



**LAKE
OF BAYS**
• MUSKOKA •

Council Meeting Staff Report

To: Mayor Glover and Members of Council
From: Jeremy Alldred-Hughes, Director of Emergency Services/Fire Chief
Date: 14 Jul 2026
Subject: Bigwin Fire Protection

Report Highlights

- Update on the progress of added support for firefighting on Bigwin Island closing off the report from previous administration.

Recommendation

WHEREAS: the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays receives the staff report “Bigwin Fire Protection”, dated July 14th, 2026

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: council approve and accept the report enhancing Bigwin fire protection with a Lake of Bays Fire Rescue supported Rapid Response Team

Origin

Staff recognized that there was outstanding action items related to the fire protection of Bigwin Island. Over the past few years there has been continued discussions to improve the response capabilities along with level of fire protection for Bigwin Island. Some of these discussions have resulted in investments made both by Bigwin and the Municipality in supporting the residents, staff, customers, and firefighters with special equipment and training. Chief Alldred-Hughes worked with staff and Bigwin Island to close gaps and complete action items satisfactory to all stakeholders.

Analysis

Through our recruitment process, Lake of Bays Fire Rescue has recruited three members who currently work for and live on Bigwin Island. Of the three members, one is already certified, another is completing their certification in August, and the third is joining our fall training program. All members have completed an orientation and SP103 training for wildland fire training and first responder.

This will increase our efficiency and level of service in a variety of ways providing a better experience and outcome for everyone involved.

One historical challenge has been ensuring the equipment on the island is serviced and checked to ensure its operability. The members will be responsible to complete weekly checks on the fire cart which will ensure equipment is maintained, ready and operational. This will help staff replace and service equipment as needed.

In addition, the team will act as an Island Rapid Response Team. They are outfitted with a two-way radio to provide direct situational updates to crews responding from land, and ensure resources are ready when we arrive. This will enhance response times, give fire staff better and quicker understanding if additional resources are required and what equipment to deploy. These firefighters are exterior only until additional crews arrive and will be outfitted with limited gear on the island. This will allow them to respond to medical calls, wildland fires, and alarm calls.

These members will be part of Station 20, and will participate in weekly trainings on Tuesday nights, as well they will respond to land for calls requiring additional personnel. Lake of Bays Fire Rescue will continue to support Bigwin in the future in the development of these seasonal teams.

Financial Implications

- \$1500.00 in firefighting supplies

Strategic Priorities:

Strategic Planning Initiatives

Economic & Destination Development

Municipal Governance & Engagement

Approved by:

Geoff Carleton, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved - 07 Jul 2026