

## THE GREEN WATCH

### The Green Lake Area Ratepayers' Association Newsletter Representing property owners and tenants in the Watch and Green Lake Area

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## AUTUMN 2007

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*From Bruce Gilmore*

Thirteen years ago this past summer, my wife, daughter and I purchased a summer cottage on south Green Lake. We were drawn to the beauty of the lake and the historical, social, and ecological values of the area. Our neighbors warmly welcomed us and we quickly settled into summer life. During these thirteen years, I have taken an active interest in GLARA and its mandate - a commitment to a healthy community balance that promotes and addresses the economic, ecological, and social values of the area.

On behalf of Green Lake area residents, GLARA has exercised leadership. GLARA has risen to address the challenges that might compromise our region's ecological health. GLARA has taken a leadership role with both public and private sectors in the area. GLARA maintains on-going communication with forest companies and regional, provincial and federal authorities responsible for land zoning, public health, park, fish and waterfowl management, boating safety, landfill management, policing, and water quality. Additionally, GLARA has provided leadership and advocated for the creation of an Official Community Plan (OCP) that will reinforce with all government levels the commitment our residents have to conserving and sustaining their economic, ecological, and social values in the face of developmental pressure.

The key priorities for your GLARA Directors in 2008 are water quality monitoring, OCP implementation, forest health, and a commitment to work diligently and responsibly to sustain the enjoyment and health of the values that bring people together in the Green Lake area. Your GLARA Directors are your means to bring your views and concerns forward and address what you see as needing attention in our community. I invite you into a dialogue and reflection of what community health means to you. Such an exchange can provide the opportunity for you to express your views and contribute in advancing the economic, ecological, and social health of our community. If you have expertise, interest or ideas please contact a GLARA Director.

I would also like to acknowledge the active contributions of current and past GLARA Directors, members of Crime Watch, and those who have served so reliably on both sides of the lake as members of the volunteer fire departments. As the last of the Canada geese take flight to the south with the start of shore ice, I send my best wishes for what time remains in the fall and thank you for your support of GLARA.

Bruce Gilmour, Chair

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

From Marie Kuyek

### Members' Fees

GLARA has been in existence for over 17 years and during that time membership dues have been \$10.00 per year. We were finding that each year prices were going up for everything, so there was a need to raise the membership dues to cover the costs of running GLARA. At our AGM in August 2007, a motion was put to the membership to raise the annual fees. The motion voted on was passed to raise the membership fee. With this fee increase you will also be receiving 3 newsletters per year instead of the previous 2.

The new fees for membership are \$15.00 per year or \$40.00 for 3 years. With this newsletter I am **not** including a membership application form. In May, when memberships expire, I will include a new membership form. **Please don't send membership dues until then.**

### Emails

Some of you have already sent me your email address and you will have received this newsletter by email. Your expiry date will be noted at the top of your email. If you are currently receiving this newsletter by Canada Post your expiry date is on the envelope. If you would like to receive the spring newsletter by email please send your email to GLARA's new email address at [greenwatchlake@bcinternet.net](mailto:greenwatchlake@bcinternet.net). Please send your first name, last name and Green Lake or Watch Lake mailing address when you send me your email address. I will then add you to the email list and send a confirmation back to you.

Thanks, Marie

### THE GREEN WATCH

is now published three times per year. If you have any interests or articles you would like to see printed in the next issue please contact Angela Wynton at 456.6070 or [awynton@telus.net](mailto:awynton@telus.net).

If you are interested in receiving a colour copy by email please contact Marie Kuyek at [greenwatchlake@bcinternet.net](mailto:greenwatchlake@bcinternet.net)

### SNOWMOBILE SAFETY

When riding and enjoying the trails should you come across fallen trees or debris, please move them off the trail if you can. Help keep our trails clear and safe for everyone.

*Thank you,*

*Larry Messaros, President  
Green Lake Snowmobile Club*

## WINTER HOURS AT THE 70 MILE DUMP

Just a reminder that winter hours for the 70 Mile House dump have taken effect as of November 1.

**Sunday:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
**Monday:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
**Wednesday:** 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
**Saturday:** 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

# **WATER REPORT**

*By Fred Kuyek, Green Lake Water Steward, Director*

## **Fishing**

In the summer edition of the GLARA Newsletter I reported that Nolan Lake was stocked with 5,000 Blackwater River rainbow trout, Watch Lake was stocked with 40,000 Pennask rainbows, but Green Lake was not stocked. My wife Marie spoke to Skip Rimmer, the Regional Biologist from Region 5 and he explained that Green Lake was classified as a priority 2 lake. This means Green Lake only gets stocked when there is a surplus of fish at the Hatchery in Clearwater. This year their fish stocks were below normal and even the lakes that are priority 1 were stocked with smaller amounts of fish than was originally planned. He stated that Kokanee fish have a very bad survival rate in Green Lake due to the high alkalinity (pH of 9). Green Lake's warmer water is also a factor. Skip told her that every year a request is put in to have Green Lake stocked with 75,000 Rainbow trout and 200,000 Kokanee. Hopefully, in 2008 there will be enough fish to stock Green Lake.

## **Lake Water**

Water testing of Green Lake began on June 1<sup>st</sup>, with the last water test on September 1<sup>st</sup>. This year we were only testing for water temperatures at specified levels. In addition to taking temperatures we were also doing Secchi dips. This test involves dropping a Secchi disk into the water to show the clarity or turbidity of the water. This year the Secchi depth was at 11 meters in June, which is very good for Green Lake, but by September, the Secchi test read 7 meters. I speculate that this could be due to high boat traffic, many windy summer days, or even dead pine tree needles. We are still pushing the Ministry of Environment to start full testing of Green Lake and Watch Lake waters. However, it doesn't look possible for 2008, but we will keep trying.

Our dangerous rocks buoys had new decals put on them on Canada Day weekend. Upon completion, with the help of volunteers Bob Walker and Dennis Nagy, we put them back into the water. In October, with the help of volunteers Alan Boyd and Bob Walker, we took the buoys out of the water for the winter. They are in dry storage until next May at which time they will be put back in the water. If anyone doesn't know where these buoys are, they are located on the north side near Farmer's Bull pasture (Haywood-Farmer) and by Sunset View Park on the south side. They mark serious rock hazards.

New 10 MPH signs are being made for Green Lake bays at east lagoon, west lagoon and Boyd bay. They will replace the missing and badly damaged ones that are currently posted. These bays are protected ecological areas for wildlife and nesting so great care needs to be taken when venturing into these water areas.

### **IN WINTER PROTECT OUR LAKES**

When out enjoying our frozen lakes be sure to continue your respect for water conservation and lake ecology. Please do not leave rubbish, fishing paraphernalia, or other debris around to be absorbed into the lake during the Spring break-up and melt. Once it finds its way into the lake the damage is done. And please – no fires on the ice unless in a removable self-contained fire pit.

Enjoy your winter sports!

## THE GREEN BELT REPORT

By David Schwarz, RPF, Director

As of the writing of this report the pine beetles are still very active in our area. I know you may be getting tired of hearing about these tiny pesky things (no pun intended), but they really do wreak havoc on our green belt and our yards as you well know.

What happened this year is we had another flight of the beetles in early September, which was an additional flight on top of the flight in the summer. I know this because it happened to me in my yard, and it is also evidenced in the field where the recent green attack has been found. Another unfortunate thing that happened with this recent flight is that it attacked spruce trees, again evidence in my yard and previous evidence in my neighbours' yards as well.

So what can we do about the pine beetle situation in and around our Lakes and area? I made a very similar statement last fall and what I have learned since then and through help from my neighbours, is doing what you can to keep the trees in your yard as vigorous as possible, especially through watering; and for us to band together as a community to help prevent the attack of trees in our own yards. There are two approaches. One is to place Verbenone, a deterring pheromone, around a relatively large perimeter, i.e. a number of adjoining properties. The other is to apply Sevin XLR, a pesticide, directly to your trees prior to attack. It will kill the beetles as they attack the tree. Both of these products may be purchased at places that sell pesticides, such as hardware stores, nurseries, and Canadian Tire. The trick here will be to coordinate a neighbourhood or community effort.

The best means of reducing the population and the impact on our own trees is to recognize we have the beetle and dispose of the tree(s) prior to the next flight. No need to panic about that today as the next flight is next summer (mid-July). This will make for a good spring project just in case you don't have enough to do. Disposing means burning them. We all enjoy campfires and can use an endless supply of firewood.

Now back to beetles in the spruce trees. Spruce does have the spruce beetle that will attack it, but it has also been observed that the pine beetle will attack spruce. The difficulty is that the two beetles look very much alike with some minor differences that are hard to see. The only way to know is to get a positive identification from a person with the expertise in this field. A good source is an entomologist at the Ministry of Forests. In many instances the spruce will survive the attack and the theory is that the pine beetle will not produce brood if they are in the spruce trees. I am not holding my breath on this theory yet. A good source of information is [www.pherotech.com](http://www.pherotech.com).

More on the neighbourhood and community effort in a later newsletter, as the spring will be the time to act on this. So do what you can to learn about the pine beetle by visiting the Pherotech website. As far as Forest Development Plans and future harvesting plans, I have nothing new to report. I would expect that new plans from the forest companies would be forthcoming.

Stay warm, enjoy the fall and winter, learn about the beetle and rest up for an active spring. Together we can make a difference.

### INFORMATION DIRECTORY

**CRD** 1.800.665.1636

[www.cariboord.bc.ca](http://www.cariboord.bc.ca)

**TNRD** 1.877.377.8673.

[www.tnrd.bc.ca](http://www.tnrd.bc.ca)

**Ministry of Environment**

[www.env.gov.bc.ca](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca)

**Water Stewardship**

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd)

[www.livingbywater.ca](http://www.livingbywater.ca)

**Environment stewardship**

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/esd](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/esd)

**Environment Protection**

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv)

**Ministry of Forests & Range**

[www.for.gov.bc.ca](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca)

At this sight there are direct links to *Fire Smart* and the *Mountain Pine Beetle*

**Grasslands Conservation**

[www.bcgrasslands.org](http://www.bcgrasslands.org)

**BC Lake Stewardship**

[www.bclss.org](http://www.bclss.org)

**StreamLine Watershed**

**Management Bulletin**

[www.forrex.org/streamline](http://www.forrex.org/streamline)

**Lake and Fishing Information**

[www.gofishbc.com](http://www.gofishbc.com)

**Wildfire Information**

[www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)

Con'd page 6 ...

## SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

*By Alan Boyd, Director*

Many do not need, especially from me, a lecture or an introduction on volunteering in the community, as a good number of our readers are already involved in a variety of worthy programs that are beneficial to people, animals, our environment, our favourite sport, or our children's sports, and entertainment.

Volunteering is a form of charity, which like its sister mercy, benefits those who give as much as those who receive. But having said that, one must always be cognizant of our fellow volunteers, after all one would hope we are all striving for the same goals, thus everyone involved deserves the respect and attention that should be warranted.

In our country alone, there are millions of dollars worth of donated time given freely to the many deserving projects every year. If there are some of you out there who wish to become involved in a charity or your community, then all you need to do is show up to a meeting or let someone in the program know that you have an interest. Before you know it you will be a part of something GOOD and REWARDING as well as FUN.

In a community like ours, where many of us are retired, or just plain tired, there is always a need for new and willing volunteers. You will be welcomed and you will become a part of a huge movement across this great country CANADA. Welcome aboard!

## RURAL CRIME WATCH

The 47 Mile Area E Rural Crime Watch Association (Clinton area) was created in October 1999 to help provide better security for residents in coordination with the RCMP. Rural Crime Watch is also operating in the 100 Mile House region and information and fan-out calls are coordinated and directed together.

The Rural Crime Watch program has been designed to reduce the incidence of crime in rural areas and to create a more thorough understanding and awareness of the law. Those who have a vested interest in the rural community are the members – farmers, ranchers, business owners, home and acreage owners, and other community members and partners that live in the area. Their active involvement with crime prevention techniques enhances their security and quality of life.

The objectives of the Rural Crime Watch Association are:

- 1) To reduce the opportunity for crime to persons or property by improving and implementing good security practices in homes, outbuildings, vehicles and machinery. Such practices include property identification, Rural Crime Watch signage, and vigilant observation of neighbouring properties.
- 2) To become familiar with educational strategies by actively participating in crime prevention awareness programs.

*Con'd on page 6 ...*

We are in this together –  
not to win, not to compete, not to conquer,  
but to educate, to nurture, to help.  
Let us celebrate the power within us,  
to make the difference to change the world.

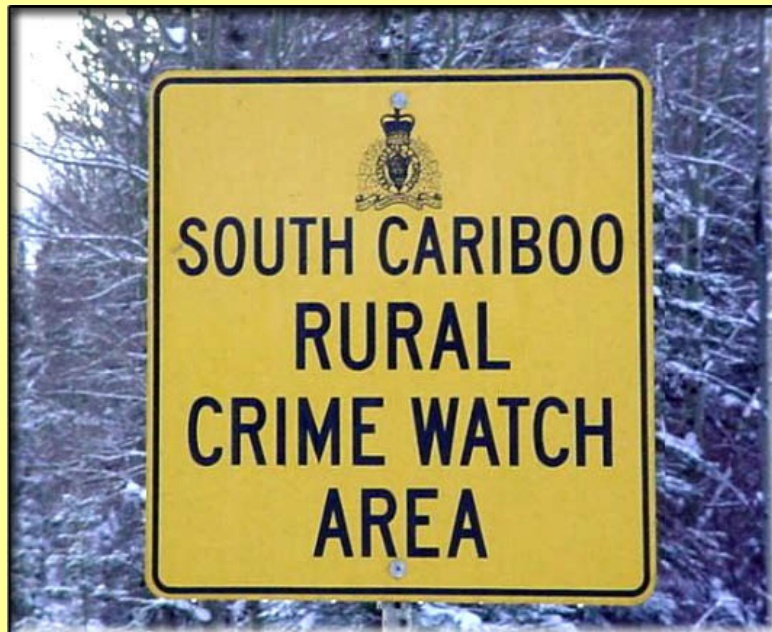
Dr. Natasha Josefowitz

... Rural Crime Watch

- 3) To ensure that a communication flow exists between association members, police and other interested parties such as the BC Cattlemen Association, Conservation Officers, forestry, Wilderness Watch and various commercial companies.
- 4) To provide support for members by holding periodic meetings, fundraising events, and information seminars.
- 5) To provide a telecomputer fan-out system that will provide mass communication by phone to all members if vital information needs to be passed on, such as a crime or a suspicious vehicle in the area or a missing person.

The success of the program depends entirely on participation by you – residents both fulltime and part-time. Currently, we need new members to become involved – it requires only a very small amount of your time. If you are in the TNRD you can pick-up a *Consent for Disclosure of Criminal Record Information* form at the 70 Mile House Access Centre (S.M.A.C.) or download the form from the South Cariboo Rural Crime Watch website [www.ruralcrimewatch.com](http://www.ruralcrimewatch.com) . Forward the form to 47 Mile Area E Rural Crime Watch Association, c/o Clinton RCMP Detachment, 1204 Kelly Lake Road, Clinton, BC V0K 1K0. If you are in the CRD pick-up a membership packet from the South Cariboo Info Centre on Hwy 97 and drop the form off at the 100 Mile House RCMP. Processing takes about two weeks and you will then be contacted. The South Cariboo Rural Crime Watch is a member of the BC Crime Prevention Association [www.bccpa.org](http://www.bccpa.org) .

One of the familiar yellow Rural Crime Watch signs that are around the region.



When the eyes and ears of rural residents are combined with technology and law enforcement, an effective crime prevention system is in place.

... INFORMATION DIRECTORY *con'd*

**Provincial Emergency Program**  
[www.pep.bc.ca](http://www.pep.bc.ca)

**The Land Conservancy of BC**  
[www.conservancy.bc.ca](http://www.conservancy.bc.ca)

**Rural Crime Watch**  
[www.ruralcrimewatch.com](http://www.ruralcrimewatch.com)

**BC Crime Prevention Association**  
[www.bccpa.org](http://www.bccpa.org)

**Conservation Officer Service**  
[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos)

**BC Wildlife Federation**  
[www.bcwf.bc.ca](http://www.bcwf.bc.ca)

**Pitch-in Canada**  
[www.pitch-in.ca](http://www.pitch-in.ca)

**BC Hydro**  
[www.bchydro.com](http://www.bchydro.com)

**BC Adventure**  
[www.bcadventure.com](http://www.bcadventure.com)

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

*Angela Wynton, Editor*

This season GLARA is bringing to you more information and resources to keep you and your property safe throughout the winter. Especially, knowing we may yet again have to endure a stormy winter, we have presented information regarding trees and power lines and the opportunity to learn more about dealing with power outages. Hopefully, most residents have removed the bulk of the beetle-killed pine on their property. Also, as you have read, we are encouraging residents to participate in the Rural Crime Watch. As both a fulltime and part-time community, we must actively practice vigilance in property protection and crime prevention. We hope this has been helpful. Your comments are welcome.

### WHAT IS R.A.P.P.?

*Courtesy of Ministry of Environment*

The Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) program is a toll free tip-line and web-based service that allows you to report known or suspected violations of fisheries, wildlife, or environmental protection laws – anonymously and without risk of confronting the offender. Available 24/7, RAPP is simple, safe and effective. It is based on the principle that someone other than the criminal has information that can solve the crime. Just like the police use CrimeStoppers, the B.C. Conservation Officer Service needs your help in catching poachers and polluters.

If the situation is not an emergency, report the incident online or contact the nearest Conservation Officer Service district office. For fisheries violations related to salmon, contact Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) at 1-800-465-4336.

The RAPP hotline should also be used to report wildlife-human interactions where public safety may be at risk. In addition to minimizing any damage caused by poachers and polluters, you can help prevent violations before they even occur. The watchful eyes of responsible and informed resource users are a powerful deterrent to potential violators.

For more information visit [www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos) .

### R.A.P.P

#### Report All Poachers and Polluters

Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline

**1-877-952-RAPP (7277)**

**Cellular Dial - #7277**

### Think About Your Trash

PITCH-IN CANADA is a national non-profit organization founded in 1967 by several volunteers concerned about the proliferation of packaging and its effects on the land and marine environments. PITCH-IN CANADA is also a founding supporter of Clean up the World (1992).

PITCH-IN CANADA is also a founding member of Clean World International (1976), an international Secretariat comprised of national organizations promoting waste reduction, recycling and proper waste handling, and the Environmentally Sound Packaging Coalition, a Canadian organization encouraging greater dialogue and cooperation between governments, industry and consumers to reduce packaging and waste.

For more information visit [www.pitch-in.ca](http://www.pitch-in.ca) .

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

Martin Luther King

## THE COST OF POACHING

*Courtesy of Ministry of Environment*

### What is poaching?

Poaching is the illegal collection or killing of fish, wildlife or native plants. Some common examples include:

- taking more fish and game than the law allows;
- hunting or fishing in a closed area or during a closed season;
- using prohibited gear or equipment; or
- the unlawful collection of fish and wildlife, or their parts, for the purpose of trafficking.

### Is Poaching a Serious Problem in BC?

Some studies estimate that poachers kill as many fish and wildlife as is taken legally. As a result, poachers place natural populations at risk and ruin lawful recreational opportunities for us all. Unfortunately, poachers take more than just game animals. They also kill members of threatened, endangered and non-game species. Even if the wildlife and fish taken by poachers is half the number cited, the problem is serious.

### Who Are Poachers?

Given British Columbia's diverse fish and wildlife resources, poaching is carried out by different individuals for different reasons. Generally, poachers are most likely to kill for profit. There are eager national and international markets of collectors and consumers who pay outrageous sums for rare trophies and wildlife parts.



*Wayne Towler Photo*

*Eagles are a protected species. However, these magnificent creatures are poached for their feathers for the black market in wildlife trafficking.*

Whether they operate alone, or as part of organized crime, trophy and commercial poachers think that game laws only matter if they get caught. They kill with no regard for fish and wildlife, habitat or the rights of other resource users.

While poaching for commercial gain is a significant problem, the taking of one or a few 'extra' fish or animals, for reasons other than profit, is also a serious issue. These individuals believe their bending or breaking of the rules has little impact on the overall health of the resource and they choose to ignore the total impact of all such acts.

As the pressures on British Columbia's natural environment increase, so grows the responsibility and challenge to protect and maintain it. Make a difference and report a violation toll free 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP). Cellular users can dial #7277. You can also report violations via Internet online at

[www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form/](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form/)

Bless the beasts and the children, for in this world  
they have no voice, they have no choice.

Barry DeVorzon



## A PRICELESS INHERITANCE

British Columbia's natural environment, including its diverse fish and wildlife, is a priceless heritage that benefits us all. However, if we and our children are to continue to enjoy these benefits, our environment requires careful management and protection. Consider the following facts about our remarkable province:

- B.C. is a vast and rugged landscape. It is Canada's third largest province and comprises 9.5 per cent of the country's total land area. The province is nearly four times the size of Great Britain, 2.5 times larger than Japan, and larger than any American state except Alaska.
- We live in the most biologically rich province or territory in Canada and many fish and wildlife populations in B.C. have global significance. For example, the province has approximately 75 per cent of the world's stone sheep, 60 per cent of the mountain goats, 50 per cent of the blue grouse, at least half of the trumpeter swans and 25 per cent of the grizzly bears and bald eagles.
- British Columbia has a sizeable and growing population of over 4.2 million people. By 2031 this figure will likely increase by over 36 per cent to nearly 5.5 million.
- With over 360,000 businesses in the province, our population engages in a wide range of economic and recreational activities that impact the environment.

For more information about the animals and the environment visit either [www.env.gov.bc.ca](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca) or [www.bcadventure.com](http://www.bcadventure.com).



*Most animals are hunted legally, or dealt with by Conservation Officers. However, both the moose and the black bear have been killed illegally for their parts – antlers, a gall bladder or paws, and then left to die so very unnecessarily.*



*Let us leave a splendid legacy for our children ...  
let us turn to them and say “ this you inherit;  
guard it well, for it is more precious than money,  
and once destroyed, nature’s beauty cannot be  
repurchased at any price.”*

Ansel Adams

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

*From Angela Wynton*

We, in the Green and Watch lakes area, are very privileged to live not only in a rural community but a paradise plentiful in flora and fauna. It is not unusual for any one of us to experience the sighting of a wolf on a frozen lake, a moose in the acreage, eagles, hawks and osprey, or even a black bear passing through. While out on the lake, or enjoying the meadows and trails, we also regularly see foxes, coyotes, deer in abundance, grouse, a variety of migratory birds, the reflection of fins and fish, and the delight of wildflowers and greenery. While *we* know to be in awe of these wonderful creatures and beautiful lands, some are not as respectful. Licensing and environmental regulations are there for all of us not only the hunters and fishers. To protect the species that roam our community, and the land on which they depend, *all* of us must be vigilant. For us to leave a legacy to our children and our country we must be active in protecting those creatures and those places that otherwise cannot protect themselves. Let's leave an inheritance worth inheriting.

## PENALTIES FOR POACHING

*Courtesy of Ministry of Environment*

There are a number of violations, as determined and described in the Wildlife Act, that carry stiff penalties including both fines and imprisonment. A few examples of the types of penalties violators are subject to upon conviction, according to the provisions in the act, are the following:

- A poacher's hunting licence can be cancelled for up to 30 years.
- A poacher may be subject to a fine and/or imprisonment, which could be:
  - up to \$25,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment for the majority of offences under the Wildlife Act;
  - up to \$50,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment for offences that could harm the wildlife resource or that reflect serious unethical practices related to illegal hunting or trapping; or
  - \$1,000 to \$100,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment for offences related to the illegal trade in live wildlife or killing endangered species.

Reporting not only penalizes the poacher but there are rewards for those who can offer information for the apprehension and conviction of poachers. The BC Wildlife Federation pays rewards of up to \$2000 for information leading to the conviction of persons who have:

- violated laws related to the protection of fish, wildlife, or the environment, or
- damaged the property of companies or individuals who provide access to hunters and anglers.

For more information regarding penalties visit the Conservation Officer Service website at [www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos) . For more information regarding rewards and further wildlife protection visit the BC Wildlife Federation website at [www.bcdf.bc.ca](http://www.bcdf.bc.ca) .

Please visit the **RAPP** website and learn how you can be an accurate observer and an accurate reporter in preventing poaching, and recognizing poaching, in your community. Protect our wildlife and their habitat. [www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/help](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/help) .

## TREE SENSE AND POWER LINES

More than 25% of all electrical interruptions are tree-related. Millions of customer hours are lost each year due to trees. Not only are power outages inconvenient, interruption of electrical service can endanger life through the failure of emergency or other electrical equipment.

Be aware:

- Trees can be conductive, that is, they can carry an electrical charge. A tree touching a power line can become energized and injury could result from touching the tree.
- Wires knocked down or broken by trees, especially during storms, can remain live, creating extreme danger from contact.
- Stay clear of downed power lines; keep a distance away of at least of 10 metres (33feet).

You can help:

- Don't approach a fallen line. Contact BC Hydro immediately!
- Be careful and aware of lines when pruning your own trees.
- Ensure that your trees are maintained and in good health.
- Be aware of which trees could grow or fall on power lines.
- Inspect trees regularly for flaws or signs of decay.
- When removing trees near power lines, use professionals or call BC Hydro for advice.
- Don't plant tall-growing trees under or near power lines.

For general power information visit [www.bchydro.com](http://www.bchydro.com) or go directly to power outage information at [www.bchydro.com/safety/outage](http://www.bchydro.com/safety/outage) .

*Information Courtesy of BC Hydro*

## DEAD TREES GOING

Recently a Certified Utility Arborist (CUA) contract was awarded in the 70 Mile/Green Lake/Watch Lake area for the removal of approximately 2000 dead pine beetle trees around power lines. A bunter is also currently working along the corridor on Highway 97 between Stormy Lake Road and Cunningham Road. In addition, there are two Consenters coming around to property owners asking permission to remove dead pine beetle trees on private property that are a threat or danger to the power lines. The focus is to clear all dead trees from wires feeding into the 70 Mile

substation that is responsible for power to the area. Remember - there are limited resources to get the job done, so please be patient. They are doing their best.

If you have any questions or require more information please call Mark Holland of BC Hydro in Williams Lake at 250.392.8320.

**REPORT AN OUTAGE**

**1-888-POWERON (769-3766)**

**Cell phone \*HYDRO (\*49376)**

## \$\$ FINES ARE HERE \$\$

The Ministry of Forests and Range is taking aim at backcountry recreation users who leave heavy footprints in sensitive areas. Effective August 2007, environmental damage is now illegal in B.C., and it carries with it a fine of up to \$100,000 or one year in jail or both.

“The regulation authorizes the Forest Service and Ministry of Environment to ticket people who are damaging the environment with off road machines,” said BC Outdoors Caucus Chair Bill Bennett. “From that point, there can be an administrative decision made on how much the fine will be. If it’s really serious, they can take it to the RCMP and people can be charged criminally. We haven’t had that in the past.”

Damage is defined in part as ‘any damage to soil that has a negative impact on ecosystems’, which is the kind of thing that happens when mudboggers tear through wetlands, grasslands, or up sparsely vegetated hillsides. This reckless use of trucks, ATVs and dirt bikes can create irreversible damage.

According to Bennett, compliance is one part enforcement and one part education. In regard to the latter, signage is in the works for areas where disastrous impacts have been observed and pamphlets were printed May 2007 for distribution.

*Excerpt Courtesy of 100 Mile Free Press*

For further information visit the Ministry of Forests and Range at [www.for.gov.bc.ca](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca) or Ministry of Environment at [www.env.gov.bc.ca](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca). You can also refer to the *Forest and Range Practice Act SBC 2002, c69 – Part 6 Compliance and Enforcement*.

British Columbia is the only place in North America to have no legislation in place regarding off-road vehicles (ORVs), and is one of the few provinces in Canada with no management strategy for and no plan in place to regulate the sport. Since September 2002 the Grasslands Conservation Council has been working with the Quad Riders Association and created ORVs – the Coalition for the Licensing and Regulation of Off Road Vehicles. For more info visit the grasslands website [www.bcgrasslands.org/conservation/orv](http://www.bcgrasslands.org/conservation/orv).



*Irresponsible fun creating irreversible damage to grasslands.*

Be a responsible off road vehicle user and educate your friends and family about protecting our lands and ecology well into the future.

## THERE IS MORE TO GRASSLANDS THAN JUST GRASS!

Variations in geology, aspect, soils and moisture create many different grassland communities and habitats that are used by animals for food, shelter and raising their young. These different grassland habitats include aspen stands, gullies, riparian zones, wetlands, open grasslands, rocky talus slopes, outcrops, open coniferous forest, closed coniferous patches, and ponds and lakes. For detailed information about the importance and roles of these habitats, in need of respect and protection, please visit [www.bcgrasslands.org/grasslands/communitiesandhabitats](http://www.bcgrasslands.org/grasslands/communitiesandhabitats).