more, become more involved, make a donation or share a boating story, please visit [safequiet.ca](http://safequiet.ca).

**Should you wish to report a boating issue to the police, call the OPP non-emergency number 1-888-310-1122.**

**Have fun on the water this summer and remember to be respectful and share the space!**

### **A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR WARD 4 COUNCILLOR - DOUG SAINSBURY -**

It has been my pleasure to represent Ward 4 for the past 11 years and hopefully you will support my re-election on 27th October. During my tenure we have accomplished a great deal due to the stewardship of Mayor David Conn and (for the most part) a hardworking council. I will leave a report on the state of our finances to Councillor Bruce Gibbon who happens to be the only candidate for Mayor in the upcoming election. Bruce has my support and I look forward to working with him to ensure we continue to build on our successes

Your Airport continues its successes in providing meaningful full time jobs to over 60 people and is now no longer a financial drain on the Township. It required levies of \$100,000 a year to keep it afloat ten

years ago and today is a contributor to the Township's coffers. The Township continues to be vigilant in ensuring that its by-laws are enforced as is evidenced by our winning the enforcement of our Bear By-law, together with costs, that was recently upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada. Other examples dealt with a boathouse built illegally in Rosseau that the owner had to put on a barge and take thru the locks in Port Carling to its new home in Muskoka Lake after he paid us \$85,000 for our legal costs. The owner of a property in Lake Joseph North rectified an unapproved expansion done by the previous owner by buying an adjacent lot and adding to his frontage. This lot was zoned "Resort Commercial" and he agreed to having it rezoned to "Seasonal Residential" saving the potential of 22,000 square feet of buildings on the 260 feet of waterfront.

## **SEGUIN UPDATE FROM BRUCE GIBBON –ONLY ANNOUNCED MAYOR CANDIDATE**

Seguin continues to benefit from a solid financial position.

The 2014 tax rate has once again been reduced and is now some 29% lower than 10 years ago. The Township remains debt free and is projecting another operating surplus for 2014; - our 11th straight! The proposed OPP billing formula remains a huge potential threat to Seguin.

The proposal would triple Seguin's policing costs for the same level of service from approximately \$0.6M / year to \$1.8M. To fund a \$1.2M increase requires an 11% tax increase effective January 2015.

**Council's position is very clear. We believe the proposal is both flawed and unfair and are fighting it aggressively.** Council is also currently doing its due diligence by actively investigating alternative policing options in the event an acceptable billing model is not forthcoming and that we are well positioned to protect the interests of Seguin ratepayers.

I have been involved with the township business since 2002, some 14 years now and I feel very strongly about keeping Seguin on the right track. The theme of my campaign is "Building on Success", success that I am proud to have been a part of and that I want to see continued.

### **My priorities for the next term include:**

- A continued focus on the environment and the Environment 1st principle
- Vigilant protection of Seguin's solid financial position
- Driving and supporting appropriate economic development and growth
- Excellence in service delivery and making Seguin easier to do business with

## **WATER QUALITY UPDATE:**

The water quality at the north end of Lake Joseph continues to be the envy of the rest of Muskoka! In 2013, the Muskoka Lakes Association's (MLA) Water Quality Initiative program tested water in four areas around north Lake Joseph. Phosphorous (a critical indicator of lake system health) was tested at five sites in Hamer Bay, three sites in Stanley Bay, as well as at one site between Wegamind and Bungay Islands and one site in the main basin of the lake east of Wegamind Island. Bacteria (several different types, including E.coli) was tested in three sites in Hamer Bay. And, dissolved organic carbon (an indicator used to help identify man-made sources of phosphorous) was tested at one site upstream from Hamer Bay.

Phosphorous concentrations have remained within acceptable levels for all areas except HMB-1 (located at the North end of Hamer Bay), where levels have consistently exceeded the background threshold value. Samples taken during the spring also indicate that phosphorous concentrations in the main basin of the lake may be experiencing elevated rates.

Concern over consistently high phosphorous concentrations at HMB-1, where a small stream enters the bay, prompted the LJNA to partner with the MLA to conduct a study to try to determine if the stream was the source of the phosphorous entering Hamer Bay. The LJNA and MLA retained the service of RiverStone Environmental Solutions to conduct a study over the course of a year between the fall of 2012 and the fall of 2013. The findings of that study have been written up as a report, which the LJNA and MLA are currently having peer reviewed before additional steps are to be taken.

The MLA's Water Quality Initiative is underway again in 2014 sampling the same sites as 2013.

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 2013 and who have continued to do so in 2014. Thank you Cecil Hayhoe, John Offutt and Andrew Watson!

Our position at the top of the watershed ensures that we have very few concerns in our area. But as individual property owners we must make every effort to keep it that way! This means maintaining a vegetated shoreline (don't clear shrubs and trees away from the shore), not using fertilizers and deterring geese (goose feces are often responsible for elevated E. coli readings). And please read our section on septic maintenance for more information.

### **MAINTAINING YOUR SEPTIC:**

Septic tanks are the key to maintaining high quality water in Muskoka. If you don't use your septic tank properly, it's not working and can damage the health of the entire lake ecosystem.

To begin with, it's important to have some idea about how the septic tank works. Everything that empties into pipes in the cottage ends up in the septic tank. Solid sink to the bottom and scum floats to the top.

Bacteria breaks down the solids, which eventually need to be pumped out after 5-6 years. Excess liquid drains out into tile beds where it is filtered by the surrounding soils and plant roots.

The most important on-going septic maintenance issue is sending too much water into the tank at once. Septic tanks need time to separate solids from liquids. If too much water is sent into the tanks at once this process is incomplete and tile beds can become clogged with scum. Using low flow toilets and breaking up the number of high-use events, such as showers, are important ways of regulating the amount of water sent into septic tanks at once.

It is very important that nothing heavy is built on top of septic tanks, tile beds and piping. And any new construction projects must be sure not to damage the system. Even slight damage to the system will compromise the effectiveness of proper functioning.

Do not flush anything down the toilet that won't biodegrade, and don't flush any chemicals down the toilet. Bacteria can't break down Q-tips, feminine products, floss, or anything plastic. Chemicals kill the bacteria that break down the solids. Anti-bacterial soaps kill the bacteria that break down the solids. Don't use garbage disposals.

Have your septic tank pumped at least every five years depending on the amount of use it gets. Cottages are seasonal, but some get more use than others. Err on the side of caution and accept that spending a few hundred dollars more often than you need to is worth it to protect the water, which makes your property worth hundreds of thousands of dollars!

### **A few things you can do to improve your septic's functioning:**

- flush a liter of spoiled buttermilk down the sink twice a summer. This bacteria will help replenish the bacteria the system needs to break down solids.
- purchase septic-safe products.
- keep the area around the tank and tile beds free from shrubs and trees (roots can damage the system)
- keep a healthy cover of grass growing over the tank and tile bed.
- have your septic tank inspected at the same time as it is pumped.
- If it's been a few decades since you had your septic tank replaced, it's time to start saving up. A proper-functioning septic tank is the most important part of your entire cottage!

**LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL FUND  
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2014**

	<b>BUDGET</b> Year ended <u>June 30 2015</u>	<b>ACTUAL</b> Year ended <u>June 30 2014</u>	<b>ACTUAL</b> Year ended <u>June 30 2013</u>
Receipts :			
Membership fees	\$ 15,000	9,900	10,400
Voluntary contributions	-	270	425
	<u>15,000</u>	<u>10,170</u>	<u>10,825</u>
Expenses:			
Consultants + Water quality testing	10,000	12,258	5,569
Less transfer from warter reserve	(3,000)	(3,000)	
Water testing Muskoka Lakes Association	1,500	1,500	1,500
Safe Quiet Lakes	2,500	2,500	2,500
Land trust other	-	1,000	1,000
News letter and other communication costs	2,400	2,794	2,266
web site	-	-	-
Bank charges	200	199	199
Insurance	1,177	1,177	1,177
Memberships (FOCA)	500	463	476
Other	-	-	-
	<u>15,277</u>	<u>18,891</u>	<u>14,687</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(277)	(8,721)	(3,862)
Surplus (Deficit) start of the year	<u>397</u>	<u>9,118</u>	<u>12,980</u>
Surplus (Deficit) end of the year	<u>\$ 120</u>	<u>\$ 397</u>	<u>\$ 9,118</u>

**LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION  
RESERVE FUND FOR WATER TESTING  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2014**

Reserve Fund start of year	\$ 4,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Transfer to General Fund	<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Reserve Fund end of year	<u>\$ 1,500</u>	<u>\$ 4,500</u>	<u>\$ 7,500</u>

Note 1 During the year we also received and forwarded \$1,050 (2013-\$925) in charitable donations for the Muskoka Conservancy from 20 (2013-19) families.