

# The GREEN WATCH

## The GREEN LAKE AREA (CARIBOO) RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

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  
 V.P. Robin Rusaw 456 7707  
 Sect. Jackie Stroud 456 2337  
 Treas. Marie Kuyek 456 2230

Gordon Labinsky (S) 456 2310  
 Fred Kuyek (S) 456 2230  
 Helen Denning (N) 456 7318  
 Uli Junker

Bob Christie (N) 456 7336  
 John Tuttle (N) 456 2391  
 Jack Wainwright(S) 456 2256  
 or 604 434 3280

**FALL 1997**

### RECREATION NEWS

by Bev Felske

Green Lake recreationalists have a new trail to walk, mountain bike, horseback ride and ATV on in the summer time. Thanks to the Green Lake Snowmobile club and 100 Mile BC Forestry Service the new trail (Begbie Trail) has been completed and signed.

Begbie trail is 50 kms long. It starts from the gravel pit south of 70 Mile and terminates at the 100 Mile House Snowmobile club house. The trail is narrow and winding in spots and has two highway crossings.

Also available to all recreationalists are maps of the 50 kms of signed trail on the south side of Green Lake. Maps may be obtained from the Green Lake Snowmobile Club or BC Forestry in 100 Mile House.

The BC Snowmobile Federation sponsored a snowmobile show for the entire family in Kamloops Oct 3-5 '97. Arctic Cat, Polaris, Ski-doo and Yamaha had their 1998 models on display. Other features were a clothing fashion show, antique sled show, a snowrama display, grass drags and a swapmeet of used equipment and sleds.

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### 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 with this newsletter and you will have to renew to vote.

Memberships may be renewed at the meeting or by mail to GLARA comp. 5, site Q, 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) \_\_\_\_\_

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Our AGM was held 1:30pm July 12 in Fire Hall #2, N Green Lk.

Thanks were given to outgoing Board members: Don T. Brown, Art Watson and Jack Wainwright. Don has volunteered to continue with the S. Green Fencing issue. Art Watson has moved out of the area. Jack remained as a Director, but resigned the editor's position because he is unable to stay in the area long enough to keep up to date. He offered to type and set up a Newsletter if members submitted the copy and he was available. His offer was accepted.

Mary Greenwood conducted the election of officers. With the changes noted above, new director Uli Junker and all incumbents were re-elected for two year terms.

Dennis Tupman reviewed our constitution which charges us to maintain the Watch Lake - Green Lake area quality of life and recreation (which translates into being watchdogs regarding water and other environmental degradations) and Cost of living (which means being advocates for maintaining the area's old economic sources as well as the needs of the new ones ... a fine line indeed. It also means reacting to tax hikes.)

Water testing continues. Water quality has been very good. With the high water this year, the Green Lake outlet has been flowing giving a little flushing action. But when you realize that the only outlet is a four foot diameter culvert and it was flowing only about half its depth, you will see that that is just a "drop in the bucket" for a lake the size of Green. It flowed well as long as the beaver dam was removed. The beavers were obviously not happy about the flow because each time the dam was destroyed, the busy buggers rebuilt it overnight. We understand that the Conservation Officer had the critters relocated. But, hey, that was good because there comes a time when "ya jest gotta flush, right?"

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### BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The following is a listing of members who provide services in our area. There is no charge other than membership (\$10) to be listed. Register with the treasurer. GLARA provides this listing as a service to members and has not screened for quality or reliability of services.

#### BUSINESS SERVICES

Accounting & Tax Preparation L. Caterer 456 7526

#### CRAFTS and ART

Applique Sweatshirts Pat Kent 456 7436

#### PERSONAL SERVICES

Hair cutting Karin Forbes 456 7740

Foot Reflexology June Bourke 456 7752

#### SUPPLIES

Food, Meals, Gas Little Horse Store & Restaurant 456 7524

#### ACCOMMODATION/FOOD

B&B, Bakery, Grp Restaurant Colleen Leyland 456 7457

#### RECYCLING

Gold Trail Recycling (100 Mile) Ulrich Junker 395 1041

#### GARDEN NURSERY

Shelby Gardens Rafield Road, Little Pressy 456 7682

## **WELL, BLOW ME DOWN!**

We have had a few power outages these last few months. In August, a storm generated a few strong gusts that took out several power lines. At that time folks at the end of South Green lake road complained that they were without power for up to 29 hours. They say their power always appears to be first to go out and last to be repaired. Guess that happens when you live at the end of the line, eh?

On Labour Day their power went out again at 2:10 pm. Ours went out at 3:30pm. Another thunderstorm had roared by (roared is the best description) generating heavy rain and violent downdrafts. A light plane caught in those would have been slammed to the ground. I heard the roar, looked up to see tall pines bent at 90° then witnessed at least nine snap off or get up rooted. That's when our power stopped. That gust only lasted a few seconds. A second downdraft then hit and I heard trees breaking behind me. I dashed for the safety of the basement as two big trees landed where I had just been standing. In all, 24 trees were demolished on just three adjacent lots. Our powerlines were severed in several places. It took us several hours to clear the roadways so we could get out and Hydro could get in.

Next door neighbour, Jayne Burschtsnky, had just driven into her driveway and had not yet got out of the car, when the first gust put several trees across her road. Jayne said that triggered a reaction requiring urgent use of the outhouse, but great fear of more trees falling. She says she met her needs with the door open and a runner's starting pose. Must be a cartoon in that, eh?

A phone call to Hydro confirmed that they already knew of the massive outage. We had to wait 49 hours for repairs, while those at "the end of the line" waited over 56 hours. Telephone was out over 72 hours. Our repair crew was very sympathetic, efficient and accommodating. They had been brought down from Quesnel. We asked why it was taking so long for repairs and were informed that they follow a set of priorities. First is to get the danger controlled and stop further damage. A power pole caught fire so that was handled first. Then they repair primary lines to get power back to the majority. My other neighbour had his power back on within a few hours. Then they repair secondary lines in to occupied homes. Finally, they

repair lines in to unoccupied cabins, if they know they have lines down. Those who have not cleared driveways for repair crews, get fixed last. They also are required to take mandatory rest breaks every 16 hours which explained why we did not see a repair crew after they had been working all night.

I asked what message they would like to have passed on to customers who had lost power. The first was to not energize their whole home by plugging in to a generator. That jeopardises those making repairs. A generator is best used with an extension cord so you can limit and control the load on the generator, and still keep fridge, freezer and a few lights operational.

A generator can be hooked up to the house wiring, but it requires a special disconnect switch to avoid sending power out over Hydro lines.

The second suggestion was to be sure to call Hydro when your power goes out. They said one fellow in Nazko waited days for his power to come back on because Hydro never knew it was out.

Good thing no one was sitting in the outhouse at "Rowes Repose" on S Green when the storm hit, because a big pine landed squarely on it crushing the roof, back and front but leaving the side walls standing.

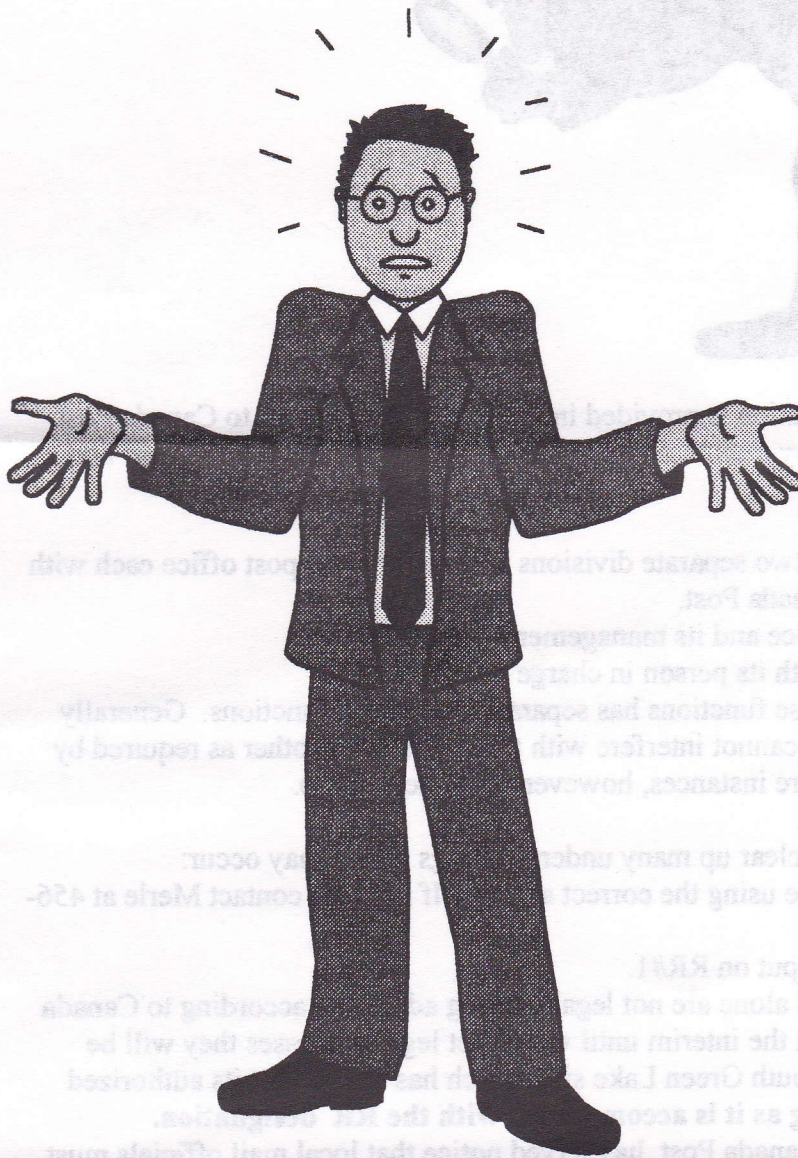
I don't know if my experience is typical, but in the 30 years we've had a cabin here, we have lost about 30 big trees. The pines all seem to be between 100 and 135 years old. Some are sound. Some are rotting in the middle. These winds are, I believe, quite normal but capricious. One never knows where the down-drafts will hit. Guess this is Nature's way of "selective removal". Too bad we can't know in advance and log them selectively first.

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## **CLEAR CUTS**

It appears to me that all the furor over logging would disappear if clear cutting was eliminated and replaced by selective cutting. The trees would still get logged, but the integrity of the forest would remain. Wouldn't you think that in this age of technology, when we can clone animals, rearrange genes, and maintain a space station that we could find a way to harvest trees without destroying the forest?

# Canada Post



There have been a number of concerns in our area about mail delivery and addresses. Changes have been enforced from head office at Canada Post and the 70 Mile Post Master, Merle, and Tracey, rural route person, have been getting flak from some of us.

Let's work to clear up misunderstandings to keep us all happy. Do you remember when we hated using postal codes? We all find change difficult.

We are anxious to maintain our 70 Mile Post Office which came very close to being closed a year ago.



The following information is provided in order that we conform to Canada Post regulations and thereby maintain good relations with local post office staff and Canada Post.

We are told there are two separate divisions within our local post office each with separate bosses at Canada Post.

1. The local post office and its management – Merle.
2. The rural route with its person in charge – Tracey.

To repeat, each of these functions has separate bosses and functions. Generally speaking each person cannot interfere with the duties of the other as required by Canada Post. There are instances, however, of some overlap.

The following would clear up many understandings which may occur:

1. Ensure that you are using the correct address. If not sure contact Merle at 456-2221.
2. If on a rural route put on RR#1.
3. Fire numbers used alone are not legal mailing addresses according to Canada Post. However, in the interim until we all get legal addresses they will be accepted on the South Green Lake side which has not yet got its authorized addresses - **as long as it is accompanied with the RR designation.**
4. We are told that Canada Post has served notice that local mail officials must become more sticky by January 1998 and therefore incorrectly addressed mail will be returned to sender.
5. Stamps cannot be sold by Rural Route deliverers.

GLARA's suggestion: Play ball with Canada Post. If not sure of address contact the Post 70 mile Post Office to determine what's up and proper.

**May we also suggest that wherever possible you use the 70 Mile Post Office for purchases and mail sending so that we can keep the volume up and thereby ensure that we will keep our Post Office. As a cost saving measure all across Canada Post Offices are being closed, particularly in rural areas.**

## The GREAT CANADIAN COW PIE ROAD FILL

Even the most casual observer will notice cow pies that have obviously been deposited many years ago. These fossilized objects, frisbee size and shape, have obvious staying power. BC's Cariboo has hot summer days and thunder showers, while  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  for several weeks in winter is also normal. Cow pies are obviously made to last. A favourite BC pastime at fairs is the Cow Pie Frizbee contest, invariably won by local politicians as they have had the most experience in flinging this stuff. But could cow pie not serve a better purpose?

My observations have revealed that there are two distinct production methods used by cows. Those that leave the traditional nicely formed mound stand quietly in one place and let it plop steadily. These I call the Plopper Droppers. Others, probably the more excitable young ones, keep walking and splatter it as a trail of flat pancakes. These I call the Splatter Walkers. I believe both can be of use to us.

It was a Splatter Walker that taught me to respect the adhesive qualities of cow pie. Not just content with raiding my cabin's garden, the herd had to add insult to injury by pooping everywhere. One did a masterful job of splatter coating my canoe. That stuff clings tenaciously. The lesson was reinforced when I drove my new Ford Explorer through fresh cow pie mounds on the road. After a herd of 100 range cows has passed, there is no way to avoid pie bashing. What dumb car designer curved the rocker panels inside the tire well and then neglected to provide mud guards? Must be an Urban Dweller. The bottom quarter of each side of my car requires either regular scrubbing, or accepting the country two tone look. Not surprisingly, there is no market in open range country for car undercoating either. We get undercoating free and frequently recoated, too. My made in BC motorhome is much better designed.

Now our Cariboo roads, like many in Canada, are in constant need of repair. Pot holes abound. So my idea is very simple. We just train the cows to plop their mounds in the pot holes. We all come out winners.

I did try filling some pot holes with the stuff, and while it worked moderately well, it worked a lot better when there was a 50% mix with grit. Now this is where further research is needed. In fact there is probably enough merit in this idea to warrant a Canada Council

research grant.

Recent events in genetics have reported scientists splicing genes into plants and animals to get a particular quality. They have spliced a gene into a plant so that it produces long chain polymers, which is what plastics are. There are animals that ingest gravel as part of their diet. All birds do. So we just need to identify the gene that causes birds to do that, splice it into a cow, then clone the cow to make a herd of animals that will produce cow pies that are 50% grit. Training them to plop in pot holes should not be too difficult. The grit eating Splatter Walkers will simply provide road topping. There was a thought that misplaced mounds might create a series of random speed bumps, but preliminary research has shown that it takes a few days to set up, during which time, car traffic flattens them nicely into more road topping.

So there we have it. An idea for Cow Pie Road Fill that will automatically refurbish rural Canadian roads after our harsh winters. I have taken this idea as far as I can. It is now up to some bright young mind to achieve fame and fortune by perfecting it. Good Luck.  
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## NATURE NUTS

A seven year old visitor from the city discovered nature "at the Lake" last summer. What follows is his two week observation list. Perhaps you have budding naturalists that would like to compare observations. Send us any new entries and any pertinent kid kept notes. This is James M.'s list

Foxes (2 black, one red),	Black Bear,
Moose,	Ground Squirrel
Deer (Doe, Buck)	Frogs
Yellowbellied Marmot	Toads
Tree Squirrels	Ducks
Loons	Eagle
Rednecked Grebes	Robins
Grouse	Hawk
Raven	Crow
Geese	Sea Gulls
Blackbird	Nuthatch
Chickadee	Junco
Red Shafted Flicker	Hummingbird
Great Blue Heron	Barn Swallow
Dragonfly	Damsel Fly
Worms	Shrimp
Beetle	Rainbow Trout
Horse Cow	Pig
Goats	Chickens
People	

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING cont. from p 1

Directors have attended many meetings - Forestry, Fisheries, Parks, BIOTARA??? to name a few. When there are findings to report, they will be in the newsletter.

GLARA helped financially with the COPS program on the N. Green and Watch Lakes. And will do so for any other area groups wishing to get a COPS program underway.

Bruce Gilmore was recognised for his work with area schools speaking to students during Drug and Alcohol week.

Marie Kuyek reported a paid membership of 312. Bank balance not counting the \$5000 water testing grant is \$5620.

A petition re the deteriorating roads was circulated. We have about 200 names. (ed note: this was sent to Highways. This summer our local roads got some much needed attention with general patching and some paving)

Don Brown reported on the S Green Fencing project. This issue was resolved a few years ago but it now looks like it will have to be redone with all the parties again to settle it for a TNRD referendum. Don is going to do his best to see this thing through.

Dennis Tupman urged everyone to submit their fire dues. He reminded us of the insurance savings we all enjoy because of our Fire Department Volunteers. 92% pay their dues on the North side. South side numbers are significantly less.

Ralph Cole submitted a COPS report. He extended thanks to the 21 volunteers who have clocked 4033 miles and worked a total of 252 hours to date. Two signs were taken and have been replaced. They have no doubt ended up in a "rec room" somewhere. Be nice to have them returned. GLARA paid for them through our fees. All expressed disgust at the recent defacing of road signs. Call a GLARA director if you have information on these things. There were no statistics on crime in the area, but all felt the COPS program was working. Ralph reminded everyone to lock their house and vehicles as crime knows no boundaries. RCMP remind everyone to report all thefts, vandalism, etc. as each report strengthens the case for police staffing for our area.

John Tutte is investigating a new transmitter so we all can get Knowledge Network.

Meetings on Lakes Classification and Land Use have not yet been scheduled by Forestry. Stay tuned.

## WAXING POETIC

They say that traumatic experiences trigger strong emotional responses to which we all react differently. Jayne B's experience of trees coming down all around her, moved her to poetry. She assures us this was not written while in the outhouse, but hours later after calming down.

### The Heart of the Matter

Some trees are gnarled and twisted, branches crimped and bent  
For when high winds came calling they found the courage to dissent  
They drove their roots 'round bedrock, they learned to bend the back  
Bonded to the laws of life there is no good thing they lack.

But there are mighty pines with moss draped on their boughs  
Who locked in stately torpor, refused to be aroused.  
When North Wind called their names, they would only laugh.  
Today South Wind lost patience, and snapped them all in half.

So the mighty Spruces, fragrant, green and tall  
Stood defiantly and dared South Wind to blow.  
I watched them tipping over, their roots a tiny ball.  
They had nothing in reserve, to help to break their fall.

The Poplars have a mighty root, far into the ground.  
They gossip and they brag, "Look at my pretty crown."  
Wind admired their sturdy trunks as they did celebrate.  
She said, "I'll only take your tops. It's just your pride I hate."

It was all noise and chaos as trees broke and fell and crashed  
Within my human heart fear beat and flailed and thrashed.  
Dying didn't look so friendly now that I was scared to death.  
The urge to breathe is greatest when there is paucity of breath.

The storm passed and I was free again to walk the land.  
I visited the victims, touching them with curious hands.  
I looked inside a broken Pine and lifted out its heart.  
To think a slender tube of wood played such a major part.  
It was the thickness of my finger, like a spindle for a chair.  
Such a tiny mainspring for the life that once stood there.

As the wind does prune the forest, God prepares us to be strong.  
Life can be a terror, or a sigh, or it can burst with song.  
But if we won't hear the message, still will come the wind  
And what we alone make of ourselves will surely do us in.

by Jayne B. re the Sept 1/97 storm at Green Lake.

## TOP-LINE PRINTERS

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