

GREEN LAKE & WATCH LAKE RATEPAYERS'

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1995

representing property owners and tenants within two kilometers of the lakes

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NOTICE OF MOTION

At last year's annual general meeting a motion was passed unanimously directing GLARA to address the question of **excessively noisy boats** operating on Green Lake. The exact motion was: *that boats with open headers be banned from Green Lake. Christie/Felske.*

Since that time GLARA has researched the options open to us and is now ready to present a motion at the 1995 AGM (Sat. July 29). The concern is excessive noise. The intent of this motion was to target excessively noisy boats and does not apply to the vast majority of boats on the lake or to Jet skis. The province has no laws governing this but instead leaves it up to each Regional District. Some regional districts have instituted bylaws that are restricted to particular lakes.

This newsletter was intended to go to members only, however GLARA directors feel strongly that all ratepayers should be made aware of this action which may result in watercraft restrictions on Green Lake and so this first page of the newsletter will go to everyone.

The motion to be presented at the AGM is: *that GLARA petition the Cariboo Regional District and the Thompson Nicola Regional District to pass a bylaw eliminating the use of unmuffled boats on Green lake.*

This motion is open to amendments from the floor or from directors prior to the AGM, but the intent may not be changed. Ratepayers opposed to this motion will have to defeat it at the AGM. Only members in good standing (ie. 1995 dues are paid) may vote at the AGM. Our constitution allows only one vote per property. Voting will be by secret ballot unless the meeting decides differently.

CHECK THE MAILING LABEL on your envelope.

The date in the corner is your membership expiry date. If your date is flagged with a coloured highlighter pen then your membership expired in the spring of 95 and you will have to renew to vote. Those memberships that just expired are getting the full newsletter. Those who receive only this page are not in good standing.

Memberships may be renewed at the meeting or by mail to GLARA RR1 70 Mile House BC V0K 2K0

Dues are only \$10 per year. Most are opting to pay \$30 for three years.

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PLUS LOTS A OTHER GOOD STUFF

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE WATCH LAKE COMMUNITY HALL AT 2PM SATURDAY JULY 29 1995

The agenda will, as usual, be updates on our activities, committee reports and topics arising from members attending. As well nominations will be held for the following two year term positions: Secretary and directors representing all areas (we can have as many as we want).

To have topics placed on the agenda prior to the meeting or to volunteer your services on our Board of Directors call Dennis Tupman 456 2302

Green Lake Area Ratepayers' MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

_____ signature

name of member applying (one per lot)

_____ fire number & street

legal description of property (if known)

_____ full mailing address (one newsletter per membership)

_____ lake phone? _____ work phone?

home phone

_____ is cheque enclosed?

fax number available? _____

Make cheques payable to Green Lake Area Ratepayers' Association. Receipts will not be mailed but will be available for pick up at the meeting or from the treasurer.

WOODLOT PROPOSED BY FORESTRY

This is the report to GLARA by Jack Wainwright of the BCFS public Woodlot meeting held at Watch L. Community Hall 1-4pm Sun Apr 23 1995

BCFS had set up displays along with related Dept Environment (Sandra Neill, 100 Mile House), Lakes Classification committee (Andy Hall 100 MH Forestry). Format was informal chatting for the first hour. On hand were Doug Konkin BCFS dist. manager, Ken Freed BCFS Woodlot supervisor, Dorothy Wharton BCFS acting Woodlot Forester and her recently appointed replacement, Les French who did not speak.

A small crowd of about 50 listened politely and asked questions. The general feeling was exactly the position GLARA has taken.

A Woodlot is a lesser of two evils. BCFS said all woodlots and crown lands are subject to the same rules and BC Lands is at the present time not selling Crown forest lands so the evils may in fact be the same!

Clearcuts are to be avoided if at all possible. Woodlots must be logged on a sustainable basis calculated on a 100 year cycle and may not exceed 600 ha therefore clearcuts would logically be smaller than the current 60 ha max clearcuts possible on nonWoodlot crown land. BCFS personnel would not rule out clearcutting as they are still of the opinion that pine and spruce are best logged that way. They did say that the size and shape of clearcuts could be controlled to minimize visual impact but that would be something determined by the Woodlot operator's logging plan that must be filed and approved by BCFS. BCFS did note that local concerns would be taken into consideration. Our concern is that this should all be done prior to a woodlot being awarded.

Habitat such as spawning creeks, moose winter range, nesting sites, wetlands, lake shore must be protected.

No studies will be done by the Dept. of Environment until after a Woodlot is awarded and then the Operator will have to foot the bill. Such a study takes several days of research and physically walking the site at a cost of several hundred dollars per day. The DoE must protect habitat, but they need local input for detailed analysis. Sandra Neill did say that

they consider that all streams are spawning streams unless it is proved otherwise. Dept of Environ. visits a site to specifically rule on compromises.

Recreation was noted by speakers as perhaps the highest and best use of this land as recreational use of the surrounding Crown Lands is the reason most people bought here and is the reason they enrich all the local services providers which include house builders, backhoe operators, lumber yards, tree toppers, small engine repairers, retailers of hardware, foods, arts & crafts, gas stations, hair dressers and restaurants. Property owners also pay a conservative estimate of one million dollars in property taxes annually.

In answer to why this area bordering 3 lakes and a significant residential area was chosen, BCFS said they no longer have "remote" forests and have to consider everything. When asked why they had not done environmental impact studies first, they said there was "no time" as they had been directed by the govt. to double the number of woodlots. They currently have 12 proposed new woodlots under consideration. Private speculation suggests that the other reason was that they know they would have trouble "selling" us on the present massive clearcuts of 40 to 60 ha in the BCFS current 5 year plan if they tried it in this area.

Virginia Smith from Fawn Lake spoke about their Woodlot operation which has been on the books for some years, but not active as the original owner apparently did not follow the logging plan and did not get a renewal. It has since been reallocated but has not yet cut trees. Virginia says that when they do start they will undoubtedly have several volunteer watchers ready to report if there is any deviation from the plan filed and approved. They had two public meetings and she says they are the most important thing we can do. We did extract a promise from Doug Konkin that **BCFS would call another public meeting on this if they decided to go ahead with this proposal.**

It is reported that several locals are interested in getting this Woodlot. They were at the meeting but did not speak. There is no guarantee that locals would get it. The Fawn Lake one went to a fellow living in Kamloops at the time and who now lives in Osoyoos. A limited company may also apply. Societies and communities are not eligible.

Andy Hall, BCFS Lakes classification, spoke on what they could do. He said Watch & Green were not on the 1995 agenda and so this woodlot if it went ahead would do so before the lakes were classified. At best they can only protect 200m back from the lakes.

Speakers also impressed on BCFS that visual concerns were both from the lake residences and from the top of Olsen's Butte. Doug Konkin said they would keep that in mind.

NO BURNING We have been advised by Forestry that all "B" licence burning permits have been cancelled. Call Forestry for the latest before burning any brush piles. (395 7800)

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JUNE UPDATE

This Woodlot Proposal appears to be going ahead. GLARA has had the opportunity to get a preliminary environmental impact study done of the area and has voted the funds for it. A full study requires a lot of personnel several days to examine all facets of possible environmental impact. Our study will hopefully cover the most obvious and important ecological considerations and so will not be exhaustive. Evenso, it would be helpful for us to know details of the area that are undoubtedly known by those regularly using the area. The general area of the woodlot is all the forest at the east end of Green lake to about halfway down Little Green and north to Watch lake, excluding the land reserve of Olsen's Butte. **If you have concerns and knowledge of spawning areas that must be protected, big game or fur bearer critical habitat, special bird nesting trees, rare or endangered flowers or anything else that may suffer possible negative environmental impact from a logging operation, call Jack Wainwright 456 2256.**

May 21 1995 GENERAL MEETING summary.

About 30 members attended our May meeting on a beautiful day when we all really wanted to be elsewhere enjoying the weather, nevertheless we held a two hour session and covered a lot of ground. The following is a summary of topics discussed, most of which are subjects of more lengthy reports elsewhere in this newsletter.

1. **Treasurer's report.** Membership as of Apr 30 stood at 403 paid up members, which is more than half the possible 725 properties in our area. Many have paid for multiple years. Money received for future years has been put aside in a term deposit. The annual statement of revenue and expenses is reproduced elsewhere. The big expense to date has been the newsletters which cost us about \$1500 last year. (photocopies and postage only).

2. **Greenbelt progress report:** Dennis Tupman has written to many government departments to make them aware of our position on Greenbelts around our lakes. Several replies have been received all of which have been supportive to the extent of making us aware of individuals in government who might be instrumental in achieving our objectives. Doug Konkin, 100 Mile Forestry District Manager complimented us on our reasonableness and open approach.

3. **Woodlot proposal report** was made and noted that it may have been our own initiatives that caused BCFS to create one in our Greenbelt. However, as long as a Woodlot exists which allows free public access, protects existing trails and all the other activities that have gone on before then residents will have actually lost nothing. If such a woodlot must abide by all the rules Forestry lays down regarding allowable annual cuts, habitat protection and forest sustainability, then

page three

we are farther ahead because the size of clearcuts must by scale of operation be smaller than the present 60ha now allowed on Crown Lands. And as long as the area is a designated woodlot, then it cannot be sold for other development. It was noted that the 100 Mile Forest District manager rules on the Woodlot operator's five year silviculture plans which includes size and shape of clearcuts. It was also noted that clearcuts that are horizontal and narrow are no more noticable than are the clearcuts made for roads, railways and pipelines. GLARA's position is still one of supporting the principle of Woodlots as compatible with our Greenbelt position.

4. **Water Quality report arrived** for Green Lake and Watch Lake. See the summary elsewhere in these pages. We also got a \$5000 one time grant to help fund our efforts to maintain water quality. It was suggested by the regional biologist Robert Grace that we would benefit from subscribing to the North American Lakes Management Society (NALMS), \$65US for the journal. We will do this with some of the grant money.

5. **Assessment increases** averaged about 5% this year compared to the 85% last year and therefore did not generate as many appeals. Three 1994 protests that went to the Appeal Board were heard in the fall, and three were heard in May of 95. All the fall appeals were lost. The spring group will not know the results for a few months. However we have had our day in court and if nothing else, we served notice that the BC Assessment Authority had better be reasonable or we'll embarrass them again. They do not like having to justify their decisions to an Appeal Board. Their mandate is to honestly assess our properties based on actual sales figures. When they accept only the highest sales and cavalierly reject lowest sales for whatever reason, then they are not reflecting the market, but are driving it. Those who like to see their assessments go up because they are considering selling and inflated assessments help get a better price are far outweighed by those who are upset because taxes are skyrocketing and lease fees tied to 3% of assessed value are also escalating. To own a leased waterfront lot on Green Lake now will cost over \$4000 per year (taxes+lease) whether it is used or not.

6. **Noisy Boats report** by Allanah Willingdon. See page one for gist of this concern.

7. **Neighbourhood Watch** report by Robin Rusaw. A sign-up sheet was circulated for those interested in meeting with the RCMP to initiate pods or cells of co-operative neighbour action but we did not get enough names to get started. We have been informed that our area is too spread out for the ratepayers to undertake this activity. Instead GLARA will coordinate the creation of groups of neighbours who the RCMP will train. Call Robin (456 7707) if a group of neighbours wish to get this started. GLARA will also fund the plywood for the signs which the RCMP will have made and posted declaring the area to be a "Neighbourhood Watch".

(continued on page six)

WATER QUALITY REPORT

In mid May GLARA finally got the report of the water tests conducted on Green and Watch Lakes last year on samples collected by volunteers Terry Burt, Fred Kuyek and Ken Greenwood. Robert Grace the Environmental Impact Assessment Biologist, Regional Environment Protection, BC Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks works out of Kamloops and probably needs a separate office just to hold that long title!

The report is full of scientific jargon and symbols that I can't even find on my computer and even if I did, would you be any the wiser to know that phosphorous blanks were mostly $<3 \mu\text{g/l}$? So, what follows is my interpretation, and bear in mind that my university majors in botany and zoology are now almost 30 years dated! Time flies!

There are three kinds of lakes:

1. Eutrophic lakes are high in nutrients (registered as the amounts of phosphorous available), high productivity (they have fish), and low visibility (they're not clear). When eutrophic lakes do not get their colder bottom layer mixed by winds, the bacterial action near the bottom can use up all the oxygen causing a big fish kill.

2. Mesotrophic lakes are between the two extremes of eutrophic lakes and oligotrophic lakes and are therefore moderate and not prone to fish kills. Watch Lake is a mesotrophic lake. Watch lake clarity lets you see 4 to 5 meters deep most of the time.

3. Oligotrophic lakes are low in available nutrients (phosphorous count again), low productivity (few fish), and very clear water. Green Lake is an oligotrophic lake. Green Lake clarity lets you see about 10 meters deep most of the time. The lack of flushing action in Green Lake, which has no outlet except in high water, has led to a build-up of calcium carbonate (lime) also called Marl. Marl precipitates out phosphorous before algae have a chance to use it and does not release it for reuse. The deeper bottom of Green Lake does not sustain life. My guess is that millions of years hence the bottom of Green will yield a good fossil record. The lack of flushing action and the build-up of layers of sludge since the last ice age about 12,000 years ago have probably captured a record of climatic changes over those years and is the reason Green was one of the North American lakes chosen to study this theory.

The water samples were drawn from the top, midway and just off the bottom in deeper parts of both lakes every two weeks from May 25 to Oct 17. In Watch lake the upper and mid temperatures tended to be similar while the bottom temperature slowly rose until it matched the surface in September. Once the temperatures equalise any wind storm will mix the water and thus recycle nutrients (phosphorous) back to the surface where algae can again use it for growth. The algae is then available as food for fish and other

aquatic life or otherwise dies, sinks to the bottom awaiting conditions that will overturn the water and recycle the nutrients all over again.

In Green Lake the mid-depth temperature did not equalise with the top layer until mid August. Even though the top layer registered as high as 21°C on Aug 3, the bottom was a consistent 6 or 7°C throughout the test period. This thermal stratification keeps any nutrients from being recycled by wind turnover. The marl doesn't release nutrients either, thus Green has apparently always had low fish productivity.

As an aside, our adult children have scuba dived in Green and they reported that nothing grows on the bottom in the way of weeds or such and declared that the bottom was of such a mushy sludge that anything that fell into it would probably never be seen again. Of course conditions like that can also eliminate bacteria that cause decay, so maybe there is some really interesting stuff awaiting discovery down there.

Years ago we could catch fish in Green to the extent that my neighbour even built a smoke house. Did we overfish it? Did our work of "improving" our beaches ruin fish habitat? Is the lack of nutrients more pronounced now? Was the spawning capacity of 83 mile creek altered? I did see a few nice Rainbows spawning in 83 Mile creek this spring. The fish are there I guess, but not in quantity. Sure seems to be a lot of shrimp for them to feed on, but in our part of the lake (middle section) we no longer see the schools of minnows and large suckers that we used to see in the good fishing years. The minnows and suckers are regularly seen again in the bays at the ends of Green so maybe things are returning to normal and maybe it was just a normal cyclic decline. We can hope.

Late breaking news see **fish tale** on p. 7. Also June 5/95 water temperature results for Green were surface at 16°C !, mid level at 10°C and bottom at 6°C

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING

APRIL 30 1995

Revenue	bank interest	\$ 10.10
	members dues	<u>\$5,853.50</u>
	total revenue	\$5863.60
Expenses	bank charges	\$ 17.00
	postage	\$ 782.86
	miscellaneous	\$ 61.56
	hall rental	\$ 45.00
	photocopies	\$ 711.49
	phone & meeting expenses	\$ 162.21
	societies act dues	<u>\$ 15.00</u>
	total expenses	\$1795.12
Summary cash balances	petty cash	\$ 12.20
	bank account	\$6148.18
	total	\$6160.38

\$ available for 1995/96 = \$3700.38

for 1996/97 = \$ 1430. for 1997/98 = \$1030.

Future year's dues are held in term deposits.

REGIONAL DISTRICT BEEF by Jack Wainwright

The TNRD (Thompson Nicola Regional District), which "governs" the south side of Green Lake incurred an expense they estimated to be \$50,000 to hold a special referendum to install a 911 system which would have cost TNRD taxpayers (south side of Green) \$.35 per \$1000 assessed value on land and improvements. That would have cost me an additional \$70 every year for a service that has questionable value in a rural area like ours. I only heard about it via the grapevine and was incensed to learn that the TNRD does not have to notify taxpayers of a money referendum. They need only put a notice in the legal section of local papers. Considering that 2/3s of our ratepayers use their properties on a seasonal basis and in all probability do not subscribe to a Cariboo local paper, that amounts to disenfranchising an awful lot of people. When I heard about it I decided to make the trip up from Vancouver just to vote. I phoned TNRD to find out how to register to vote. They said I was too late because the deadline for registering was last week.

I then had a lengthy phone conversation with Mr. Shishito, head TNRD Administrator. He even sent me sections of the Municipal Act to prove that they had acted within the rules. He confirmed that they do not even have a list of TNRD taxpayers and have no access to one! He also confirmed that TNRD directors also had doubts as to the wisdom of 911 for all the TNRD but they were responding to pressure from a Merritt BC seniors wellness group for such a system and feared they would be embarrassed or criticized by the media if they waited to the next election to hold the referendum.

I then vented my anger in a 3 page letter to Darlene Mazari, Minister of Municipal Affairs, in which I stated my annoyance and findings. I suggested that Regional Districts that incur avoidable expenses as the TNRD did to hold that referendum should have the reins tightened on them to require them to wait until a normal election and then present their money bylaws at very little additional expense.

I further suggested that she coordinate government departments by requiring the BC Assessment Authority, which does a mailing to each property owner every year, to include in their mailing an informational page provided by the Regional Districts. We get that information in the lower mainland and there is no reason why all of BC should not get the same courtesy.

My last suggestion was to make it mandatory that Regional Districts notify their taxpayers directly anytime a money referendum was to be held.

I told her I intended to publish a summary of my letter and concerns in this newsletter and I would also print her reply. It has been over 4 months now since I wrote her and no reply has been received yet.

By the way, if you haven't heard, the referendum was soundly defeated. Another \$50,000 expense just because TNRD directors did not want to face criticism!

FIRE FIRE FIRE

The Vancouver Sun had an excellent article by Gordon Hamilton on the role fire has played in shaping the forests of BC. The main feature was a BC Forestry experiment in the Okanagan where they deliberately set a controlled fire at Swakum Mt. to return an area choked with spindly Douglas Fir back to open grasslands dotted with Ponderosa Pine. Our efforts at controlling forest fires have been good, but the downside is uncontrolled growth of little or no economic value and an increase in disease and insects problems. The Chilcotin and the Cariboo are also historically open parklands comprised of pines, aspens and open meadows.

Historically fires would whip through these areas about once a decade. The fire seldom burned more than a few feet high as its fuel was primarily dried grasses and windfalls. The larger trees survived with intact crowns and just charred bark. Lodgepole pine cones evolved to open and germinate following fire. Aspens spring unstoppably from unburned roots. The fires cleaned up windfalls and returned nutrients to the soil.

Now however, because we have been controlling fire, the forest floor is accumulating tonnes more fuel per hectare. Now when a fire does start it burns much hotter with devastating results. Just south of Green lake at Tin Cup lake such a fire started a few years ago. The area had been logged and was greening up nicely. Juvenile spacing of trees was done by BCFS. This entails cutting down small trees to give others space to grow. In my opinion the job was not well done because the cut trees were left to air dry and the dead needles stayed on them for at least three years. As well, trees up to 8" were cut and left. In places they were so tangled that nothing could get through. I expressed my observations and concerns informally to BCFS staff and first got denial and then the excuse of budget cutbacks. A slash fire got out of hand and the additional fuel available meant a very hot fire that virtually destroyed everything. BCFS had to bulldoze the snags, burn them and replant.

GLARA suggests that the message to all our ratepayers is to check your property and do the job of removing the fuel that normally would have been removed by the regular fires of the past. This is doing what nature would normally have done and so is ecologically sound. If it helps minimize the spread of fire around our homes and cabins, then it makes economic sense, too. You might even find it aesthetically pleasing.

OUTHOUSE SEEN:

Our neighbour's "ROSE ROOM" warns:

CAUTION
E.E.G. in progress

We figure that stands for Extra Energetic Grunting

(Meeting summary, continued from page three.)

8. **Fencing out cattle** on south side was raised again. The executive has once again been in touch with Forestry and it appears that we are back to "square one".

9. **Dirt bike violations** were raised as a concern. It was suggested that many parents are not aware of the laws. One of our members, D. Walker, has volunteered to summarize the law as it applies to unlicensed motorized vehicles. Apparently they are not authorised to ride across a road or drive on roads or road allowances. Stay tuned.

10 **Next general meeting will be Sat. July 29 1995.**

WATER QUALITY GRANT

In May GLARA received a cheque for \$5000 from Moe Sihota, then Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks as a one time grant to support volunteer water quality stewardship. We will be developing a plan for the long term use of this money. We expect to use some to assist our regional biologist to continue his long term studies of Watch and Green Lakes. His studies will set the present conditions and monitor future changes and warnings of deterioration. We will subscribe to NALMS for a while to see if that benefits us and we will set up a volunteer program to systematically monitor the coliform count in our lakes. That is we will test to see if the lake water is safe to drink without treating. Other activities will be the posting of signs warning of dire consequences to tourists and others who pollute our lakes.

POEMS WITH A POINT by yer editor

Over the years I have found it convenient to write the odd bit of doggerel verse (or worse) to let our guests know our expectations in a nonthreatening way. Most people behave up to expectations when they know what is expected.

For a while I posted everything on the outhouse wall as that location ensured it got read. Our kids and their friends read the official Safety Council rules on waterskiing; Red Cross water safety tips; CPR procedures; BC Forestry campfire regulations...the danger was a reprimand from a child when an adult transgressed!

WANTED: your printable Biffy humour or clever wit. We have all seen the classic cartoon caption "Its not over 'til the paper work is all done" and the toilet parts renamed for the electronic age, but what unique stuff lies hidden in your inner sanctum?

We have a toilet that often takes two flushes to clear the bowl so above the TP is this verse:

TURD TIME LUCKY?

If a successful potty pooper, you expect to be
Then watch to see it all goes down,
unless you just go pee.

For this toilet of ours is stubborn
and sometimes gets all choked up.
So we flush it twice to clear the bowl
and a turd time for good luck!

ODE TO OUR GUESTS

Away from the rat race of fast paced city life,
Away from the cutthroats, the shysters and strife,
Welcome to our cabin in Cariboo land
We think living here is especially grand
There's wood in the box, kindling's under the bunk.
You are welcome to use all of our junk.

We hope you enjoy the wildflowers and trees
We like things left natural and ask that you please
Refrain from cutting live trees, flowers or shrubs,
Why we even avoid stepping on beetles and grubs!
Wildflowers much trampling on just will not take
So the yard's condoned off to give them a break

There are moose in the forest and deer there as well
And varmints that visit and come where we dwell
But we've never had trouble so don't run and hide,
But do keep all of your food locked inside.
Food scraps in garbage is the worst of all sins
So burn what you can, rinse and flatten your tins

And visit the dump nine miles back down the road.
(Sometimes the neighbours will take in a load)
This lake has no outlet, what goes in tends to stay.
The water though "hard", to drink is okay
But for coffee and tea, well it foams and turns black
So from Green Lake Parks our water we pack.

Our Ratepayers test the water each year.
(They also consume untold gallons of beer)
But if anyone puts in fish guts, soap or cans
Our vigilantes might cut off both his hands!
The Lake Dwellers are kind of touchy it's seen
So we humour them along and keep the lake clean.

100 Mile House is the big town near here.
That's where we have to go for our beer
And other essentials like tackle and food.
There we even eat out when we get in the mood.
Now 70 Mile House is pretty good too
They have food,booze and gas and eating out too.

On the north side of Green is Little Horse store
With gas pumps and homemade pies galore.
Near any store, pay phones will be found
But call on a neighbour if your luck is down.
The emergency hospital is at 100 Mile House.
When driving our road keep an eye peeled for grouse

And rabbits and foxes and coyotes as well.
The animals here think the Cariboo's swell.
And now that you know where everything is
We hope you'll enjoy our place, such as it is.
May the sun shine all day and the rains never come
While you holiday here and have lots of fun.

Jack and Elise Wainwright
(original 1975, updated 1995)

A sign in our old outhouse read:

WELCOME TO THE
∞ KINGDOM OF SQUAT ∞
WE HOPE YOUR TERM AS
∞ SULTAN ∞

WILL BE A SATISFYING AND SANITARY
EXPERIENCE.
MAY YOU GUIDE YOUR SUBJECTS
UNERRINGLY!

FISH TALES

Rumor has it that a spawning Rainbow Trout resident in Green was measured this spring at 37" long and 17lbs. 4 oz. and it's back in the lake! We gotta have a name for a lunker like that. Any ideas? How about "Ol' Yard-long" or "Yardley"? Average weight of Trout bettered 6 lbs, many 10-12 pounders were seen...just like the old days. The spawning locations must remain anonymous because folks young and old actually molest them! Walking close to the streams disturbs them but more seriously, people have been seen gaffing suckers and some trout which is quite illegal and conviction carries severe penalties (ie court appearance and up to \$100,000 fine!) Access to most spawning grounds is through private property thus molesters must trespass as well. Creeks are closed to all fishing until June 30 thus there is no excuse for what has reportedly happened. We have alerted our conservation officers and expect they will closely monitor the situation next year.

15,000 fry were dumped into Green this spring followed with another dump of 50,000 trout, some up to 6" long. Watch was also stocked.

The Green and Watch Lake Derby this spring saw 129 fish landed with the biggest at 54.5 oz coming from Green. Second largest fish was 32.5 oz from Watch. At least three fish were caught in Green.

BC PARKS

We all appreciate the facilities BC Parks makes available to tourists and others caught short. Those ratepayers with trailer holding tanks to be dumped are welcome to use the dump stations and fill up with water. Cabin owners without a source of potable water are welcome to fill personal containers from Park water sources. Folks are reminded that firewood and garbage collection services are for tourists and Park users only as the Park operator, not BC Parks, pays for that. There is a \$2000 fine for stealing Park firewood. Recently BC Parks employees traced garbage left at the sani-station to a resident and charges are being laid with conviction carrying a fine of up to \$2000. Pretty expensive just to avoid a trip to the dump, eh?

Bob Daub, BC Parks operator, also says that he loses two rolls of TP every day and figures someone must have a heck of a stash of TP or a serious bowel problem. On May 26 the Sani-station suffered over \$1000 vandalism when a boulder was used to smash a toilet and a mirror was pried off and trashed. Perhaps we can do our own version of Neighbourhood Watch

and tell Bob what we witness (456 7524). Vandalism is a direct cost against our taxes.

OFF YER EDITOR'S CHEST:

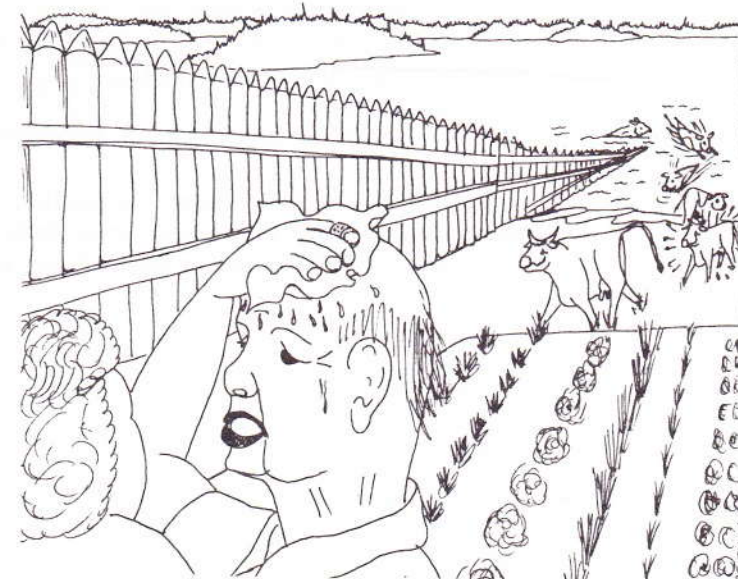
I truly believe that all law abiding citizens have an obligation to protect people and property. That is the underlying tenet of Neighbourhood Watch and is also the reason why small towns where everyone knows everyone do not suffer as much as the cities where anonymity rules. The scofflaws among us must learn to toe the mark along with the rest of us. Restrictive regulations with their corresponding costs are a bureaucrats answer to problems, are heavy-handed and only needed to curb a few mavericks. This newsletter and previous ones tell that all is not well in our bit of paradise. Problems such as vandalism, thefts, destroying habitat, trespass, zoning noncompliance and so on, happen here. We cannot rely on hired enforcement entirely. We also must not "tattle" which is just trying to get a person in trouble when there has been no damage to people or property. But, when there has been damage to people or property, then the law abiders must help. If your property is damaged and your neighbour knows who was responsible, you should expect they would tell you. Similarly, **you** have the same obligation to protect people and property.

.....Thus endeth my sermon for today!

A MYSTERY

Bob Christie collected samples of a blue powder that appeared concentrated on the ice on Green L just before breakup. Residents report seeing it in other years too. Our biologist says it is made of twin spheres and may be seeds or spores, but he has not identified it yet. My guess is it may be blue-green algae or spores...we will keep you posted.

The yellow pigment that looks like spilled paint along the shore of course is pine and spruce pollen.



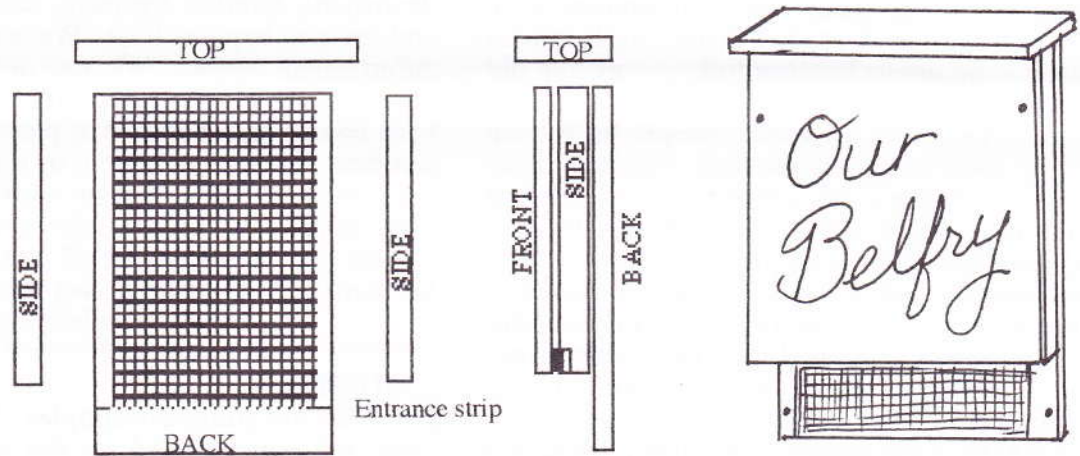
Well, building a stockade fence is hard work ! ...But it's worth it to keep those damn range cattle out of our garden!

BAT HOUSES

Bats easily consume their own weight in insects during a summer evening. Our most common species are the Little Brown Bat and the Big Brown Bat. Both will utilise the same size box. They will stay in the box all day and come out in the early morning and evening to feed. They may even hibernate all winter in the box!

There are several styles of boxes but all have certain features in common.

- The walls must be thick enough to provide some insulation.
Use 3/4 ply or 1" stock.
- Inside walls must be scored every 3/8" or have fine nylon (not Metal) screen stapled on so the bats can get a good grip.
- The entrance should be constricted to 3/4" so they squeeze in from the bottom and can then climb to find a comfort zone inside.
- Mounting can be permanent as the box does not need cleaning.
- Paint the box flat black to absorb heat or cover it in black tar paper.
- Mount the box in a sunny south facing location. Under the eaves of a shed is a good place. Note: Bat and rodent droppings can harbour diseases harmful to humans.



Materials: 3/4" plywood:

- 1pc 16"x24" (Back); 1pc 16"x20" (Front); 1pc 17"x4"(Top)
- 1.5"x1.5"(Dressed 2x2): 2 pcs 20" long (Sides)
- 3/4" x 3/4": 1 pc 13" long to constrict entrance
- 2 pcs nylon screen 13" x 20", 13"x 24"

Directions: Staple screen on inside face of front and back panels.

Fasten (glue,nail or screw) sides to the inside faces of the front.

Then fasten in the entrance strip at the bottom edge of the front face.

Fasten on the back and then attach the top flush with the back.

You should have ended up with a box open on the bottom with a 3/4" entrance space and lined with screening. The back screening will extend well below the entrance.

Drill pilot holes in sides to accommodate mounting screws or 4" to 5" spikes.

Have fun inventing a name. Suggestions include: Little Brown Bat House, Bathaus, Batty Manor, Belfy Towers, BraunBattenHausen, Batzbaux, or our choice: "Our Belfry"... fer sure we got bats in Our Belfry!