



## 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 Claxton	456-2425 Fax: 456-2434	Robin Rusaw	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 Koyek, Treasurer	456-2230	Allan Boyd	456-7651 Fax: 395-3778
Fred Koyek, Water Testing	456-2230	Bruce Gilmour	222-0760
Jack Keough	456-7725	Joanne Macaluso	456-7320

### SPRING/SUMMER 2004 EDITION

#### EDITORS REPORT

by Dave Claxton

A big hello to all GLARA members and residents of the Watch/Green Lakes area. This is our first newsletter of 2004 and we hope you find it interesting and informative. If you are a resident of the area, but not a GLARA member, you will receive the front page only of this newsletter. If you want to receive the full report, join GLARA and we will be happy to send you a complete newsletter. (see information below with regard to memberships). GLARA currently enjoys a healthy membership in excess of 350; however, we welcome new members and look forward to hearing from you.

#### GREEN LAKE AREA RATEPAYER'S MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Name of Member Applying	Signature	
Legal Description of lot if known	Fire # or address	
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 \$10.00 per year. We are still offering a ONE time only bonus, \$30.00 for 4 years. If you have already taken advantage of this offer, beside your membership expiry date will be a "B" (May, 2007B). If the date is flagged with a marker your membership has expired. Receipts will only be mailed to you with the next newsletter, or you can pick them up at the AGM. Mail to G.L.A.R.A., R.R. #1, Site Q, C-5, 70 Mile House, B.C. VOK 2K0.

The past winter was more traditional for this area, bringing more snow and colder temperatures. In fact just after New Years, we experienced several days of -40c weather accompanied by a 7-8 hour power outage. To add to that, the phones also went down for several days. These three events coming together did cause some problems with freeze up of water systems. Homes that did not have the luxury of wood heat were chilly indeed!

In spite of the increase in snow accumulation, spring arrived in March and by early April, all the snow had melted. The ice went off Green and Watch lakes in the third week of April, somewhat earlier than normal. With the ground being very dry last fall, the snowmelt simply disappeared into the parched soil, leaving very little retained water in the ground. April brought several days of warm weather with temperatures well above +20 c. This dry trend continued until recently, bringing with it, con-

cerns about another dry and hot summer. Although recent rain has certainly helped to reduce the fire hazard, the water level of local lakes and ponds is low and the soil remains quite dry. We will address the issues of fire hazard and water conservation later in this newsletter.

We hope everyone enjoys a safe and healthy summer season. Be safe and take care of our backcountry so that it will be there for our recreation and enjoyment. Operators of 4X4's, ATV'S and Motorcycles are encouraged to keep to the trails. The range is dry and damage done by spinning wheels will never recover. Swamps are low and may be interesting challenges for "Mudders", but please remember the damage you leave behind will never repair naturally.

Also, please stay off the public roads with unlicensed ATV'S and Dirt Bikes. This activity is illegal and an accident can lead to financial ruin. North Green and South Green Lake roads are public roads, as are the Bonaparte and Hutchison roads. The RCMP have advised GLARA that they intend to step up patrols of our local roads as they have a "no tolerance" approach to the illegal operation of these vehicles on the public road systems. First offense fines are \$575.00.

### **IS YOUR PROPERTY FIRE SAFE?**

The summer of 2003 was very traumatic for many unfortunate BC residents. This was especially true for people living in Urban/Wildland interface areas. Will we ever forget the images of homes burning and folks fleeing from the fires in Kelowna, Louis Creek, and Barriere? We think not! We, somehow, were spared a major wildfire event here but perhaps that was as much good luck as anything. There were several fires within our area however; fast reaction controlled these blazes before they could get out of hand.

The warm dry weather that we enjoyed early this spring could be an indication that another hot dry season is heading our way. Should this occur, are we ready? To help ensure that we are, the provincial government contracted with Mr. Gary Filmon

to study the 2003 wildfires and make recommendations that will contribute to lowering the risk of wildfire damage in the urban/wildland interface areas of BC. The final report made a number of recommendations for action that can be implemented at the property owner level to help make our community as fire safe as possible.

The BC Forest Service, with the help of local Fire Departments, has been holding a series of meetings throughout BC to help get the message out. One of these meetings took place at the Green Lake Snowmobile ClubHouse on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Over 50 residents attended and were provided with valuable information. We will provide some of the recommendations in this letter; however, if you were not able to attend a Fire Safe meeting, brochures and fire hazard assessment forms for your property are available from any BC Forest Service office. If available, GLARA will have this literature at the Annual General Meeting in August. However, we recommend you obtain this information now so you can "Fire Proof" your property immediately.

You can help to reduce the fire hazard on your property by beginning immediately to do the following:

1. Obtain the fire hazard assessment form and carefully complete it. This will help to pinpoint the areas of concern on your property.
2. Carefully assess what is termed as the "First Priority" Zone. That is the area within the first 10 meters of your home or outbuildings. Remove lower tree branches, dead falls, and accumulated dry fuel on the ground. Rake up and remove dry pine needles and other tinder. This material is extremely flammable. Get rid of low standing brush and try to establish a tree free zone in this area. Relocate woodpiles if they are within 30 meters of a building.

3. The next area of concern is the "**Second Priority Zone**" from 10 to 30 meters out from a building. Reduce fuel in this zone by thinning trees, removing lower branches, and raking up dry fuel on the ground. Reduce or remove evergreen trees, as they are highly flammable. Encourage the growth of deciduous trees like Aspen, Birch, and Poplar. These species have very low flammability rates.
4. The "**Third Priority Zone**" begins 30 meters out from buildings and can extend for 100 meters and beyond. In this area the idea is to thin the area and remove ground fuel, making it more difficult for a fire to get out of hand.
5. Encourage green lawns.

Green lawns do provide excellent fire protection in the vicinity of your home. Keep in mind however, that during these periods of low water, it is of great importance to reduce water consumption. If you have a lawn, allow it to grow longer between cuts and then cut it no shorter than 3 inches. This helps retain moisture. Water when you must, but do not overwater!

So please, make your property as fire safe as possible. **DO IT TODAY!**

### WATER TESTING REPORT

(Green Lake)

By Fred Kuyek

GLARA Director and Water Steward

The first water test of 2004 was conducted on May 15<sup>th</sup>. The temperature at a depth of 25 Meters was 5c. At 12 Meters, the temperature was 8c and at .5 Meters it was 11c. Water clarity is very good this year. Using the Secchi test, the water was clear to a depth of 11.5 Meters or 37.70 feet. This is the best it has been in years.

New decals have arrived for the rock warning buoys. These will be replaced before the July 1<sup>st</sup> weekend. **As water levels are quite low, caution should be taken when boating to avoid rocks and other underwater hazards.**

## Have a pleasant summer!

### GREEN AND WATCH LAKE WATER LEVELS

By Gordon Labinsky, Director

#### Watch Lake

Although Watch Lake is a bit lower than usual, it is not as noticeable as Green Lake. Folks who fish Watch Lake regularly will no doubt have noticed that weed growth is more evident in shallower regions of the lake. Other than that, no significant changes are yet evident.

#### Green Lake

Water Surveys Canada maintained a water level recording station on Green Lake between May 23, 1969 and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 1995 when it was removed due to Federal Government cutbacks. I have a printout of daily water level measurements for that period.

During this period (1969-1995) the highest water level ever recorded was between May 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 1985, when the level reached 1.590 meters. The lowest water level ever recorded was on October 23, 1989 when the level dropped to 0.325 meters.

The difference between these two water levels is 1.265 meters or 4.1502 feet. This drop of 50 vertical inches of water occurred in a relatively short period, 4 years and 5 months.

The most recent high water occurred in the spring of 2002 and the lake has been dropping since then. I measured the water level on October 23/03 and May 14/04, which indicated that the lake only came up 2.5 inches with the snowmelt, which is a point for concern, should the dry trend continue. The May 14<sup>th</sup> reading showed the water level to be 24.75 inches above its all time low of 1989.

Both 83-Mile Creek and Watch Creek have very little water flowing into Green Lake. Nolan Creek is dry. There is currently no outflow from Green Lake, so our lake is now ponded-water and will quite likely remain so for several



years. Everyone should be aware, that under these conditions everything we put in the lake **STAYS THERE!** Our beautiful big pond currently has no flushing action. **We must be responsible lake users and here is how we can do it.**

1. **Do not bath or wash hair in the lake. Soap and other residue remains in the lake for years.**
2. **Do not refill outboard or inboard motors in such a manner as to allow spills into the lake.**
3. **Take from the lake "only" the water you need. Refrain from over-watering of lawns and gardens.**

**(Editors note).** The Ministry of Water, Land and Air expressed concern to GLARA in 2003 about excessive water use from Green Lake. They know that hundreds of people live on the lake waterfront in the peak season and that less than 20 water use licenses have been issued! Be prudent in the use of lake water, it is in everyone's best interest.

### **RECREATIONAL AND WATER FRONT PROPERTY**

**The times my friends, they are "a changing".**

**The residents of the Green and Watch Lakes area have been observing, for some time, the growing demand for recreational property, in particular, waterfront property.**

If you read the May 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Post (front page and page A-6) you will have a better understanding of just how great the demand is and what it implies for the future. GLARA has been saying for some time that this growth is not something we can control, but hopefully there are things we can do to help manage the process and reduce potentially negative impacts. One thing is certain, as the baby boom generation reaches retirement, these people will be heading our way and bringing bags of money and their life styles with them.

GLARA has been pressuring the Cariboo and Thompson Nicola Regional Districts to collaborate and get busy with the preparation of an Official Community Plan for the Watch and Green Lakes Region. Without one, the potential for haphazard community growth is much higher. A community plan provides a base line, reflecting the wishes of property owners in the area, with respect to future growth and development. The Water, Land and Air Inc. (the Provincial Crown Corporation charged with the responsibility of marketing Crown Land) people have advised us that an Official Community Plan, would be a big help to them in making good decisions for our area, when they are faced with land sales or development issues.

The problem is that neither Regional district seems to be motivated to move quickly on this process. They both claim to be short on resources and from what we see today, this process could take years. What we need now is political pressure to help jump-start the process.

**If you think, having a current Official Community Plan for our area is important, you can help by writing to the CRD and TNRD Directors for this area. They are: Sally Watson, Director, Electoral area E, TNRD, 200-465 Victoria St., Kamloops, BC V2C2A9, and Maureen Pinkney, Director, Electoral area L, CRD Suite D, 180 North Third Ave., Williams Lake BC V2G2A4.**

**You can also CC or write to Walter Cobb, MLA in Victoria. With enough pressure from the property owners here, perhaps we can get the planning process going.**

### **GLARA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The GLARA AGM has been scheduled for Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004 starting at 10 AM at the Green Lake Snowmobile Clubhouse.

This meeting will be of interest of all residents of the Watch and Green Lake area. Elections will be held for Officers and Directors and an

extensive agenda will be presented. Come and participate. If you are not a member, it is a good time join!

**FREE HOT-DOGS AND REFRESHMENTS  
WILL BE PROVIDED AFTER THE MEETING!  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.**

### **DRY GRASSLANDS AND HOT MUFFLERS**

During long periods of dry hot weather our local meadows and grasslands become tinder dry. Throughout the BC interior in 2003, hot mufflers coming in contact with dead and dry grass started several grass fires. Dirtbikes are especially prone to this problem due to their exposed mufflers. **If you ride one of these machines, please stay on the trails and off the rangeland or meadows. Be aware of the fire hazard.**

### **CATTLE PROBLEMS**

As this newsletter is being written the range permits for this area have taken effect and cattle have again, been released on the open range. Local citizens and GLARA have worked extensively with the BC Forest Service, the Ranchers and the Provincial Government to draw to their attention, the growing conflict between cattle and property owners in this urban/wildland interface area. As more people move and settle here, these conflicts will increase, it is unavoidable. We have also had the cooperation of the Health Inspector for this region who carried out water testing at several Green Lake access points in 2003. Unfortunately, none of the tests produced reports that suggested a cattle pollution problem. The highest fecal coliform count observed was 60 parts per million, a reading of 200 parts per million is required before there is a concern.

What this all means is that, it is the responsibility of individual property owners to fence out cattle from their land. This includes Lake Front, as increasingly, cattle are gaining access from the waterfront. While GLARA will continue to look for solutions to this problem, any major shift in urgency by the government would arise from exten-

sive political pressure from individual landowners.

While GLARA has always recognized and supported the Ranchers rights to graze their cattle, we feel that times change and the growing population in the area requires some adjustment to current policy. We do not see the need for an outright ban on range permits. However, it does seem reasonable that exclusion fencing of crown land, from which the Crown receives fees for grazing, to separate such land from recreational and residential subdivisions is a reasonable solution. **If you agree let the politicians know how you feel.**

### **SPRUCE BUDWORM AND DOUGLAS FIRBEETLE**

Until recently, our area has been spared major infestations of Spruce Budworm. This year however, has seen that change and there are some local infestations of this beetle. If you have dead or dying spruce trees on your property, contact the BC Forest Service office in 100 Mile House. They may wish to inspect the trees themselves an/or provide you with guidance on how to deal with the problem. If you ignore the problem, it will not go away, it will only get worse and spread to other areas. In the case of Douglas Fir Beetle, you may notice small piles of fine sawdust around the base of firtrees. If you note this problem on your property, also call the BC Forest Service for advice. We have been told that fast action to remove infected trees before the bugs travel, can often be effective in stopping the spread of these beetles.

### **GLARA ELECTIONS/SLATE OF CANDI- DATES**

At the GLARA AGM on August 7, 2004 elections will be held for both Officers and Directors. Mr. Dennis Tupman has kindly agreed to act as GLARA's nominating committee member and will be preparing the slate. If you would like to include your name for a position or recommend or nominate another person, please

contact Dennis at 250-456-2302. Please do so by July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Thanks for your help!

### FISHING REPORT

By Dave Claxton

The early spring in our region resulted in most of the lakes being ice-free earlier than usual. Fishing in most local lakes was quite active immediately after ice off however; it slowed down considerably in late April and early May. We believe that most of the slow fishing was related to cool water temperatures and lake turnover. As dense water from the bottom rises to the top, oxygen is in short supply for a short period and trout simply stop feeding. As the oxygen levels mix throughout the water column and water temperatures rise the fish become more active.

**Watch Lake** is producing some larger than normal trout and fish in 3 to 4 pound range are becoming quite common. Like trout everywhere, Watch Lake fish can be moody at times but for the most part, they tend to cooperate with the fishing folks. For the Flyfishers, steady action can be enjoyed in the spring season, by fishing Chironomids on a floating line. I have found black patterns in size 12 and 14 are working however, you must be patient. Allow the Chironomid to dead drift, and try to keep the fly at about 9-10 feet in depth. Wet flies are also working well, try Halfbacks, Red and Green Carey Specials, 52 Buicks and Black Doc Spratley flies. Sinking lines with a good long leader trolled slowly will normally get the job done.

For those of you that enjoy trolling, the old reliable Willow leaf and worm appear to catching fish. On a recent outing, I met a fellow who had done very well trolling small flatfish in various colors. Whatever method you use, enjoy the great local fishing. Release carefully as many fish as possible, keeping a few for a meal is a real treat, but the careful release of fish ensures more for the future.

#### Green Lake

As usual, Green Lake trout are as elusive as ever this spring. Of late I have noticed a sharp increase

in insect hatches and if that keeps up, it should bring some of the large 'Hogs' into the shallower water. If you fish with flies, look for sharp drop-offs and shoals and fish your patterns slowly along the drop offs. At this time of year I have found a Pheasant tail fly in size 10 often works, as does a Bead Head Halfback and Green Carey Special. The trick is to get the fly down deep and use a long leader of 15-20 feet. Above all when you fish Green Lake, be patient. The hits are few and far between!

I have heard reports that trollers who have the patience to stay out for long periods are getting the odd fish. Willow Leaf and worm or Willow Leaf and flatfish combinations have taken a few large fish.

Good Luck. If you enjoy a good day on the water, give me a call so I can share your fish story with our members. I can be reached at 250 -456-2426.

### WATERFOWL AND BIRDS

With the coming of spring also comes the hoard of feathered friends that either stop here on their way further north, or stay for the season. This year the Yellow Headed Blackbirds have arrived in force and their daily assault on our feeder is keeping us broke buying birdseed. Among the Yellow Head's are many Red Wing Blackbirds, Grosbeaks and smaller birds to numerous to list. Geese are here in large numbers and already we have three pairs with young parading along the waterfront each day.

With so many young birds on the water, boaters should try and give these feathered families a wide berth. Between eagles, hawks and loons these parents face plenty of challenges trying to raise their young. We share the lake with the waterfowl, so lets try and help them along.

### 70 MILE DUMP AND TRANSFER STATION

Most of you will know that our transfer station has undergone a number of changes over the



past 2 years. Recently the TNRD sent an information flyer to all local residents who reside in the TNRD area. This flyer provides a complete history of the problems experienced at the site. While the TNRD is currently satisfied with the operation, there have been several incidents of vandalism, that were costly to repair. If you happen to witness any person or persons carrying out acts of vandalism, do not confront them, but immediately contact the RCMP office in Clinton and describe what you witnessed.

Continued cooperation of all users of this facility will ensure the blue bins will remain open 24/7, which in our view is vital to this community. Should the Regional District ever decide it is necessary to restrict access to the site to certain days and hours, there is no doubt in our minds that garbage will be dumped along road sides and at the site gate.

#### GLARA MEMBERSHIP

As mentioned earlier, GLARA's membership is increasing. We find this very gratifying however, we also know there are many more property owners within our area of interest, who are not yet members. The more members we have, the louder our voice will be when GLARA is addressing local issues with various levels of government. Below you will find the details of our fees. You will note they are very modest and we still offer a special rate of \$30.00 for 4 years membership. This is a \$10.00 saving over the annual rate of \$10.00 per year. If you are not a GLARA member, take the time now to fill out the membership application and mail it in today.

#### GREEN LAKE AREA RATEPAYER'S MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Name of Member Applying		Signature
Legal Description of lot if known		
		Fire # or address
Full mailing address (one newsletter per member)		
Home phone		
Lake phone		Work phone
Fax available?	E-mail address	is cheque encl?

**Make cheques payable to G.L.A.R.A. Fees are \$10.00 per year. We are still offering a ONE time only bonus, \$30.00 for 4 years. If you have already taken advantage of this offer, beside your membership expiry date will be a "B" (May, 2007B). If the date is flagged with a marker your membership has expired. Receipts will only be mailed to you with the next newsletter, or you can pick them up at the AGM. Mail to G.L.A.R.A., R.R. #1, Site Q, C-5, 70 Mile House, B.C. VOK 2K0.**