



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

Past President: Dave Claston	456-2426 Fax: 456-2434	Robin Runaw	456-7703
Gordon Labinsky		Jim Klenk	456-2373
Chairman, Greenbelt Committee	456-2310 Fax: 456-2310	Joyce Dyck	456-7567
Dennis Tapman	456-2302 Fax: 456-2477	Denis Read	456-2338
Marie Kayek, Treasurer	456-2230	Allan Boyd	456-7651 Fax: 395-3778
Fred Kuyek, Water Testing	456-2230	Bruce Gilmour	222-0760
Jack Keogh	456-7725	Joanne Macaluso	456-7320

FALL/WINTER 2003 EDITION

Greetings to all GLARA members. We hope your summer and early fall have been blessed with all good things. Since our last newsletter in the spring, much has happened and we will endeavor, in this edition, to bring everyone fully up to date.

As most of you will know, I completed my 3-year term as President last August and did not stand for re-election at the 2003 Annual General Meeting. My decision was based upon the belief that every organization needs a change in Chairperson on a regular basis. This brings new ideas and different points of view that are both dynamic and healthy for the organization and members.

I am very happy to still be involved with GLARA as Past President and as your newsletter editor. During my term as President, it was a great pleasure to work on behalf of our community and to be supported by such a hard working Board of Directors. My involvement with GLARA helped me to get to know many people within and outside of, our community and to realize with certainty what a great place this is to live.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members of the board for their support and to community members who offered encouragement and advice during my term. GLARA is a great association and in our view plays a vital role in this community. Change is coming fast and furi-

ous, and it is this editors view, that the pace of growth and development here will gain momentum steadily over the next few years. Having a strong voice that can speak on behalf of our members will be ever more important in the years ahead.

At the 2003 Annual General Meeting, a number of new Directors were elected to the board. Please welcome Joanne Macaluso, Jack Keogh, and Bruce Gilmour who let their names stand and were elected as Directors for a 2-year term.

At the time of the election, no one had decided to stand for the position of President. Therefore, the new board has set up a rotating chair system that will see 4 different Directors take the Chair for a three-month period. I support this system, as it will provide wonderful experience for the Directors involved and bring the entire Board into a greater role within the association.

SOUTH CARIBOO HEALTH FOUNDATION

A report by *Alan Boyd, GLARA Director*

In February of 2002, a group of concerned residents of the South Cariboo met. Our intent was to form a local Health Foundation in order to offer a closer to home opportunity, for anyone

wishing to help maintain and augment, health care in the South Cariboo.

We subsequently formed a society of seven people, since increased to fifteen with me being elected first President. In September of 2002, we were granted a tax number from the Federal Government. In the ensuing year, we have received approximately \$150,000 in donations. In addition, we have become the beneficiaries of a large bequest from the estate of former residents, Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Lockridge.

We have determined that a suitable project would be the upgrade of the Emergency room and receiving area in the Acute Care Hospital. We are currently in negotiations with the Cariboo Regional Hospital District and the Interior Health Authority to see if this is achievable. We have also expended about \$35,000 in upgrades to the residential care area and the Celena room. We are as well, sponsoring a Falls Prevention initiative to train staff to help frail elderly folks from falling, which often shorten life spans and the quality of life.

If anyone of our readers has a question, I will be happy to answer, if I can, or find out and respond. You can reach me by calling 250-395-3778.

The South Cariboo Health Foundation Board:
 Alan Boyd President - Brian Blake - Mary Blake,
 Treasurer - Gayle Dunsmuir - Sandy Foster, Vice
 President - Ross Marks - Pam Miller, Secretary -
 Bob Scott - Alex Campbell - Dr Joanne Lapin -
 Bill Marshal - Chriss Nickless - Jeff Kendy -
 Audrey Leatham - Elizabeth Pete.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE AGM

Glara's Annual General Meeting was held at the North Green Lake Firehall on August 16th, 2003. 45 residents were present as well as Maureen Pinkney, representing the Cariboo Regional District.

Cpl. Cam Muir from the Clinton Detachment spoke about RCMP activities within our area.

Cam mentioned that \$5000 was allocated for community policing, mostly directed toward regulation enforcement on Green Lake. Generally, criminal offenses in our area are relatively low, although Cam noted this could change quickly.

Members were encouraged to be vigilant and report suspicious activity to the RCMP. Cpl. Muir confirmed that up to August 16th he had been patrolling on Green Lake 11 times. He noted that public reception was generally positive. He emphasized that illegal use of ATV's and Dirt Bikes on public roads in our area was a big headache for the RCMP. The fine for the first offense of operating an unlicensed vehicle on a public road is \$575.00 and a number of such tickets have been issued this summer.

Dave Claxton reported on the Community Planning issue and underlined why such a plan is necessary. Gordon Labinsky then followed with a more detailed report on planning. Gordon noted that the Interlakes area (CRD) has had a plan for some time and it is now being updated. A motion to pursue the completion of a formal Community plan for South Green, North Green and Watch Lake areas was put forward and approved unanimously. GLARA will pursue this with the TNRD and CRD.

Maureen Pinkney spoke briefly about the Interlakes plan and confirmed that the Watch Lake area will be dealt with soon.

Dave Claxton spoke about the BC Parks policy re campfires as compared to the Ministry of Forests. At times BC Parks will continue to allow small cooking fires in Provincial Parks after an MOF fire ban has been announced. The public was encouraged to write to MLA Walter Cobb about this. It was felt that the two Ministries should act together at all times.

Dave Claxton made mention of a call received from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air in Kamloops regarding use of Green Lake water. They noted that a license is required to pump water from Green Lake, and that they had re-

ords of only 16 water licenses being granted. Their concern is for a potential long-term drought cycle that could seriously deplete the lake level. The Ministry encouraged the prudent use of Lake Water at all times to conserve this precious resource. Other factors, especially evaporation impact lake levels also, Dennis Tupman offered to research this issue further and report.

Dave Claxton noted that up the meeting date there had been 5 acts of vandalism at the 70-Mile Transfer Station. It was emphasized that everyone needs to respect our Transfer Station and live by the posted rules. Continued abuse can, and will, lead to a locked gate with restricted open hours. (See Transfer Station hours posted later in this letter.)

Dave Claxton stepped down, as President but will continue to be involved as Past President and Newsletter editor. Dennis Tupman and the audience offered a special thank you to Dave for his dedication to this great community.

Elections were held. All current Directors stood for another term; in addition, 3 new Directors were elected including, Joanne Macaluso, Bruce Gilmour and Jack Keough. The entire list of GLARA Directors can be found on the masthead of this letter.

A written motion from a resident was read asking GLARA to support concerns about the policy related to buying out leased properties. This is a sensitive topic and involves Government policy over hundreds of lakes in the BC Interior. GLARA will do what it can to investigate and report.

Bruce Gilmour inquired about an evacuation plan in case of fire. The concern being prompted by the rash of forest fires this summer. Barry Roman, South Green Lake Fire Chief reported there is a plan in place to notify residents in case of emergency. There are multiple evacuation routes for both South and North Green/Watch lake areas.

GREEN BELT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Gordon Labinsky (Chair)

Logging: As I write this article (October 2003) the logging contractors are busy cutting the last 3 cutblocks of a group of 8 on the South side of Green Lake. This series of blocks are located between Lake Access #7 and the Bonaparte Road.

Considerable time has been spent in the past few years negotiating with the MOF staff who administer the Small Business Forest Enterprise Program to have these 8 blocks and related road systems designed to minimize visual impacts and existing trail disruption.

I was especially concerned with area of Beaver Lake, the Big Marsh, and Lesser Green Lake. Generally, I am pleased with the outcome. The MOF staff seem willing to work with us to wind up with cutblock designs that allow for harvest of Lodgepole Pine while leaving us with other species for green up purposes.

All crown lands within our Green belt, except parklands are open to future logging. GLARA has never thought of our forest inside our Green belt as no logging areas. Rather we have tried to coexist with the logging industry, and this policy has borne fruit as have been able to maintain those things that are important to us while having the economic benefits of the logging proceed.

FOREST FIRES

The past fire season has brought home to us that we live in an Urban-Wildland Interface area. We all face the possibility of the loss of our homes and possessions in a future wildfire. I am sure you do not have to be reminded of how fortunate we were this past summer to avoid a major fire. Four fires were started within our Greenbelt perimeter. Two on the North side of Green Lake, one at the east end of Watch Lake and one south of Jim Lake. Any one of these fires, had they gotten out of hand, could have spelled disaster. However, thanks to the fast

response of the MOF and the North Green/ Watch Lake VFD these fires were controlled quickly.

As a Volunteer Fire fighter for the SGLVFD, I am very concerned about the forest fire hazard here. After the major Salmon Arm fire of 1998, I wrote an article for the fall GLARA newsletter regarding "Fuel Loading". What is Fuel loading? it is the accumulation of dead and dry tree branches, standing dead timber and wind falls that occur in a forest area. This dry material greatly increases the heat and intensity of a forest fire and the speed at which it may travel. While I was pleased that some residents did clear up hazards on their lots, many more did not.

The local VFD's do not have the power to force residents to clean up the hazards on their property however, if you want to be part of the solution, not the problem, clean up the fuel loading in your own back yard. If your neighbor's lot is a concern, bring it to their attention or give them a hand to clean it up. You might even give them a copy of this article!

While this might sound strongly worded to many of you, it is a pet peeve of mine. After what happened in many communities of BC this summer, do we need any more motivation to do what we can, to avoid being burned out of our homes here? One would hope not!

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN:

Those of you who attended the August 16, 2003 AGM may remember that the membership was asked if they wanted their Board of Directors to proceed with having an Official Community Plan (OCP) prepared for the Watch, Green Lakes, and 70-Mile House area. The majority voted to proceed. Because Green Lake is divided between 2 Regional Districts, the OCP will require input and participation by both Districts. Letters have since been sent to both Districts asking them to proceed quickly. The planning process will take several years and will begin with public meetings chaired by the Regional district planner. They will explain the OCP process and through a question-

naire seek your opinion on a number of planning and zoning issues. You will be kept informed along the way as to how the OCP is proceeding. In the meantime, if you have questions, you may contact any of the OCP steering committee members, they are Gordon Labinsky, Chairperson, Bruce Gilmour, Denis Read and Joanne Macaluso. See the masthead of this letter for telephone numbers.

RANGE CATTLE PROBLEMS

Are you angry about cows in your yard?

GLARA has received many complaints this year about invasions of cows on resident properties. Fences and gates have been broken.

This problem is an ongoing one, especially in the South Green corridor.

GLARA has, over the past 10 years taken a balanced view of co-existence with cattle and residents. This year though has been an especially challenging one because of poor grass conditions and the increase, it seems, in the number of cattle especially this late summer since the calves have not been removed.

GLARA has written a letter to authorities to point out the number of complaints that we have received calling for changes in grazing practices. It is extremely important that concerned individual residents also write in order to have political impact.

One should be reminded that current law gives cattle the right of way in this area around Green and Watch Lake road allowance and crown land, providing a grazing permit is taken out. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of residents under current law to fence out cattle with a regulation fence, which is 5 strands of barbwire on sound poles. Laws and leases can be changed although it is difficult to do so, as we know. Here are the people to write to:

Mr. Walter Cobb, MLA
#2 - 487 Borland Street
Williams Lake, B.C. V2G 1R9

Ms. Jane Skelton, District Agrologist
 Ministry of Forests
 Box 129, 100 Mile House, B.C. VOK 2E0

Here is an example letter:

Ms. Jane Skelton, District Agrologist
 Ministry of Forests, 100 Mile House, B.C.
 Fax: 395-7810

Dear Ms. Skelton:

We live on South Green Lake Road. We have been full-time residents here for 12 years and, before that, weekenders for 6 years. We spend a lot of money in this area and thereby help support the local economy. We have fully fenced property on the waterfront and pay residential taxes faithfully. We have, in spite of past challenges, tried to respect and co-exist with cows free ranging in this area. Up to now, that is. We understand the law on this matter and the ranchers' rights. In other words, we are more than soft-hearted city slickers who "do not understand".

This fall, in spite of our efforts to prevent bovine incursions, cows have broken down our fences and gates, have eaten garden perennials and destroyed lawns, and of course, have left many calling cards in the process. They have caused hundreds of dollars of damage, not to mention the anxiety of knowing that every time we leave our house the yard will be invaded by the cows.

Why is this year worse than previous years? Because there is so little grass in the "free range" along the roadside. By saying this, however, the cow situation here has been a health and privacy rights issue on this side of Green Lake for years. This year we have witnessed the cows eating leaves of aspens and going to great and unprecedented lengths to get at the sweet grass on private, fenced property. This "interface" between cattle and us folks in a residential neighborhood, with increasingly upscale houses and properties (and taxes), is unacceptable. Something must be done. While the range act allows this free cattle ranging, the time has come to make changes. Millions of

dollars of residential taxes are contributed to the government treasury. Yes, the ranchers have rights; but so do we. The residents in this area are justifiably in a rage over this health and privacy issue.

Surely, it is possible to restrict cattle movement in the highway access corridor, especially when so many adjacent residents are being harassed.

The time has come to make changes, and not just expect this problem to go away. It will not - and neither will we as residents who are being terrorized by these bovine incursions.

In the past 10 years, since people were able to purchase their properties on the south side of Green Lake, many have improved the quality of their houses. Green Lake is a hot real estate market. People have also in greater numbers chosen to retire here. This problem is not going to be less - it will increase.

All of this activity has brought development and concomitant economic benefit to the area. The present anachronistic harassment by cattle in, what has become, from a taxation and from a developmental point of view, a residential area is intolerable. Note that Land and Water BC Inc., as the real estate arm of the government, is aggressively marketing the available crown land in this region.

The problem appears to be much worse each year in the late summer and fall when the grass is limited and the cattle become more aggressive in their quest for limited forage. Complicating matters is that more and more residents have fenced their property, property which was previously also used for grazing. There is, as a result, less and less available land on which to graze, adding to the aggressiveness of the cattle.

Fencing into the lake is no use because the cattle just swim around the end of the fence. So even if one fences the front of one's property the cattle still come onto the foreshore and defecate liberally.

Please, please consult your superiors on this matter and do something that will help us out. We deserve better. There needs to be a policy change about the use of South Green Lake Road's grazing permits.

Yours truly,

Dennis F. Tupman
Cc: Walter Cobb
GLARA

Editors note: We too have been victims of cattle invasions this fall and last. Substantial damage was done to our property on both occasions yet we have a fully fenced lot, other than the lake-shore, that is. I have personally written several letters to the MOF office in 100 Mile House and to our MLA. As Dennis Tupman pointed out, the only thing that will bring about regulation changes is constant pressure from residents on the politicians.

The MOF will act within the regulations as they exist, so in my view, political pressure is what is need to get the regulations revised. Next season, we like many others, will have to resort to an electric fence on our waterfront. It is our hope that it will only be required in the September/ October time frame. At best, it is a poor solution, but it does work. Perhaps this will be an option for those of you who are also experiencing ongoing major cattle damage to your property.

GREEN LAKE WATER REPORT

By *Fred Kuyek*

Water testing has finished for the year with little or no change detected. However, in the past two samplings, a slight organic smell was detected. This is quite normal for this time of year as there is no inflow or outflow of water. In addition, a slime has been noticed on the rocks in the past month. This is caused by an algae growth known as Periphyton and is usually caused by nutrients brought up by the overturning of the lake. Also, as the lake temperature increases, the calcium carbonate solubility decreases and it precipitates

and settles down to the bottom thus giving the lake the beautiful green colour.

There was some concern expressed as to what lake temperature does and do the fish start dying?

According to information, which I have received from Bob Grace, Ministry of Land, Water and Air, research has linked the death of some species (i.e. - Kokanee) to sudden changes in the weather such as severe lightning storms. If the water gets too warm, the fish will generally go to deeper water where it is cooler.

Because of the large number of cows accessing the lake, it was suggested the inshore testing of the lake be started again. I have passed this information on to Bob Grace, Ministry of Land, Water and Air and he will put in a request for funds for the 2004 calendar year to cover the cost of these tests.

Finally, a note about our rock buoy lettering. They will be replaced in the spring while the ice is still here.

Have a warm and cozy winter. *Fred Kuyek*

70 MILE TRANSFER STATION

We are sure everyone in this community is aware of the operating rules for the 70 Mile Transfer Station. However, in case there is doubt, here is an update. The upper dumping area (Blue Bins) are open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day. The lower dumping area is open only during the hours posted below. It is most important that all users adhere to the posted rules. If we all respect the rules and do our part to comply, the station will remain operating under the current system.

Unfortunately, incidents of vandalism continue to occur, and rest assured, if they continue, the Transfer Station will only be available for dumping on certain days and limited hours. No one wants to see this happen however, if the TNRD or the Contractor continue to sustain financial costs to repair damage, they will have

no choice but to act. We all have a vested interest in this so lets all do our part!

Listed below are the dates and times that the 70-Mile Transfer Station will accept items other than household refuse. Household refuse will be accepted 24/7.

HOURS	SUMMER	WINTER
	MARCH 1 - OCT. 31	NOV. 1 - FEB. 28
SUNDAY & MONDAY	8:00 am to 6:00 pm	9:00 am to 5:00 pm
WEDNESDAY	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	12:00 pm to 4:00 pm
SATURDAY	8:00 am to 6:00 pm	9:00 am to 5:00 pm



DROP IN LAKE WATER LEVELS

by Dennis Tupman

We all have noticed that the water level in Watch and Green Lakes has dropped substantially this year. What has caused the drop in the water levels?

First of all, we know that Green and Watch Lakes are a connected water system. Water flows from Watch to Green, but Green essentially has no flushing action. That is to say, that Green Lake is a huge pool of water. Therefore one of the reasons that water will drop in Watch is because it is flowing into Green Lake.

What are the other reasons for the drop in Green? The other two main reasons could be evaporation and resident pumping of water from the lake. It is possible to calculate with some accuracy the percentage of drop caused by both.

By examining bathylythic maps in our possession one might determine what is called the volume of water in a lake by calculating the acre /feet of a lake. (GLARA has the calculations for this as done by a professional engineer who is expert in pumps and water volumes, and so forth.)

If one is using a half horsepower jet pump then it will pump an estimated 6.2 gallons a minute or one cubic foot a minute. If a pump is used 6 hours a day for 90 days and there are, let's say 50 pumps working for this time, then this by mathematical calculation lowers the lake approximately .002 inches in that 90 day period. As for evaporation, the average drop in a number of lakes tested in the Cariboo has been 25 inches in the Cariboo. (It has been, as we know a hot and dry summer.)

In summary, this is the picture:

50 pumps working for 6 hours a day for 90 days will lower the total lake by 1/10 of an inch, or 0.4% of the total volume of the water dropped this year.

Having said this, it should be noted that GLARA supports moderation in the use of pumped water from the lakes. Government officials have indicated that we have been advised by Land, Water, and Air to restrict the use of pumped water to two hours a day. We are advised to water in early mornings and later evenings to maximize the effect of the watering and limit the evaporation of the pumped water this conserving energy as well.

A CLOSING THOUGHT

Having read through this newsletter, we are sure you will agree that our community, like all others in this rapidly changing world, face a host of issues. We hope this newsletter has helped you to better understand the problems and know what GLARA is attempting to do to manage the various issues.

We hope you all have a healthy and comfortable winter. The GLARA Directors welcome your input, feel free to call anyone of us if you have something to offer.

Litho'd by TOP-LINE PRINTERS

Below you will find the information required to make your GLARA membership payment. Please do it today! If you have a friend or neighbour who is not a GLARA member, share this newsletter with them and ask them to join. The more members we have, the louder our voice!

Green Lake Area Ratepayers' MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

name of member applying

signature

legal description of lot if known

fire # & street

full mailing address (one newsletter per membership)

home phone

lake phone ?

work phone ?

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

Make cheques payable to G.L.A.R.A. Fees are \$10 per year
 We are still offering a **ONE** time only bonus to members, \$30
 for 4 years. If you have already taken advantage of this offer,
 beside your membership expiry date will be a "B" (May.2007B)
 Receipts will only be mailed to you when a newsletter is being
 sent out, or you can pick them up at a General Meeting. Mail
 to G.L.A.R.A., RR#1, Site Q Comp5, 70 Mile, B.C. V0K 2K0