



THE GREEN WATCH

The Green Lake Area Ratepayers' Association News Letter

Representing property owners and tenants within two kilometers of Watch and Green Lakes

Alan Boyd, President	456.7651	Robin Rusaw, Director	456.7703
Dennis Tupman, Director	456.2302	Fred Kuyek, Water Testing	456.2230
Lorie Flemming, Secretary	456.7566	Joanne Macaluso, Director	456.7320
Murray Bymoan, Director	456.6001	Bruce Gilmour, Director	456.2140
Dave Schwarz, Director	456.2317	Lorrie Fleming, Secretary	456.7566
Jack Keough, Director	456.7725	Denis Read, Director	456.2338
Marie Kuyek, Treasurer	456-2230	Angela Wynton, Director	456.6070

SUMMER 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Alan Boyd

Hello to all G.L.A.R.A. members, I hope you haven't frozen all your garden projects yet. The weather has been far from our usual Spring early Summer fare. Retirement life is far too busy; as I am sure most can attest to. Our home is pretty much complete and most of the landscape projects are in place with grass growing and plants doing their best to avoid frostbite and being consumed by our hungry herds of four legged critters during the night.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on August 18th at 10:00 A.M. at Fire Hall # 2 - Sonny Johnson - on Green Lake North Rd. We will be nominating a new President, as my three years are up and we need a new leader. We also need at least one new Director as Murray Bymoan has found that he cannot take sufficient time from his already busy life to be an effective contributor to GLARA.

I have enjoyed being your President, although I feel that I have not contributed as much or as effectively as I would have liked. So many of us have time and commitment problems. GLARA continues to lobby for and against issues that we recognize as within our Constitution, such as excessive taxation, our environment, our quality of life, and our pursuit of happiness and that of our neighbours.

Our Official Community Plan is moving forward slowly. In regards to water quality in our lakes, I believe there will either be repairs made to the current fluorometer or a new fluorometer will be purchased; therefore, neither the Ministry of Environment nor a regional district contractor will be testing Green Lake this summer. I have not yet been informed whether a contractor has been selected to move the Official Community Plan forward.

The ongoing dispute around the provision of fire protection services on the Watch/North Green Lakes seems stagnant, new members have come forward to replace the members that resigned or went on leave of absence, fortunately some of the old guard are attending and assisting the new members to learn the ropes. Hopefully everyone will soon regain their sense of community and get back to working for the good of all.

Be extremely careful of any open burning and be alert regarding any current fire bans. Try to remove all dead trees from near your homes and cabins to minimize the risk of wildfire. We must be very aware of the real fire hazard with all the standing dead trees around our community. As they say - **be careful out there** and have a safe, fun summer.

Bye for now, Alan.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

From Marie Kuyek

As you have probably heard, many of our long-standing community members are moving away from the Green Lake and Watch Lake area. Can you help us fill their shoes? Many were very involved with the Fire Departments, Snowmobile Club, Community Association, and GLARA. Give them a call and find out when they are holding their next meeting and invite someone along to attend with you. Volunteers keep our communities strong and we certainly need more!

Watch Lake Women's Institute Lynda Krupp - 456-7730 or Helen Eagle - 456-2413
Watch Lake / North Green Lake Community Association Peter Hayes - 456-6038
Watch Lake North Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department Contact a neighbour
South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department Contact a neighbour
South Green Lake Ladies Auxiliary Pat Graham - 456-7755
Green Lake Snowmobile Club Larry Messaros - 456-2129

On South Green Lake we have a special problem of great concern. Barry Roman was instrumental in completing Phase 2 of the Cattle Fencing Project. He has been maintaining the fence over these past years. He is now moving and we need someone to take over and monitor the fence for fallen trees and to make repairs to the wire. If you can help, please call Dennis Nagy at 456-6020. Please be a volunteer - many hands make light work!

GLARA will be voting for a new executive at the AGM as the terms for several members are now up. In addition we would like to see some new directors join us. If you are interested in becoming a director on the GLARA board please contact a current member listed on the front page of this newsletter. We always welcome new members. To join GLARA contact myself, Marie Kuyek, at 456.2230

Thanks, Marie

BE BEAR SAVVY

Composts, bird feeders, and garbage attract young bears to your property. Be sensible and make your property bear resistant. They may look cuddly but bears are wild creatures.

Protect our wildlife and remember –
a fed bear is a dead bear.

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 myself, Angela Wynton, at 456.6070.

If you are interested in receiving a colour copy by e-mail please contact me at awynton@telus.net.

G.L.A.R.A.

Green Lake and Area Rate Payers'
Association

AGM

Annual General Meeting

at Fire Hall #2 Sonny Johnson
on Green Lake N. Road

10 AM Saturday August 18, 2007

For further information contact
Marie Kuyek at 456.2230

WATER REPORT

By Fred Kuyek

The water testing of Green Lake began on June 1. This year we are only testing for water temperatures at specified levels. At 25m the temperature was 5.5° C. At 12m the temperature was 8°C and at .05m the temperature was 11.5°C. In addition to taking temperatures, we are also doing Seechi dip-ins. This test involves dropping a Seechi disk into the water to show the clarity or turbidity of the water. This year the Seechi depth was at 11m which is very good for Green Lake.

The old Yardley sign at the sani-station has been removed and the new one has been erected. This one should last about 20 years of more. Our rock buoys will have new decals put onto them after Canada Day weekend. Last fall Green Lake froze over on November 25 and the ice went off this spring on April 24. This year Green Lake was not stocked with any fish. However, Nolan Lake was stocked with 5000 Blackwater River rainbow trout and Watch Lake was stocked with 40,000 Pennask rainbow. For more information visit www.gofishbc.com. Happy fishing and have a nice summer.

PROTECT OUR LAKES

Be water aware and water conscious. Please remind your summer guests not to use Watch Lake or Green Lake as a bathing or kitchen sink. Be sure they know not to dispose of gray water into the lakes and especially not to use any detergents, soaps, and shampoos not even the biodegradable or organic products. Swimming, water sports, boating and fishing only, please. Enjoy!



The new Ol'Yardley sign at the sani-station at Bonaparte and Green Lake N. Road

THE GREEN BELT REPORT

By Bruce Gilmour, Director

Assisting Mother Nature In An Informed And Complementary Manner After Tree Loss

What do you do after the trees are gone? Well, what do you want to see? What there was before the trees were killed and lost? Then do as Mother Nature did, follow the generally understood knowledge about how the flora and fauna re-establishes itself according to Mother Nature's planning guide.

There is very little science to follow in the rehabilitation of the forests after a forest health agent interaction (insects, beetles, disease, fire, etc.). The question of what to plant is as simple as what does the landowner want to grow. If it is spruce and fir, the husbandry is intensive.

Forests grow through three key stages – pioneer, succession and climax. Each stage is characteristically understood from the establishment and contributions of small plants and shrubs through to a larger biomass which includes trees. In these roles, trees resistant to lack of shade establish growth for the microclimate of species requiring shade to grow. Other roles include plant species that secure and make available the release of nutrient elements required for the growth of subsequent forest floor species. Hence, the classification of pioneer, succession, and climax species and their corresponding interdependency. Without one there isn't the other, at least in terms of forest floor and canopy vigor and health.

Pine trees are a pioneer species creating the microclimate for spruce and fir to thrive in as the succession and climax species in the forests. If lots is left to green up after a fire or harvesting, the observer will see the dominant re-establishment of tree form to be the pine, growing quickly and tall to provide the growing environment for other species such as fir and spruce that require shade from the sun.

Seed stock should be from sources not ranging farther than fifty kilometres away from the intended re-stocking forest plots, and more significantly, within a close range of elevation to the plot. Seedlings have a genetic make up that reflects the chemical, biological, and seasonal growing temperatures associated with their parent tree. Consequently, a pine seedling from the Princeton area may take in the Green and Watch lake areas, but not grow with the vigor and health of a nursery seedling taken as the progeny of a pine tree from the Green and Watch lake area.

Putting back what Mother Nature had in the first place is the fastest way to speed up the process. Pine will plant and grow well in this area, along with spruce and Douglas fir. Don't be concerned about planting pine and the beetles getting it - Mother Nature will regulate the beetle and it will be many, many years before the beetles are back again to get the pine.

For more information you can contact the Western Silvicultural Contractors Association, as it is an excellent resource related to the scientific knowledge base for re-stocking forests given over to harvesting or lost to fire, disease, beetle or other forest health agents. Their telephone number in Quesnel is 250.991.0888 or www.wsca.ca.

INFORMATION DIRECTORY

CRD 1.800.665.1636
www.cariboord.bc.ca

TNRD 1.877.377.8673.
www.tnrd.bc.ca

Ministry of Environment
www.env.gov.bc.ca

Water Stewardship
www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd

www.livingbywater.ca

Environment stewardship
www.env.gov.bc.ca/esd

Environment Protection
www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv

Ministry of Forests & Range
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

BC Lake Stewardship
www.bclss.org

StreamLine Watershed Management Bulletin
www.forrex.org/streamline

Lake and Fishing Information
www.gofishbc.com

Wildfire Information
www.bewildfire.ca

Provincial Emergency Program
www.pep.bc.ca

The Official Community Plan And All That!

by Dennis Tupman

By now most of you will have heard of the Official Community Plan (OCP.) However, many will not realize how important this is to the overall good management of growth in our area. First of all, for contextual purposes, let's summarize the various recent official processes affecting both Green and Watch lakes. These processes have led up to the perceived need for an OCP.

Green Lake is Critical

In the late 1970's the Thompson Nicola Regional District stated in a report that Green Lake was a 'critical' lake, and development on its shoreline should be restricted. At that time the Cariboo Regional District had no such designation, choosing to manage its development through zoning regulations. Generally, there were inconsistencies between what the TNRD and the CRD acted on. Also, there were few, if any, statements governing what forestry practices could be implemented in our area.

GLARA in the early 90's recognized the inconsistencies, and therefore developed its 'Greenbelt Statement' in order to clarify what the needs and wants were for the local residents. This statement was voted on and passed at the GLARA Annual General Meeting in May 1993. Also, no development statement could be found at the time regarding Watch Lake and a number of smaller lakes in our area of interest within 2 kilometres of either Green or Watch lakes. However, Watch Lake did have in effect speed limit guidelines for motorized craft. (MOT regulations.)

Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan

In the mid 1990's GLARA diligently began to make major contributions to, and recommendations about, the Cariboo Land Use Plan (CCLUP). This plan grew out of another planning process - the Committee on Recreation and the Environment (CORE), that pretty well fell apart in the rest of BC. However, in our area a lot of time and effort was expended on this plan, which was dedicated mainly to looking at the environmental impact of logging in the area. Additionally, it gave various groups the opportunity to make recommendations. GLARA expended a lot of sweat equity on the process, creating a large document in November of 1996 which outlined what we wanted for the well being of our community.

It is now the 21st century and the scourge of the Mountain Pine Beetle (and to a lesser extent the Douglas Fir Beetle and Spruce Bud Worm) challenge has completely trumped what is going to happen in our Greenbelt area. Likely, we will have to address re-forestation on our own properties. (Read the Greenbelt Report in this issue.)

Con'd page 6...



Wetlands are one of the most important life support systems on earth, currently comprising about 5.6% or 5.28 million hectares of British Columbia. They provide critical habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. Most wildlife in our province use wetland habitat at some point in their life cycle, and many red-and blue-listed species are wetland-dependent.

Lake Classification Process

Concurrent with the CCLUP was the Lake Classification process. This was a provincial programme that categorized all lakes in BC over five square kilometers in size. Designations of A, B, C, etc. were given to these lakes based on the amount of activity, future use, relative pristine quality, current development, etc. that any of the lakes demonstrated. GLARA fought long and hard to get the best deal we could get in the Lake Classification process. We wanted the highest classification possible, and we think that we achieved that goal with a B designation. That is, while we had development on our lakes, certain areas were classified as A - such as the islands and certain riparian areas in both the southwest and northeast areas of Green Lake. Category A meant that there would definitely be no development in the designated areas.

However, neither of these plans actually addressed any human settlement issues. This oversight was suddenly brought to our attention by a gentleman from BC Land and Water Inc., a crown corporation under the current Liberal government, that had sweeping powers to develop BC by selling and leasing land. This crown corporation has since been reined-in somewhat, and is not as aggressive as it was previously in fulfilling its mandate to make more money by the selling of BC lands and lakefronts. Remember what happened in Lac des Roches. The proposed rezoning and development there caused a huge outcry from the local area residents. Lac des Roches is also another lake governed by two different regional districts.

GLARA was strongly advised at the time to request that an OCP process be initiated in the Green Lake Watch Lake area.

Present situation

For more than two years GLARA has been relentlessly pressuring the CRD and the TNRD to cooperate with GLARA in undertaking and funding an OCP. We have achieved some success to this date. I want to give credit to the regional directors and staff of both the TNRD and CRD for their collaboration and cooperation.

However, more needs to be done. The current stumbling block in the OCP process has been the need for updated technical data about the relative critical state of Green and Watch lakes. The necessity for these studies has been emphasized in the report done by the independent environment firm from Kamloops - Urban Systems. Recently, when certain properties were applying for their rezoning on the lake, this need for updated technical data became apparent.

Summary

Given that the Green Lake Watch Lake area is likely to have much more pressure in the future for further development, GLARA feels that there is a need for an OCP supported by updated technical data and further studies. In order that our quality of life is maintained, the OCP will address the impact of human settlement and development in our area in a well managed and diverse environment.

For further information regarding GLARA and the Official Community Plan please contact either **Joanne Macaluso** at 456.7320 or **Jack Keough** at 456.7725.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The heat of summer is upon us, as is the potential threat of wildfire. While most of us will be vigilant in preventing wildfire, many more are less aware of the seriousness of the possibility. Ever too often in the fun and enjoyment of summer vacations many let their guard down, and common sense and fires are not always in the forefront during the many busy and exciting activities. While the vacationers can return to their safe homes away from here, it is our homes that are at risk throughout the season. Please remind friends, family, guests, and strangers that we live in a fire hazard zone, especially with all the dead pine beetle looming as torch material. *Be extra vigilant this season and actively help prevent forest fires.*

Angela Wynton, Editor

THE RURAL REALITY

Info Courtesy of FireSmart, a Joint Initiative from the Office of the Fire Commissioner, Provincial Emergency Program and Forest Service BC

Wildland forest fires are capable of spreading at an astonishing rate. Crowning forest fires often spread up to 5.5 kilometres per hour, with spotting as far as 2 kilometres ahead. Wind blown grass fires can spread at speeds up to 8.5 kilometres per hour.

In BC 48% of all wildfires are caused by human activity. Wildfire is also a natural phenomenon. Nearly 52% of BC wildfires are caused by lightning strikes. Over the last several centuries, large areas of BC have been burned repeatedly.

During the last ten years, on average, over 2500 wildfires were started in BC each year, consuming over 25,000 hectares of forested land annually. Thousands of families were evacuated from their communities and hundreds of homes destroyed. Not to mention the wildlife and their habitat.

If you live near a forested region, sooner or later you may have to contend with the spread of wildfire. The best protection against loss or damage or injury due to wildfire is prevention.

Properly preparing your home and community doesn't guarantee that you will not incur fire damage, but it does reduce the risks. Preventative measures cost very little and reduce fire dangers by a great deal.

For more information on wildfires and home protection visit these websites – www.bcwildfire.ca, www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom, and www.pep.bc.ca.

Report a Wildfire
1.888.663.5555 or
***5555 from a cell phone**
Wildfire Information
1.888.3FOREST or
1.888.336.7378

Five Basic Steps to Planning for Wildfire Protection

1. Understand how wildfires start and spread.
2. Choose a building site that offers natural protection.
3. Build a house using fire resistant materials or improve the fire resistance of your current home.
4. Use FireSmart landscaping principles to reduce a fire's ability to spread.
5. Make sure you and your family are prepared for a potential fire emergency.

Homeowners living in wildland urban interface areas need to be FireSmart!

FIRESMART LANDSCAPING

There are two primary principles in designing landscapes to protect against fire - fuel reduction and interruption of a fire's path. A FireSmart landscape uses fire resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. You'll find that it doesn't take a lot of money to create a beautifully landscaped property that is FireSmart, helps conserve water use, and even increases property values. Don't forget that fire does not respect property lines - so entire communities are encouraged to be FireSmart. One person's best effort at FireSmart landscaping may be at the mercy of a neighbour's complacency.

When landscaping around a home, most homeowners are interested in creating a landscape that is aesthetically pleasing, complements their home, and has variations in color, texture, flowers, and foliage. If your home is located in or adjacent to forests or rangeland, you also should consider the flammability of plants within your home landscape. Flammable plant material in your landscape can increase the fire risk around your home.

Homeowners should take active steps to minimize or reduce the fuel and fire-hazard around their homes, including planting fire resistant plants. Good placement of fire resistant trees, for example, can in fact, help protect your home by blocking intense heat. There is a wide array of trees and other plants to choose for your landscape that are both attractive and FireSmart.

So what are fire-resistant plants? Fire resistant plants are plants that don't readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. Although fire-resistant plants can be damaged or even killed by fire, their foliage and stems don't contribute significantly as fuel and, therefore, to the fire's intensity.

Plants that are fire-resistant have the following characteristics:

- Leaves are moist and supple.
- Have little dead wood and tend not to accumulate dry, dead material within the plant.
- Sap is water-like and does not have a strong odour.



Fuel management is the process of removing forest fuels to reduce aggressive fire behaviour, such as thinning, spacing, and pruning trees and the removal of needles and woody debris on the forest floor. This reduces the potential for devastating wildfires.

Most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire-resistant. However, it's important to remember that even fire-resistant plants can burn, particularly if they are not maintained in a healthy condition.

In contrast, plants that are highly flammable have these general characteristics:

- Contain fine, dry or dead material within the plant such as twigs, needles, and leaves.
- Leaves, twigs, and stems contain volatile waxes, terpenes, or oils.
- Leaves are aromatic with a strong smell when crushed.
- Sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odour.
- Have loose or papery bark.

Both ornamental and native plants can be highly flammable. An example of a highly flammable ornamental shrub often planted in home landscapes is ornamental juniper. Other examples of highly flammable native shrubs include bitterbrush, manzanita, sagebrush, and ceanothus. Avoid planting these plants around your home.

For information regarding nurseries in your area and to enquire about availability of fire resistant plant, shrub and tree species visit www.gardenwise.bc.ca

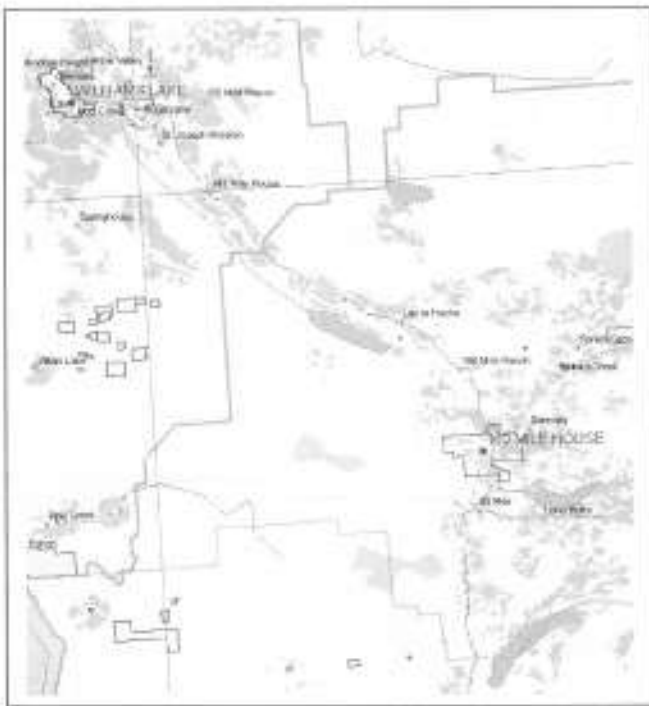
PEP – Provincial Emergency Program

PEP is a provincial program that responds to emergencies and educates and prepares the people of the province to deal with wildfires, floods, ice storms, mud slides, earthquakes and many other potential disasters that may impact our many and varied communities. Emergency preparedness within municipalities and regions is now provincially mandated. There is a great deal in place to prevent, mitigate, prepare, and deal with impending disasters and emergencies. There are planning tools and kits as well as training programs and volunteer opportunities. There is information on emergencies, fire safety, boating safety, water and power, as well as specific disaster links. The PEP website is www.pep.bc.ca. To find out how you can prepare your family for the first 72 hours of an emergency you can also visit the federal website www.getprepared.ca and obtain a copy of *Your Emergency Preparedness Guide*. For information regarding evacuation procedures or wildfire and flood plans in your area contact your local regional district Emergency Planning Department at either www.tnrd.bc.ca or www.cariboord.bc.ca.

WATCH LAKE EVENTS 2007

- Gymkhana Saturday July 14
- Gymkhana Saturday August 11

Volunteers needed - call Dimps 456.7741



Red-shaded areas on the map indicate places that have a higher chance of a forest fire posing a threat to a community. If ignited, these forest fuels located within two kilometres of a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) area, have the potential to bring a wildfire into that community.

Courtesy of the Cariboo Fire Centre

BE A FIRESMART RESIDENCE

Info Courtesy of FireSmart

Any kind of vegetation is potentially combustible. Mature trees, shrubs, grass, and woodpiles are all potential fuels and can ignite. Managing the space around your house and buildings is of prime importance.

The first 10 metres of space is the most critical area to consider for fire protection. A fuel free space gives firefighters a chance to save your home from an advancing fire. Remove shrubs, trees, deadfall and woodpiles within 10 metres of your home and keep grass mowed and well watered.

The second priority zone is the 10 to 30 metres around your home. In this area you need to reduce any potential fuels by thinning and pruning. Remove trees and debris that can spread fire upwards to become a fast spreading crown fire. Trees should be 3 to 6 metres apart.

Evergreen trees such as pine and spruce are very combustible, far more than deciduous trees. Aspen, poplar, and birch all have very low flammability rates. Remove deadfall, thick shrubbery and mature trees that will stoke a fire from the ground up into the forest canopy. A crown fire is virtually unstoppable. And don't forget fire spreads more easily uphill.

Make your property a FireSmart zone. Have the whole family participate in pruning and clearing – make it a fun and FireSmart day!

Do Your Own Home and Site Hazard Assessment – www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

From Angela Wynton

It is summer and many of us have the concern of wildfires first and foremost on our minds. We were fortunate that we in this area were not the ones evacuated several summers ago in 2003. However, many did have friends who were evacuees with us during that stressful time. Much goes into organizing and caring for those who under such dire circumstances have had to leave their homes not knowing what the future may hold. I have been privileged to have learned the details of those skills and qualified to help manage in the event of a disaster. I not only had the privilege to participate in numerous exercises at E-Comm on the Coast when we lived in the Lower Mainland, I was the ESS Regional Representative for the Coastal Region. The opportunity for others to become a reception centre manager or a reception center director or one of many other volunteer opportunities - from lodging to Red Cross - is easily available for those who are interested. The Justice Institute offers a myriad of courses and opportunities - bringing them to the region or taking you to the JI. There are great courses with many interesting and kind people to learn with and from. Many of the trained volunteers travel internationally to help in disasters such as Katrina, Red River, New York, and overseas. I strongly suggest anyone who is interested in volunteering to help in a disaster in his or her region to become an Emergency Social Services volunteer. You will treasure the opportunity and the experience. For more information contact the Justice Institute Emergency Management Division at www.jibc.ca or ESS at www.ess.bc.ca. In the meantime be safe and be prepared!

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