



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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MAY 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

From Bruce Gilmour

It has not been a quiet winter for GLARA. However, much of the information we would like to share with the residents is not yet complete. This spring newsletter contains regional news updates and some specific information on the files we monitored through the winter. When the May executive meeting is complete, anticipate a June update on the action GLARA will be developing.

You will be reading updates regarding CRD waste management and transfer stations, as well as updates on solid waste management in the TNRD and the future opportunity of bio-energy from pine beetle kill waste-wood. We also want to keep our members and the community informed regarding where we are with the Official Community Plan (OCP).

We request your support for more towers to enhance wireless Internet in the area. We have a short update about the request for tax relief relative to services provided in the Watch Lake Green Lake area. Lastly, there is a brief article regarding invasive plant seeds for sale throughout the region. This is a serious concern.

We will continue to encourage you to contact the authorities responsible for services and management in the region, as well as gather your own information regarding issues or concerns that come to your attention.

Now the snow is going (we certainly hope for good) we look forward to the coming season of warmth, greenery, new wildlife and clear, pristine, healthy lakes.

Happy Fishing and Happy Spring!,

WASTE NOT AND WANT NOT

The CRD is evaluating a long-term solution to waste management in the region. They are considering a proposal for a waste reduction plant at Gibraltar Mines in Williams Lake. This site would take *all* garbage. Landfill sites would be turned into transfer stations and all waste would be transferred to the plant and converted into usable energy.

As the plant is yet to be built, the completion for the plant and implementation of the plan is estimated at two years. In the interim, the CRD intends on improving recycling, with an increase in the number of recyclable products and their disposal.

In the meantime, the equally large waste management issue that still begs an immediate solution, is disposing of the remains of the pine beetle killed trees from individual residential properties. This debris, of which there are massive amounts, is finding its way to the local landfill sites. The CRD wants to hear suggestions from residents about strategies that can minimize the filling of the landfills by reduction of the wood as much as possible at a more local level.

What is easiest and most manageable for the residents and least taxing on the landfill sites? A good example would be wood chipping. Would a wood chipper make the wood-waste more versatile? Could wood chips be used by locals or trucked to sources where it is a value added resource to be used by garden nurseries, or on rodeo or gymkhana grounds, or for trails and paths?

There are lake residents with the means to reduce and transport wood-waste. There are other residents who are willing to pay to have the trees removed. The CRD reports it will be necessary to have to raise rural waste charges every year through taxes to deal with the increased costs of wood-waste removal.

Some of the variables influencing the budget for the solid waste reduction proposal include the number of residents participating in the program, how many waste-wood trees each property has, the distance away individual residents are from chipping equipment, and how organized residents are time wise in keeping the contractor busy in the timetable proposed?

Maureen Pinkney, Director, CRD, Area L, would like to hear your suggestions for managing wood-waste. Contact Maureen by email mpinkney@cariboord.bc.ca or by telephone at 250.395.3083. You can keep up-to-date on the CRD activities by checking the web site at www.cariboord.bc.ca.

THE GREEN WATCH

is now published at least three times per year. If you have any interests or articles you would like to see printed in the next Newsletter send them to greenwatchlake@bcinternet.net
If you are interested in receiving a colour copy by email please contact Marie Kuyek at greenwatchlake@bcinternet.net.

The topics and articles in this newsletter have been contributed by Bruce Gilmour, President of GLARA, unless otherwise noted. Thank you, Bruce.

Angela Wynton, Editor

SPRING INTO THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Throughout the winter months there has been increased activity in the development of the Official Community Plan (OCP) process and the request for proposals. By introducing an inter-governmental expansion of partnerships, a number of instrumental provincial agencies are now involved in the development of the process, including the Ministry of Community Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (Integrated Land Management Bureau) and the Ministry of Environment. This partnership brings increased expertise, as well as financial and in-kind contributions to the OCP process. Overall, it will strengthen the roles for the TNRD and CRD, in addition to the expressed commitment by area residents.

With the expansion of the partnerships in the OCP process, finishing touches on the project terms of reference are now being finalized. The official Call For Proposals (CFP) is expected to be issued by the Ministry of Community Services at the end of April. The intended goal of the two Regional Districts is to be in a position to select the successful consultant or consulting firm to assist with the OCP research, development, and stakeholder engagement by the end of May.

On behalf of the Cariboo and Thompson-Nicola Regional Districts, they have asked GLARA and Bruce Gilmore, to convey their appreciation for your continued support and patience. They look forward this spring to introducing the successful consultants who will formally embark on the exciting development of a comprehensive and sustainable Official Community Plan for the Green Lake, Watch Lake and 70 Mile House areas.

A TAXING EFFORT

GLARA has been successful with their request to make a presentation to a delegation at the May 2008 Cariboo Regional District meeting of the board. The intent is to bring forward a summary of the issues presented in the letters sent by Green and Watch lake residents to both regional districts. Key to this presentation will be our request of the CRD for clarification on which direct services residents of Green and Watch lakes are receiving, and what is the current allocation of property tax dollars to receive these services in their electoral areas.

As of the date of this publication, the TNRD has not yet responded to our request. GLARA continues to put forward a concerted effort, supported by the letter writing campaign, to bring just resolution to the property tax inequity.

Thank you everyone for your letters and support.

TNRD Solid Waste Management Update

By Sally Watson, Director, TNRD, Area E

The minister of environment recently approved the new solid waste management plan. The TNRD approved adoption of the plan on Thursday March 13th. In addition, to be included are two further instructions.

The TNRD must re-activate the Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee as soon as possible to facilitate ongoing public involvement during the implementation of the amended Plan, in accordance with section 35 of the Guide to the Preparation of Regional Solid Waste Management Plans by Regional Districts (1994).

Before exercising its authority under section 25 of the Environmental Management Act, in the creation of bylaws to regulate the management of municipal solid waste or recyclable materials, the TNRD must engage in meaningful consultations with potentially affected stakeholders in accordance with sections 25(4) and 27(1) of the Environmental Management Act.

WIRELESS WANTS TO SEE YOU

Most residents on Green and Watch Lake are interested in increasing their Internet capability. Many use the Internet to keep in touch with friends and family, download data to plan a trip, research family history, keep up-to-date with what is on the TNRD and CRD sites, or expand a business opportunity. Wireless Internet would most definitely be an asset, especially for speedy access to information and the downloading of large files.

However, access to wireless technology now on Watch Lake, Mount Jack and Jim Mountain is restricted by much physical interference. A wireless tower must be able to see you! You must be in the line-of-sight, so to speak. While dial up works for small files, download time is not reliable for larger files and bigger websites and is often disrupted by activity on the line.

Although Green and Watch lakes have areas now served by wireless access, a common misunderstanding has become evident in researching the increase of access to wireless for both lakes. Topography and trees prevent the transmitting of the signal. To expand the service through increased tower installations, the local wireless provider needs to receive applications or expressions of interest in order to evaluate the precise location for towers, which is based on a minimum number of applications. He wants to see you!

For more information on getting up and running on wireless Internet, please call Peter Lunn at the 100 Mile House Net Shop 250.395.4397 or email him at connect@bcwireless.com.

MOVING FORWARD WITH BIO-ENERGY

Jeff Paquin, Manager of Business Development, Western Biomass, presented information to the Board on a proposed Biomass partnership with the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG). Currently, Western Biomass and the TNG are looking at a test site approximately 75 kilometers west of Williams Lake. Their process would allow for the harvesting of pine beetle kill wood-waste and healthy trees at the same time.

Western Biomass was formed to produce power and dispose of the large inventory of dead trees created by the mountain pine beetle epidemic. The company plans to build wood-fired plants using pine beetle killed trees as well as logging and mill wastes. BC Hydro has expressed to the company that it plans to expand its purchase of biomass-generated power.

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.bcwildfire.ca

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NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE PLANT SEEDS SHOULD NOT BE FOR SALE!

In the past few newsletters we have alerted residents to the need for all of us to work against invasive plants in our region. We have written about many of the plants and the need to control them. We have been making a concerted effort to educate the residents in regard to the number of invasive noxious plants and weeds encroaching on our grasslands, lakeshores, roadways and properties. We have recently learned that the CRD will be writing a letter to an Ontario company that is selling invasive plant seeds within our regional districts. Through its catalogue, seeds for invasive plants such as Burdock, Blueweed, Common Tansy and many others are available.

The company specializes in selling herb seeds, many of which are invasive plants, to local gardeners and commercial producers. CRD staff will be working with local feed stores, nurseries and garden centers to educate and help eliminate the spread of these invasive plants. The Ministry of Agriculture has been informed of this situation and is acting accordingly. However, a letter from the Chair of the Cariboo Regional District will help demonstrate to the company the serious impacts that invasive plants have on our community. Kudos to the CRD for taking action. Contact the CRD for more information.

GLARA REMAINS ACTIVE

GLARA currently has a number of on-going activities they are actively managing.

- Education and resource support to the residents on conservation of trees.
- Monitoring re-zoning applications and active participation in the regional district Planning Advisory committee, with specific attention to controlling density and the preservation of the natural ecology, which in balance, supports the social, economic, cultural and historic values that attract interest in the area.
- Advancing the research and the educational benefits of the scientific data (Green lake core samples) to evaluate how well ecological stewardship guidelines are contributing to the health of the lake region.

GLARA will continue to share information on reducing interface with wildfires, preservation of grassland ecology, fish stocking, private property fire protection and opportunities for resident participation in crime prevention in our rural area.

Never underestimate the power of one. Ever been in a room with a mosquito?

Margaret Mead

A NEW RURAL INFORMATION RESOURCE

The Community Information Database (CID) is a free, internet-based resource that provides reliable information on economic and demographic factors for your community or region. The interactive tool was developed by the Rural Secretariat in collaboration with provincial and federal governments and community groups, to assist with community planning, revitalization and development. Visit the website at www.cid-bdc.ca.

Courtesy of The Rural Link

Regional District Contact Information

Cariboo Regional District
Suite D, 180 North Third Avenue
Williams Lake, V2G 2A4
1-800-665-1636

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Thompson North Regional District
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Ministry of Environment
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Barry Penner, Minister of Environment
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Victoria, V8W 9E2
250.387.1187

Charlie Wyse, MLA Cariboo South
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Williams Lake, V2G 1R9
1.866.305.3804
charlie.wyse.mla@leg.bc.ca

All numbers can be reached without charge by calling
ENQUIRY BC 1.800.663.7867

... INFORMATION DIRECTORY *con'd*

Provincial Emergency Program
www.pep.bc.ca

The Land Conservancy of BC
www.conservancy.bc.ca

Rural Crime Watch
www.ruralcrimewatch.com

BC Crime Prevention Association
www.bccpa.org

Conservation Officer Service
www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos

BC Wildlife Federation
www.bcwf.bc.ca

Pitch-in Canada
www.pitch-in.ca

BC Hydro
www.bchydro.com

BC Adventure
www.bcadventure.com

GLARA is *your* organization. Let us know what you want to see, or be involved in, within your community, whether it's Watch Lake, Green Lake or 70 Mile House. Share your ideas or contribute your suggestions and get involved. Contact a director or the editor of this newsletter. We want to hear from you. GLARA email is greenwatchlake@bcinternet.net for newsletter contributions. The next newsletter deadline is June 15th.

Update and Request to south side Green lake residents

PHASE II CATTLE FENCE: repairs.

When the cattle fence from the Buffalo Ranch to the lake was built on South Green Lake, Barry Roman did a tremendous job. All grants and donations were exhausted during the fence construction. Consequently, there are no funds remaining for repairs caused by falling trees and public mischief. Roger Graham and myself are volunteering to do the fence repairs. We would like to use this opportunity to update you and are calling on the South Green Lake community for donations in order to keep the grazing range cattle out of the lake and away from our community.

Characteristically, Ministry of Forest and Range notifies cattle ranchers that access to Crown grazing leases are available after May 15th. However, this can be delayed to the end of the month or into early June based on what Ministry technicians assess the rate of establishment is for new grass growth. The delay assists in the grass creating a stronger and more resilient root system before the grazing cattle are released. Monitoring the rate of new spring grass re-establishment preserves the grass in perpetuity for the benefit of the natural ecology, the hydrology, wildlife and the cattle.

If you can assist with a donation, please send it to the attention of the cattle exclusion fence account at: Dennis Nagy at: RR#1, Site M C-9B, 70 Mile house, B.C. V0K 2K0

Or you can include a check made out to Dennis and enclose it with your GLARA renewal check and mail it to GLARA.

In advance, thank you for your assistance and support for sustaining the quality of life and values, which have drawn us to the Green lake area.

Dennis Nagy

2008 GLARA Membership Form

IMPORTANT! Before filling out this form, check your envelope! **Your expiration date is on your label**

If your label is flagged with pink this newsletter is a reminder that your membership is **about** to expire. If your label is flagged with yellow your membership has expired.

OR if you received this Newsletter by email your expiry date is in the introduction paragraph

Green Lake Area Ratepayers' MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Name(s) of member(s) applying

Legal description of lot if known, (optional*)

fire # or address & street (must have)

Full mailing address (one newsletter per paid membership)

Home phone

lake phone?

Work phone?

Fax available?

E-mail address for color email Newsletter

\$15.00 or \$40.00 cheque enclosed?

Make cheques payable to G.L.A.R.A.

mail to: RR#1, Site Q Comp 5, 70 Mile House, B.C. , V0K 2K0.

Fees are \$15 per year, \$40 for 3 years.

HELP

KEEP OUR AREA LAKES SAFE – CLEAN – POLLUTION FREE

Please:

- √ NO soap, detergents, shampoos etc. There is NO flushing action to these lakes, what you leave accumulates.
- √ Dispose of garbage & fish entrails in proper container or at local dumps at 70 Mile or Watch Lake.
- √ Respect our environment and wildlife.

THANK YOU
GREEN & WATCH LAKES AREA
RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION