

2017 Lake Joseph North Association Newsletter

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.



- ANNUAL -
GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH

8:30am to 10:30am

**GORDON BAY MARINE
BOAT SHOWROOM**

CHECK LJNA.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION



WEEKEND REGATTA FUN!! photo by: Pat Pape

Want to share photos of family, friends and neighbours enjoying cottage times together- or see your photo here - Please email your favourite photos to: info@LJNA.org

President's Message:

Fellow Lake Joseph Residents and Cottagers

Welcome to our 2017 Newsletter!

Inside you will read reports from our committees as well as news from Seguin Township.



2017/18 Directors

Nancy Cohen - President
Mike Finley - Secretary
Frances Carmichael -
Municipal Affairs
Harris Ord- Treasurer
Emilie Hayhoe - Director
Communications
Elizabeth Jennings -
Membership
Alex Magditsch- Water
Quality
Andrew Watson- Water
Quality
Shawn Gordon - Director
Bruce Hatherley -
Director
Cecil Hayhoe - Director
Paul Morrison - Director
Chris Robinson - Director

Volunteers :

Janice Wadge -
Newsletter
Miles Langstaff - Dock
Drop Co-ordinator



This past year was a year of building for the LJNA. We exceeded our membership target. We have begun to “restock” our Water Quality-Testing Reserve Fund. We have built an excellent team from all parts of the lake who are energized with new ideas for staying relevant to our members. Importantly, we have recruited some great new board members and volunteers.

A big welcome to: Mike Finley from Wegamind Island as Secretary, Elizabeth Jennings from Gitchie Island as Membership Director, and Harrison Ord from Seeley Bay as Treasurer.

This year a long-standing mainstay of the LJNA, Shawn Gordon, is stepping down as Treasurer. Since the earliest years of the association Shawn has been a most loyal and hardworking Director – always ready to step up for the benefit the LJNA Members and our beautiful lake. Shawn will continue as a Board Member to advise our incoming Treasurer, and will remain on the Seguin Finance Committee where he has been steadfastly fighting for lower taxes on our behalf. A heartfelt **THANK-YOU** to Shawn!

My thanks to my fellow Board Members for their thoughtful counsel and dedication. Many thanks also to the over 20 volunteers who step-up to help with the dock drop, water testing, AGM hosting, membership activities, and this newsletter. We are very lucky to have so many committed community members.

We are currently recruiting for help with the website and communications. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have any comments or concerns, please be in touch at info@ljna.org.

Every conversation so far this summer has included some comments on our highly unusual weather. I don’t know if any of us can remember a summer so wet that the black-flies stuck around until middle of July! There is still lots of fun to be had at the cottage even on a rainy day. Hope you are enjoying both the indoors and the outdoors and finding lots of time for relaxing with family and friends.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM on Saturday, August 5th, 8:30 am.

Happy Summer!

Nancy Cohen

Water Quality Report:

The MLA’s Water Quality Initiative, which began in 2002, is underway again in 2017. 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 2016. Thank you Cecil Hayhoe, John Offutt, Juliana Magditsch, Lynda McCarthy, Zoey Forte and Alex Magditsch.

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 and 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)
- avoid using fertilizers
- ensure your septic system is properly maintained and is operating well.

In 2016 the Muskoka Lakes Association’s (MLA) Water Quality Initiative program again tested water in four areas around north Lake Joseph. Phosphorus (a critical indicator of lake system health) was tested four times at four sites in Hamer Bay; one site in Stanley Bay; and one site in the main basin of the lake, east of Wegamind Island. Additionally phosphorus was tested once during the spring turnover at a site between Wegamind and Bungay Islands. Bacteria (Total Coliforms) was tested in three sites in Hamer Bay and one site near the CNIB camp (GNB-3). Dissolved organic carbon (an indicator used to help identify man-made sources of phosphorus) was tested at one site upstream from Hamer Bay.

The results for MLA’s water sampling are presented in a report prepared by Beacon Environmental, titled 2016 Water Quality Initiative Report, which can be found on the MLA’s website: <http://mla.on.ca/>.

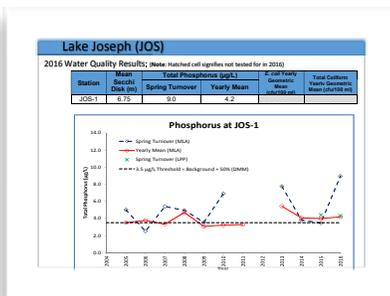


Figure 1 summarizes the results for the main basin of Lake Joseph (JOS-1). Beacon reports that “Phosphorus yearly mean results remain consistent over the sampling years, while the 2016 spring turnover results are the highest recorded to date at 9.0 ug/L.” Beacon presents several potential reasons for the increase in its report, suggesting that the high spring lake levels may have been a contributing factor, but indicating that ongoing monitoring is required to assess if the trend continues.

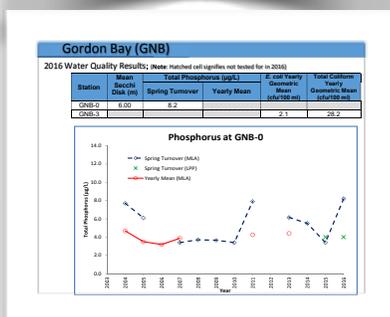


Figure 2 summarizes the results for Gordon Bay (GNB-0). Beacon reports “Phosphorus results remain consistent over the sampling years”. However, the spring turnover results are elevated in relation to previous years. The bacteriological sampling was restarted at GNB-3 in 2015 and the results for 2016 are again well below MLA upper limits.

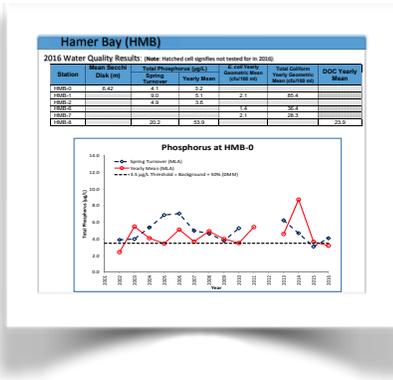


Figure 3 summarizes the results for Hamer Bay. The 2016 phosphorus results are better than previous years for all of the sites. The phosphorus level in the main part of the bay continued to decrease and is now slightly below the DMM threshold of 3.5 ug/L. The phosphorus results at HMB-8 (the stream exiting the Rocky Crest property) were lower than 2015 values but still elevated from earlier values. Ongoing monitoring is required to assess if the downward trend will continue. Bacterial counts at all three sites were well below MLA limits.

Additionally, LJNA has for many years retained consultants to sample the creek discharging from the Rocky Crest property to augment the data collected by the MLA. This continued vigilance is important to assist in our understanding of the contributing factors to the phosphorous load in Hamer Bay.

Alex Magditsch

The Ruth Dare Nursing Station - Rosseau:

The Ruth Dare Nursing Station is again able to open on the weekends in July and August thanks to donations from the Lake Rosseau North Association, community initiatives, and individual private donations from residents on Lake Rosseau and north Lake Joseph. The Nursing Station is open to all and provides vital services to the entire community, providing Primary Care to over 1,300 patients. The number of patient visits rises by 57% in mid-summer. Having the weekend hours has enhanced service delivery immensely.

The Nursing Station also offers a full schedule of programs and classes in the Wellness Room. For information on the Nursing Station call (705) 732-1095 or check the website: www.wpsbc.ca > Programs > Nursing Stations > Rosseau

To support the summer hours program please drop off a cheque made out to WPSHC Foundation at the clinic or donate online at www.WPSHCF.com. Please specify "Summer Hours" to be sure that your contribution will be earmarked for this initiative. Receipts will be provided from the Foundation.

Hours of Operation

Monday- Thursday : 8:30 am-3:30 pm (By appointment)

Friday: 8:30 am- 12:00 pm (By appointment)

Saturday/ Sunday/Holiday Mondays, July and August only: 8:30 am-3:30 pm (Walk-in)

Safe Quiet Lakes:

OUR MISSION IS TO IMPROVE SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT OF OUR TREASURED, SHARED RESOURCE.



The “**Your Lakes – Your Views**“ survey implemented this June was a great success, with **3,300 responses** received - an increase of **1,000** from the 2013 survey in essentially the same geography. Seventy-seven percent of respondents wrote comments totaling 294 typed pages. This response rate indicates that the survey covered issues that are of great interest to cottagers on the Muskoka Lakes.

The survey is now closed. An early tally indicates that there were nearly 300 respondents from Lake Joe northern area and Little Lake Joe. Thank you for completing the survey.

ERIN Research is currently analyzing the responses. There will be a preliminary report in mid-August and a final report in September. These results will help SQL form its communication and education strategy.

Our thanks to Kasia Seydegart and George Spears, the principals of ERIN Research, for donating their firm’s time to structure the survey, receive responses, perform analysis and issue the reports. Kasia and George are long term cottagers on North Lake Joe. Also - our thanks to Ross Halloran of Sotheby’s who organized a dock drop, including a “Take the Survey “ poster, to over 8,000 docks in Muskoka. This dock drop reached cottagers who are not Lake Association members and lends balance to the respondent profile.

Communication and Education Activities:

Research, education and dialogue are critical components of our strategy. This year we devoted considerable resources to encourage people to take the survey. We believe that the survey was a valuable way to get people to think about the issues.

Highlights of other activities are:

- May 20 media launch with the OPP. They continue to partner with us in education programs.
- Production of a new video – a great tool for reaching out to a wider audience. To view, go to YouTube and search Safe Quiet Lakes or type: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPb7u9Qzdpq>
- Taylor Spears is our new summer distribution coordinator. To date, he has visited 30 marinas to check and restock our Code signs and materials. He is also speaking or manning a booth at boating shows such as the Antique Boat show in Port Carling and at Association AGMs.

More information will be available in our next newsletter. Please go to safequiet.ca to subscribe.

Thank you to our donors and sponsors throughout Muskoka. In the North Lake Joe area, we want to thank Seguin Township, Gordon Bay Marine, ERIN RESEARCH and LJNA.

Frances Carmichael, Chair - Safe Quiet Lakes

The Bear Facts:



My Foraging Visitor

Last fall, for a 2 week period, I observed a young bear amidst the acorn-laden oak trees around my cottage. It seemed unaware of the danger of wandering close to human habitation. Thinking it was an orphaned cub and concerned for its safety, I called the Aspen Wildlife Sanctuary in Rosseau. It turned out “my” bear was a healthy newly independent bear who, as Aspen’s staff predicted, returned to the deep forest as soon as he completed his acorn harvest. It was an extraordinary, and I admit somewhat unnerving, experience to observe this creature so close to my front door. It inspired

me to learn more about bear behaviour in anticipation of a return visit this fall. Anyone who has a significant amount of berry bushes or beech and oak trees on their Lake Joe property may have to occasionally share it with bears - so here are some highlights from The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Bear-Wise website (www.ontario.ca/bear-wise), and from the Bear With Us organization at www.bearwithus.org:

People and Black Bears can co-exist. Generally, black bears want to avoid humans and most encounters are not aggressive. When bears are caught off guard, they usually want to flee. Make noise when you are outside so that bears aren’t caught by surprise. And of course - dogs and bears are not best friends. If you have a bear foraging nearby, keep your dog on a leash.

Bears are foragers and always looking for food. Although omnivorous, a black bear’s primary diet is plant material, specifically nuts, seeds and berries. Don’t fill bird feeders between April to the end of November. Bears have a keen sense of smell and will travel for miles to investigate an appealing scent, so don’t feed pets outside nor leave pet food outside or in screened in porch areas. Bears are highly intelligent and if a bear finds bird food, garbage or pet food it will return for as long as the food source is available

Take responsibility. Don't intentionally attract bears by improperly storing garbage, compost, or un-rinsed recycling bottles and jars. Keep your BBQ and grease tray clean.

What to do if you meet a bear: The *MNRF* advises that if you encounter a black bear, remain calm and make sure the bear has a clear escape route. Slowly back away, talking to the bear in a quiet, monotone voice and watching the bear until the bear is out of sight. Do not turn your back. Do not run. *Bear With Us* reports that it has been documented that "bears that allow themselves to be seen by people don't tend to be a threat to human safety". If a bear stands on its hind legs, it is trying to see better or catch a scent – this is not an act of aggression. If a bear feels cornered, it may try to scare you off with warning signals such as making noises, or swatting the ground with its paws. This is a bluff. Give the bear space to get away. If the bear does not leave, wave your arms and make noise to persuade the bear to go.

All the experts agreed that killing a bear must be an action of last resort. During my educational journey, I learned that a north Lake Joe cottager had unnecessarily shot a black bear that was only eating acorns in a tree on his property and posed no threat. Please don't do that! If you are concerned about a bear on your property, here are contacts to call:

Who to call:

- To report non-emergency bear activity around the backyard, such as checking garbage cans, breaking into BBQ's or a garbage shed (or eating acorns in a tree): Call the MNRF Bear Wise line at [1-866-514-2327](tel:1-866-514-2327) (between April 1-November 30).
- For Conflict Resolution/Relocation of nuisance bears, or for rehabilitation of injured or orphaned bears: call or email Mike McIntosh; bearhelp@hotmail.ca (705 685 7830)
- For rehabilitation of orphaned or injured wildlife: Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary; info@aspensvalley.ca (705 732 6368)
- If you feel a bear poses an immediate threat to personal safety (ie: enters or tries to enter a residence, or stalks people and lingers at the site): call 911 or your local police.

Janice Wadge

Muskoka Region History:

LJNA board member Andrew Watson was recently interviewed on TVO's The Agenda about the history of Muskoka. To accompany the interview, Andrew also wrote a blog post for TVO on the overlooked, but critical role of permanent residents to Muskoka's tourism economy. Click on: <http://tvo.org/article/current-affairs/shared-values/the-long-history-of-muskoka-cottagers-dependence-on-year-round-residents>) to watch the interview; read the blog post; or find a link to Andrew's latest article on Muskoka's history in the *Canadian Historical Review*, which will be open access until the end of August.

Municipal Matters:

ELECTION 2018: Seguin Township municipal elections will be held on October 22, 2018...really not that far in the future given that nominations will be received from May 1 to July 27. Seguin Council's effectiveness has a direct impact on all of us, affecting real estate taxes and many safeguards such as zoning by-laws. In fact, even the right for seasonal residents to vote is a municipal decision.

Seguin is an extremely well run township. This year the Township held the budget to a 1% increase only - much less than abutting townships. Please visit the town's website to see the final budget and the staff report.

LJNA is primarily in Ward 4. Seasonal residents in Ward 4 have enough votes to elect the Ward 4 Councillor. We are very fortunate to have Susan Adams as Ward 4 councillor and Bruce Gibbons as Mayor. Susan was elected in the April 2016 by-election. The LJNA Board was active in the run-up to that by-election; interviewing candidates and organizing a well-attended all-candidates meeting as well as making a recommendation to LJNA members/seasonal residents.

New provincial legislation has shortened the time between the close of nomination until the election from 37 weeks to 13 weeks. LJNA will be interviewing candidates, holding meetings and making recommendations for the upcoming election and will need to communicate with seasonal residents, often on short notice. Please encourage your neighbours to join LJNA as it is very important that LJNA has a strong membership base going into the 2018 elections.

SEGUIN LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING: On June 12, lake associations in Seguin Township met for the second year. This was a well-attended and lively meeting hosted by the LRNA. Three issues that could be of interest to LJNA Members were discussed:

- Commercial renting of cottages, basically defined as companies or individuals who own cottages mainly to rent them usually on short term: Some Seguin Lake Associations were concerned about noise, overcrowding, and an "I don't care" attitude. The Town of Muskoka Lakes and many others either have, or are investigating, regulations on short term rentals. One of the smaller lake associations has a serious problem with a commercial operator who owns several cottages on its lake.
- Clean Clear Safe By-Law: In December, a bylaw to enforce clean yards was voted down by Seguin Council after listening to concerns at a public meeting and a staff report. Some associations felt that the issue should be re-visited. The pro side cited environmental, safety and eyesore concerns. The nay side cited infringement of privacy, fear of arbitrary and heavy handed enforcement, and pointed out that provincial regulations already provide safe guards. The LJNA board's position was to wait for the staff report, which recommended that

the best approach was education and communication not regulation. Subsequently Seguin has published a pamphlet “Good Neighbour Practices” which can be downloaded from our website. LJNA supports this approach. Councillor Adams reported recently that the town is making good progress on getting the handful of derelict properties cleaned up.

- Fabric boat ports: Currently fabric and awning style boat ports are governed by the same zoning bylaws as permanent structures. For example, if you have less than 200 feet frontage on Lake Joe a boathouse or port is not allowed and neither is a fabric boat port. Some lake associations believe that exemptions should be made for fabric construction. Opponents expressed concern about “massing “ and visual pollution.

LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS IN THESE ISSUES. Come to the AGM August 5th, or be in touch by email to info@LJNA.org.

Many thanks to fellow LJNA members: Terry Fellner, Shawn Gordon and Craig Reith for their contributions to the Seguin Finance Committee.

There are many opportunities to volunteer for Seguin Township committees: To find out more please visit: <http://www.seguin.ca/en/township/boardscommittees.asp> or contact the Clerk’s Department at [705-732-4300](tel:705-732-4300).

Frances Carmichael

**Our Thanks to
The Lake Side Cafe at Gordon Bay for providing the
coffee and light bites for the
LJNA Annual Meeting.**

The Lake Side Cafe offers traditional favourites from fresh cut fries to its ever-popular hormone free hamburgers and wraps, plus ice cream and fresh coffee everyday. And now on the weekends, Lake Side Cafe offers three types of Breakfast Sandwiches.

**Hours are 12pm to 7pm Monday through Friday
and 10am to 7pm on weekends.**

LJNA Treasurer's Report for the year ended June 30, 2017:

Great news! Membership increased from 150 to 156 members and additional voluntary contributions to LJNA by members increased from \$850 to \$1,545. The number of people joining on-line jumped from 57 to 69.

We were just \$105 short of meeting our budget. If we had 3 more families join or renew their memberships we would have met our financial goal. You can help us by asking your friends and neighbours if they are members of LJNA and encouraging them to join if they have not already joined.

Certain expenses exceeded budget:

- Additional water tests were made to check the water after a number of significant rain events.
- Communication costs increased as a result of a larger newsletter and additional mailings to encourage people to renew their memberships.
- We contributed an extra \$413 for work on the land trust.

Certain costs were less than budget:

- We delayed spending money on improving the web site last year and hope to improve it this year.
- We did not use the \$1,000 set aside for additional projects.

We continued our support of The Muskoka Conservancy, Safe Quiet Lakes and Muskoka Lakes Water Testing Program. We were able to restore the reserve for water testing to \$7,500; the amount originally donated by certain members from Hamer Bay. As of June 30, 2017 we have a small surplus of \$2,611.

We are also trying to improve our bank account to allow you to e-transfer your membership fee and voluntary contributions. We hope to implement this alternative in August.

This is my last report as Treasurer. I have been working with our new, very capable Treasurer, Harris Ord. LJNA will be well served by his energy and new ideas. I look forward to continuing to serve as needed, and staying in touch.

Shawn Gordon

**LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION
GENERAL FUND
RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED	BUDGET June 30, 2018	BUDGET June 30, 2017	ACTUAL June 30, 2017	ACTUAL June 30, 2016
Receipts :				
Membership fees	\$ 24,450	\$ 22,500	23,400	22,490
Voluntary contributions	1,000	1,000	1,000	800
Voluntary contributions water testing			545	50
	<u>25,450</u>	<u>23,500</u>	<u>24,945</u>	<u>23,340</u>
Expenses:				
Consultants + Water quality testing	8,080	8,000	11,187	7,072
Transfer to (from) water reserve	-	2,000	2,000	3,000
News letter and communication	4,200	3,500	3,869	3,136
web site	4,000	1,000	210	702
Bank charges	240	240	237	223
PayPal charges	500	500	349	226
Insurance	1,177	1,177	1,173	1,177
Memberships(FOCA)	632	750	612	486
All Candidates meeting	-	-	-	1,008
Other	1,500	1,000	-	-
Support for other organizations				
Land trust	1,000	1,000	1,413	-
Safe Quiet Lakes	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Water testing MLA	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
	<u>25,329</u>	<u>23,167</u>	<u>25,050</u>	<u>21,030</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	121	333	(105)	2,310
Surplus start of the year	2,611	2,716	2,716	406
Surplus end of the year	<u>\$ 2,732</u>	<u>\$ 3,049</u>	<u>\$ 2,611</u>	<u>\$ 2,716</u>

**LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION
RESERVE FUND FOR WATER TESTING**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED	BUDGET June 30, 2018	BUDGET June 30, 2017	ACTUAL June 30, 2017	ACTUAL June 30, 2016
Reserve Fund start of year	\$ 7,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,500
Transfer (to) from General Fund	-	2,000	2,000	3,000
Reserve Fund end of year	<u>\$ 7,500</u>	<u>\$ 7,500</u>	<u>\$ 7,500</u>	<u>\$ 5,500</u>

Note 1 During the year we also received and forwarded \$605 (2016-\$750) in charitable donations for the Muskoka Conservancy from 10 (2016-12) families.

Note 2 During the year we also received and forwarded \$ 475 (2016-\$650) in charitable donations for Safe Quiet Lakes from 8 (2016-9) families.

**LAKE JOSEPH NORTH ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET**

	BUDGET June 30, 2018	BUDGET June 30, 2017	ACTUAL June 30, 2017	ACTUAL June 30, 2016
Assets				
Bank	\$ 9,232	\$ 9,549	\$ 9,261	\$ 7,666
Deposit re water testing	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total assets	<u>\$ 10,232</u>	<u>\$ 10,549</u>	<u>\$ 10,261</u>	<u>\$ 8,666</u>
Liabilities				
Memberships for next year	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 450
Fund Balances				
Reserve for water testing	7,500	7,500	7,500	5,500
Surplus	2,732	3,049	2,611	2,716
	<u>\$ 10,232</u>	<u>\$ 10,549</u>	<u>\$ 10,261</u>	<u>\$ 8,666</u>

Join LJNA

Help Keep North Lake Joe Beautiful

Your membership and donations are important to us and they help us advocate for your interests. Membership provides you access to relevant information, keeps you abreast of issues and concerns on the lake and connects you with other members of the Lake Joseph North Association community. 2017/18 Membership Fee is \$150.

You have 3 ways to sign-up and support the LJNA

1. Register online at LJNA.org – payment by major credit card or PayPal

Click the **Membership** tab on the website and follow the prompts. If you are new to the LJNA or new to our online system, we ask that you complete the **NEW MEMBERS** section the first time you sign up online. Contact membership@ljna.org if you need help.

2. Register by mail – payment by cheque only

Use the enclosed form or **download and print our membership form** from the website. Complete the form and mail along with your personal cheque payable to LJNA to: Harris Ord, 1172 Davenport Road Toronto ON M6H 2G5

3. Register at the AGM – August 5th, 8:30 am Gordon Bay Marine.

Bring a completed form along with your cheque payable to LJNA or credit card.

If you have any questions about joining the Lake Joseph North Association, please don't hesitate to contact me at membership@ljna.org or call me on my mobile: (403) 860-2605.

**Elizabeth Jennings,
Membership Director**