



THE GREEN WATCH

The Green Lake Area Ratepayers' Association News Letter

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

Alan Boyd, President	456.7651	Robin Rusaw, Director	456.7703
Dennis Tupman, Director	456.2302	Fred Kuyek, Water Testing	456.2230
Lorie Flemming, Secretary	456.7566	Joanne Macaluso, Director	456.7320
Murray Bymoen, Director	456.6001	Bruce Gilmour, Director	456.2140
Dave Schwarz, Director	456.2317	Lorrie Fleming, Secretary	456.7566
Jack Keough, Director	456.7725	Angela Wynton, Director	456.6070
Marie Kuyek, Membership/Treasurer		456-2230	

AUTUMN 2006

PRESIDENTS'S MESSAGE

From Alan Boyd

Greetings to all Green Lake and Area Ratepayer's Association members!

Another beautiful Summer has come and gone. Fall is upon us with **SNOW FLURRIES** predicted for tomorrow. Our slower, quieter seasons are coming and welcomed by many of us as we prepare for Winter. Some of our residents will leave us for sunny, warmer climes, but much of the work in progress by the G.L.A.R.A. Board will continue. We will press the Regional Districts to complete a comprehensive Water Study, in order that well informed decisions about our Lakes can be made.

We will work with all our residents and the two Regional Districts to set in place *The 70 Mile, Watch and Green Lakes, Official Community Plan*; which we have recently been advised has been accelerated by the addition of some provincial funding, and has moved up the list of priorities for the regional districts. We of the G.L.A.R.A. Board welcome and look forward to this evolving process.

I wish to welcome to the Board two new members - Murray Bymoen and Dave Schwarz - both of whom are up and running in our processes. I also wish to sincerely thank retiring Directors Joyce Dyck and Jim Klenk for their many years of dedicated service to our Community. Their experience and expertise will be missed. However, I am sure they will be prominent in other areas of the Community. I would be remiss if I left out the returning Board Members, whose unflinching efforts in formulating our direction and fulfilling our goals makes the job of President a piece of cake!

Thanks to all of you for your help and consideration in working towards the maintaining and improvement of **OUR COMMUNITY**. Enjoy your Winter and have fun, laugh a lot, get caught up on your HONEYDO LISTS and HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON !!!

THE BADGER PROJECT

By Roger Packham

The Cariboo Region Badger Project (2003) was initiated to provide ecological information on badgers occurring at the northern periphery of their range, and to support recovery goals for the species. An additional objective was to develop an effective method to remotely inventory badgers using hair collection for DNA fingerprinting that could be implemented across the province. To meet these objectives we recorded burrow locations and observations of animals reported by the public, we established Wildlife Habitat Areas (WHAs) around burrow concentrations and key habitats, and we collected hair, both snagged and shed, for DNA fingerprinting. Using this information, we were able to identify individual badgers, estimate their home range areas, their movements, and gain a better understanding of badger ecology in the Cariboo region.



Two young badgers near their burrow. Although they look cuddly-cute, badgers can be very feral and nasty.

For more information and to find out what you can do to protect badgers visit www.badgers.bc.ca

Since 2003, we have recorded a total of 680 burrow and badger sightings in five eco-sections of the province. Twelve WHAs have been proposed over a total area of 797 ha, and best management practices have been developed to improve or maintain habitat conditions. Using DNA fingerprinting from hair collected, we were able to identify 37 badgers - 21 males, 14 females, 2 undetermined - in a total of 207 burrows. Unfortunately, five of these badgers were killed: one accidental trapping, three highway mortalities, and one suspected road mortality. In 2005, at least one family group of 5 badgers was documented with some certainty. We were able to calculate home range areas for 17 badgers over several locations. The largest home range calculated was 280 km² occupied by a male badger, and the next largest was 190 km² occupied by another male badger. We found that badgers are using large home ranges as in other regions of the province, and that while badgers (and their burrows) are more abundant in grassland areas, they also use openings in agricultural fields and openings in forests, such as dry knolls.

Remote hair collection proved to be an effective way to collect genetic information, from hair follicles, for DNA fingerprinting. The viability of our samples, that is the percentage of identifications made, improved dramatically in the third year of collection. This likely was due to the style of hair snag used (*pinned knap lock*) that was effective at pulling sufficient hair from the badger, and by avoiding any exposure of the hair samples to moisture (*i.e. inclement weather*). While snagged hair provided more viable samples, shed hairs were an efficient source of genetic material for DNA fingerprinting, and can be collected without a formal methodology. However, as more individuals are identified in future inventory programs, additional markers should probably be developed.

For more information regarding the Badger Project or to report an unmarked badger burrow sighting please contact Roger Packham at 395.7853 or for a complete report of the study and his findings visit the website at www.badgers.bc.ca/pubs/Cariboo-badger-2004.pdf.

WATER REPORT

By Fred Kuyek

WATER TESTING – Testing continued this year on Green Lake and Watch Lake. On Green Lake temperatures were taken at 24m, 12m and .05m. On Watch Lake, temperatures were taken at 9.5m and at 0.5m. In addition, pH levels were also taken. On Green Lake the pH level was 9 for all depths and on Watch Lake the pH level varied from 6.8 on the bottom to 7.4 at the top. Secchi testing was also conducted on both lakes. On Watch Lake the water was clear to 4.5m and on Green Lake it averaged at 9.5m. No actual water samples were taken this year, but if the level of the lake drops dramatically water samples will be taken. However, periodic water chemistry testing will be conducted every few years as suggested by the Ministry of Lands, Air and Water.

WELL CLEANSING - Some of our membership has concerns about a bad smell in their water after having not used their wells over the winter months. Wells and their distribution systems should be disinfected on a yearly basis. We have enclosed a pamphlet from the Ministry of Health that explains how to disinfect your wells. In addition, microbiological testing should be done every 1 to 2 years depending upon the construction and history of your well. Microbiological testing tests for total coliform bacteria and fecal coliform bacteria. Sampling instructions can be obtained from **Eco-Tech Laboratories Ltd.**, 10041 Dallas Drive, Kamloops BC, V2C 6T4 or telephone 250-573-5700. Sterilized bottles for this test can be obtained from **Fred Kuyek at 250-456-2230.**

HINTS FOR SHORELINE PROTECTION

Soften your shoreline - improve erosion protection with native trees, shrubs, grasses and aquatic plants.

Create a "dry land" beach above the high water mark; let imported sand erode away naturally and native plants grow back.

LIVING BY WATER

From the Editor

I was exploring the web and discovered a remarkably interesting site. It is so relevant to us and directly responds to many of the questions and concerns we have here on the lakes. Briefly, from their website, is an outline of what they are about - 'The Living by Water Project was initiated in 1997 by two shoreline residents from British Columbia. Their mission - "working towards healthier human and wildlife habitat along the shorelines of Canada". If you are a shoreline resident, they are committed to helping you obtain information to protect your property, prevent problems like erosion, and protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat. They do this by working with, and providing support services to, groups that help shoreline residents like you. Take a trip to the website and see what *you* can do to improve and protect *your* shoreline and be an active *water steward*.' www.livingbywater.ca.

SIGNS

Ol'Yardley has some important things to say to people to ensure we take good care of Green Lake! Mention our GLARA signs to visitors, friends, and family! New signs are at the junction of 83 Mile Road and North Green Lake Road, and at the junction of Watch Lake Road on Pioneer Lane at Banks Road. Look for another new sign next spring at the Green Lake information rest stop on N. Bonaparte Road!



SO WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THE PINE BEETLE?

By David Schwarz, R.P.F.

As a new director of GLARA, and having some knowledge of forestry and the Mountain Pine beetle situation, I was asked to address this issue in the fall newsletter.

So what can you do about the pine beetle situation in and around Green Lake? Quite frankly, nothing. Not what you wanted to hear, I know. The Mountain Pine beetle is a natural forest pest. With warm winters and an abundance of mature pines, these little creatures have taken over our pine forests and killed them. There are no sprays that can be applied because they live and survive under the bark of the tree. They fly in mid-July for a few days when the conditions are right, so timing would be everything. The only way to suppress the population is by very cold temperatures (-35 to -40C) in October and the same temperatures continuing through the winter months for a sustained period of at least 10 days. I can't remember when that has happened in recent history. The most recent I can remember was in the mid-1980's.

The only means of reducing the population is through harvesting (logging), burning, and in small isolated situations a pesticide can be injected into the affected tree with a Hydro-Axe. This is a lethal injection and needs to be applied soon after the tree is attacked. This pesticide is known as Monosodium Methane Arsenate (MSMA). It requires a permit and pesticide applicators certification.

If you suspect your pine trees have been attacked, the best thing you can do is to remove the tree(s) and dispose of them by burning; or if you have enough, have them logged and sell them. Yes, they do have value.

How do I know if my trees have been attacked? They will have what looks like spots on the trunk of the tree. These are pitch tubes, and they will be a white creamy color, even possibly a hint of pink color. The trees will be green, turn red in the late summer and fall, and a year or two later the needles will be off the tree. These stages are known as green attack, red attack, and grey attack. Removal of green attack and red attack trees needs to be completed prior to the following summer. The beetles attack in the summer, over winter in the tree under the bark, and fly the following summer. Any removal is best done in the early summer following the attack.

Will these dead trees blow down on my house or cabin?

Eventually yes. Once the tree is dead, the root system is also dead and begins to rot. This is a very slow process and will take years before the tree's root system is too weak to hold it, about 10 to 15 years. This is a slow process in our area because of its dryness. (In wetter ecosystems like the coast, this process will happen at a faster rate.) Within a couple of years the needles will fall off of the tree leaving no crown for the wind to get a hold of. The wind blows straight through so to speak.

Should I replant with pine? Yes absolutely. Pine is the natural species that will grow in our area, along with spruce and Douglas fir. A general rule of thumb is to replace what was removed. As some or most of you will know BC Hydro will be removing the beetle infested pine along the hydro right-of-way that runs through many of our properties. This is a good thing, in that it will prevent trees from coming down on our distribution line, while at the same time recovering the value from the trees.

Keep in mind these dead trees make fabulous firewood. And if you are so inclined, you can have your trees milled to produce a beautiful blue stain pine product that can be used for a variety of purposes.

For more information www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/

INFORMATION DIRECTORY

CRD 1.800.665.1636

www.cariboord.bc.ca

TNRD 1.877.377.8673.

www.tnrd.bc.ca

Ministry of Environment

www.env.gov.bc.ca

Water stewardship

www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd

www.livingbywater.ca

Environment stewardship

www.env.gov.bc.ca/esd

Environment protection

www.env.gov.bc.ca/epdiv

Ministry of Forests & Range

www.for.gov.bc.ca

At this sight there are direct links to *Fire Smart* and the *Mountain Pine Beetle*

Grasslands Conservation

www.begrasslands.org



*Larvae and adult beetles
devouring pine*

AN EDITORIAL COMMENT

Re. Development Process Concerns

A recent CRD development showed up flaws in the approval-seeking process by the CRD. In response, GLARA has written an extensive brief to both the TNRD and the CRD to point out these procedural flaws.

We are concerned with the bureaucratic and non-transparent, not to mention cumbersome, process with which they respond to a development proposal. It is GLARA's contention that we need more up-to-date studies on lake sensitivity, as well as clarification of all data to be used in determining the suitability of any land(s) to be developed.

*Dennis Tupman,
GLARA Director*

Below: Grey/rust areas show the vast extent of the damage from pine beetle in our forests. These 'standing dead' are tinder dry and a major risk in the event of fire.



FOREST HARVESTING

From Alan Boyd

At this time I am not aware of any major plans for forest harvesting in our Greenbelt Areas, but both West Fraser Timber and Tolko Industries have harvesting plans in and around our Community. West Fraser has 3 cutting permits (C.P.s) that cover areas from south of 70 Mile, west to north of Loc Lohman, west of Highway 97, then east of 97 between 97 and the pipeline as well as east of the pipeline north of Green Lake encompassing areas around Boyd Lake. These Cutting Permits are solely intended for the harvest and control of Pine Bark Beetle infested wood. Not great news, but since the beetle already has it, it best be utilized. The time frame for this harvest is estimated to be early spring of '07 and the fall of '07. Visuals from Green Lake we hope will not be seriously impacted. I am not in possession of Tolko Industries plans for the area but am told they are not major.

'Forests for Tomorrow', the future plans for our forests, is available at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/

PINE BEETLE FACTS

- Pine beetle larvae spend the winter under bark. They continue to feed in the spring and transform into pupae in June and July.
- The mountain pine beetle transmits a fungus that stains a tree's sapwood blue.
- About 8.5 million hectares were in red-attack stage in 2005 as a result of the mountain pine beetle.
- 25,000 families in British Columbia are having their livelihoods impacted by the beetle infestation.
- Cold weather kills mountain pine beetle larvae. Sustained temperatures of -25 Celsius in the early fall or late spring, and -40 Celsius in the winter are needed to control populations.
- There are three stages in a mountain pine beetle attack: green, red and grey.

DEAD PINES

From Dennis Tupman

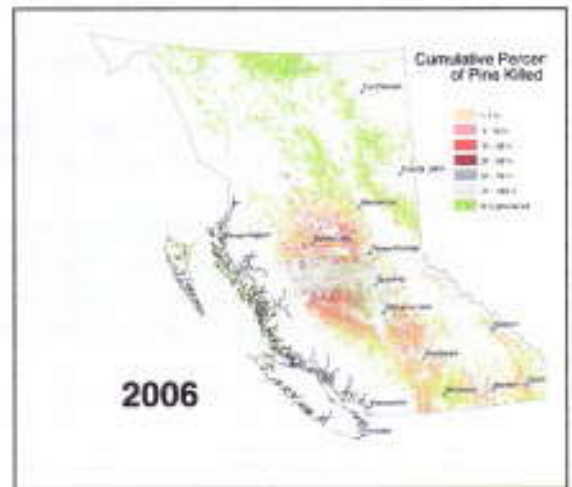
As I sat in the GLARA AGM I could not help being struck by certain contradictions. There was Roger Packham, bless his biologist's heart, speaking passionately about caring for the endangered local badger population – all 38 of them! Then Donna Barnett and Keith Dufresne explained about how the Cariboo Beetle Action Coalition was trying to come to grips with one of the planet's worst environmental disasters - the Mountain Pine Beetle infestation. What a contrast!

One could not help but be impressed with the respective efforts of the folks mentioned above - one dealing with an endangered animal, and the other grappling with the dilemma of infestation and dead pines after harvesting.

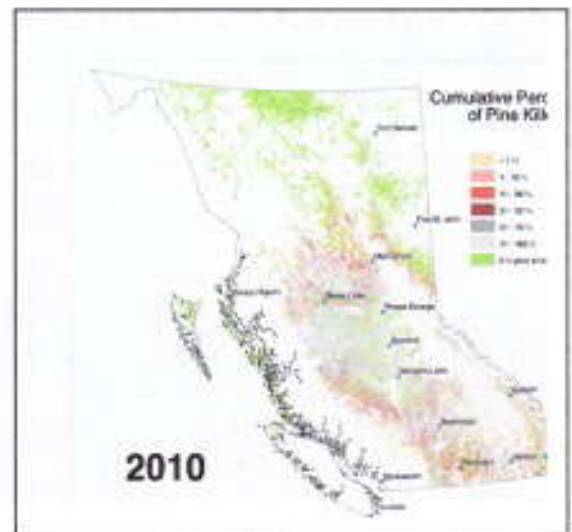
When told later that the cut block to remove the dead pines in our north Green and Watch lakes 'greenbelt' was going to cover hundreds of hectares, there were audible gasps. We have worked so hard for years to preserve our viewscapes, and now most of these dead trees were to be removed. How matters have changed! The bright side of this situation is that our lands on the north side of Green and Watch lakes are mostly flat and so we will actually see very little difference. However, the same will not be true for the south and east viewscapes.

I have been grieving for these dead trees in our area now for over a year. I have noticed the reality of this situation has finally struck home for most of us, and we are ready to move on. I have had to remove as many as 75 standing dead trees on my own property. I can see that many of you have done the same. We certainly do not lack for firewood!

BC Hydro's Jamie McEndry told us that Hydro would be removing some trees at no cost to the homeowner. However, he hastened to point out that this would apply only to trees near primary power lines (high voltage), and not to most lines entering from the street. We can expect that Hydro will be knocking on our doors early in the fall to consult with us about the removal of these trees. Hydro will disconnect and lay down lines to enable us to remove dangerous trees near our own household power lines. If you have any questions about tree falling on your lot near Hydro lines **Dave Wodowski** can be reached at **250-612-1249**



The above map is the current cumulative pine kill. Below is the projection for 2010. For maps of the infestation growth from 1999 to present and projections to 2014 visit the website at www.for.gov.bc.ca/hrc/bcmph/cumulative/1999.htm



BE SAFE AND BE PREPARED

Winter recreation is upon us. Remember when riding the trails in the snow and cold on motorized vehicles wear a helmet. Be sure you carry a small emergency kit and extra warm clothing. And of course – tell someone where you are going and for how long!

HAPPY TRAILS

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE - THE WHEELS ARE IN MOTION!

From Joanne Macaluso, Co-chair, OCP Committee

Urban Systems Ltd., of Kamloops, has compiled all the data from the **70 Mile House/Green Lake/Watch Lake Community Survey**. And the results are favourable. The response from area residents completing the survey was impressive and certainly above average. A round of applause to those concerned people who took the time to complete the survey.

Now, for the outcomes: the TNRD and CRD have decided that the survey results indicate that the next valuable step is to proceed with an Official Community Plan (OCP). Urban Systems Ltd. will formulate the plan. The regional districts are hoping to share funding with the provincial government - 1/3 TNRD, 1/3 CRD and 1/3 provincial government - in hopes of moving forward without delay.

We will keep you abreast of the process as it unfolds, with more OCP news in the Spring.

LAKE TRIVIA

Did you know Green Lake is 14 km long and averages 1.5 km across? Did you also know Green Lake has an irregular shoreline of approximately 57 kilometres?!

GLARA'S MISSION

From Dennis Tupman

At a recent Board meeting I reviewed with the Directors the mandate of GLARA since 1993 when it was founded. GLARA is fundamentally a research organization and acts within our mandate on general issues that affect the residents on Green and Watch Lakes as a whole. Here is a summary of our constitution and bylaws:

To represent the general concerns of Green and Watch Lake Area property owners, leaseholders and tenants (within 2 kilometres of Green or Watch lakes) regarding:

- *Quality of living conditions including water quality, air and noise pollution, roads, utilities, emergency services, open range controls, garbage disposal....*
- *Quality of recreation including public access and use of crown lands, greenbelt crown land reserve, logging, fish restocking, wildlife habitat....*
- *Cost of living as affected by taxes, fees, permits and regulations....*

Con'd Bylaws ...

.... *Bylaws*

Our by-laws are those as set out in *Schedule B* of the *Society Act* with the following additions:

- a. *Annual membership fee is \$10.00 per property, one vote per property.*
- b. *Mail ballots may be used at the discretion of the directors for questions that cannot be adequately handled at an AGM but must be limited to the question on the ballot; the voter must be identified or coded to prevent duplicate voting and a minimum of 21 days must be allowed for mailing and response.*
- c. *The number of directors shall be 5 or a greater number determined from time to time at a general meeting and shall include at least one representative from each of South Green Lake area and North Green and Watch area.*
- d. *Directors shall be elected and serve for two year terms with President, Vice President, Treasurer and the other directors elected for one year and the secretary and directors elected on alternate terms.*

Finally, we are a democratically run organization, and welcome your views, especially on matters as mentioned in the adjacent column. For further information or to offer input please contact the President, **Alan Boyd**, at **456.7651**

EDITOR'S NOTE

From Angela Wynton, Interim Editor

Hello, again. We hope you are enjoying your GLARA newsletter. This year we will be bringing it to your home three times – November, March, and July. The extra edition going to members only. We will continue to update you on the GLARA activities, especially the Official Community Plan. We will also be sharing with you more information that is relevant to the protection, care, and future of our grasslands, lakes, shorelines, forests, and abounding nature.

The best way we can preserve and protect our pristine community is to take individual responsibility, increase our knowledge, and get involved. Therefore we are providing website addresses for your convenience. Our newsletter is circulated to the full community of approximately 850 residences, of which 350 are members. That could be a lot of involvement!

We would like to hear from you. If you have an interest, information, or an article to share with the GLARA membership and community, please contact Alan Boyd, President, at 456.7651 or myself at awynton@telus.net. Join now and become a member - complete the application below!

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE WINTER.

GREEN LAKE AREA RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

IMPORTANT! Before filling out this form, check your envelope! Your expiration date is on your label. If your label is flagged with pink this newsletter is a reminder that your membership has expired

name of member applying

legal description of lot if known

fire # & street

full mailing address (one newsletter per paid membership)

home phone

lake phone

work phone

fax

e-mail address

cheque enclosed

Make cheques payable to G.L.A.R.A. & mail to: RR#1, Site Q Comp 5, 70 Mile House, B.C. , V0K 2K0
Fees are \$10 per year, \$30 for 3 years. We are still offering our 'ONE' time only bonus to members – \$30 for 4 years. May 2007B - means you are paid-up until that date and 'B' means you have used your bonus year already. Your receipt will be mailed to you.