

The GREEN WATCH

THE GREEN LAKE AREA (CARIBOO) RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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

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Fall 2001

NEW LAW re BOAT SPEEDS

As of mid summer, a new law came into effect in BC regarding boats etc. speeding close to shore.

All freshwater lakes and rivers are now subject to a speed limit of 10km/h within 30m of the shoreline. For those folks still not "metricized" 10km/h is 6 mph; 30m is 100 feet.

This law is in effect in most other provinces but was delayed being implemented in BC due to concern for tidal channels with strong currents. Consequently this law for BC exempts tidal water. Another exemption is for small rivers where that speed restriction would not allow a boat to navigate the river.

Waterskiers are allowed a little leeway, but they must go straight out into the lake; perpendicular to shore if they are starting a skier. (consider that a 75' tow rope, plus length of tow boat plus skier off-shore in the water will measure close to 100'). On landing, ski boats must swing in parallel to shore at least 30m off shore and expect the skier to swing in to land closer and parallel to shore. Anyone wishing to tow a person within the 30m off-shore limit, must do so no faster than 10km/h (6mph). This law is to lessen the chance of impact with swimmers and paddlers (canoes, kayaks, peddle boats).

"Waterskiers" by definition now includes all manner of towing people with boats. The new rules now require a seat on the tow vessel for every person being towed. A PWC may tow legally but only if it is a three seater and can only tow one person. As in the past, there must be a driver and a spotter on board. It is illegal to ski between one hour after sunset and dawn.

Exceeding the speed of 10km/h within 30m of shore constitutes dangerous operation of a vessel, which is an infraction under the Criminal Code of Canada. Improper towing of people is also an infraction under the Criminal Code of Canada.

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- BC PARKS concerns
 - we request that Forestry Fire bans include all parks and commercial campsites.
- RCMP REPORT
- and lots more good stuff!

Are you still a paid-up member? Check your Newsletter's envelope. Your membership expiry date is noted.

Fees are still a paltry \$10 with most folks paying \$30 for three years.

Green Lake Area Ratepayers' MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

_____		_____
name of member applying (one per lot)		signature
_____		_____
legal description of lot if known		fire number & street

full mailing address (one newsletter per membership)		
_____	_____	_____
home phone	lake phone?	work phone?

tax available? e-mail address? is cheque enclosed?

Make cheques payable to Green Lake Area Ratepayers Association. Fees are \$10 per year (most members are opting to pay \$30 for three years) Receipts will not be mailed, but will be available for pick-up at any general meeting, or from the treasurer. Membership expiry date is noted on your newsletter mailing label. Mail to GLARA, site Q, Comp. 5, RR1, 70 Mile House BC, V0K 2K0

Enforcement is still not strong. In GLARA's area, the few RCMP officers are not able to mount a strong presence and so far in BC being charged still means a court appearance and summary conviction. Minimum fine is \$250. However if an accident occurs the full weight of the law will result in charges that lead to jail time, criminal records, and huge awards. The largest award to date in Canada has been a judgement for \$1.5 million. Liability insurance is not mandatory, yet, but it would be prudent for boat owners to carry at least one million liability. The law states that the operator is responsible, but experience is that both the owner and operator get sued for damages. In that respect, the law for cars and boats is the same.

Watch Lake is posted with a speed limit of 8mph and that will not change. The new shoreline limit will not be posted anywhere. It is up to boaters to know the law. In Green lake vessels may not exceed the speed limit while entering Boyd Bay, East and West Lagoons or transiting the narrow channel of West Twin Islands.

Lagoons are posted for speed limits of 10km/h throughout in order to protect sensitive habitat.

For those inclined to mark the 100/30m limit in front of their properties, the proper buoy would be white with an orange circle within which the speed limit is noted as 10km/h. This must be large enough to be clearly visible and must not constitute a hazard to boaters. The buoy must be anchored with NON FLOATING line which could be chain or nylon rope. In no circumstances may floating polypropylene rope be used as it is a hazard to boats. (It wraps on the props). If a boat is disabled and damaged on your rope, you are liable.

However, there is a bureaucratic catch. All buoys indicating speed limits must have Federal Government approval. Coast Guard has indicated that this approval will **not** be forthcoming because the regulations (p 62 of the Safe Boating Guide) clearly state that the shoreline speed limit is not posted. It is just law in the same way that 80km/h is the speed limit for cars in unmarked areas.

Mooring buoys are to be orange. Swimming area buoys are white, but must have Federal approval. Other buoys are not legal without government approval.

ON WATER ENFORCEMENT.

Enforcement agencies, RCMP and Fisheries are now in talks with the Provincial Government to have BC endorse the Contraventions Act. Coast Guard members I have talked to expect that the Contraventions Act will be in effect for the next

boating season, 2002. Then instead of requiring offenders to go to court, which is sparingly used because it clogs the court system, they will instead be given the option of paying a fine as we do with automobile infractions. This undoubtedly will virtually eliminate the warnings now given. Fines will start at \$100. You may remember that one boat was checked on Green Lake in 1999 and received a warning for 14 infractions! Don't say we haven't warned ya! Next September is the deadline for all operators of a powered craft under 4m (13' 3") to get their Pleasure Craft Operators Card. This includes PWCs, aluminum skiffs, rubber rafts, etc. with any kind of power. You must "carry proof of operator competency" (see page 8 in the CCG Safe Boating Guide).

A change in RCMP personnel in the Clinton office meant that they did not target Green Lake in 2001. They have noted that that will change in 2002.

I feel somewhat like a broken record with all these new boating regulations, but if by emphasising and repeating, we save some of our members from inadvertently getting ticketed, then we will have done our job. Ignorance will be no excuse.

WHO DUG THOSE WATER FILLED HOLES and WHY? by Gord Labinsky

Anyone who drove into Jim Lake this summer probably saw the half dozen or so large water filled excavations along the side of the road and maybe wondered what they were for. Being as these holes were in our forest Greenbelt and knowing that it costs money to dig that many holes that size, I decided to find out; WHO and WHY. I'm also the curious type. Thinking the holes might have been an attempt to dry out wet sections in the road in preparation for some of the proposed logging SE of the road in the Jim Mt-Horseshoe Hill area that we have been monitoring, I made some phone calls. No luck. The holes were not related to logging nor were they reservoirs for fire fighting. What then —very very rural building excavations for people who don't want neighbours? Was it open pit mining for gold or diamonds? Was the City of Vancouver readying their next landfill site? Maybe water stops for alien extra terrestrials? Meteor impact craters? The possibilities seemed endless. I could not give up on this one. There would be no rest for me until the mystery was solved. A call to Min. of Forests confirmed that, are you ready for this? They were dug for the cows. The range branch of BCFS dug them to catch Spring run-off in the hopes that cattle would not stay near Green Lake for water. Problem is, no one told the cows. Maybe ranchers can educate the cows by next year.

RCMP Clinton Detachment

Corporal Al Ramey who took over the posting in the spring gave us an overview of the detachments activities. The Clinton four man detachment is responsible for 3000 square miles of BC. It is the largest area covered by any 4 man unit in BC. He hopes to have a fifth man soon, and expects that a new detachment in Dog Creek within two years will reduce Clinton's calls by 10%. Responsible for our area is Constable Joe Telus.

Activities around our area include the "busting" of two marijuana "grow-ops" at Green Lake. Since the beginning of 2001 Clinton RCMP received 793 calls for service, 27 of which came from Green Lake. This represents a 10% decrease from the same period last year. Criminal complaints were one each of common assault, B&E, impaired driving, nuisance youths, theft from vehicle, domestic assault, shots heard, grow-op, possession of dangerous weapon and two cases of uttering threats. There was one drunk in public, one MVA, one loud party and two noisy bikes/ATVs. Cpl. Ramey was aware of the rash of B&Es in 1999. Those two perps are now in jail and our area is back to its usual quiet self, or so it would seem.

GLARA gets frequent complaints that apparently never get to the RCMP. The only way to get action is to pick up the phone and tell the RCMP your complaint.

GLARA Directors reaffirmed last spring that we would only act on signed written complaints and even then we would only act as facilitators.

GLARA's belief is that if the matter is not serious enough for the complainant to call police or any other authority, then we should not get involved. If however a member puts their concerns in writing, we will deal with them and act as facilitators to see that they get to the right person.

Cpl Ramey noted that there were many traffic tickets issued, but he had no breakdown as to area. He urged members to call in complaints saying they cannot get a true picture of the community if complaints are not registered. Armed with the appropriate stats he can attempt to justify additional staffing for the detachment.

Highlights from the AGM

GLARA's annual general meeting was held at the snowmobile clubhouse on August 18.

- The meeting honoured Flo Gagne, outstanding citizen of North Green Lake, for her 20 years of service

reporting area activities in the Free Press. Flo received a standing ovation. GLARA presented her with a clock and a commemorative plaque.

- Cpl Ramey, Clinton RCMP made a presentation, reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

- BC Parks personnel Helen Farrar and Ken Russell gave a power point presentation on the Parklands of the Green Lake Recreation area. Their concerns were unauthorized use of parklands including camping on islands, fire rings, erosion by vehicles, high fuel loading due to blowdowns. Sunset Campsite was identified by BC Forest Service as an extreme fire hazard due to high fuel loading. Our meeting in the Spring with BC Parks was the first they had heard of that. They have agreed to clean it up. GLARA offered some volunteer help which BC Parks felt might lead to liability problems, so they turned it down, however they have accepted volunteer help to remove old fire rings on the islands and assistance blocking trails to large 4x4's which they believe are responsible for much erosion in the meadows and trails. ATV's and snowmobiles will still be able to access these trails. BC Parks feels public education will solve their problems so they are planning a mailout to all residents and will be posting signs to advise the public of the official Park areas.

- Don Tucker, BC Forests, answered questions. Regarding insect infestations: our Greenbelt is in fair shape so far. They sprayed Loon lake four years ago, but it is again reinfested. There are no funds for spraying on private land. We wrote on how to recognize and deal with insect killed trees in the last newsletter. Pamphlets dealing with the topic are available from BCFS in 100 Mile house.

- Dennis Tupman's motion to explore the advisability of having S Green Lake join the CRD rather than the TNRD was discussed and passed. It was noted that S Green considers 100 Mile House as their natural "big town" and not Kamloops. It was also noted that Doug Ruttan, S Green Lake resident, has been contracted by the provincial government to study the merits of changing Regional District boundaries.

- A committee was struck to meet with Bob Craig and others to reword the S Green Crime Watch sign to make it more positive and suitable. GLARA will pay for the reworded sign.

AGM continued

- The two buoys marking shoals off the two park boat launches are now in place. Helen Farrar, BC Parks, was thanked for her contributions of anchors and chain. Fred Kuyek and his volunteers were thanked for organizing the placement. Help included the use of Barry Roman's barge to move the stuff.

- Membership stood at 274 paid up members. Bank balance is over \$8000 with some in term deposits in trust for those who have paid up for multiple years and about \$2500 which is the remainder of our grant for water stewardship.

- The cattle guard at Hutchison road has been fixed. Also work was done on the one on N Green Rd at the S. end of the lake but it still needs more. GLARA will keep this active.

- Correspondence included:

- a letter re **trespass by ATVs** etc on pipeline property well south of our Greenbelt. Private property signs have now been posted there by the owner.

- we wrote to the Minister of Health re **cattle feces pollution** at Lake access points. He forwarded it to the Ministry of Water, Land and Air

- After a meeting with **BC Parks** at which they told us they **would not comply with a ban on campfires** if BC Forest Service ordered an open fires ban we wrote a letter. We wrote to our area's MLA Walt Cobb with copies to Min. of Water, Land & Air (BC Parks), Min of Forests and Premier Campbell and both BC Parks personnel who had told us that they would have no trouble complying with a ban but would not initiate it. They said they intended to allow fires from 5pm to 9pm "**so campers could cook their supper and roast a marshmallow**". Our attitude is that no one should be exempt at all, especially transients who have no investment in the area. We noted it takes only one child swinging a burning branch around to start an inferno — especially in the park that was identified as an extreme fire hazard. We also sent a copy to BC Cottage Assoc. MLA Cobb has forwarded our letter to Forestry at 100 Mile. In our letter we indicated that we wanted legislation to remove the exemption of public and private commercial campsites from complying with a BC Forestry ordered ban on open fires.

- Our Greenbelt Area has been now classified as Back Country Area in the Cariboo/Chilcotin Land use plan. This means cut blocks in the area will be smaller and less noticeable.

- Elections were held. All current directors volunteered for another term except Uli Junker who had moved. New Directors are Joyce Dyck, South Green Lake and Dennis Read, North Green Lake. The full list is on the masthead of this Newsletter.

- a member expressed concern that the cattle count in the South Green area exceeds the grazing lease allotment. GLARA will investigate.

- a member expressed a wish that we not bring in too many rules and regulations. In fact GLARA has no power to set any rules. What we do is make sure everyone is made aware of existing rules and regulations so they are not penalized through ignorance. [ed note: I have long felt that we are overtaxed and overgoverned, but you know just as soon as one person acts irresponsibly, there is another right there advocating that we "make a law". Case in point is the move to ban camping on the islands. After 35 years of little impact, why?]

- It was noted by a member that Green lake water and altitude limited the reproduction of Milfoil in the lake. *****

HIGH TIDE AT GREEN LAKE...again!

Barry Roman reports that the busy beavers have been hard at work. Barry removes the dam at the culvert outlet from Green L. only to have them rebuild it in a few days. Barry and many others have a vested interest in seeing the lake drop to normal levels. Saturated septic fields and non-stop sump pumps are the motivation.

SGLVFD call outs this year included attending an ATV accident, an emergency health problem and last week an unattended campfire. A home owner left for Vancouver after dousing his campfire in which he had burned a lot of branches. His mistake was in not stirring the fire to make sure it was thoroughly soaked. The depth of coals smoldered and relit charred logs left on top. A wind sprang up fanning the fire and carrying smoke to neighbours who went to investigate. Our Fire Chief, Barry Roman, responded and will phone the homeowner with the sobering news. Had neighbours not investigated the smoke, we all might have been calling our insurance company.

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's very hard to believe yet the Fall season is immediately ahead of us and all the activities of summer will just be faded memories. It has been a busy Spring and Summer season here in the Green and Watch Lake areas. In spite of protracted wet weather at various times, tourist traffic seems increased; based on RV and Boat Traffic. It is nice to see that people are attracted to our area to seek pleasure and relaxation.

We are sure you will find this issue of the GREEN WATCH as informative as ever. Many thanks to all the directors who contributed to the content and especially to Jack Wainwright our GLARA newsletter editor. It takes much time and dedication to produce a quality document. Our AGM attendance was good with over 100 people present when the meeting was called to order. We presented a special award to Flo Gagne. it is a special privilege to have people of Flo's quality in our community and to have this opportunity to honour her.

Our AGM had presentations from BC Parks, the RCMP, BC Forest Service and GLARA Directors. Details are elsewhere in this newsletter. As we explained, GLARA will continue to work with various agencies to improve communication with our residents and members in an ongoing effort to keep everyone informed. Comments made after the meeting confirmed that people found the information interesting and in some cases startling, especially as it relates to BC Parks in our region.

GLARA feels that a good part of our role is to continually keep all members as informed as possible on all issues, regulations and changing situations that affect our area. To that end we will continue to do that through the use of this newsletter and our public meetings.

70 MILE TRANSFER STATION. by Dave Claxton

We report on the activity at the Transfer Station as often as possible. This facility is vital to our community and all residents, full and part time can make a major contribution to the ongoing use of this dump by being informed and sharing this information with their guests who may also use the facility when they are in the area. While conditions have improved since the TNRD hired a part time attendant, and upgraded signage, problems continue to persist with indiscriminate dumping. The attendant must regularly remove material that has been placed in the wrong location. The largest problem is with furniture being dumped in WOOD ONLY area. BC Environment will not permit the burning of wood debris until all other non-wood material has been removed. It is not fair to leave this nasty job with the hard working attendant who must singlehandedly move this material to the proper area!

THEY DID THEIR JOB WELL. by Gord Labinsky

I would like to throw a bouquet to Canada Post and the Ministry of Highways, both of whom did a good job in bringing about a speedy resolution to a concern I had about a potential problem at 83 Mile Creek culvert under N. Green road. In May I had stopped there to check water levels and look for spawners. I noticed the rock gabion retaining wall starting to fail (fall over). [ed note: gabion walls are stones in a wire mesh cage.] The roadway's gravel shoulder had subsided behind it. Had this retaining wall collapsed into the creek it would have totally blocked Rainbows very soon returning to spawn.

I wrote a letter to Highways, put it in our S Green mailbox Wed. morning. It was delivered to Wms Lake by Friday. The Highways Dept phoned me Friday afternoon to thank me for the letter. They had sent their people out to assess the situation and agreed that it had to be fixed quickly. Heavy equipment and personnel were mobilized and the retaining wall was fixed forthwith. The moral of this story for those who say "THEY" never listen is that sometimes they do listen; especially if you put it in writing.

WHAT DOES THAT SIGN MEAN by G. Labinsky

Several people have asked what the sign at the 70 transfer station dump "WASTE EXCHANGE AREA" means. I contacted Ken Dalgliesh from the TNRD. That is the person who should get most of the credit for the excellent work (concrete dividers, more bins, gravelled surfaces and lots of signs) to make the dump more user friendly. He said the WASTE EXCHANGE area was built after it was suggested by the TNRD contract employee who works there several days a week, that a lot of stuff was being discarded that was quite useable. The employee explained that there are some needy families in the area who might be able to use some of those items. Keep it in mind and if you think it could be used again, put it in the Waste Exchange area. The area is open to the elements, so if rain will ruin the item, cover it to keep it dry. No one can reuse a soggy sofa. It then just becomes another item our attendant has to move into the dumpster. Also remember that the Fire Halls, Snowmobile club and 70 Mile all hold fundraising "Garage sales" There are also Charity thrift shops in 100 Mile which may take your discards.

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BC PARKS : one man's opinion by J. Wainwright

Helen Farrar, Area Supervisor for South Cariboo and Ken Russell, Senior Park Ranger South Cariboo District gave a power point presentation on our area. They had surveyed and photographed inappropriate useage of Parklands that included unauthorised structures such as a board walk, wharves and fire pits. The presentation was met with very mixed feelings because while most agreed with the basic observation that Parkland was indeed being used unauthorised, many also were upset that the Parklands in question were not posted as such and so were being treated as Crown Lands. It is quite legal to camp overnight and have campfires on Crown Land. We have wilderness camped over much of BC doing just that. The mantra is to practice "no trace" camping or at least "minimal impact" camping. Some of the areas shown had fire rings indicating someone had camped there, but that was all they found. That could be called minimum impact camping. No garbage and a fire pit constructed so charcoal and ashes would stay confined. They showed no pictures of defecation. If everyone camped that way, we should have no concerns. One resident was criticized for having the audacity to mow a neat path to the lake. I noticed he must have looked after the area at no charge to BC Parks, because there was no garbage. Another was criticized for building a wharf, yet BC Parks ownership ends at the riparian area just like the rest of us. A wharf in the lake is not in their jurisdiction. The mistake was in having a plank from the land to get on the wharf. Again, the site appeared clean, no garbage. Someone other than BC Parks was keeping it clean. Some of the areas of Parkland were a surprise to me and I have had property here since 1967. The trail to Nolan lake was very muddy so someone donated time and material to put boardwalk in bad areas. That was apparently on Parkland and constituted a liability for BC Parks. On the north side a gravel pit long considered ok for public use turned out to be unposted parkland. How was one to know?

Regarding camping and campfires on the islands, in retrospect, I think they should be allowed as wilderness, unimproved camping areas. If a fire is going to get away from campers, I would rather it be on an island than on Crown land where it could spread. As well, some of us, then our children and now our grandchildren consider a night on the island to be a rite of passage and part of the experience of Green Lake recreation. It has been done for years yet there is very little scarring to show for it. The occasional green tree was marred, but you can't find an official campsite that is not the same. One of the fire rings shown had not

been used for several years. It appeared to me that BC Parks was attempting to build a case for putting all the islands off limits, with suspiciously flimsy evidence. My personal opinion is that BC Parks should have had the courtesy to first post those areas as Parkland and meet individually with property owners where they had concerns. I was not one of those targeted but felt most uncomfortable with the thrust of their presentation. I guess I have always been under the impression that Lands under the wing of BC Parks were to be managed for the use and enjoyment of the public. I was left with the distinct impression that BC Parks felt that their mandate was to protect the parks from those who would use them. Golly! The longer I live the more I learn and nothing surprises me much anymore.

Haines Island is Parkland, but other property adjacent is Crown Land where there is a nice little beach often used by water skiing groups. I don't know if tentsites are possible, but if BC Parks insists that campers cannot use the islands, then the only alternative will be to use the adjacent Crown Land — or else move to have the islands revert to Crown Lands as they originally were.

NO TRACE CAMPING ENFORCED

doing it differently by Jack Wainwright

A few years ago we paddled our canoes down the Green River in Utah. The whole area is National Parklands. There are no designated campsites. We wilderness camped and had a great experience. Some 2000 people a year take this trip yet there were no signs that anyone else had been there before us. The rule is simply: You pack it in, you pack it out and take only pictures, leave only foot prints. They are serious. All fires were to be on a sheet of iron or a metal garbage can lid. Fine ashes were discarded in the river. Charcoal had to be kept in a coffee can and burned in the next fire. Urine was to be tossed in the river. Feces had to be packed out and handed over to officials on departure. Everyday we bundled the poop in a plastic bag, sealed it, stored it in a sealed five gallon pail and at trip's end, the twelve of us had filled the pail fully. Those who fail to produce the requisite bags full are hit with a big fine. On the whole trip, we did not see so much as a cigarette butt or a gum wrapper. Enforcement is possible because the only way out is to drown in the Colorado's Grand Canyon, or hire a jet boat to take you up the Colorado to civilization. It worked so well that the only signs of human activity on the trip were the cliff houses and storage caves of the Anastazi Indians who inhabited the area cons ago at a time when the area was not so arid; and some graffiti left by early explorers. The enforcement cost much less than establishing designated campsites and biffies and left the area an unspoiled wilderness experience. ^