



LJNA JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Lake Joseph North Association

25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



*The north and east shores of Island “K” in Hamer Bay remain pristine thanks to a LJNA initiated land trust with the Muskoka Conservancy.
Photo: Karen McCullough*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JULY 31, 9 TO 10:30 A.M.

Mark your calendars! Join us Saturday July 31 at 9:00 a.m. for our Annual General Meeting. Its an opportunity to gather with fellow LJNA members, hear about LJNA activities and get answers your questions. We are planning an informative gathering in person, if allowed, with a Zoom option. Further details will be circulated by email and posted to our website at <https://ljna.org>.

President's Message

Welcome to the summer 2021 edition of our newsletter! I hope this finds you well and enjoying time on the dock, on the water and with family making new memories. Summer time at the lake is truly special.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the LJNA. In this edition, our founding president writes a history of the association. We've also assembled a photo collage that showcases some of the history on our lake. It's a wonderful trip down memory lane and great to see how our lake has evolved and still retains so much natural beauty.

Despite restrictions, the LJNA board had a productive year. Members' responses in last July's survey gave us a strong vote of confidence and helped to focus our work. this year. Here's a recap..

- ***Fireboat Project:*** *Our campaign was received with great enthusiasm! We are so grateful to the many members who stepped forward with generous gifts. We are looking forward to celebrating its arrival in the early fall.*
- ***LPAT Appeal Settlement Reached:*** *The LJNA launched an appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribune (LPAT) on a zoning bylaw amendment for a lot near the CNIB that had been approved by Seguin Council. We reached a settlement in the fall that includes strict limits on coverage. Costs were well below our estimate and we received several donations to help. The LJNA Board feels strongly that Council must uphold the standards of the Official Plan and bylaws and apply them fairly to all.*
- ***Official Plan–Next Steps:*** *The LPAT appeal process underlines the importance of a strong Official Plan and of having a voice at the municipal level. The OP review process has been slower than expected, but we are pleased to see new ideas coming forward. Our goal is a balance between reasonable development and protecting our natural environment and the “view from the canoe.”*
- ***Short-Term Rentals:*** *Seguin's decision to enforce a ban on short-term cottage rentals has stirred up a lot of discussion - on both sides. Public consultation last summer was inconclusive. Our 2018 survey on rentals continues to guide our input. Our members expressed a clear distinction between occasional rental of owner-occupied cottages and cottages used primarily for short-term commercial rental activity. We are working with other lake associations to bring suggestions that reflect the views of our membership.*
- ***New initiatives:*** *This year we plan to host a round table on boating for Lake Joe, bolster our reserves, and update our bylaws to reflect upcoming changes to the provincial regulation. As memorabilia and memories flood in, we also look forward to highlighting our collective histories.*

Everyone in the LJNA is a volunteer, from the board members to the person who dropped this newsletter on your dock. Many, many thanks to each of you. We are very lucky to have so many dedicated community members with a passion for our lake.

*I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on **Saturday, July 31, 9:00 a.m.***

***Nancy Cohen,
President LJNA***

2020-21 LJNA Volunteers

- Directors:** James Buchanan, Frances Carmichael, Nancy Cohen, Mike Finley, Bruce Hatherley, Elizabeth Jennings, Alex Magditsch, Harris Ord, Diana Piquette, Blair Sinclair, Shelley Spence
- Bookkeeping/Tech:** Nick Pemberton
- Communications:** Karen McCullough
- Dock Drop & Newsletter:** Andrew Brown, John Burgess, Sarah Cashman and family, John Durland, Lois and Al Fraser, Cecil Hayhoe, Deb Hoffman, Alex Magditsch, Kate McCullough, Tom McCullough, Cathie Mostowyk, Peter Newton, Nick Pemberton, John Tittel, Carol Wildgoose, Bizzarri and Poirier families
- Fireboat Committee:** Jennifer Bizzarri, Terry Fellner, Deb Hoffman, Jay Morris, Diana Piquette
Canvassers: Jack Cashman, Rob Jennings
- Hamer Bay Initiative:** Jennifer and Keith Martin, Blair and Louise Sinclair, Cecil and Joan Hayhoe, Tony Lundy and Janet Looker, Don and Becky Munnings
- Water Testing:** No water testing in 2020 due to COVID

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 or visit www.ljna.org.

The LJNA summer newsletter is published each July and delivered to the docks of all cottages in the Seguin portion of North Lake Joe.

Treasurer’s Report

Thank-you to all members for your continued support for the Association. Here are some highlights from our fiscal year ending March 31, 2021:

- Paid memberships were 180, which is up from last year. Given the year this has been, it is greatly appreciated that our members continue to renew and support our work. We continue to use our on-line system for membership renewals and have added the ability to use American Express for payments.
- Expenses were aligned with the budget for the year, including the water testing, dock drop, legal and planning fees, and support for other organizations such as Safe Quiet Lakes.
- Highlights for the year-end are:

Revenues	\$	41,705
Expenses		<u>41,697</u>
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$	8

Complete financials will be presented at the AGM.

Shelley Spence CPA, CA
Treasurer, LJNA

LJNA Fireboat Project

We’ve raised the money - we’ve ordered the boat - and we are now anxiously awaiting its delivery! Stanley Boats and the Seguin Fire Department estimate that it will be ready for us in the early fall.

As soon as we get a firm date we will send out an invitation for a community event to celebrate. We are planning an appropriately socially-distanced in-person event where you will be able to come and see the new Fireboat and meet the Fire Chief.



We are looking forward to seeing you and celebrating this wonderful safety addition to our lake front community.

Diana Piquette
LJNA Board, Fireboat Project Lead

25 Years Of LJNA History

Beginnings

In 1995 **Bruce Francisco** and **Cecil Hayhoe** attended a presentation by the Lake Rosseau North, Little Lake Joe and Clear Lake Associations on boathouse bylaws and best practices for waste disposal. At that time there was no active association representing the interests of Lake Joseph North, the North section of Lake Joe in Seguin Township. We felt these and many other potential issues would be of interest to Lake Joseph North cottagers so we canvassed our neighbours about starting an association. From a modest start in September 1995 with a handful of Hamer Bay cottagers, the LJNA grew rapidly and became incorporated as a not for profit organization in 2001 with seven board members and over 200 families.

From late 1998 on we realized we needed to address rapidly rising taxation, commercial redevelopment at Rocky Crest, and the creation of a new broad-based Official Plan to address future development regulations including shoreline development. We believed we needed to build the membership so as to have a voice that would be listened to by Township politicians, government overseers and commercial interests. Due in part to the Association getting the word out, we had record voting turnout in in the Municipal elections of 2002, both for our Ward 4 Councillor with the election of Doug Sainsbury and for Mayor of Seguin, when David Conn was elected.

Great Support from Our Lake Community

Many cottagers have joined us as board members, lake plan committee members, water testing volunteers, financial consultants to the Township and helped with newsletters, dock drops and fundraising.

Shawn Gordon, our treasurer for 20 years, built and managed a database, compiled survey inputs from our members and was the longest-standing member of the Seguin Finance committee. **Brian Smith**, another early and long-standing board member, oversaw the robust water quality testing program for many years and was active in getting our message out to the lake community. **Bruce Hatherley**, owner and operator of Gordon Bay Marine and board member since the early 2000's, has been very generous over the last 20+ years with the use of his showroom for LJNA Annual Meetings. In 2009 **John McKenzie** took over leadership of the LJNA and guided the association until 2013 when our current president, **Nancy Cohen**, took the reins.

Lake Plan Vision 2000 and Beyond

Lake Joe North is a jewel with rugged and picturesque shorelines, crystal clear water comprising 32 miles of mainland shorelines and 17.5 miles of island shorelines. However almost no crown land is present. The need to preserve some of what we cherish for future generations became an early goal of the LJNA. *(continued on p. 8)*

Some Views From The Canoe - Down Memory Lane



HELEN AND JACK CAMPBELL
LAKE JOSEPH WHARF c1923

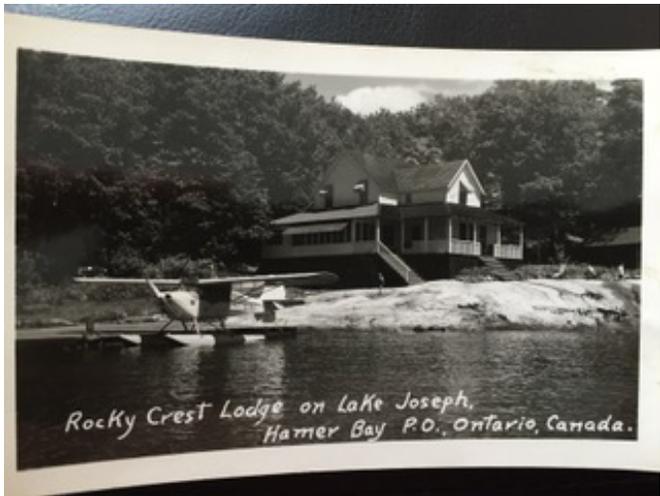


C.N.R. DOCK, LAKE JOSEPH IN 1925. B.A.L.A. SUB

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The Lake Joseph Wharf and Station. Currently the site of the CNIB Lake Joe. The Campbells are ancestors of many of the families on Yoho today. Photo courtesy of Deb Hoffman (above) and www.trainweb.org/oldtimetrains/ (right)

Right: Rocky Crest at the top of Hamer Bay – circa 1950's. Courtesy of Karen McCullough



Rocky Crest Lodge on Lake Joseph,
Hamer Bay P.O., Ontario, Canada.



BERT'S NORTH SHORE DOCK
After Church



Left: Rev. Campbell had a church Service on Sunday on the North shore of Yoho – 1897. Above: Church services in the 1990's at the Woodson cottage on Wegamind Island. Courtesy of Deb Hoffman (left) and Anna Woodson (above)

Gordon Bay from the Portage Lake side of the road. Right: Photo dated 1900 shows the bridge on the old Highway 69. Left: Today, the walking bridge. You can see Turtle Island straight ahead in the distance in both photos. Courtesy of Rob & Elizabeth Jennings.



Right: Gordon Bay Marine in the 60's. Photo courtesy of Steve Scadding

The Island View hotel. In 1950 (right) and present day (left) showing the naturalized shoreline where the hotel used to be. For perspective, the white boathouse is circled in both photos. Photos courtesy Rob & Elizabeth Jennings.



(continued from p. 5)

Early in 2000 we envisioned a Lake Plan for Lake Joseph North that would foresee and be engaged with the rapid development of our shorelines, intensified boating activity, and the increased loading of phosphorous on shoreline areas. We were concerned that, which could if not managed properly, water quality in our lake would be adversely and irreparably affected.

The “Lake Plan” as we referred to it embraced the following strategies:

- Educate stakeholders on best practices to minimize pollutants entering our lake, maintain a healthy shoreline buffer including tree screening and low impact lighting to enjoy the night skies
- Engage with our Township on regulations governing shoreline development, lake capacity modeling and monitoring of water quality.
- Partner with other organization such as Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) on water testing, the Muskoka Conservancy on land preservation, and Federation of Ontario Cottager Associations (FOCA) on broader policy matters. Since 2000, we have sampled 12-16 sites on Lake Joe North four times a year.
- Preserve shoreline. Working with the Muskoka Conservancy we now have over 20,000 feet of shoreline preserved forever on Lake Joe starting from the north shore of Chiefs Island and moving north, including Dahwamah, Island K and nearby mainland shore, part of Yoho and shoreline on Portage Lake. Additional land trust donations on Lake Joe North are currently under consideration.
- Educate the community on boating safety and etiquette. The Safe Quiet Lakes organization, formed in 2011, is led by several of our own board members.

Looking Ahead

We have much to be thankful on Lake Joe North. Water quality continues to be very good. We have been blessed with a supportive and involved Lake community. Ongoing shoreline development is significant but, for the most part, respects the “View from the Canoe,” a founding goal of the Official Plan in 2004. Progress on electrifying boats and jet skis should augment the goals of Safe Quiet Lakes, although the intensification of boating activity is ongoing. Our shoreline community continues to evolve; the surging costs of cottages means less wealthy families are leaving the Lake or not buying in.

If we are to maintain the qualities and values that brought us to Lake Joseph we must stay involved and not let others determine the outcomes that will effect our Lake environment and community. We need to stay engaged in the LJNA as it seeks to be our voice to the community, the Township and other organizations that will affect our Lake and our shoreline community for years to come.

Cecil Hayhoe
Co-founder and Past President of LJNA

Editor's note: A documentary filmed in 2006 and is well worth watching today. An American in Muskoka highlights the issues at heart for our LJNA community. Here is the link: <https://vimeo.com/487615134>

The Muskoka Watershed and Lake Health Report

The COVID pandemic has impacted all of us and significantly changed the vacationing strategies of many Canadians. For example, the summer of 2020 saw considerably more people spending time at their cottages instead of travelling to places further afield. Increased boat traffic and other water sports activity can impact the environmental health of the lakes, so while enjoying the water is an integral part of cottaging, it must be done responsibly.

Additionally, development pressures and the effects of climate change are resulting in even more stressors to the Muskoka Watershed, including Lake Joseph. The *Muskoka Steamships and Discovery Centre* held a series of wonderfully informative and engaging on-line seminars in May, with distinguished speakers addressing sustainability and climate change. I highly recommend everyone, including junior family members, watch these webinars at <https://realmuskoka.com/sustainability>.

Two major factors in the health of the lakes is higher water temperatures and phosphorous loading. They are contributing to water quality degradation and the development of algal blooms. While it must be noted that the majority of algae is not harmful and is, in fact, a keystone component of the aquatic food web, blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) can be harmful to humans. Read more about algae at <https://www.mla.on.ca/web/default/files/Water%20Quality/AlgaeIDSheet.pdf>.

The COVID pandemic forced the cancellation of the Muskoka Lakes Association (MLA) water quality testing program in 2020 but this important environmental monitoring is in full force for 2021 (with distancing protocols in place). It will be interesting to examine the 2021 data to determine if significant changes in water quality are noted.

Many organizations and individuals spend countless hours observing, studying, and documenting the Muskoka Watershed. Their knowledge, experience, and concerns should not be ignored. While the northern part of Lake Joseph appears to not be significantly affected by various stressors, it is still up to all of us to ensure our lake stays healthy. The activities we recommend every year are even more crucial now:

- maintain a vegetated shoreline (DON'T clear shrubs or trees from the shore)
- avoid the use of fertilizers
- ensure your septic system is properly maintained and operating well.

It is up to us to keep Muskoka pristine, for future generations.

Alex Magditsch
LJNA Board, Water Quality

• GET INFORMED • GET ACTIVE • CARE FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURS • CARE FOR YOUR LAKE •

Park to Park Trail - from Killbear to Algonquin Parks

One of the most historic recreational trails in Ontario traverses through Seguin Township. The **Ottawa, Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway, or OA&PS**, was a historic railway that from 1897 until 1959. For a time it was the busiest railway route in Canada, carrying timber and wood products from today's Algonquin Provincial Park, and up to 40% of the grain traffic from the Canadian west via Parry Sound to the St. Lawrence River Valley.



When the railway closed, sections of the old rail bed were cut up and sold, but major portions ended up in public ownership. Since 2001, the Park to Park Trail Association has been working with municipalities to connect Killbear and Algonquin Provincial Parks by multi-use recreational trails. Now there are over 230 km of trails for walking, cycling, and riding. Two of these sections are in Seguin Township.

The Rose Point Trail is a popular and well-used trail that runs 6 km from James Bay Junction Road South to Rose Point Road. It is owned by Seguin and maintained by Park to Park.

The Seguin Trail is owned by the Province of Ontario and managed by Park to Park, and sections are part of the Trans Canada Trail. This 75 km corridor is an important link connecting Highway 11 at Fern Glen Road in Emsdale, north of Huntsville, to the Georgian Bay Travel Centre on Highway 400 at Exit 214, just south of Parry Sound.

Over the years sections of the trail had deteriorated. Recently Seguin Township took on a leading role in revitalizing it, working with a new board and executive of Park to Park, of which I have been elected president. Crews have started reconstruction at Highway 400 and are working east. To date we have added 6 km of true multi-purpose recreational trail! The goal to rebuild the trail to Orville by the end of 2021.

We believe the Seguin Trail is one of our most important assets and will become an important part of the Seguin Recreational Master Trail Plan now being developed.

I hope everyone takes the opportunity to experience these trails. Further information can be found at <https://www.seguin.ca/en/explore-play/trails.aspx#>

It's my pleasure to serve as your Ward 4 Councillor. If you have any questions or concerns about Park to Park or any other township issues, I can be reached at 519-831-5526 or terryfellner@seguin.ca

Terry Fellner
Ward 4 Councillor, Seguin Township

Safe Quiet Lakes



Congratulations to LJNA on your 25th anniversary! We would also like to say a heartfelt thank you for being a founding partner with Safe Quiet Lakes. We truly appreciate your support in all of our programs including the Decibel Coalition, the Wakes & Speed project and your participation in our 2021 Your Lakes Your Views Survey.

The Wakes and Speed project has shown positive results in alerting boaters to reduce speed close to shore. In partnership with the Muskoka Lakes Association, we have created some new signs that you can purchase on either of our websites. As a reminder, there is a 9 km speed limit within 30 meters of shore, which includes docks.

With increased traffic we have also been hearing about excessive boat noise. The Decibel Coalition program is designed to enhance legislation around decibel limits for boat engine noise. This would make Canada consistent with the U.S. and EU. The coalition is building momentum with organizations joining from across Canada. All of our programs are based on the input we get from the lakefront community. In 2017 we had over 3,300 people respond to our survey, and the results were shared with lake associations, local governments and the OPP. Please visit our website at safequiet.ca to complete the 2021 survey.

Enjoy your summer!

Diana Piquette
Chair, Safe Quiet Lakes

Celebrate 60 years with CNIB Lake Joe!

For 60 years, CNIB Lake Joe has been providing enriching camp experiences for Canadians with sight loss. Join us this summer for amazing events –

- **Saturday, July 10** - CNIB Muskoka Dock-to-Dock: Poker Run event. Register at cnib.ca/docktodock
- **Until August 15** – Purchase 50/50 tickets in support of CNIB Lake Joe cnib5050.ca/ (Our last winner won \$15,680!)
- **“Super Six Challenge”** – Join Randall Oliphant, Joan Kelley Walker, and an anonymous donor, who have each pledged \$60,000 in support of CNIB Lake Joe’s 60th Anniversary!

Learn more at cnib.ca/lakejoe



On the Beauty of our Night Skies

One of the quintessential cottage activities is lying on the dock on a dark night trying to glimpse the edge of our universe, making a wish at the sight of each shooting star or, on a very lucky night, gazing in wonder at the northern lights. These moments of awe are part of what make being in our beautiful natural environment so special.

Night time darkness is important to wildlife too. Birds that migrate or hunt at night navigate by moonlight and starlight. Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has negative and deadly effects on many creatures including amphibians, birds, mammals, insects and plants.

Outdoor lights are seen for great distances along lakes and river shorelines and can be a safety issue for night boating. They can distort the lake surface and horizon, affecting the ability for boaters to navigate. The shoreline lighting can be confused with the small navigation lights on boats. Safety is significantly impacted.

Keeping our lighting “dark-sky friendly” is easy. Here’s some simple tips from the International Dark Sky Association (darksky.org):

- Lights should only be on when needed
- Only light the area that needs it
- Lights should be no brighter than necessary
- Minimize blue light emissions
- Point lighting downward, not up.

On the next dark night, do a self check: “*What does my lighting look like from the water?*” And enjoy a few moments in the stillness of a dark summer night.

***Nancy Cohen,
President LJNA***

