



THE GREEN WATCH

The Green Lake Area (Cariboo) Ratepayers' Association News Letter

Representing property owners and tenants within two kilometers of Watch and Green Lakes

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FALL 2002 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I sit down and begin the preparation of this newsletter a glance outside confirms that fall is nearly over and winter will soon be upon us. The seasons do rush by. However, the fall of 2002 will be remembered for brilliant colours and pristine sunny days that truly do bring out the unique and beautiful features of the Southern Cariboo. This is truly a wonderful place to live and play!

We hope your spring and summer here in the beautiful Watch and Green Lakes area was safe and enjoyable. Since our last newsletter was published in the spring of 2002 much has transpired and your GLARA Directors felt it would be timely to bring all of our residents and members up to date on the many issues that GLARA has been working with through the summer and fall of this year.

Those of you who attended our Annual General Meeting in August will recall that we had a very full agenda. In this edition of The Green Watch we endeavor to bring you fully up to date.

POLICING REPORT

Since the AGM there have been a number of changes with the RCMP structure. Cpl. Al Ramey who was in charge of the Clinton Detachment has been promoted and transferred to Richmond.

Further structural changes are in the works with the new regional headquarters slated for Ashcroft. From what we know now there should be no reduction in the

police officers assigned to our area however, administration will be handled from Ashcroft.

Your GLARA directors are concerned about the impact this reorganization will have on the policing of this area. As we understand it now there are currently 3 officers assigned to this region, one less than there should be. Also when the administration goes to Ashcroft, we can visualize situations that will take working officers out of this area for extended time periods during each shift. An example might be an officer stopping a suspected impaired driver. The suspect would have to be transported to Ashcroft for processing and during that time no police patrols would be conducted nor would there be a full response immediately to an emergency.

The best way for this community to be heard is for residents to write personal letters expressing your concerns and demanding that our police staffing not be reduced as part of the reorganization. Write immediately to the **District Commanding Officer, 1280 W. Trans Canada Highway, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5Y5.**

Cpl. Ramey was slated to attend the GLARA AGM in August but was delayed and not able to make his presentation as planned. He did however, provide a report for the 12-month period ending August 1st, 2002, which is included in this newsletter.

From my experience the major problem this past summer was related to the operation of unlicensed

Dirt Bikes and ATV's on our local public roads. I received many complaints from residents and had to advise the callers to report each incident to the RCMP with as much information as possible.

Cpl. Ramey advised that even if the reported information does not result in a charge, the number of reports handled has a bearing on staffing levels, therefore they encourage the public to file reports when violations are witnessed.

A rash of Break and Enters in the fall of 2001 reminds us all of the need for continued vigilance.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Cpl. Al Ramey
Detachment Commander
RCMP Clifton

Security Complaints/Complaints
Sécurité/Complaintes/Complaintes

Your File Votre

Our File Notre
Admin 125-1

G.L.A.R.A. Annual General Meeting

2002-09-10

Policing Report for the Green Lake Area - August 2002

Calls for service	12 months to Aug '01	12 months to Aug '02
Entire Detachment area	1,251	1,593 (27% ↑)
Green Lake area	53	86 (62% ↑)
% of total	4.24%	5.40%

Criminal Complaints:

	2001	2002		2001	2002
Assault (common)	1	3	Assault (domestic)	1	2
B&E	1	2(10)	Firearms Act (shoe heard)	1	1
Impaired Driving	1	--	Marijuana Grow Op	2	4
Nuisance youths	1	1	Poss'n dangerous weapon	1	--
Theft of coolers	--	1	Theft (tr. plate)	--	1
Theft from vehicle	1	2	Theft of veh (joy ride)	--	1
Uttering threats	2	2	Vandalism (eggs thrown)	--	2
Withd. drug to vehicle	--	1			

Provincial Complaints:

	2001	2002		2001	2002
Abandoned Vehicle	--	1	Dog complaints	--	2
Drunk in public	1	1	34-hr suspension	--	2
H3 & Run	--	1	Firearms complaint	--	1
Loud party	1	--	Motor Vehicle Accident	1	3
Noisy dirt bikes/ atvs	2	5	Special occasion license	5	4
Suspicious pers / veh	--	5			

Canada

WATER TESTING (GREEN AND WATCH LAKES)

GLARA has been involved in the testing of Lake Water in Green and Watch lakes for several years.

We have received detailed reports on the water samples submitted to the Ministry of Environment office in Kamloops. The actual water testing of both lakes started in 1994 and is officially named the BC Environmental Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP).

The reports we have received are lengthy and very detailed and our initial plan was to include both reports in full in this newsletter. However, the space required and related increased paper, printing and mailing costs are such that your Editor has decided to include only the key elements of each report. Should a member wish to receive a complete report please notify me and one will be mailed, or faxed to you.

Each lake has a surrounding watershed which is defined as the entire area of land that moves the water it receives to a common waterbody (in our case Green and Watch lakes).

Every component of a watershed (vegetation, soil, wildlife etc.) has an important function in maintaining high water quality resources and a healthy environment.

It is a common misconception that land-use practices that are detrimental to water quality will not have an impact if they are kept way from the area immediately surrounding a water body. This is untrue because poor land-use practices anywhere inside a watershed can eventually impact water quality.

Human activities that impact watersheds range from small but widespread "non-point" sources throughout the watershed, to large "point" sources of pollution (e.g. spills, outfalls) concentrated in one place.

Undisturbed watersheds have the ability to purify water and repair small amounts of damage from pollution and alteration. However, modifications to the landscape and increased levels of pollution impair this ability. What this means is that all people who enjoy different forms of recreation within the Green/Watch lakes watershed should be aware that even the smallest environmental damage can cause serious problems.

WATCH LAKE REPORT

Watch Lake is roughly 1.5 km long and .03 km wide with an irregular shoreline of approximately 13.6-km. The lake contains rainbow trout and longnose suckers. Landscape in the watershed is open rangeland and mixed forests of Aspen and Lodgepole pine. The lake is used for general recreational purposes with limited public access to the shoreline.

The greatest challenge to the lake is phosphorus loading. This loading may promote summer algae blooms and the spread of aquatic plants.

In most lakes phosphorus is the nutrient in shortest supply and thus acts to limit the production of aquatic life. When in excess, however, phosphorus accelerates growth and artificially ages the lake. Interestingly, Watch Lake has a higher productivity than Green Lake. It is officially classified as mesotrophic.

This year's VLMP report suggests that Watch Lake water quality is still good but the phosphorus levels have increased slightly since 1994. To ensure continuing good water quality all residents and land developments within the watershed are advised to practice good land management such that nutrient migration to the lake and its tributaries are minimized.

GREEN LAKE REPORT

Green Lake is roughly 14 km long and an average of 1.5 km in width with an irregular shoreline of approximately 57 km. The lake contains Kokanee, Rainbow Trout, Lake Chub and Longnose, White and Bridgelip Suckers. Land use in the watershed is rangeland and mixed forests of aspen and lodgepole pine.

Some residents still use lakewater as a potable water supply. The lake faces 2 major challenges including phosphorus loading and high PH levels during periods of low water.

Green Lake is described as a marl lake or a typical hardwater lake in the interior dry-belt of BC. Other examples of marl lakes are Kalamalka and Big Bar Lakes. A marl lake occurs when the lake warms and higher levels of calcium carbonate or limestone forms crystals that reflect the sunlight creating the distinct blue-green colour. Marl precipitation can remove significant levels of calcium and phosphorus from the water column. With less phosphorus in the water, algae growth is reduced, maintaining clearer water con-

ditions. Green Lake is officially classified as an oligotrophic lake.

This year's VLMP report indicates that phosphorus and nitrogen levels have not changed and Green Lake's water quality has not deteriorated significantly since 1994.

Regardless, the report points out that it is still the responsibility of all residents and land users within the watershed to practice good land management such that migration of nutrients to the lake and its tributaries are minimized.

In addition to this testing program, the Health Officer located in the Interior Health office in 100 Mile House has carried out extensive water testing at most of the public access points on Green and Watch Lakes.

Testing is done on the basis that samples should not exceed 200 fecal coliform bacteria per 100 ml of water. Reports provided up to August 1st, 2002 indicate no samples tested higher than 40 fecal coliform per 100 ml of water.

We will report on the period from August through October when the reports are received from the Health Officer.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

At the August AGM, the Health Officer, Ms Lori Frame provided information regarding the care of septic fields and water wells. Literature was provided on how to carry out septic system maintenance however, here are the key elements to good septic system management.

1. Have your tank pumped every 3-rd year. This removes sediment. Have experts check the condition of your system when it is being pumped;
2. Know where your system is, keep a map, drawings and all maintenance records;
3. Be safety conscious, be alert for sewer gases or raw sewage. Don't delay if a problem develops, deal with it immediately;
4. Practice water conservation by using low flush toilets, water saving faucets and showerheads. Your system will last longer;
5. Take hazardous wastes to the proper disposal site: never put these wastes through your septic system;

6. Avoid the dumping of RV waste and related chemicals into your system;
7. Plant grass over your drainfield and water sparingly;
8. If repairs or alterations are required, call your public health agency for advice and obtain the necessary permits.

WATER WELL MAINTENANCE.

The following recommendations for well testing and maintenance are taken directly from the flyer provided by the Public Health Office in 100-Mile House.

1. Wells and distribution systems should be disinfected yearly. Instructions on how to do this can be obtained from the local health office.
2. A basic physical and chemical test should be done once for all new wells and springs. Talk to your local Public Health Inspector to decide what testing is recommended for your well or spring. They can also help you to review any test results and recommend corrective action.

The following list will assist you in contacting laboratories that can do the required testing. They are approved for Bacteriological and Chemical Analysis:

ASL Analytical Service Laboratories Ltd.
Mr. James R Downie
1988 Triumph Street
Vancouver, BC V5L1K5
Tel 604-253-4188 Fax 604-253-6700

Eco-Tech Labs LTD
Ms Kathy Mathieu
10041 Dallas DR
Kamloops, BC V2C6T4
Tel 250-573-5700 Fax 250-573-4557

Caro Environmental Services
Mr. Jock Hawkey
#102-3677 Highway 97N
Kelowna, BC V1X5C3
Tel 250-765-9646 Fax 250-765-3893

LABORATORIES APPROVED FOR CHEMICAL ANALYSIS

ALS Environmental
Ms Carolyn Low
212 Brooksbank Ave.
North Vancouver, BC V7J2C1
Tel 604-984-0221 Fax 604-984-0218

CanTest LTD
Mr. Robert Hunter
4606 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G1K5
Tel 604-734-7276 Fax 604-731-2386

Norwest Labs
Mr Randy Neumann
#104-19575-55a Ave.
Surrey, BC V3S8P8
Tel 604-514-3322 Fax 604-514-3323

Philip Analytical Services
DR Q. Thomas Zhu
8577 Commerce Court
Burnaby, BC V5A4N5
Tel 604-444-4808 Fax 604-444-4511

100-MILE HOUSE HOSPITAL REPORT

Recently there was considerable controversy related to the possibility of a reduction in on-call funding for Doctors required to handle emergencies at the hospital.

Local citizens immediately got busy and let the Interior Health Authority and the Provincial Government know of their displeasure with this proposal. Glara sent a letter to the Minister of Health and hand distributed a copy of this letter to over 100 residents in this area, asking that they write immediately to express their concern.

Although, to our knowledge, it is still not official, the IHA appears to have backed off on this idea. We should be vigilant, as the 100-Mile House Hospital is a critical resource for this area.

On a personal note, your editor was rather unexpectedly admitted to the hospital in late September. The care and attention received from Doctors and the nursing staff was incredible to say the least. It certainly brought home to our family how important it is that we ensure this facility is maintained!

LIVING BY WATER

Recently I was in touch with Clive Callaway regarding his "Living by Water" project, past President, Dennis Tupman, began GLARA's association with this project several years ago.

Clive has now written a book about which we are pleased to include the following information.

GLARA highly recommends that all people who live on or near the water of any lake or stream obtain a copy of this book. Give it to your children and visitors to read as it will, we believe, make a big difference in how they appreciate the fragility of our lakes and streams and how they can become better stewards of this precious resource.

If you would like to learn more about shoreline living you can order the book, titled, "On the Living Edge" by contacting the Living By Water Project, P.O. box 7, Salmon Arm, BC, V1E4N2. Telephone 250-832-7405, Fax 250-832-6874. E-mail: shorelines@jetstream.net

If you live near Point Rd on South Green Lake, we have 2 copies of the book and will be happy to loan one to you if you want to know more before you order your own copy. The retail price is a very modest \$14.95 ea., plus GST and shipping. We know you will enjoy reading this book. Order your copy today!

GREEN BELT COMMITTEE REPORT

Our Green Belt Committee Chairman, Gordon Labinsky has been very busy this summer and fall working with the Ministry of Forests regarding proposed logging blocks that are located within GLARA's green-belt.

As we go to press with this newsletter Gordon reports that progress is being made to deal with the various issues that he has drawn to the attention of MOF. The cooperation from the MOF office in 100-Mile House continues to be excellent and when final changes are completed on each proposed cut block; Gordon will provide a detailed report.

You can be sure that Gordon continues to monitor all activities proposed within the GLARA Greenbelt and is working diligently as he always does to ensure your interests and concerns are effectively dealt with.

Gordon and his wife Verna departed recently for their winter home in Yuma however, we make sure he receives updates throughout the winter. He may get away from the winter but he does not get away from 'us'!

CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT/ THOMPSON NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATION

During our August, 2002 AGM a motion was made from the floor asking the Directors of GLARA to in-

vestigate the pros and cons of having the communities on both sides of Green Lake fall within the boundaries of one Regional District.

As you all know presently a line drawn roughly through the center of Green Lake divides the two communities and has the North side residents within the CRD and the South side folks within the TNRD.

The members present at the AGM passed this motion unanimously. On the surface it would seem that there would be a benefit to having to work with one Regional District rather than two. This would result in uniformity when it comes to zoning, building codes, taxation and services etc.

Your directors realize that this is a complex issue and all we will do at this point is gather information. When we have the complete package of information public meetings will be called to disseminate the information.

At the end of the day, the decision would rest with you, the landowners and tenants to decide what you want to do once all the questions have been answered.

COMMUNITY PLANNING

In June of 2002 the writer and several GLARA Directors met with 2 senior people from the Prince George office of the Ministry of Water, Land and Air. The purpose of this meeting was to walk about our community and share with the Ministry people some of our concerns related to the ongoing growth and development of our community.

Any one who spends much time here will have noted the continued building of new homes and active selling and buying of both waterfront and offshore land.

During this meeting the Ministry people suggested it would very beneficial to work with the regional districts to develop a community plan for this area. There is nothing like this in place at present, therefore the Ministry staff have nothing to use as a point of reference when looking at land development issues with our area of interest.

One thing is certain, the advantages and desirability of living in this area are continually being discovered and more people will want to settle or buy land here in the future. Having a community plan in place

that reflects the input of our residents would ensure that future land decisions made by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air would take into account the contents of the community plan.

Initial discussions with both Regional Districts indicate there is a willingness to look into this process with us. Further developments will be reported as they occur.

We would appreciate hearing your views on this issue. We welcome your calls or letters.

70-MILE HOUSE TRANSFER STATION REPORT

By now most of you will be aware of the changes implemented at this Transfer Station.

You may recall that a public meeting was held in August regarding the plans of the TNRD, at that time, to gate the site and have an attendant in place. This would have limited the hours the site was open to the public. Public outcry and concerns raised at that meeting resulted in the TNRD reversing course somewhat.

They have worked with the concerns raised and the site remains open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day while the success of a new interim plan is determined.

Mr. Don May, the Manager of Environmental Health Services for the TNRD has provided a detailed update, which is included in this newsletter. GLARA would like to thank Don and his staff on behalf of this community for his flexibility in looking for workable alternatives to the original plan.

To a major degree, the final outcome is very much in the hands of those of us who use this Transfer Station. If we all support our hard working Attendant by following the dumping directions we should be able to make the case to keep the site operating as it currently is.

Here is the memo (in full) as received from Don May on November 14th, 2002.

MEMORANDUM

TO: GLARA

From: Manager of Environmental Health Services

Subject: 70-Mile Transfer Station

Over the past few months a number of changes have been implemented at the 70 Mile House Refuse Transfer Station. To improve operations and site cleanliness. These changes are as follows,

1. The hours of operation with site attendants (Judy Clarkson) was increased from 2 part days per week to 3 full days (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) and 1 half day (Wednesday from 12 PM to 4 PM).
2. Land clearing debris and other clean wood waste has been piled and burned in accordance with the permit issued by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.
3. Construction and Demolition material, which is not acceptable for burning was cleaned up and removed from the site.
4. As of September 30, 2002 a ban was imposed on commercial and large loads of land clearing and demolition debris. According to the site attendant, local area contractors have complied with the ban, which is appreciated. It is expected that the volume of this material will be much more manageable in the future.
5. The site fencing was replaced with 6-foot page wire fencing and site gates were installed but left open per agreement made in the July public information meeting.
6. Used oil is being picked up at the site. The TNRD is working with Newalta on the pick up of this material and other waste lubricants.
7. There is ongoing removal of scrap metals, tires, batteries and white goods.

Further upgrading of the site will include signage improvements, better delineation of the wood waste drop off area and some landscaping.

We encourage all users of this site to help us by following these rules:

1. Place all refuse, including demolition and construction debris into the 50 yard blue bins and keep the lids closed.
2. Place only clean wood waste in the designated wood waste area. All man made materials should be placed into the bins.
3. Please do not disturb fridges and freezers. These items contain Freon, which is an ozone depleting substance that must be removed by qualified personnel.
4. Please do not bring waste oil or other lubricants to the site. These waste products should be re-

turned to the place of purchase. If you need more information on this call the TNRD at 1-877-377-8673 and ask for Environmental Health Services.

5. Please do not bring used antifreeze to the site. Treat the same as 4 above.
6. Haul large land clearing/demolition debris to a landfill. An informal agreement between the TNRD and CRD allows for some land clearing/demolition debris from the TNRD area to be dropped at the Watch Lake Landfill. In return some residents in the Watch/ North Green Lake area can drop residential waste at the 70-Mile Transfer station.
7. Please follow the directions of the site attendant, whether she is at the site or not. If in doubt re any particular item, call 377-8673.

TNRD staff are monitoring site conditions on a regular basis to determine if site conditions continue to improve and are maintained.

Regards,
Don May,
Manager of Environmental Health Services.

TIN CUP CATTLE GRAZING AREA

The late summer and fall presented some major confrontations between landowners and cattle. There were problems on both the North and South sides of Green Lake especially in September and early October. Most residents understand that we live within the Tin Cup Grazing Lease and the rancher who holds the lease has the legal right to graze cattle on the range.

The Ministry of Forests who are responsible for the grazing leases has been notified of the conflicts, and as in the past, has reminded us that it is still the responsibility of property owners to fence out the cattle. While we understand this, GLARA has taken a strong position that most of the residents who have experienced damage, have completed the necessary fencing, yet still have the problem.

GLARA believes it is time for a change of thinking both on the part of the MOF who administer the leases and the ranchers who graze cattle in this area. We have written to the MOF and the rancher involved and clearly stated our views on this.

One only has to make a tour of the Green Lake shoreline to note a proliferation of high-end new homes with landscaped lawns and gardens. Closer inspection

also confirms that most properties have excellent fencing and gates.

The bottom line, it seems to your editor, is that property owners have spent the money to protect their land, yet are still faced with damage. Most of this damage occurs in September and October when cattle gain access from the water or break down gates and fences.

In our letter to the MOF and the Rancher, GLARA has proposed that all cattle be removed from the South Green Lake and North Green Lake shoreline area by mid September. It seems that as the browse in these areas becomes sparse, our lawns become very attractive to the cattle. It is our view that much of the bad feeling and damage could be avoided by early removal of the cattle. So far we have not had a response however, we will continue to follow up and will keep you posted.

We don't hold out much hope that the existing lease will disappear any time soon. There will be a review and public hearing of the grazing lease, we hope in the spring of 2003. Check your weekly paper closely for the announcement. Make sure you attend and make yourself heard. Also take the time to write to the MOF in 100-Mile House, if your property has been damaged, and copy it to Canabo Cattle who hold the lease in this area. We know many of you are frustrated and angry (so are we, our property was a favoured target!), the more letters written the greater our chance of real change!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

For several years past Director Jack Wainwright has done a fine job of preparing and editing the Green Watch. Jack has retired from the GLARA board and we will miss his input and expertise.

One thing is certain, and that is, change will continue to happen and present your board with new challenges. For the time being my wife Gloria and I will do our best to follow the high standards set by Jack during his tenure as the Green Watch Editor. As I'm finding out, it is a major challenge.

We hope you will bear with us and if you see how we can improve the Newsletter please let us know.

We also welcome letters or articles from our members. If you have something let us know.

CLOSING COMMENT

AT the AGM elections in August we were fortunate in having Mr. Allan Boyd join the GLARA board. Allan brings a wealth of experience and expertise to GLARA and we all benefit from having Allan on board.

To the rest of our hard working board members I extend a big thank you for your ongoing support and assistance. To all members of this community I would like to stress that GLARA's constitution is specific in requiring that your board assists our members in hav-

ing their concerns heard about taxation, service fees, greenbelt development, crime, highways, environmental issues and community safety.

The more feedback we receive from you the members, the better we will understand what you expect of us and that we are staying on course. Constructive feedback is greatly appreciated!

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and hope you enjoy the coming winter season.

Best regards, Dave Claxton

-ARE YOU A GLARA MEMBER? IF NOT OR IF YOUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS RUNNING OUT, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFER. If you become a new member or renew by December 31st, 2002 you can pay \$30.00 and get a 4-year membership. That's a big \$10.00 discount! Or if you wish, you can renew for one year at \$10.00. Check your envelope, your membership expiry date is noted there.

Green Lake and Area Ratepayers' Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Name of member (one per lot)

(signature)

Lot legal description (if known)

fire lot number/street

Full mailing address (one newsletter per address)

Lake phone #

Home phone #

Work phone #

Fax #

E-mail address

Is cheque encl?

Makes cheques payable to Green Lake Area Ratepayers' Assn. Fees are \$10.00 per yr. or until Dec. 31st, 2002 \$30.00 for 4 yrs. Receipts not mailed, but available from our Treasurer or at the AGM. Membership expiry date is noted on mailing label. Mail to GLARA, Site Q, Comp 5, RR1, 70 Mile House, BC. V0K 2K0