



## 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 2009

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*From Bruce Gilmore*

Hello and welcome to GLARA newsletter readers. My update is written during the May long weekend from the shores of Green Lake. The month of May sees many changes around the area from the good bye to winter's clutch and the welcome distractions of spring. The last of the snow hiding under the trees doesn't see another day. Who was the lucky one picking the day for lake ice off? Tree branch buds remind others to think about gardens. And the hum of the returning hummingbirds is the call to fill the feeders!

In addition to the GLARA membership renewal, this edition has an expanded distribution to invite residents to join GLARA to support advocacy and education efforts for the health of the area. The features submitted for this issue are in the form of updates on the most active files. On behalf of the executive, GLARA continues to be most grateful for individual efforts and through their leadership and example, for the work put into sustaining the important values drawing residents and guests to the area. GLARA is grateful for the support and commitment in the highly cooperative relations with Provincial Government Ministries including Environment, Lands, Parks, Highways, Health, and Forests and very much at the local level, both the CRD and the TNRD. The Official Community Plan (OCP) and on the valiant and tremendous commitment provided by your 70 Mile House and South and North Green and Watch Lakes Volunteer Fire Departments, deserve the remainder of my update.

Having attended the Public Open House for the OCP, the immediate element is for residents to focus support on communication into the OCP process. Resident's interested and concerned with development of the area and how this impacts on our enjoyment are encouraged to communicate priorities and values to the consultants. Three methods are provided to complete this communication: snail mail, email and the Regional District home pages, and through your OCP Advisory Group (please copy GLARA in your communication).

The Advisory Group of volunteers has been created and selected to be as representative of the research area as possible to provide you with a direct form of communication into the OCP. A list of names is listed in this letter for your convenience. Your input is the important values behind the activities you enjoy in the Green Lake area and what you do not want to see diminished as you look towards the future of this vital watershed.

Two more public meetings are scheduled through the next five months. However, the time to provide comment about what is important for the OCP to evaluate in the proceedings and recommendations is now. Future development has the potential, if not informed and balanced with scientific data, to impact lake and backcountry values. I.e. Swimming, quadding, mountain bike riding, hunting, fishing, skating, horse back riding, migratory birds, canoeing, snow mobiling, hiking, snow shoeing, a child's discovery of our natural ecology, cross country skiing, family history, water skiing, wildlife habitat, and the natural and cultural history of the area.

The prosperity of the 70 Mile House, and Green and Watch Lakes, is multi-dimensional. The changes resulting from development and growth can be beneficial if directed from resident priorities for the focus of this growth. Please make use of the aforementioned communication opportunities to provide guidance to what is anticipated to be a planning document for an enduring legacy to sustain and preserve the economic, social, natural resource, historic, and ecological values attracting your enjoyment.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> a fire just east of the railway tracks at 70 Mile House unfolded into a sobering reality for residents. Most of you will have followed the quickly developing story through the media. In some instances, property damage was very serious with the loss of homes and all personal property. For others, it was levels of self-doubt as the predictability of the wild fire was at the whim of Mother Nature (wind, fuel, water, and resources to respond). 70 Mile House businesses and many residents came together to provide much valued assistance to those most directly affected by the fire - a place to go, a hot meal, kindness and thoughtfulness, and a shoulder to lean on.

Another group of people, who are extremely deserving of commendation and acknowledgement, are the men and woman from the 70 Mile House, South and North Green and Watch Lakes Volunteer Fire Departments. The commitment of time and the attention to training through the years that the Volunteer Firemen have given to promote and provide fire safety was well demonstrated through their efforts at the 70 Mile House wild fires. Our Volunteer Firemen gave of themselves in unsafe and dangerous circumstances in order to protect lives and personal property. On the sidelines and back at their homes, a team of tremendous individuals – the wives and other supporters of our Volunteer Fire Departments, warded off hunger, exhaustion and anxiety. On behalf of all of the area residents, our gratitude is overwhelming in appreciation for the community service provided by those on the front lines and behind the scenes of our 70 Mile House, South and North Green and Watch Lakes Volunteer Fire Departments – thank you.

We also feel tremendous gratitude to the 100 Mile House and Interlakes Fire Departments for their quick response to help with the fire and to the Fire Departments that backfilled for those departments while they were helping with the 70 Mile House Fire.

In closing, if you have an interest to work with GLARA or have suggestions, please talk to your GLARA Director. To all the Directors, my appreciation for the time and effort extended to advance the work on current files and to sustain the legacy of those who forged the relations we benefit from today.

### **South Green Lake Cattle Exclusion Fence by Gordon Labinsky**

In the late fall of 2004 and spring of 2005; the cattle exclusion fence was built to keep cattle out of the South Green Lake subdivision. This is the fence you cross when you access the backcountry to the south of Green Lake. South Green Lake people volunteered much of the construction work and most of the money needed to build the fence. Volunteers do all of the fence maintenance.

The fence can only work to bring the intended benefits and outcomes if people remember to close the gates. Please remind your children, grandchildren and visitors when using the gates, to please close and secure the gates with the chain. All of the trails for motorized traffic that cross the fence have metal cattle guards installed for your convenience.

Also for new homeowners you should remember that if you loose your way when in the backcountry, that on returning to the subdivision, all of the yellow swing gates are located between the west end of Nolan Lake and the east side of the Buffalo Ranch fence. All of the red swing gates are located between the west side of the Buffalo Ranch fence and the cattle guard on South Green Lake Road just west of Point Rd. Monitoring the effectiveness of the fence in preventing cattle access to the residential area can be a role all backcountry users can assist. If you notice any windfall trees or other damage to the fence, please call the following: Gordon Labinsky, Ph: 250-456-2310 Lot #260. Or Dennis Nagy, Ph: 250-456-6020 Lot #351



## PLEASURE CRAFT OPERATORS CARD

*By Jack Wainwright*

Dear Green lake and Watch Lake neighbours:

I was asked to remind you all that the deadline to get your PCOC (Pleasure Craft Operators Card) is Sept. 15, 2009. It is needed by EVERYONE WHO OPERATES ANY POWERED VESSEL IN CANADA. A Vessel is everything from high speed inboards, to big sleep-aboard cruisers & pontoon Party Barges to canoes and rowboats. Power is any electric, gas, or diesel fuelled power. Vessels that only use oars, paddles or sails are exempt. There is no exemption for age. Simply put "EVERYONE WHO OPERATES ANY POWERED VESSEL IN CANADA must carry a PCOC". Failure to produce a PCOC is a \$250. fine.

I teach this course for Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons 8 to 10 times a year in Metro Vancouver. I have also held several classes at Green Lake in the past for those needing the card. We teach it as a one day, 8 hour course. We have certified over 1400 boaters with these classes. The test is 50, four part, multiple choice questions. 75% needed to pass. We have been approved to assist those who have difficulty reading English by reading the test and possible answers to them, but that is a special service that needs prior booking. The cost is \$85. per person.

For more information email me: [jaceli@telus.net](mailto:jaceli@telus.net), or call me in Vancouver 604-434-3280, or at Green Lake 250-456-2256. Elise and I will be off on a cruise May 29 to June 28. We expect to be at the lake in July through August. I will hold a one day course at Green Lake Saturday July 25, if there is any interest. Please register with Marie Kuyek by email: [greenwatch-lake@gmail.com](mailto:greenwatch-lake@gmail.com) or by phone 250-456-2230. Give her your email address and we will get back to you with the details (Place, photo ID, pen, pencil, etc.) I will also be holding a course for New Westminster Continuing Education on May 23, and on July 11 at BCIT, Burnaby which you may attend if that is more convenient. Call Bev 604-520-1490 ([boatpro@burnabysquadron.com](mailto:boatpro@burnabysquadron.com)) to register for Metro courses. Look up the web site [www.burnabysquadron.com](http://www.burnabysquadron.com), for more information.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Freshwater Speed Limits

Those who have taken our Pleasure Craft Operators course will recall that there is an unposted speed limit on all freshwater in British Columbia which is:- within 30m (100ft) of shore, vessels are limited to 10 km/hr (which is roughly equivalent to 5 knots or 6 mph).

Watch Lake has restricted speed for the whole lake.

This speed limit affects Green Lake in two ways.

1. all our bays have entrances less than 200' wide which means water skiers must not ski into the bays. PWCs and skiff etc. must not exceed the speed limit either. Keeping to the speed limit in our bays limits the stress on nesting waterfowl.

*Continued on next page.....*

2. water skiers may start out perpendicular from shore. The skier in the water near shore plus the 75' tow rope plus the length of the boat, means the towing boat will be near the 100' mark by time it reaches a speed over the limit.

on landing, the boat must not speed in close, but the skier may swing in close to shore and drop off.

Remember too, the term, "water skier" covers all people being towed on tubes, wakeboards etc.

1. Water skiers must have a driver and spotter at least 8 years old in the boat and a vacant seat for each person being towed.

2. If skiers do not wear a flotation device (lifejacket or PFD), one must in the tow boat.

Water skiers are limited to skiing from dawn to one hour after sunset. Boats must display all navigation lights between sunset and sunrise.

Finally, it is only common courtesy to do your towing well out in the lake so as to not interfere with those taking off from shore; to not pose a danger to swimmers who venture past the 100' mark, and to minimize creating excessive waves affecting toddlers playing at the shore..

Jack Wainwright

May, 9, 2009

## **PINE, SPRUCE and FIR BEETLES**

Regarding beetle baits, the simple answer for residents thinking about the benefits of beetle baits. Contech is the manufacturer of the baits.

What needs to be looked for is the name of the pheromone. There are 2 names to look for when making a decision.

Verbenone and 2) MCH Bubble Caps. Both are anti-aggregate pheromones. Verbenone is for discouraging the Pine beetle when there is a flight and the MCH Bubble Caps works for discouraging the invading spruce or fir beetle.

Effectiveness of beetle baits is perhaps not 100%. However, if the beetle baits are utilized, and there is a flight of the beetles, the anti-aggregate pheromone does discourage a full on assault by the beetles and thereby giving your trees a fighting chance because the beetles will move on. The beetles are alleged to be very hungry. However, the pheromone in the beetle baits could and will discourage an attack on trees on your property and a meal will have to be found some where else.

If your trees have already been attacked, the use of these pheromone baits is completely useless. Trees to be baited must be green and unattacked.

For more information, call the Ministry of Forests District office or Contech Inc.

7572 Progress Way

Delta, British Columbia

V4G 1E9

250-413-3250 ext. 157

1-800-767-9658 (Toll Free)

For Retail Pine Beetle Product Sales including Verbenone, contact Don Fowler

[Don.fowler@contech-inc.com](mailto:Don.fowler@contech-inc.com)

Or put this content into your search engine.

## **BC LAKE STEWARDSHIP SPRING 2009 CONFERENCE**

June 12-14, 2009 - The British Columbia Lake Stewardship Society, along with co-hosts, the Green Lake Area Ratepayer's Association, will hold its annual conference at the Watch Lake Community Hall. This year's theme, Interface 2009 – Linking Land and Water on the Bonaparte Plateau, will explore the tools needed to preserve and sustain healthy streams, creeks, rivers, and lakeshore environments with land use interfaces. Please contact the BCLSS to learn about the single day or weekend conference registration rates. Plan to attend to learn and share how individual actions can benefit the preservation of the natural ecology, thereby adding to the region's values. For more information about the conference, please visit [www.bclss.org](http://www.bclss.org) or phone 1-877-BC LAKES.

### **WATCH LAKE TRANSFER STATION**

Over the past two years a number of improvements have been to the rural refuse site near Watch Lake. An electrified fence has been installed around the perimeter of the active landfill area to prevent scavenging of garbage by wildlife. In response to the increasing volumes of wood waste being brought to the site, the wood waste disposal area has been redeveloped to provide additional storage capacity with enhanced fireguard zones to manage fire risk. The disposal area for metals and appliances has been relocated to be closer in proximity to the garbage trench in an effort to reduce improper placement of waste materials. District residents are reminded to separate their waste materials so that only metals, appliances and wood waste are placed into their respective area. Waste products such as used oil, automotive batteries, paint, solvents, pesticides, tires, beverage containers, and electronics are managed by industry-run stewardship programs to ensure their proper disposal. Please contact the Recycling Council of BC hotline at 1-900-667-4321 for information on where to dispose of these items. Recyclables such as cardboard newspaper, office paper, milk jugs, glass and tin cans can be taken to Gold Trail Recycling at 720 Sollows Crescent in 100 Mile House (phone 250-395-1041).

The Cariboo Regional District will be conducting a review of its existing Solid Waste Management Plan in the latter part of 2009. Public meetings will be held at several locations throughout the Cariboo Regional District to give residents an opportunity to provide input on the existing solid waste management system and identify service improvements over the next term of the Plan (expected to be 10 years). It is anticipated that seasonal residents who may not be able to attend such meetings will be able to provide input through alternate means, such as the District's website, at [www.cariboord.bc.ca](http://www.cariboord.bc.ca). The Cariboo Regional District will also coordinate with GLARA to update the membership through its newsletter. For further information on this or any other issue, please call the Cariboo Regional District at 1-800-665-1636

Jeff Rahn  
Supervisor of Solid Waste Management  
Cariboo Regional District  
Suite D, 180 North Third Avenue  
Williams Lake, B.C., V2G 2A4  
Phone: 250-305-2180  
Toll-free: 1-800-665-1636 - Fax: 250-392-2812

## Green Belt Report – Spring 2009

**Spring has now arrived and so begins another year of clean up of trees left behind by the beetles and now BC Hydro. I encourage everyone to dispose of and clean up the debris as a result of BC Hydro clearing the dead trees along the power lines. This clean up will help to reduce the fire hazard by removing the fine fuels (needles & branches). I also encourage you to inspect your trees for evidence of beetle attack. A quick and sure way is to inspect for pitch tubes on the trunk of the tree and look for sawdust at the base. The pitch tubes will be cream to pinkish in colour and the sawdust will be a light to dark brown colour. If you see this, your tree(s) have been attacked. If you have newly attacked trees, in order to prevent further spread, you will need to dispose of the trees prior to July, which is prior to next beetle flight, to prevent further spread.**

**With the recent fire at 70 Mile House, it is good reminder to clean up of the trees and debris along the power line. The beetle epidemic is contributing to forest fire risks with increased logging debris, such as tree crowns, stumps, branches and needles. This woody debris may act as potential fuel for the ignition and spread of wildfire. The fire at 70 Mile House, as reported by the Ministry of Forests is 100 % contained.**

Beetle-attacked forests in our area have been salvage logged in the past few months and will continue over the next while to recover economic value from the timber before it degrades. By law, the forest companies logging these areas are responsible for reforesting them. All harvested areas must be reforested with ecologically suitable and commercially valuable species, and the young forests managed for multiple values until they are well established. Although forests will regenerate naturally in time, conducting reforestation activities now will help recover timber supplies and provide for other forest values sooner, delivering both economic and environmental benefits. Care is being taken in silviculture planning to ensure that reforested areas don't contribute to another large-scale beetle outbreak in the future. Research is underway to determine optimal species mix and composition. This work is linked to the Future Forest Ecosystems initiative, which is considering how to manage forests so they are more resilient to large bark beetle infestations and other agents of catastrophic ecological change.

GLARA continues to be active on the forestry front providing input and comments to the harvesting plans in the vicinity of Green and Watch Lakes. Updated plans from the licensees operating in our area will available over the next short while.

Open burning in our area is not prohibited at this time. Open burning is defined by regulation as follows:

A Category 1 open fire means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than one metre high and one metre wide.

A Category 2 open fire means an open fire that burns piled material no larger than two metres high and three metres wide, or grass over an area less than 0.2 hectares (2000 square metres) in size.

Category 3 open fires burn material in piles over two meters high and three meters wide and include burning of windrows and stubble in an area over 0.2 hectares in size. A burn registration number is required for Category 3 open fire. To request a burn registration number, please call 1-888-797-1717 toll free.

The beetles and potential fire hazard remain in our area and only a community effort will reduce this. Working together with your neighbours will help to improve the situation.

Please feel free to call me should you have any questions.

David Schwarz, R.P.F.

## THE WATER REPORT

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

The ice on Green Lake and Watch Lake both went off on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. The first water test of the year will be conducted sometime in May; the date will be determined by weather conditions. We will be taking the temperature of the lake at .5 meters, 12 meters and 24 meters every 2 weeks until late September. We will also be using the secchi test, to determine the clarity of the water.

The “CAUTION ROCKS!” buoys will be put in place sometime near the end of May, weather permitting. One buoy will be anchored near Arrowhead Park on North Green Lake Rd and the other at Sunset beach on the South side of Green Lake.

We have heard from a reliable source that the water levels in Green Lake have raised approximately 6 inches; caution should still be taken when boating to avoid the hidden rocks.

There are plans for fish stocking in Watch Lake for this spring, they will be adding 40,000 Pennask yearlings. In Nolan Lake in the spring they will be adding 5,000 Blackwater yearlings, but there are no stocking plans for Green Lake. When inquiring with the fisheries department about the lack of stocking in Green Lake, I was given the following statement:

“All requests for the lake stockings in BC come from the regional Biologists with the Ministry of Environment. They determine the stock of Fish, the life stage, the time of year, the number and the frequency of Fish releases in your Region.”

I have been told in previous years that if they have any surpluses of fish then Green Lake may get some of those.

Have a safe and pleasant summer.




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## CRD Update

The new Board of Directors has been in place for five months now, so here is a brief recap. Picking up where the previous Board left off, the new Board has:

- Elected Area G Director, Al Richmond, as Board Chair;

- Hosted Town Hall meetings and approved the 2009 financial plans for the Cariboo Regional District, Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Hospital District and Cariboo Regional Hospital District;

- Successfully lobbied for funding to upgrade water systems at Canim Lake and Horse Lake, as well as construct wheelchair accessible trails at 108 Mile;

- Approved an updated Building Bylaw;







## Official Community Plan for Green/Watch Lakes and 70 Mile House Area

### Open House Summary

On April 25, 2009, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., the first open house for this project was held at the Seventy Mile Access Centre (SMAC). The open house format was chosen to ensure that as many people as possible had an opportunity to participate in discussions and posting of comments. There was a good turn-out with over 100 people attending.

Joint organizers were Rick Brundrige from the Cariboo Regional District (CRD), Bob Finley from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), and Danielle Lukovich from the Ministry of Community Development, all of whom were in attendance. The consultants, Catherine Berris Associates Inc., provided a series of panels outlining the Official Community Plan (OCP) process, preliminary background information on the area, and some initial mapping.

The project will be guided by an Advisory Group (AG), with broad representation from the community. The role of the AG will be to provide input into the OCP content in a more direct public consultation, in both directions, when applicable.

The primary purposes of the open house were to introduce the OCP process, to identify more people willing to serve on the AG, and to engage participants in discussions about the OCP, encouraging them to post their community planning concerns and ideas on topic boards. The comments reflect a passion for this area and its man values, as well as healthy economic growth. People were also encourage to fill out a comment form.

There was a very good discussion and feedback on the first task of identifying the OCP boundary. As a result of that feedback, the boundary will be extended to the west to include the 83 Mile Creek watershed, and it will be reduced in the north to respect a watershed flowing north. The southern boundary will be determined in consultation with the AG.

Only 16 comment sheets have been submitted to date. We encourage the community to send us more of these prior to the end of May.

Please watch for information about the next public session, to be held in the summer. The project organizers, consultants and AG hope to see you there.

The project panels and the comment form are available on the regional district Web sites: [www.tnrd.bc.ca](http://www.tnrd.bc.ca) or [www.cariboord.bc.ca](http://www.cariboord.bc.ca)

### OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP LIST (09-05-11)

1. Mr. Gordon Labinsky – South Green Lake - 250.456.2310 – No e-mail
2. Ms. Elizabeth and Mr. Marius Pytlewski – Watch Lake - [epytlewski@shaw.ca](mailto:epytlewski@shaw.ca)
3. Mr. Ken Leyland – North Green Lake – 250.456.7457 – [leylandsbnb@bcinternet.net](mailto:leylandsbnb@bcinternet.net)
4. Ms. Ewa Foik – 83 Mile Road – [evavoy@uniserve.com](mailto:evavoy@uniserve.com)
5. Mr. Alan Boyd – North Green Lake – 250.456.7651 – [janal@bcinternet.net](mailto:janal@bcinternet.net)
6. Mr. David Lingenfelter – 70 Mile House – 250.456.2231 – [alingenfelter@hotmail.com](mailto:alingenfelter@hotmail.com)
7. Mr. Ron Wiebe – 70 Mile House – 250.456.2199 – [sccf@telus.net](mailto:sccf@telus.net)
8. Mr. Ken Huber – 70 Mile House – 250.456.6050 – [huberx3@telus.net](mailto:huberx3@telus.net)
9. Ms. Anne-Marie Young – Pressy Lake – 604.543.3049 – [annyoung27@hotmail.com](mailto:annyoung27@hotmail.com)
10. Ms. Beverley Felske – South Green Lake – 250.456.2265 – [felske@telus.net](mailto:felske@telus.net)



## 70 Mile House Transfer Station and Landfill/ GLARA Interest

Phase 1 of the Thompson-Nicola Regional Districts (TNRD) Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) is identified as being short term, i.e. one to three years after Plan adoption.

Improvements to Transfer Stations (TS) to increase service levels and efficiencies have been committed to in the RSWMP (November 2007).

Upgrades to existing sites are predominantly to service wider geographic areas more efficiently.

Environmental Health Services staff will commence site investigation at the 70 Mile House TS that will lead to conceptual and final site design plans to be submitted to Front Counter BC for the purpose of site expansion.

70 Mile House TS will be upgraded in accordance with the TNRD system review and optimization plan. Based on quantity of waste and types of customers that the site serves, and the waste handling and hauling equipment that will be used.

Weigh scales are planned to be installed at post-consolidation transfer stations (Phase 1 into Phase 2). Weigh scale installation includes: load cell, scale house, and digital display unit.

Support for recycling services for materials such as batteries, paint, household hazardous waste and other materials as they are added to the Ministry of Environments Product Stewardship Initiative.

Pilot project presently being implemented with BCUOMA (BC Used Oil Management Association) to accommodate waste oil recycling at the 70 Mile House TS.

Diversified wood waste, demolition and land clearing (DLC), and scrap metal collection, recycling and diversion procedures.

Other waste diversion options, such as organic wastes have been keyed for future consideration. It is anticipated that feasibility and preliminary design studies on these options will be undertaken in the early phases of the plan, and a determination made as to whether these options should be included in the Plan in the future.

Development of infrastructure to host recycling and diversion services include:

- Concrete pads for placement of containers and other equipment
- Containers or designated areas to collect material to be recycled
- Increased signage so that users can clearly see what materials go where
- Suitable parking facilities and road markings to facilitate orderly traffic flow
- Locating and securing land tenure for suitable sites for new TS that are currently too small and/or expanding present sites
- Development with built-in-flexibility so that extra capacity can be added as the need arises, whether from TNRD-implemented programs or requirements of private haulers

Waste exchange days, hazardous and e-waste collection events

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