

The GREEN WATCH

The GREEN LAKE AREA (CARIBOO) RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION

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

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

Directors:

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

Summer '98

NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next AGM will be held at the Snowmobile Club on South Green Lake Road 10:00 am Saturday August 15 1998

We are experimenting with a morning meeting. Tell us how you like it. The agenda includes the financial report, election of officers and special speakers on important topics.

If you would like to help out on the Board of Directors, please contact a GLARA director. We need your assistance. A nominating committee of non-Board members is being formed in order to have as wide a contact as possible in the community

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) _____

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.

BREAK INS

There have been a large number of break-ins recently on both sides of Green and around Watch. Police are very concerned and are carrying out extensive investigations. We can cooperate by marking all major equipment, tools etc with our **driver's licence number**. Police are not allowed access to SIN numbers. Extra security cautions are called for as is keeping an eye on your neighbour's place when they are away. Record licence numbers and vehicle descriptions of suspicious activities. Report all thefts and B&Es to police. (Clinton RCMP 459 2221; 100 Mile 395 2456)

RENTING YOUR CABIN?

Often it is temporary users who through ignorance or indifference ignore lake use protocol such as not washing in the lake, care of the environment, respect for neighbours peace and quiet, etc. We all appreciate it when temporary users have been informed and respect the environment that they came for. Call a Director if you want to post one of our yellow lake use signs.

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 Bource	456 7752
SUPPLIES		
Food, Meals, Gas	Little Horse Store & Restaurant	456 7524
ACCOMMODATION/FOOD		
B&B, Bakery, Grp Restaurant	Colleen Leyland	456 7457

GARDEN NURSERY
 Shelby Gardens Rafield Road, Little Pressy 456 7682

HIGHLIGHTS of recent executive minutes.

- We have 333 paid-up members
- We still have money budgetted for COPs signs.
- Support for Ducks unlimited was declined as it was felt that duck enhancement was at the expense of other marsh animals. The David Suzuki Foundation was again supported.
- We discontinued subscription to "NALMS" as it was not much use to us, but subscribed instead to the "BC Lake Stewardship Newsletter"
- A new group calling itself BC Cottage Owner's Association was discussed. We propose to exchange newsletters with them and monitor their policies before getting too involved.
- Letters of concern re health care in rural areas have been written; replies have been contradictory; GLARA will follow up with local health professionals.
- It was noted that the Health Inspector moved quickly in response to a resident's concern about an overflowing outhouse. He had it bulldozed and filled in within 72 hours.
- A report to GLARA re the CRD expansion of the Watch Lake landfill noted that seven creeks and several wells that may be affected will be monitored for any change in water quality. Long range plans also include fencing, encasing and installation of a high capacity burner. GLARA is attempting to get these planned changes in writing plus confirmation that the CRD will pay for the water monitoring.
- The TNRD plans no changes at the 70 Mile dump. The sani-station, contrary to rumors, will also remain open for business.
- re roads: GLARA has been informed that Watch lake and Moose Point roads will be resurfaced in 1998
- Word has been received that septic fields will not have to be upgraded ... unless they are malfunctioning. Malfunctioning septic systems pose a health threat and it appears that is an area where "officialdom" works fast and decisively. City folks used to flushing anything down the toilet with little understanding of where it goes, but only that they are rid of it, create serious problems for themselves when they try that with their septic systems. Often the cottage owner is somewhat aware of the perils of killing off his beneficial bacteria with bleach for instance, but others in the household are not, nor are guests often clued in. A discrete sign in the laundry area might be helpful. Also, we have noted before that GLARA has a video

page 2

and printed info on septic systems. Call Dennis Tupman if you need this stuff. For advice on septic systems, or to have them checked by the Health Department, call them in 100 Mile at 395 5533

- The S Green Fence issue is now hung up on liability concerns. . . as we have said before, don't hold your breath...this may turn out to be a millenium project.
- BC Forestry unveiled their next 5 year plan for cutblocks. We had no time for a public meeting to generate a response, so GLARA's response was based on our stated policies and objectives. A GLARA member transposed the clearcuts and cut blocks onto maps of our area. Two clearcuts will be down to the road at the Sani-station. GLARA is responding further by meeting with forestry and Ainsworth officials.

OFF-ROAD DRIVING

The Ministry of the Environment has posted environmental cautionary signs around the lakes. They ask people to refrain from driving motorized vehicles on the grasslands or off the existing trails both on the grasslands and also in the forests as these are deemed sensitive protected areas. (ed note: the knobby tires of mountain bikes also cause a lot of environmental damage.)

VOLUNTEER FISH REPORTS

Green lake has a problem with high mortality of newly released fry because of the high pH of the lake water. As part of ongoing research to identify strains of Rainbow with a high pH tolerance, the Fisheries Dept. released into Green L 19,710 Rainbow Trout fry on April 30 1997. These fry were 19.6 grams in weight, so they should have a good survival rate. They were marked for identification with their adipose fin clipped off plus part of their right maxillary (near the mouth). Fisheries is interested in the survival rate of these fish. If you catch one of these fish, now about 12" long, please report it. Contact either Gord Labinsky, 456 2310; Fred Kuyek, 456 2230; Ken Legge, 456 7542; or Fisheries directly. The info required is length, approx. wt. and number caught. You do not have to give up your fish or tell where it was caught.

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S GREEN CATTLE FENCING

The whole matter of the Green Lake Cattle Fencing issue has bogged down in Government bureaucracy. The plan is by the month, looking more unfeasible, although it is too early to call for its general. GLARA wants written guarantees that if we build the fence we will not be legally liable if someone is injured on the fence. (editors comment: BC's Society Act protects GLARA executives from personal liability. As well GLARA does not have enough money to make it an attractive "deep pocket" target for a liability lawsuit. To be successful a lawsuit would have to prove **criminal** negligence in the building of the fence. What would constitute criminal negligence in a fence built to BC Forestry standards?)

The survey done on the south side showed over 80% in favour of proceeding with a feasibility study, which we have done. The plan was to ask TNRD to go to referendum on the matter. To date we have not heard back from the government on this legal concern.

In the meantime, as noted in the 100 Mile Free Press. "Business as usual with the cattle."

VOLUNTEER CLEAN-UP CREW

Thanks for a job well done to the group of civic-minded folks who cleaned up the roadside right way from the south side of Green to the 70 Mile dump. Many truck loads of garbage were collected and taken to the dump. Such efforts are much appreciated!

ICE OFF GREEN LAKE

For the record, the ice went off the lake (or should we say off the surface because the ice sinks to the bottom of the lake) on April 22 this year. In 1997 it went out April 25 and in 1996 it went out April 26. Pretty consistent. (ed note: I am typing out copy sent to me, however I question how ice with a crystal structure larger than water, which makes it therefore less dense than water, can possibly sink. Water is most dense just before it freezes and develops its crystal structure. Green Lake water must have some curious properties indeed. Might it be possible to get a grant to study our heavy ice? It may have commercial applications just as heavy water does.)

Lakes Classification and Land Use Plans

For the past year GLARA has been working steadily on your behalf to put forth your ideas to the Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan and the Lake Classification process.

We were deeply concerned then to learn that key Interagency Planning Team members have been

let go. Indeed the whole process seems to be stalled. Mr Krogel of Forestry in Williams Lake is the new coordinator.

GLARA is active in adjusting to the new staff who have been assigned to cope with what has been done. As we go to press, we are still trying to determine what if anything in our proposal will be acted upon.

Yes, we are frustrated. We acted in good faith and responded with soundly based detailed submissions. We consulted local residents. We reflected the recreational and residential values of our areas, which will be economically affected by adverse land use decisions.

The new Forestry five year plan shows several cutblocks in our area, two of which will be clearcuts to the road near the sani-station.

We are still of the opinion that Woodlots within our two kilometer greenbelt around the lakes are preferable to large cutblocks and clearcuts. We are not opposed to harvesting trees, but we know that timber can be harvested in such a way that impacts less on the environment and recreational economies than do the present harvesting practices.

WOODLOTS

There are two Woodlots planned in the NE sector around Watch Lake. We have heard nothing about them for some time as they have been put on hold during the land use deliberations. The position of GLARA is that of environmental and economic sustainability which members endorsed in several public meetings.

HEALTH CARE

D. Tupman wrote to Premier Clark about certain health care issues. Concerns outlined were the stalled proposed expansion of the hospital and the Millsite Seniors complex, the proposed non-inclusion of 100 Mile Hospital in the 100 Mile Community Health Council and the South Cariboo Zone, and the non resolution of the physicians/government stalemated negotiations. 100 Mile health care is experiencing severe changes that diminish health care for residents. Discussions with physicians and citizens alike are agreed that while we still have a good level of Health care and facilities, there is cause for vigilance and concern.

Recent good news: the hospital expansion will proceed. This will have a good effect on extended and geriatric care. The government also decided to keep the 100 Mile Community Health Council within South Cariboo and not in the Kamloops zone.

BEAVERS, WATER LEVELS AND SO FORTH

Beavers have built dams in the NE outlet from Green into Little Green. Many feel this has caused unduly high water levels on Green. Experts have advised us that there are many factors causing high water levels in Green and Watch. Beavers dams though are one factor we have some control over. Colin Nevison, our Conservation Officer, advises that if beavers become a nuisance, he should be contacted.(395 5511) They have trapped and relocated beavers in the past. Nuisance bears should also be reported.

Long-timers on the lakes inform us that there is a regular cycle of high and low water levels over the past 30 years. The water could actually come a little higher yet but if past patterns are any indication, they will then subside to a lower level over the next few years.

MATH QUIZ

Below is a portion of an article published in the 100 Mile free Press, May 20 1998.

"A resounding yes was the outcome of the May 9 referendum conducted in Clinton by the TNRD to expand the local fire protection area. Of the 68 who voted, 62 were in favour with only 6 against."

The intent of the bylaw is to establish a local service for the purpose of providing a grant-in-aid to the village for fire protection to people residing within a 5 mile (8Km) radius of the village."

The cost will be \$3.20 per \$1000 of net taxable land and improvements within the service area."

Now our quiz is to find out what your fire protection service would cost you if you lived near Clinton. Take your last assessment notice from the BC Assessment Authority and divide the total by 1000, then multiply this figure by \$3.20. Pretty high isn't it? For our home on South Green the figure is \$543. Many of you would pay more and everybody would have to pay, even those on vacant land. This is an example of what happens when people stop doing for themselves and ask for government help.

Now doesn't what you pay for your local volunteer fire departments at Green and Watch Lakes seem cheap by comparison? Talk about a bargain. It only happens because of the thousands of hours of volunteer labour donated to the community by your neighbours. Maybe it is time we started thinking about an increase in fire dues so that members of the ladies auxiliary would not have to work so hard to raise

money to buy equipment and operate and maintain the fire hall. We can only continue to provide you with an effective (low cost) fire department if you all pay your fire dues.

Support your local firefighters.

by Gordon Labinsky Volunteer Firefighter SGLVFD

FISH REPORT 1998 by Ken Legge

A total of 95,000 Rainbows (Blackwater) were released into Green Lake this spring at 8³ Mile Creek and Watch Creek culvert. 400,000 Kokanee were also released.

Again this spring Fish Biologist Kanji Taumurn and his staff set up fish traps for spawning Rainbows and in just two days netted 200 of them. Several trips to the hatchery had to be made to transport them. Introduction of a hardier stock of Rainbow to our lakes is very encouraging. The Tzenzuiet and Blackwater strains have been released in a number of BC lakes in various life stages since 1995. Locally, Jim and Watch Lakes have had Tzenzuiet while Green and Sheridan have the Blackwater. These fish are shoal feeders, aggressive and grow fast. They like Shiners, small Suckers or Squawfish and are easily fooled because they are aggressive. ...Now if they would just bite in the summertime.

Winter ice fishing was the best it has been in years, with hundreds of fish caught up to 10 pounds. A few of the fishermen at the culvert inadvertently tested the waters, literally, in late spring while fishing on thin ice. . . a great waker-upper with no harm done.

GREEN LAKE STOCKING by Gordon Labinsky

Did you know that the first year Provincial Fisheries stocked Green L was in 1909 when 25,000 trout fry were put into the lake? It was stocked again in 1939, '40, '45, '53, '56, and '59 with Rainbow Trout fry. No stocking was done in 1960, 1976 or '77; otherwise it has been stocked every year from 1961 with either Rainbow Trout, Kokanee or both. It was stocked only once, in 1972, with 3000 Eastern Brook Trout fry. The largest stocking of Kokanee was a release of 1,059,000 fry in 1967. The largest stocking of Rainbow was a 1970 release of of 200,000 fry. Since 1974 the lake has been stocked each year with 300,000 Kokanee fry and between 75,000 and 100,000 Rainbow Trout fry.