



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

President: Dave Claxton	456-2426 Fax: 456-2434	Robin Rusaw	456-7703
Gordon Labinsky		Jim Kleak	456-2371
Chairman, Greenbelt Committee	456-2310 Fax: 456-2310	Joyce Dyck	456-7567
Dennis Tupman	456-2302 Fax: 456-2437	Dennis Read	456-2338
Marie Kayek, Treasurer	456-2230	Allan Boyd	456-7651 Fax: 395-3778
Fred Kayek, Water Testing	456-2270		

1

SPRING/SUMMER 2003 EDITION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all GLARA members and residents of the Green and Watch Lake communities. It is hard to believe we are half way through 2003. We are overdue for a newsletter and hope to bring everyone up to date regarding GLARA's activities and other community issues in this letter. First, we would like to announce that the 2003 GLARA Annual Meeting will take place at the Snowpokes Club House on South Green Lake Road at 10:00 AM Saturday, August 16th. Please make plans now to attend. Election of officers will be held and we plan to present a wide range of important information at this meeting.

Efforts are being made now to fill the slate for the coming elections. Most of your current board will stand for office again however; I will be stepping down as President. I have been in the chair for 3 years and truly believe that the President's position should be rotated on a regular basis. New people bring fresh ideas and energy to the table, renew, and re-vitalize the organization. It is always difficult to make these decisions and even more so to find volunteers willing to take on the responsibilities however, we know there are plenty of capable folks out there. If you are ready to step up to the plate and contribute to this community, I would love to hear from you!

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES.

A complete copy of this newsletter will be mailed to all current members of GLARA. **Please check the label on your envelope (now-before you destroy it).** If your label is flagged in green, your membership expired May 1st, 2003. Please mail your cheque (\$10.00) per year to renew your membership, and send it to the address noted below. If you are a resident but not a member, you will receive the first page only of this letter. Send us your cheque for a modest \$10.00 to become a GLARA member and we will mail you a complete newsletter. Residents who are not GLARA members will note their labels are flagged in yellow.

IF YOU ARE RENEWING YOUR GLARA MEMBERSHIP OR BECOMING A NEW MEMBER FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW (DO IT TODAY!) MAIL IT TO: THE GREEN LAKE AND AREA RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION, RR#1, SITE Q, COMP 5. 70 MILE HOUSE, BC V0K 2K0

Name.....
 Address.....
 New Member..... Renewing Member.....
 Amount enclosed.....
 What years are you paying for.....?
 Do it today--Become a GLARA member now!

COMMUNITY PLANNING

In 2002, we advised you of our plans to pursue having a community plan created for our areas. We have been in touch with the TNRD and CRD on this issue and interestingly, the CRD announced their plans to update the existing plan for the Interlakes area this spring. They also indicated their intention to consult with the TNRD regarding areas like South Green Lake and the 70 Mile House that also need a community planning process. While they did not make direct reference to the North Green and Watch Lake area, GLARA wrote to the CRD to ask for these areas to be included. We have since been advised by the CRD that they recognize the need and will be pursuing this planning process.

A community plan is a vital item in the orderly development of any area or region. It provides a base line reflecting the ideas and concerns of the residents and helps government and other land use developers to make good decisions when it comes to Crown land. We will continue to follow this process and keep you posted on the outcome.

RCMP PLANNING

On May 5th, 2003 your editor attended a meeting organized by the RCMP to determine what each community's issues were regarding policing. They also used this session to update their plans for detachment reorganization. The meeting was held in Clinton and was attended by 35 people from interested organizations in the region.

The Clinton detachment will continue to be located there however, administration will be moved to Ashcroft. The Ashcroft office will provide administration for the Lillooet, Clinton, and Ashcroft members. It is hoped that this will relieve the detachment heads in each location, of their past paperwork duties, thus placing them on direct policing duties more of the time. Overall, the Ashcroft office will have about 22 officers covering the 3 regions and the RCMP expects to be able to mobilize more manpower resources where, and when, they are needed in any given area.

From a community perspective the priorities that came to light were identified and prioritized so that the RCMP could take this information and work it into their own strategic plan. These are the local issues of greatest concern in order of priority.

1. Greater visibility within each community, especially during peak tourist season. Illegal and reckless operation of Dirtbikes and ATV's seemed to be of greatest concern followed by reckless operation of Personal WaterCraft. The feeling expressed by most people was that greater police visibility acts as a deterrent if it is sustained.
2. Traffic law enforcement on Highway 97 was surprisingly the number 2 concern. People spoke of repeatedly experiencing dangerous situations on this highway due to reckless drivers. The RCMP recognized this issue and plans to deal with it this summer.
3. Youth and Drugs. Not surprisingly, this is a high priority issue with most people. Better communication in the schools and stronger enforcement seemed to be the preferred means of dealing with this issue.
4. Adequate police staffing was also a concern. The RCMP assured the people that they were not being cut back below current manpower levels but were being asked to cut administration costs and that was what the reorganization was all about.

This issue will include a report from Gordon Labinsky, Chair of the Green Belt Committee, a report on our ongoing water-testing program. Look for these reports in the following pages.

As your outgoing President I would like to thank the current Board of Directors and all the GLARA members for their

support and encouragement. It has been an interesting and challenging experience. In my view, GLARA does play an important role in our communities and if it is to continue to do so, GLARA needs volunteers to join the Board. I appeal to all of you out there who have experience, ability, and desire, to step forward. You will not regret the experience and you will help ensure that GLARA remains a force for all that is good in our future community.

Best Regards, Dave Claxton

GREENBELT COMMITTEE REPORT

by Gordon Labinsky

FORESTRY

Logging activity continues in the eight cutblocks controlled by the Ministry of Forests under the BC Timber sales program. These cutblocks are located on the south side of Green Lake, in the area of Beaver Lake and the Big Marsh and extend north south between access #7 and the North Bonaparte Road. The first section of logging roads and 3 cutblocks were completed in the fall of 2001. In the fall of 2002, the logging road was extended north and the next 2 cutblocks, lying west of the Big Marsh were logged. The remaining 3 cutblocks between Beaver Lake and South Green Lake road were put out to tender in the fall of 2002. They must be logged between Sept 1 and Nov 30 2003. This timing has been set to avoid conflicts with the summer and winter tourist seasons. Anyone interested in viewing the logged areas can do so by walking or riding the trail in from Lake Access # 7 or from the logging access road that leaves the North Bonaparte Road just west of the Jim Lake road. The largest of these cutblocks is 13.45 ha (33.23 ac) and the smallest when logged this fall is 2.85ha (7.04 ac). Total area of all blocks combined is 62.4ha (154ac). Concrete blocks have been installed on the logging road just north of where it crosses the Fire Hall Trail. The blocks have been placed to allow block access of larger 4x4 vehicles only. The intention of these blocks is to minimize damage to the riparian areas of Beaver Lake and the Big Marsh this summer by joy riding 4x4's etc. In the fall of 2002 a large 46.3ha (114.41 ac) cutblock was logged by the West Fraser Company. This block is located near the sani-station and the gas pipeline pumping station. Input from your Committee during the planning stages of the block resulted in a Wildlife Tree Patch being located along the entire southern boundary. This boundary effectively screens the cutblock from the Bonaparte road and chances are you will not even notice that a cutblock is there unless you look closely. Tree planters have already been busy fill planting in the Aspen Groves. Since this is classed as a Clear-cut with reserves, the pine and spruce were logged with fir left standing. The over mature pine in the block was susceptible to pine beetle infestations. It is our hope this logging may delay further major pine beetle problems in the lake areas. If they arrive, they will not care about Green belt Boundaries etc.!

At the 2002 AGM, I spoke about our concerns with the proposed cutblocks, which were included in the 2002-2007 Forest Service Development plan. These blocks are located near Watch Lake Lodge, another near the South West shore of Nolan Lake and the third north of Jim Lake. We had concerns about the location and size of these blocks as they first appeared on the maps. Phone calls and meetings have taken place and MOF have met with the owners of Watch Lake Lodge to look for solutions to these concerns. Time will tell how much influence we have had with regard to changes to the proposed cutblocks.

In addition, the MOF are very busy "chasing beetle infected wood". They have indicated that "new" or non-infected wood is a lower priority until they have this problem contained (if that is possible!).

Your Greenbelt Committee will continue to stay close to all new activity within the GLARA Greenbelt area. Your feedback is always welcome. Let us know if you have concerns or issues that we may not be aware of.

Best regards, Gordon Labinsky.

WATER TESTING REPORT

Our water testing Director, Fred Kuyek, has filed a brief report on early spring test results. The first test was done on May 25, 2003. On this very cold day, clarity (Secchi reading) was 9 meters. The temperature at 24 meters was 6 degrees C, at 12 meters it was 7 degrees C and at 0.5 meters a balmy 9.5 degrees C. The second test was done on June 15th, Clarity remained at 9 meters, at 24 meters the temperature was 7.5 degrees C and the surface temperature had risen all the way up to 17 degrees C. The water was clear and had no distinctive odors. Have a great summer, Fred Kuyek.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Our communities continue to lose and gain citizens. As it is for every community we miss those who leave us and we warmly welcome those who come to live here with us. Mr. Ken Callaghan, long time South Green Lake resident recently moved to Kamloops. In recognition of his outstanding service to the Green and Watch Lake communities, GLARA presented Ken with a good citizen's award at the Farewell Party organized for him. Over many years, Ken was involved in a host of volunteer projects committing hours of his time for the benefit of the people who live here. All of us extend a word of appreciation to Ken and wish him well in his new home.

A CLOSING THOUGHT

With the arrival of spring, we are again reminded of the beauty of the Southern Cariboo. Although winter gives up reluctantly at our altitude, when spring finally arrives, it does so with incredible splendor. The migrating waterfowl and shorebirds presented us with a steady procession of sights and sounds throughout the spring season. Now the Mallards, Mergansers and Geese with their young in tow, parade by our window each morning and we marvel at how quickly the youngsters grow and become self sufficient. Our bird feeder is in need on constant refilling yet the reward is viewing the feathered friends who come to dine. In particular the yellow-headed black birds with their raucous call and resplendent coloring get each spring day off to a great start.

Whether we live here permanently or temporarily, we have much to be thankful for. However, if we are to sustain the beauty around us, we must also protect it. Careless riding can easily and permanently damage our grassland areas and the riparian areas of our many lakes, sloughs and creeks. The greater our awareness of the fragility of our grasslands and forests, the greater (we hope) will be our desire to keep it the way it is through our own actions.

Have a wonderful summer!

PLAN TO BE AT THE GLARA AGM ON AUGUST 16TH.

Dave Claxton