

the Green Watch

The GREENLAKE AREA (CARIBOO) RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SPRING
1996

representing property owners and tenants within two kilometers of Watch Lake or Green Lake

DIRECTORS: COMP. 5, SITE Q, RR#1 70 MILE HOUSE B.C. V0K 2K0

Pres. Dennis Tupman	456 2302	Don Brown (S)	456 7626	Bob Christie (N)	456 7336
V.P. Robin Rusaw	456 7707	Bev Felske (S)	1 604 942 4603	Art Watson (N/W)	456 7426
Sect.		Fred Kuyek (S)	456 2230	John Duthie(W)	unlisted
Treas. Marie Kuyek	456 2230	Helen Denning (N)	456 7318	Jack Wainwright Nsltr. Ed.	456 2256

The GOOD NEWS inside:

1. GLARA is creating the model for community stewardship of BC Lakes. Bob Grace, district biologist, is using us as the best example of water stewardship in the province. _____page 3

2. Ducks Unlimited is getting involved with us in our wildfowl habitat. Bruce Gilmore has invited DU to our General Meeting on May 19th. Bruce's article on this is tucked inside. _____page 4

3. The proposed Woodlot south of Watch Lake and East of Green is still alive. This is good news, because we sustain the working forest, yet still permit multiple uses such as public access and existing trails. _____page 3

The So-So NEWS inside:

GLARA recent activities: Range Fencing _____page 2

Lakes Classification: Green & Watch this year page2

Business Directory _____page 4
plus other tidbits, as usual.

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD IN FIREHALL #2 (on N. Green Rd across from Little Arrowhead) 1:30 pm, SUNDAY, MAY 19 1996

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: Table officers and directors representing all areas (we can have as many as we want). Your attendance and opinions are important to us.

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 GLARA does not plan to hold another general meeting this summer, unless members want one.

The BAD NEWS inside:

1. Local roads have really deteriorated this Spring. GLARA is actively seeking improvement. Art Watson has invited our CRD rep., Greg Sehn to the May 19th General meeting to discuss roads. _____page 1

2. Breaking and Entry are increasing in our area. Our best defense is vigilant neighbours. _____page 3

3. Clearcutting is not controlled on private land. Private clearcuts are seldom replanted with trees. Are private land owners who clear cut, affecting the long term Cariboo economy of lumber, tourism and services or enhancing grazing? _____page 3

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 expires in the spring of '96 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. We have 382 paid-up members.

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.

Green Lake Area Ratepayers' MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

name of member applying (one per lot) signature

legal description of property (if known) fire number & street

full mailing address (one newsletter per membership)

home phone lake phone? work phone?

fax number available? is cheque enclosed?
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.

South Green Range Fence:by Jack Wainwright

The South Green lake range fence proposal, that was "all systems go" has stumbled again. When we left it last Fall, our S. Green Ratepayers had again endorsed it by a large majority of returns. BCFS and Crown Land grazing leaseholders were in agreement. Forestry said that the \$50,000 estimated cost for eleven miles of fencing and cattleguards also included an amount for annual maintenance for the estimated 30 year life of the fence. All we had to do was get the TNRD to agree to hold an official referendum. The idea was that each S. Green land owner would have a one time "fence surcharge" of about \$112, added to his property taxes. The TNRD then would have advanced the \$50,000 and BC Forest Service would have seen that the fence was built to proper specs. No amateur stuff. No "mickey mouse" fence. No future tax burden.

So what happened? We don't know. **The whole project rests now with one person, our Thompson Nicola Regional District representative, Jim Walch.** Seems that Jim is a very busy fellow. He has not yet found time to present and support our request to the TNRD, although he was officially asked to do that last September. He has not answered our letters. He was not at his shop in Clinton when Dennis Tupman stopped in to see him, and he has not answered our phone calls.

Perhaps he is annoyed at us (me) for attacking the TNRD's ill advised 911 fiasco. Perhaps he is annoyed at a lot of the other S Green residents (not me) who let him know they were not pleased when he, as our TNRD rep., voted against the advice of the BC Dept of Environment and pushed through a commercial rezoning of a plot in the middle of our forest. No doubt it was just coincidental that Jim Walch owns a heavy duty equipment repairshop and the person wanting the zoning change operates heavy equipment. Is Mr. Walch trying to punish the folks of S. Green Lake or is he truly run off his feet? If he is so busy that he cannot follow through on our request, perhaps he is not the person for the job.

NOISY BOATS, etc.: Greg Sehn, CRD rep. called to say that he has word that the Fed. Gov't is considering regulations re noisy boats, and other craft on Canada's waterways. Greg, by the way, has made a point to keep in touch with us. We very much appreciate his efforts on our behalf.

Lakes Classification:

Green and Watch Lakes come up for "Lakes Classification" in November. The idea is that each lake is to be evaluated as to how close to the lakeshore logging will be permitted. The "A" category that we all expect to get for our lakes is a total ban on logging within 200m of the shore. This is a buffer that is approximately the same as the present depth of residential properties along S. Green Rd. It applies only to Crown Land. In addition to the lakeshore management guideline, the Lakes Classification will address the visual impact of cut blocks as seen from the lake. Some individuals and groups who have been involved elsewhere are upset with the process, the scope and the results. Apparently only two Cariboo Lakes have been classified as "A". All others range through a scale that started as "A through D" and now have + and - letter grades too. Lakes where there are no residents to fight for them, but which may be lakes where you and your guests go fishing, are apparently losing in this process.

The Lakes Classification as I understand it is to primarily address the issue of the visual impact of logging; that is the aesthetics, not the environment. Environmental concerns of logging activities are supposedly addressed in the logging plan approved by BCFS. As well, any activity that endangers stream habitat, can be addressed independently by Conservation Officers. There is a general belief that all lake habitats would benefit from a decent buffer of a size to resist wind blow-downs. Such a buffer should ensure that logging activities cannot silt up the lakeshore, even accidentally. Alan Kregorsky is our Lakes Classification rep. He has asked to come to our meetings to hear residents' concerns, prior to the official meetings.

FIRE DEPARTMENT DUES: The S. Green VFD newsletter notes that they will respond to a call for non-paid-up members in their area, but the charge is \$350 per hour with a minimum two hour charge.

All fire dues are due now. S Green and N Green/Watch are separate VFDs. If you did not get a VFD notice, call one of GLARA's directors for advice on where and how much to send. Our VFDs need and deserve all the support we can give.

The GOOD NEWS:

WATER STEWARDSHIP: GLARA is creating the model for community stewardship of BC Lakes.

As you know, our efforts to maintain the quality of water for Watch and Green lakes, was recognized by a \$5000 government grant. We developed a five year plan to spend this money on testing water quality and education. The tests and their results, we wrote about last fall. To educate the public, small yellow signs were widely distributed around our area in August. We have more if anyone needs replacements. Soon large signs will be erected in areas visible to anyone visiting the lakes. Similar signs will be up in the Parks, too. All the approvals (BC Environment, Lands & Parks, ourselves, all had input (and vetoes?) and lo and behold, we all pulled in the same direction!!!

Bob Grace, district biologist, is using us as the best example of water stewardship in the province. Deka L. and area, and others, are actively seeking to follow our lead. Special thanks must go to those most active in this program: Dennis Tupman, Fred Kuyek, Bruce Gilmore, Ken Greenwood, Terry Burt & Bob Christie.

WOODLOTS: The proposed Woodlot south of Watch Lake and East of Green is still alive. This is good news, because it takes a critical segment of woods out of the melange of Crown Lands and puts the onus on the Woodlot operator to conform to BC Forestry rules and regulations. Just by virtue of scale alone, any clearcuts must be smaller than the 60 ha allowed under the new Forest Practices code. We get to keep public access and existing trails, too. BCFS staff Les French expects to complete inventory and environmental studies this summer. We support Woodlots, but only after all the appropriate studies have been completed. BCFS was expecting to saddle the Woodlot owner with these costs. Following the public meetings, BCFS rethought the fairness of that. Doug Konkin, BCFS dist. mgr., said that an archeologist has completed his report. He also said that guidelines for awarding Woodlot licences have been eased to permit more local folks to be eligible. BCFS expects to hold another public meeting in late summer.

Septic Fields: GLARA now owns a copy of the video on correct management and use of septic fields. Call Fred Kuyek to borrow it free. 456 2230

The BAD NEWS:

ROADS DETERIORATING: Local roads have really deteriorated this Spring. The stretch between 70 Mile and the sani-station is really bad. Commercial vehicles are limited to 75% of axle weight but it has not stopped the damage. Perhaps the perceived increase in logging truck traffic is the culprit, or maybe it was time to happen. We have been told that major rebuilding is required, and was scheduled, but may be shelved for lack of funding. GLARA is actively seeking improvement. Art Watson has written Zirnhelt and also invited our CRD rep., Greg Sehn to the May 19th General meeting to discuss roads. Stay tuned!

PROPERTY CRIMES INCREASING: Breaking and Entry are increasing in our area. Several B&Es have been reported at 70 Mile House, Watch Lake and Green Lake in the last few months. No one followed up on our offer to help form Neighbourhood Watch programs. These are now called Community Policing programs and the offer still stands. Our best defense is vigilant neighbours. RCMP Cpl. Frost has been invited to our May 19 meeting.

SHOULD PRIVATE LAND OWNERS HAVE TO PRACTICE GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAND? Clearcutting is not controlled on private land. The BC Forest practises Code applies only to Crown lands administered by the BC Forest Service. Forest company executives I have spoken with, express grave concerns that a third of their logs are coming off private land. The clearcutting may be done in the name of creating more hay fields, which, believe it or not, is considered "highest and best use" of Cariboo forests. The economy of so much of the Cariboo depends on logging, ranching and now tourism, that one wonders if that definition of land use (inherited, as I recall, from the Vander Zalm Govt.) is still valid.

Private clearcuts are seldom replanted with trees. **If private forest lands do not practice forest husbandry in line with current knowledge, then the interior mills will have a visibly shrinking log supply.** Will more hay fields mean more money in the ranchers pockets? Probably. A hay crop does give the rancher another source of income. But, you don't let cattle graze a field if you want a crop of hay and if the hay field is taken out of the forest which ranchers are

