



# July 2020 Newsletter

*Campers and cottagers have shared Lake Joseph for generations. But as with so many things in 2020, this season will be different. In this issue we include an update on the camps of Lake Joseph and the realities of this operating season along with reports from the LJNA board and more...*



*Today, Lake Joseph is home to three camps: Camp Ekon, an overnight camp at the north end of the lake in Trout Bay, CNIB Lake Joe, an accessible lakefront property that provides a unique blend of recreation and skills development in an inclusive environment for Canadians with sight loss, and the Lake Joseph Yacht Club, a sailing club with 100 member families which runs a day sailing camp at the western edge of the CNIB property.*

*We miss the happy sounds of campers as the summer starts and hope that next year the camps will back to operating at full capacity once again.*

## 2020 AGM - Saturday, August 1st – 9 to 10 am by ZOOM

Join us with your coffee in hand for updates and conversation. Mayor MacDiarmid will be joining us. Hear updates from the LJNA Board, and more!

Details will be sent to members by email and will be posted on our website: [www.ljna.org](http://www.ljna.org).

## President's Message:

Fellow Lake Joseph Residents and Cottagers:

I hope this find you well and staying safe.

Looking back at past newsletters brings memories of summers gone by and underlines to me how much has changed.

Among the many things I will miss is our August AGM - even the early morning boat ride to Gordon Bay - but especially catching up with everyone over coffee and being able to answer your questions and concerns in person.

We still have lots to talk about and the board is busy planning an informative gathering by Zoom. Presentations will include an update from our mayor, an overview of our LJNA activities, and more. Do pencil it in now: **Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup> 9 to 10 am.** Details will be circulated by email.

Inside this newsletter are reports from our committees. Some other things of note:

- **DECIBEL COALITION:** Safe Quiet Lakes has launched an important initiative to bring decibel limits to our Lakes. The LJNA Board has voted to join the coalition and to support this initiative.
- **EMERGENCY FRIDGE SHEET:** While working on the fireboat project, we talked about other initiatives to improve fire safety. Included in this package is a safety sheet designed by Carly Hoffman ([muskokadesignsolutions.com](http://muskokadesignsolutions.com)). Please take a moment to complete and post it in a safe place today.
- **MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:** We are undertaking a survey of our membership to understand your priorities and to guide the board's work. We are grateful for the expert advice of our members Kasia Seydegart and George Spears, principals of ERIN research, who helped to build the questions. We hope to hear from you!
- **HAMER BAY GOOD NEIGHBOUR INITIATIVE:** The density of activity in Hamer Bay requires cooperation and vigilance to preserve the water and shoreline, enjoy its tranquillity, and ensure safety for everyone. Please boat safely.

We have a dedicated board with some very long standing board members. Their guidance and continued support is very much appreciated. But there is definitely room for more. If you would like to get more involved, please get in touch.

On behalf of the board I want to thank the volunteers who helped out this year, Many many thanks to each of you. We are very lucky to have so many dedicated community members with a passion for our lake.

Warmly,  
**Nancy Cohen**  
**PRESIDENT**

## Proposed Directors for 2020/21

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  
Diana Piquette - Director, Fireboat Lead  
Blair Sinclair -Hamer Bay Initiative  
Shelley Spence - Treasurer

### Thank you to the following volunteers for their help throughout this past year

Bookkeeping and Tech: Nick Pemberton

Water Testing: Cecil Hayhoe, Alex Magditsch, Juliana Magditsch, Lynda McCarthy, John Offutt, Paul Tyers

Hamer Bay Initiative: Jennifer and Keith Martin, Blair and Louise Sinclair, Cecil and Joan Hayhoe, Tony Lundy and Janet Looker, Don and Becky Munnings

Fireboat Committee: Jennifer Bizzarri, Terry Fellner, Deb Hoffman, Jay Morris, Diana Piquette

Dock Drop: John Burgess, Dominic Cashman, John Durland, Angela Feuchuk, Lois & Al Fraser, Stephen Goldhar, Cecil Hayhoe, Rob & Elizabeth Jennings, Miles Langstaff, Alex Magditsch, Karen & Tom McCullough, Cathie Mostowyk, Peter Newton, Shelley O'Connor, Nick Pemberton, Blair Sinclair, and Carol Wildgoose

## Treasurer's Report

Thank you to all members for your continued support for the Association. Here are some highlights from our fiscal year which ended on March 31, 2020.

On the revenue side, membership hit 169. We continue to use our on-line system for membership renewal, which made it easier for members to renew.

On the expense side, we agreed to undertake a water study at the prior AGM. This study was budgeted for 2020 but was not yet completed by fiscal year end. As a result, we have a small

surplus that we will reserve to pay this invoice when it is complete. All other expenses are as expected.

Highlights for the year end are:

Total membership and voluntary contributions	\$ 26,574
Expenses	<u>\$ 21,023</u>
Excess receipts over disbursements	\$ 5,551

Complete financials will be presented at the AGM.

**Shelley Spence CPA, CA**

treasurer@ljna.org

## Municipal Matters:

Terry Fellner's excellent article in this newsletter outlines the many issues that Seguin Council is dealing with. Currently your Board is very active on two of these: the Official Plan Review and Short Term Rentals.

Official Plan review: Seguin Council recently voted to include our board member James Buchanan on the Steering Committee for the OP review. An introductory meeting was held on June 15. The first public meeting will be held later in July. In the meantime, the town's planning staff and their consultants will be identifying and assessing issues from their perspective. We intend to hire our own planning consultant to advise us on issues of particular interest to cottage owners. The review is intended to conclude this year with initial "public meetings" being virtual and with the hope of more routine face-to-face meetings later in the year. The process has been designed to provide maximum opportunities for individuals to provide input directly. We will communicate more on this topic throughout the year.

Short term cottage rental policy: We are guided by the 2018 members survey on short term rentals. Almost every one of the 200 respondents support the tradition of family cottages occasionally being rented. However 80% were supportive of regulations or enforcement that would eliminate commercial rentals. We will continue to present these views to Council. There will be opportunities for public input.

In addition to the above two issues, we continue to monitor requests for minor variances and zoning bylaw amendments. When possible we consult with nearby affected cottage owners and if warranted present our position to Seguin Council.

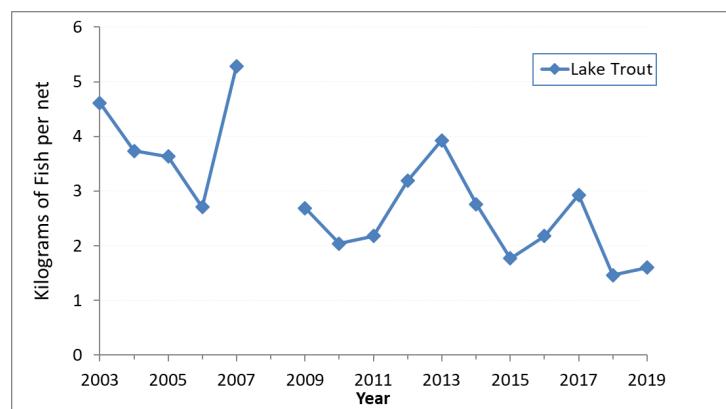
Contact one of us if you have any questions or want to talk about activities in your neighbourhood.

**James Buchanan and Frances Carmichael**

## Lake Health – A Report from the MNRF Aquatic Science Team

Have you ever noticed the bright orange boat with ‘MNRF Science’ on the side or the buoys that appear then disappear from seemingly random locations in the middle of the lake? If so, you have seen the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s Aquatic Science team at work. Most years, in July or August, a crew is on the lake for several weeks monitoring long term changes to the fish community. The work is part of the province-wide Broadscale Monitoring (BsM) Program which conducts surveys on lakes across the province. The data are used to report on the state of Ontario’s natural resources and to support fisheries management decision-making. You can read more about the program at [www.ontario.ca/page/fisheries-ontario](http://www.ontario.ca/page/fisheries-ontario).

Lake Joseph is deep, cold and clear which makes it an excellent lake for Lake Trout. The fishery for Lake Trout is probably the most important in Fisheries Management Zone 15 (FMZ 15), a large zone which encompasses most of central Ontario. The surveys on the lake have focused on monitoring the Lake Trout population. Catch rates, expressed as the weight of fish caught per net, are shown in the figure below. The catch rate of Lake Trout is still quite high compared to many lakes but has been showing a long-term declining trend.



*Figure 1 Catch rate (kg/net) of Lake Trout from Lake Joseph, 2009-2019.*

MNRF staff are currently working with a volunteer public advisory council to develop a fisheries management plan for FMZ 15. The information collected by the BsM program, including that from Lake Joseph, is being used in this process. Due to concern for the long-term health of Lake Trout populations in the zone, it is anticipated that the plan will propose more conservative fishing regulations for Lake Trout, including Lake Joseph. The current COVID-19 situation has disrupted the planning timeline but a draft plan will be posted

for public comment on the Environmental Registry (<https://ero.ontario.ca/>) when it is ready, hopefully early next year. You can register to receive e-mail notifications of postings on the registry.

Summaries of surveys done on Lake Joseph and other lakes can be accessed on MNRF’s Fish ON-Line application ([www.ontario.ca/page/fishing](http://www.ontario.ca/page/fishing)). Select the fish icon for a lake then look for ‘Broad-scale Fisheries Monitoring Bulletin’ under the Additional Information section. If you see our boat or buoys, please give them a wide berth for your safety and ours.

For more information on fish and fish management in the area please contact Stephen Scholten at MNRF’s Bracebridge office ([steve.scholten@ontario.ca](mailto:steve.scholten@ontario.ca)).

## LJNA Fireboat Project

We are working on a project to bring a Fireboat to Lake Joseph North! At last year's AGM (July 2019) the membership of the LJNA voted to support a proposed initiative to provide a fireboat for the lake. Since then volunteers have been working closely with Seguin Township and other partners to make plans. Gordon Bay Marina has generously committed to supporting the project through sourcing the boat and providing dock space for it on an ongoing basis. Once we raise the funds necessary to acquire the fireboat Seguin Township will own and manage the boat as well as provide fire suits and fund annual ongoing maintenance.

Lake Joseph North property owners are currently served by the Seguin Fire Service, a robust land-based fire department of six staff and 65 volunteers. Many of you will have benefitted from this incredible team who keep our communities safe, as well as educate homeowners and cottagers about fire safety.

The Fire Service responds to emergency calls on North Lake Joe using trucks and equipment from Humphrey or Rosseau. While this response will continue to be the backbone of service, it does not meet emergency needs of those on remote roads or island properties. And, it does not take advantage of what we all know to be most efficient mode of transportation in this area—the water. Our local marinas already generously provide boats for emergency use, but these are neither fitted with emergency equipment, nor tied into any formal emergency response system. Having a fireboat dramatically increases speed of emergency response and enables reliable emergency access for island properties or those on remote roads. Most importantly, a fireboat provides a built-in “fire hydrant” so firefighters can utilize the virtually unlimited supply of lake water to fight fires—something that is not possible with trucks alone.



*In 2015, the Lake Rosseau North Association funded a fireboat through donations from the Lake Rosseau community. Housed at the Rosseau waterfront, the boat has been pressed into service many times. Now it's our turn.*

*Photo: Terry Fellner*

Several cottagers have already stepped forward to kickstart our fundraising campaigns or to volunteer. This project will positively impact every cottager and resident on Lake Joseph. Please consider joining us to make this fireboat a reality.

If you have any questions about the project—or would like to join the volunteer fundraising team—please contact Nancy Cohen, Chair, LJNA at [info@ljna.org](mailto:info@ljna.org) or Diana Piquette, LJNA Board Project Lead at [diana@dunsolas.com](mailto:diana@dunsolas.com)

## Letter from Terry Fellner – Seguin Councillor Ward 4

Hello to all

Another year has past and what a year it turned out to be. I sincerely hope that all of you have fared well over the past few difficult months. It has been a challenging time for all of us, from the start of this “new normal” many folks who were able, elected to relocate to the cottage, for many others it meant a frustrating delayed start to the spring. During all of this however, our area generally has not been impacted with Covid-19 cases, I would like to thank you all for doing your part in helping with this and ask that you all continue on with the proper protocols as the season progresses to help keep the area safe for everyone.

The township has followed the provincial directives in order to keep our residents and the area safe. The West Parry Sound Health Centre has done an outstanding job protecting the public interests as well as raising money for much needed new equipment and supplies required to deal with Covid-19. Township staff, first responders and health professionals have all done an excellent job during these challenging times, and I would like to and urge you to thank them for these efforts. As a result of Covid-19, many of the township facilities have remained closed through June. Current day to day information with regards to services can be found on the township website [www.seguin.ca](http://www.seguin.ca).

Council has been working hard on numerous issues over the past year. Some of these issues are summarized as follows:

- The New Strategic Plan has been finalized and adopted; a copy can be found on the township website.
- RFP for a consultant for the Official Plan & Zoning Bylaw review was issued and as a result Skelton, Brumwell & Associates Inc, was awarded the contract to conduct the review. To date the Steering Committee has been selected and public input phase is in progress. The Official Plan is perhaps the most important document in the township, it sets the stage for how your township will be managed for the next five plus years. I urge each and everyone of you to get involved with this important document, a special website has been set up to promote this process [www.seguinopr.com](http://www.seguinopr.com)
- Council has been working hard on a solution to the Short-Term Cottage Rental policy within the township. Our intent is to find a solution to prevent nuisance rentals but protect the basic rights of our residents. We have had a draft solution prepared with help of our Township Solicitor and the Director of Planning. This document is being circulated for public review and is available on the township website. Again, I urge all of you to review this document and please comment. Keep in mind this proposed document is by no means a final document, but a place to start. Council will not make a final decision on this issue until input from the public has been received and evaluated.
- Council passed the draft open burn By-Law, which includes regulations on both residential and commercial fireworks. Under this By-Law, residential fireworks will not be permitted during a high or extreme fire rating and all commercial fireworks will

require a permit. This document will now be sent to the Province for approval of the set fines schedule.

- Council approved an increase of funds for road maintenance specifically to be used on the improvement of seasonally maintained roads only.
- As part of a provincial initiative council has retained KPMG, to conduct a Municipal Service Delivery Review on our township organization. This review has been ongoing throughout the spring with a goal to enhance service delivery, transparency and taxpayer value. At the time of writing council is waiting for the initial report from the consultant.
- Cost-effective high speed internet for the township. Our mayor & council has been working hard with the WEST PARRY SOUND SMARTCO with a goal to develop a Regional Broadband Strategy. To date a strategy document has been submitted to council from WPS Smart Community Network's outlining a recommended collective approach to bringing affordable broadband home internet to all homes in the WPS area.

On another note it has been my pleasure to work with Nancy, Diana, Jennifer, Jay & Don on the committee to raise funds for the purchase of a new fireboat for the north end of the lake. We are all fortunate to have such a dedicated group. Having a fireboat such as the one proposed will assist in reducing response time and provide to our fire department the ability to supply an almost endless volume of water to any waterfront location when required. In my mind this is a much needed and a very important community initiative. I urge you all to contribute what you can when called upon.

In closing I would like to add that it has been my great pleasure to serve as your council representative over the past year. My focus is on continuous improvement of services offered, transparency, fairness and taxpayer value for all residents in the township both seasonal & permanent, we are all one collective community. I have enjoyed speaking and meeting with many of you since elected, and please do not hesitate to reach out if I can help you in any way.

Hopefully you and your family will have a very safe, enjoyable summer.

Best Regards,

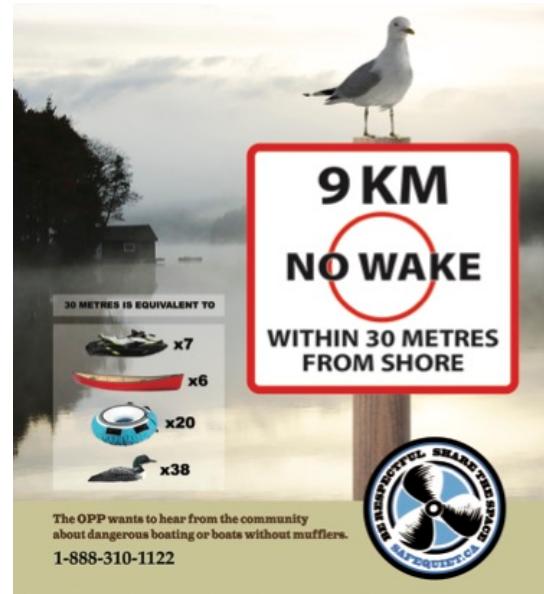
*Terry*

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## Safe Quiet Lakes Update

As we move to sunnier days and warmer temperatures social distancing is a little more enjoyable. Like other organizations, our meetings with the board and stakeholders have now moved to the Zoom platform – but it has not slowed us down! Survey results continue to inform our work and we have embarked on some new and exciting projects.

**Wakes & Speed:** We have launched a pilot project on Mirror Lake and the Indian River to see if the use of No Wake buoys, signs and outreach will reduce wakes and speeds in smaller waterways. We have designed and installed signage and have started our PR campaign. The Township of Muskoka Lakes is supplying new 9km/hour signs to be put up by residents along the river and the MLA is collaborating with us by installing a radar speed device near Foreman Narrows. We believe that education, communication, and getting the conversation going are important drivers of change. We are super excited about this new initiative!



**Decibel Coalition:** We are developing a broad coalition of stakeholder associations across Canada to advocate for Federal Government decibel limit regulations. Canada is one of the few countries in the world that does not have laws limiting boat engine noise based on decibel limits. Our current muffler regulations are obscure and difficult to enforce. By contrast, in other countries, decibels can be easily measured and the standards are practical for enforcement agencies to apply. Changing a federal regulation is not easy but we have started the process. Our ideas have been welcomed and we have support from the Muskoka Lakes Association, Georgian Bay Association, Lake Joseph North Association, Quebec's Memphremagog Conservation and positive responses from the OPP and the National Marine Manufacturers Association.

**Get Involved:** As we expand these projects, we are looking to include involvement from different individuals and groups. Please let me know if you would like to be involved in one of our committees and help make a difference in Muskoka. We would also love to hear your stories and see your pictures around Safe Quiet Lakes to share on our website and social media. Please connect with me at [chair@safequiet.ca](mailto:chair@safequiet.ca).

We are grateful to LJNA and to the Sequin Township as two of our largest supporters! We would also like to thank Gordon Bay Marine and the individual LJNA members who have contributed to our campaigns.

We appreciate your support and leadership in expanding the conversation about safe and respectful boating. Have a wonderful and safe summer!

**Diana Piquette, Chair – Safe Quiet Lakes**

## Camps & Cottages Together on Lake Joe

Article by Jennifer Bizzarri and photos supplied by the camps.

Among the many cancellations, postponements and rethinks that Covid-19 has brought upon us, the restrictions on summer camp had a particular sting to them. After a long spring of being cooped up inside with no school or sports, many children took this particular announcement personally--like a gavel going down on the prospect of summer fun. And while we can understand the reasoning behind these decisions, the news sure felt grim to my kids--one counsellor, one counsellor-in-training, and one camper, each having spent many summers at the camps of Lake Joseph.

Whether you're a camper or counsellor parent, a local cottager, or both, you know that the summer of 2020 has been the most challenging one Ontario camps have ever seen. So please send some positive energy towards our camp neighbours, whether they are absent from our bays, running limited programs to keep our children safe or asking for our support. We're all on the lake together!

### CAMP EKON

Many Muskoka cottagers don't realize that there still is actually a "Stanley House" on Stanley House Road. It's the three-storey white and green building standing majestically on the east peninsula of Trout Bay, and it's the main house of Camp Ekon (pronounced *E-kon*, not *Ay-kon* or *Ee-kon*!). Camp Ekon is quite small compared to other Ontario overnight camps, welcoming only about 120 campers per session and another few dozen per session on canoe trips. But it runs a full complement of summer activities including sailing, canoeing, swimming, windsurfing, rock climbing, arts and crafts and a ropes course.

The camp's motto, "Carry the Heavy Load", reflects a tradition of service and community where children from all backgrounds can connect. The Ekon community works hard to

remove barriers to the summer camp experience for many young children—approximately 10% of their campers are on bursaries. Camp Ekon is operated in the Jesuit tradition but children and counsellors of all faiths are welcomed.



This is the first summer since 1970 that Camp Ekon hasn't welcomed campers to its beautiful property of over 10 acres. And it's the first summer cottagers won't be able to join campers for Sunday mass on the beach at 11:15. Many cottagers join the camp community by boat or by car each week. Cottagers will miss seeing the big war canoe go by their docks full of campers off for their overnight on Little Round (AKA Little Chief) Island.

## LAKE JOSEPH YACHT CLUB

If you or your children like to feel the wind in your sails, chances are good you're already a member of the Lake Joseph Yacht Club. The Club was established in 1966 as a satellite sailing club of the Muskoka Lakes Golf & Country Club on Lake Rosseau. Today the camp operates partially on the CNIB property and partially on the railway access land between the CNIB property and the highway. The LJYC now includes more than 100 family memberships and operates sailing day camp programs for children as young as age 5, as well private sailing lessons, family regattas, and a race team. The club certifies sailors and instructors under the CANSail Program of SAIL Canada, Canada's National Sailing Authority. The LJYC offers fun, learning and community to young people from both Lake Joseph and Lake Rosseau. Many cottage families have been part of the club for years, with young people graduating into counselling positions over the years.



Campers are crossing fingers and toes that sailing can run this year, but at time of writing, the jury was still out. Lake Joseph cottager and camp director Shelley O'Connor has been working tirelessly with local health authorities so she can offer a safe and fun camping experience for everyone. Stay tuned to [www.ljyc.ca](http://www.ljyc.ca) for updates.

## CNIB LAKE JOE

If you're driving northbound on Lake Joseph Road between Foot's Bay and Gordon Bay, you know well that beautiful moment when the view opens up to the lake and CNIB.

CNIB Lake Joe was established in 1961. Here, people with sight loss and their families enjoy the same summer pursuits as cottagers: things like canoeing, campfires, kayaking, waterskiing, sailing and fishing. Helping people with sight loss safely engage in these activities is truly remarkable—but requires a lot of hands-on support that just isn't possible during these times. CNIB Lake Joe is transforming its program into an all-season operation, with year-round virtual offerings across Canada through [CNIBLakeJoe@Home](mailto:CNIBLakeJoe@Home). Reducing the negative ramifications of social isolation by being connected throughout the year plays an important role in building and maintaining the sense of community that is a cornerstone of CNIB Lake Joe.

Over the years, our Lake Joe community has stepped up to raise funds for this unique camp. Last year's event raised more than \$350,000! Mark your calendars for the CNIB Muskoka VIRTUAL Dock to Dock – Party with Purpose: Saturday August 15. To learn more, and to reserve your spot today, visit [cnib.ca/cnibmuskoka](http://cnib.ca/cnibmuskoka) or e-mail [tara.oliphant@cnib.ca](mailto:tara.oliphant@cnib.ca).



## LJNA Members Survey - We want to hear from you

All Lake Joseph North Cottagers and Residents are invited to participate in our survey.

The purpose of this brief survey is to learn:

- what you value about your lake environment,
- what your expectations are of the LJNA, and
- what major issues need to be addressed, if any.

Your input will give the LJNA critical guidance going forward. A summary of results will be shared with the membership later this summer.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete. All responses are completely anonymous.

It is important to hear from all users of our lake. Please take a moment to give us your views and please share the link with all members of your family and your neighbours.

You can access the survey from a link on our website: [www.ljna.org](http://www.ljna.org)

THANK YOU in advance for your participation.



**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](mailto:info@ljna.org) or visit [www.ljna.org](http://www.ljna.org).