



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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SPRING/SUMMER 2005 EDITION

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by *Alan Boyd*

Greetings everyone, I hope you all wintered well and are looking forward to another great summer season in the Green/Watch lake area. This report will be brief as we are currently "very busy" with the construction of our new home in the North Green Lake area. If you have been through this yourselves, you will know there are many surprises!

GLARA does face plenty of challenges in the immediate future. Our region has become a favored destination, more folks are coming here to recreate and retire. Moreover, why not? The scenery, lakes, and overall amenities in this region are without equal. For that reason, I am solidly behind GLARA'S efforts to get an Official Community Plan completed. As you will read in a later report in this newsletter, we have not had the hoped for support from both Regional Districts, so if you personally feel strongly about the need for an OCP, let the local politicians know. GLARA will continue to lobby hard on this issue and we are actively looking for other sources of funding.

I would like to stress that GLARA is only as strong as the united force of our members. If you are not a member now, please take the time and

join now. In addition, if you want to get directly involved in shaping our future community, stand for election to the GLARA board. Mark the date of the Annual General Meeting on your calendar and make plans now to attend.

Please note, if you are a GLARA member you will receive a complete newsletter. If you are not a member, but have an address within our area, **you will receive the front page only. To get the rest, simply write a cheque, mail it to GLARA and the complete letter will follow. Send your cheque today. (\$10.00 for one year, \$30.00 for 4 years) to G.L.A.R.A., RR#1, Site Q Comp 5, 70 Mile House, B.C. V0K 2K0. Please include your full mailing address, fire lot #, your full name, home phone, lake phone, fax and e-mail.**

I have always taken a keen interest in the health and well being of our citizens and have served in a number of organizations that work in support of our local hospital. The current expansion of the Emergency ward at the 100-Mile Hospital is very gratifying. The upgrade now in progress is substantial and will provide greater privacy and capacity to deal with emergency care. To all the folks who have worked so hard over the years for our hospital, we thank you.

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

By *Dave Claxton*

Hello again to all GLARA members and members to be! We have put together a wealth of information for this issue of *The Green Watch* and we hope you will find it interesting and useful. In this issue look for:

1. A report from your President, Mr. Alan Boyd.
2. Information from Gordon Labinsky, Green Belt Committee Chairperson regarding the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation now ravaging our local stands of Lodgepole Pine.
3. A report from Gordon Labinsky about the status of the Official Community Plan.
4. A report from Fred Kuyek regarding the water testing program for Green and Watch lakes.
5. Anecdotal information from your Editor covering septic system permit/construction changes, traffic issues (re dirt bikes and ATV's), beaver populations and damage in the Green lake area, real estate trends and the impact on waterfront values, plus details of the GLARA Annual General Meeting that will take place at 10 AM on Saturday August 20th, at the Watch Lake Community Hall.
6. An interesting article by Gordon Labinsky about a local dog that loves to swim in Green Lake.

WATER REPORT FOR GREEN AND WATCH LAKE by *Fred Kuyek*

The data collected for Green and Watch Lakes over the past four years indicates that the water quality has remained relatively stable in terms of Secchi depth readings and nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations. Testing will continue for 2005 and in addition, pH levels will be taken at all three testing depths. In addition, ice-on and

ice-off dates will be recorded for climate control studies.

The rock warning buoys currently placed in two locations of Green Lake have been relabeled and reinstalled in their respective locations.

Many thanks to Michele Kuyek for her ongoing assistance and to Norm Rastad and Ralph Cole for their continued monitoring of Watch Lake.

Green and Watch Lakes may well be two of the most beautiful and critical lakes in the Cariboo. Those of us who live and play here must all share the responsibility for ensuring these lakes remain pristine and a healthy ENVIRONMENT for fish, waterfowl, insects, animals, and people! These are some tips on how to keep Green and Watch Lakes healthy. The BC Lake Stewardship Society and the Provincial Government Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection developed the guidelines.

1. Minimize the disturbance of shoreline areas by maintaining natural vegetation cover.
2. Replant lakeside grassed areas with native vegetation.
3. Do not import lakeside fine fill.
4. Do not use fertilizers in areas where the potential for water contamination is high, such as sandy soil, steep slopes, or compacted soils.
5. Do not apply fertilizers or pesticides before or during periods of rainfall, due to the likelihood of runoff into the water system.
6. Have your septic tank pumped out every 2-5 years by a septic service company. This will help extend the life of your field, ensure it is functioning properly, and minimize the possibility of leeching of septic water into the lake.
7. Use phosphate free soaps and detergents.
8. Refrain from dumping chemicals down your drains, as they can kill the bacteria that make your septic system work!
9. When boating, never throw trash, cans, bottles, or unused food overboard.
10. Never use the lake as a toilet!

11. Never use the lake as a bathtub, the soap you introduce to the water remains there for years, along with any other foreign bodies you may deposit there.
12. Fill gasoline containers where any overspill will not contaminate the lake water. Gasoline, especially mixed fuel, spreads over the water surface and prevents insects from hatching, pollutes waterfowl, and eventually can have a negative permanent impact on the lake water and bottom sediment.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, BE A WATER STEWARD, AND HELP US PRESERVE OUR LAKES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

GREENBELT COMMITTEE REPORT
by *Gordon Labinsky.*

Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation and Spruce Budworm

Visitors and part time residents of the Green/Watch lakes area will be shocked when they view the spread of Mountain Pine Beetle kill within our area. Those of us who reside here full time have observed with growing concern, the steady and pervasive march of these pests, who are now clearly out of control. Add to this the growing threat of Spruce Bud Worm spreading here as well and it does not bode well for the local stands of Lodgepole Pine and Spruce.

Our area was spared for some time however, this spring the damage done by Mountain Pine Beetle is obvious. These insects are now found throughout the 100-Mile Forest District, to such an extent that only a lengthy period of extremely cold winter weather can halt their progress. Viewscapes throughout our area are changing dramatically and are a cause of great concern to the writer. If left unchecked by very cold winter weather, I think we should prepare ourselves for a big change.

A recent article in one of our local papers stated that computer modeling of the rate of spread of this outbreak (if left unchecked by weather) indicates that by 2008 we will lose no less than 50%

of our Lodgepole Pine stands in BC and by 2013 this could reach 80%!

GLARA formed the Greenbelt Committee several years ago to focus on reducing the impact of factors that would diminish your enjoyment of local forests. This was done by working with the Forest Service and Forest Companies to minimize visual impacts, and provide generous leave strips that would buffer areas to be logged. In some cases cutblock boundaries were changed to accommodate our concerns.

We received some criticism from residents who felt we should have lobbied for zero logging in our area. Your GLARA board did not support that position as we felt that the local crown forests could be logged in such a manner to provide the economic benefit of the harvested wood while protecting the scenic values we all wanted to preserve. The target species for logging were Lodgepole Pine and Spruce, many of which, in our local forests were overmature. Ironically, the Pine Beetle and Spruce Budworm are targeting these very species. They especially like to go after these overmature trees. The logged cutblocks have all been replanted and the young trees are much less vulnerable to bug attacks, so, in the long run, it will be beneficial to have had these trees removed before they were infested.

The BC Forest Service faces a huge challenge to mount a viable salvage logging operation to remove the bug killed wood as quickly as possible. Within our area, the Forest Service and BC Parks have already removed some infected trees and they continue to monitor the situation. Sadly many of us are finding dying Pine trees on our private property. These trees will not recover and it is every property owner's responsibility to contact a local BC Forest Service office and obtain advice as to how to deal with the infected trees. Leaving them standing is not a solution, as they will become a safety hazard to you and your neighbors.

We are observing nature take its course and while it is upsetting to see it happen on such a scale, eventually the infestation will run its course. Certainly, for those of us who burn

wood, there will no shortage of standing dry pine for some time to come.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN. (OCP)

In past newsletters we have kept you informed regarding progress with the two Regional Districts toward the completion of an OCP for the Watch/Green Lake and 70-Mile House area. GLARA members voted in favor of this idea at the last GLARA AGM. Director, Dennis Tupman wrote an excellent question and answer article on this subject that was published in the fall 2004 newsletter.

On July 15th, 2004 and again on August 20th, 2004 a GLARA committee made presentations to the CRD and TNRD respectively. Although these presentations were met with some interest from the Regional directors, no firm commitment was received from either Regional District. It always comes down to funding or a shortage of staff, and that is the position both Districts are now taking. In addition, other regions are in the que ahead of us with the result that not much is happening on this file.

GLARA will be pursuing other potential funding sources in the hope of moving this process ahead. We will keep you informed.

Your GLARA board feels that having these OCP'S completed is of great importance. If you own property here, especially lakeshore, you will know that land values are spiraling upwards and this pressure will continue. The Baby Boomer retirees are coming and we very much need to have a clear community based plan that will help control future development to ensure current natural and pristine water values are maintained. We have had zero feedback from you, the GLARA members, on this issue so let us know what you think, either in writing, or at the AGM in August.

THE GREEN LAKE SWIMMING DOG

If you are boating on the area of Green Lake near the east end of South Green Lake road, be aware that we have a marathon swimming Chesapeake

dog that lives in the 1300 block. It just loves to swim solo in Green and Nolan Lake. The dog is a dark reddish brown and has been observed swimming across Green Lake and back!

The only problem is that when the dog is out for a swim, which it does regularly, it tends to bark and yelp like it is in trouble. Because sound carries long distances over water, people on shore think the dog is in trouble, which is not the case. I thought the same thing last year when I attempted to rescue the animal. The size of the dog (80-100 pounds) would make it difficult and even dangerous to lift it into a small boat.

In the first week of May this year, I noticed a Good Samaritan go out in a canoe to assist the dog. Obviously, this early in the year the cold water presented a major risk had the canoe swamped. Fortunately, this good citizen's better judgment stopped him before it became a problem. So should you see or hear our "swimming dog", let him be, he really does love to swim!

ATV'S, DIRT BIKES AND PUBLIC ROADS

The season for folks to get out on various outdoor machines is here again. Visitors and residents alike enjoy riding the many kilometers of trails available in this area. The RCMP have confirmed that again this year, they will looking for people who continue to ride these unlicensed machines on local public roads. (See 100 Mile Free Press, June 22nd Edition and the ADVISOR dated June 24th. The RCMP issued fines in the amount of **\$736.00 each** to 2 juveniles aged 13 and 17 for driving uninsured and unlicensed ATV's on public roads.)

Riding ATV's or Dirtbikes on public roads is a serious offense. It puts riders and the public at risk should an accident occur as no insurance coverage exists. Local residents regularly witness these machines being driven irresponsibly on both North and South Green Lake Roads. When descriptions of the vehicle or rider can be obtained, these incidents are being reported to the RCMP.

With many miles of good riding trails available, please use them. Also, protect the environment by sticking to the trails, stay out of swampy areas and grassy meadows. Damage done by tires takes years to recover.

GREEN LAKE BEAVERS ARE BUSY!

The beaver population in Green Lake is currently at a very high level. If you travel the shoreline by boat, you will notice a number of new lodges, especially in the bays south of Point Road. These guys have to eat, and eat they do! In some locations they are successfully "clear cutting" Aspen stands. In one area, I noticed they had leveled eight large Lodgepole pines. Since they do not eat the bark of these trees, I can only surmise they were either in "training" or had a powerful urge to cut down trees!

If you have Aspen stands in your yard, and you live near the water, we recommend placing chicken wire around the base of these trees. We would have lost several trees this past fall had we not done this as I could see tooth marks where they had tried to take down the trees even with the wire protection.

Beaver populations do rise and fall and although they are trapped, the impact on the Green Lake population has been minimal. If you are experiencing problems with beaver damage call the local Conservation Officer in 100-Mile house and register your concerns. Perhaps enough of this type of pressure will result in some action to reduce the population.

SEPTIC SYSTEM REGULATION CHANGES

In all rural areas, especially along lakeshores, the proper functioning of septic systems is a major concern to residents as well as the BC Department of Health. No one wants to be responsible for allowing septic pollution into our lakes through old or inadequate septic tanks or fields. In BC, the regulations governing the installation of new systems have been changed. One major focus of these changes is to place greater respon-

sibility upon the contractors to ensure fields are completed within the regulations.

If you are concerned about your existing system or plan on installing a new one, we encourage you to call the Provincial Government Health Department in 100-Mile House for more information. You can also drop in there and pick up brochures that provide the needed information.

WATER WELL MAINTENANCE

Most residents of the Green/Watch Lake region are fortunate to enjoy high quality water from their drilled wells. Water wells do require maintenance and the BC Health Guide recommends testing well water for bacteria twice a year and the periodic disinfection of wells.

The Health Pages in your Cariboo Chilcotin INFO BOOK include complete instructions for disinfecting your well, abandoning an old well, and regulations governing well locations on your property. We recommend you read and use this information.

** If you use lake water, please be aware that Green and Watch Lake water is not acceptable for human consumption, unless it has been boiled for the required time. While both lakes have water of very high quality, the possibility for water borne infections is a reality, do not take a chance!

LOCAL DEER POPULATIONS HAVE EXPLODED

While we always have a substantial Mule Deer population here, this year they seem to be everywhere. For the first time, we are sharing our garden with them. This, in spite of our rather laid back old Labrador (Fraser), who seems content to simply be an "observer". The big problem this creates is the danger of hitting deer while driving local roads. More than ever, take a bit of extra care, slow down and avoid the potential injuries, vehicle damage, and suffering of the deer that get hit. Some times these accidents are unavoidable, but a bit less speed will usually allow one to stop in time.

SOUTH GREEN LAKE CATTLE EXCLUSION FENCE

This project was not a GLARA undertaking however, it is now complete, and while not all of local residents supported the fence, for the most part, residents seem well satisfied with the result. There was a lot of work involved and the commitment of everyone who helped is appreciated. GLARA Greenbelt Chairman and Director Gordon Labinsky was instrumental in getting this project off the ground, and Barry Roman lead the charge for Phase 2 of the project. If you support the fence, but have not as yet, made your donation, please do so. Contact Gordon Labinsky (456-2310) or Barry Roman (456-2334) for details.

The fence was designed and built to accommodate everyone who uses the trails on the south side of Green Lake. Yes, in some locations, there is the minor interruption of stopping to open and close a gate, but for most of us, the benefit far outweighs the small inconvenience. If you enter the trail system through one of the gates, please ensure you close it after you go through.

BE AWARE OF BEARS

Bear sightings throughout our area have been numerous this spring. At the same time, Black Bears have been responsible for several terrible unprovoked attacks on people in recent weeks. These animals are unpredictable, for your own safety never approach them to take photos. Keep your distance at all times. You never know if a Sow may have cubs nearby, if she does, she will protect them if she perceives you present a threat. Young rogue males can be very aggressive at times as well, this year the attacks have been by these younger males, and have come without warning.

If you regularly hike the local trails, equip yourself with a bear whistle or bear spray. If you encounter a bear, avoid running away, back up slowly, and exit the area slowly and quietly. If attacked, make yourself as large as possible, raise your hands above your head and shout loudly.

This action can often deter an attack. The best safety program is to avoid bears you do see in the wild. Getting closer for a photo op is just not worth the risk involved.

BOATING SAFETY

We have covered the boating safety regulations in several previous newsletters. If you do not yet have your boating permit, the final deadline is fast approaching. Everyone operating any type of boat will require a license by 2009. If you require a copy of the Boat Pro Manual, send a cheque for \$10.00 to GLARA (see address on front page), include your full name and address and we will send one to you.

REAL ESTATE

Local property values have increased dramatically in this area. Waterfront property has been especially active and this is reflected in both assessed values and property taxes. With little new waterfront available in the Cariboo, offshore land is now the focus.

You can see the trend with the number of Crown offshore lots that have been sold on the South side of Green Lake. Local Real Estate Agents tell me real estate prices throughout B.C. are high, however, waterfront property in regions within 4-5 hours of the Lower Mainland has truly "gone nuts". This is the typical good news/bad news story. If you sell you get a good return, but when you buy you pay more! If you stay put you get to pay higher taxes! Sound like life in general!!

CARIBOO WEATHER

Everyone is asking, "what is going on with the weather". While our local climate is unpredictable (if you do not like it, wait 5 minutes), this year it seems more volatile than ever. In April it was warm and balmy and seemed to be leading to another hot and dry summer. However, in mid May it all changed and plenty of rain has fallen. Overall we think this is a good thing. The lakes can stand the inflow of fresh water and ground water levels have improved substantially.

Who knows, we may yet experience a dry hot summer. Use of lake water should be done prudently by watering lawns etc. in the early morning and late evening. The major benefit of all the rain is the proliferation of growth out in the forests and meadows. Wild flowers are very colourful, especially Indian Paintbrush and Saskatoon crops should be heavy. (** this is another reason to be aware of bears. They will be attracted to Saskatoon patches when they ripen in July.)

WATCH LAKES/GREEN LAKE FISHING DERBY

On June 4/5 this major event attracted 180 anglers. Everyone had high expectations, in part due to the larger than normal trout being yielded by Watch Lake. To our collective chagrin, only 21 fish were weighed in over the 2 days and none were recorded from Green Lake. The surprise was that the winning fish from Watch Lake weighed in at over 6 pounds confirming the recent trend to larger but fewer fish. The good news was the great weather that helped make up for the slow fishing.

BREAST CANCER FUND RAISER

The Friends of Green Lake are sponsoring a **Spaghetti Western Evening at the Green Lake Snowmobile Club House on July 16, 2005.** Happy hour is at 4.00 PM (BYOB) and dinner follows at 5.00 PM. Don your Western garb, enjoy a great spaghetti dinner and listen to country music by Ernie Doyle and Friends.

Local part time resident, Franca Burns is doing a 60 K walk on August 19th and 20th. This event is to help sponsor Franca and raise funds for Breast Cancer Research. Cost of the evening is by donation. Donations of \$10.00 or more will get a receipt.

Club house seating is limited to 100 people. RSVP to Gloria Claxton @456-2426. Call early and reserve your seats before they are all gone. This evening was also advertised in a flyer inserted in the June 24th edition of the Advisor. We

regret if all seats are gone by the time you read this however, your donations are still very much needed and appreciated. Call Gloria Claxton for details as to where to mail your donation.

JOINING G.L.A.R.A.

If you are not a member now, but plan to become one, complete the information below and mail the completed form, along with your cheque, to the address indicated. Share this information with a neighbour and encourage them to join as well. 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 fire # & street

Full mailing address (one newsletter per membership)

Home phone Lake phone Work phone

Fax, E-mail address, is cheque enclosed

Please make cheque payable to G.L.A.R.A. Fees are \$10.00 per year. We are still offering a ONE TIME ONLY BONUS to members, \$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). Receipts will only be mailed to you when a newsletter is being sent out, or you can pick them up at the General Meeting. Mail to G.L.A.R.A. R.R. #1, Site Q, Comp 5, 70 Mile House, B.C. VOK 2K0

See back page - This page is designed for you to copy and post on your property. It will help visitors and residents alike assist in keeping our lakes pristine.

HELP

KEEP OUR AREA LAKES

SAFE

CLEAN

POLLUTION FREE

PLEASE

NO SOAPS, DETERGENTS, SHAMPOOS, etc.

**There is no flushing action to these lakes
What you leave accumulates**

DISPOSE of garbage and fish entrails in a proper container or
at local dumps at 70 Mile or at Watch Lake

RESPECT OUR ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE

**Thank you,
Green and Watch Lakes Area Ratepayers' Association**