

THE GREEN WATCH

The Green Lake Area Ratepayers' Association Newsletter

Representing property owners and residents in the Watch and Green Lake Area

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Summer 2011

Message from the President July 23rd 2011



This brief message is to bring greetings from Green Lake, to update things to know, and dates to keep in mind.

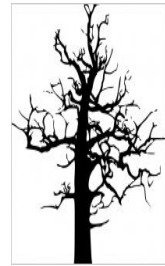
On the topic of summer... weather has been such there have been no wild fire threats. July has been weather shared between clouds, rain, wind, and sun. Since lake level recording started as an initiative of a long standing lake resident, the lake is up 10" since the ice went off this spring. The lake level is 16" off its lowest recorded level or, 35" off its highest ever mark.

The GLARA 2011 annual general meeting is at the Watch Lake Community Hall this year. Please keep **Saturday, August 20th** between ten and noon open on your calendar and plan to attend. Not only can comments and ideas be brought forward, but also the meeting provides updates from your Regional District Area Directors and to learn from the knowledge and experience of the guest speakers on local topics. GLARA is keen to recruit residents onto the Board and at the sub committee level on special projects. An immediate need is for a Watch lake resident to sit on the Board and to recruit and support the assistance of a Watch lake resident interested in doing the water sampling to monitor the water quality health for Watch Lake.



The 70 Mile House and Green and Watch Lakes Official Community Plan (OCP) update is to look for news of it going forward to the Legislature in the fall for final reading and adoption! Government staff is in the last stages of their review with the recommendation expected to go forward at the next sitting of the government.

A meeting was hosted by the South Green Lake VFD in mid-July related to the Forest Fuels Management Strategy. A consultant made a presentation about the strategy and the options and associated recommendations to achieve the desired outcomes. Funding for this initiative was for the corridor adjacent to the off shore residents living on South Green Lake Road. The South Green Lake VFD and the consultant are taking the resident concerns and suggestions back to the Thompson Nicola Regional District as a basis for further discussions.



In closing, my continued gratitude for the time and effort provided by your GLARA Directors in advancing the advocacy and education mandate of the Association. By extension, through the content collected by the newsletter committee and shared with you as an information benefit, gratitude is extended to lake residents for their support. Individual resident efforts are to be credited in protecting and sustaining the values that drew and continue to attract us to this beautiful region! Please note when out on the lake, there are navigation hazards where they were not last year because of variation in water level. And lastly, it is commonly agreed that the deer are in abundance and therefore, especially at dawn and dusk, extra careful attention to driving. Sunny lazy days of summer, have many with varying reasons for using the roads that will be grateful to those mindful of insuring the safety for all using the roads.

Respectively submitted, Bruce A. Gilmour, president



The following summer safety reminders are issued by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

Safety Tips to Keep the Fun in summer

Many of us look forward to summer as a time to be outside enjoying the warmer weather, sunshine, water sports, vacations and most of all - having fun. Whether you work or play outside, it is also a time to take precautions to protect you from sun exposure, poor air quality and other hazards of the season. Follow these safety tips to reduce the risk of injury and keep you and your family safe in whatever you do this summer.



Pool and Water Safety:

Drowning is a serious threat. In Canada men aged 18-49 years have the highest drowning rate. Most drownings occur when they are swimming or boating. Over 80% of the men who drowned while boating were not wearing lifejackets and 40% had consumed alcohol.

Men are not the only ones at risk. An estimated 58 children under the age of 14 drown each year in Canada and another 140 are hospitalized for near-drowning. According to Safe Kids Canada, drowning is the second leading cause of injury-related death to Canadian children aged 1-4. Follow these tips to keep you and your family safe from drowning:

- Don't lose sight of your kids in or around water. Most incidents happen when children are near water during a momentary lapse in adult supervision. Whether they are playing in, around or even walking by water - keep them close and supervise your children at all times. If you must leave the area for any

reason, take them with you. In fact, why not play it safe and use the buddy system for people of all ages!

- When boating or doing any water sports, everyone must use approved personal floatation devices (PFDs).
- Do not rely solely on floatation devices or water wings to keep children safe. They could deflate or come off. This also applies to adults who are not strong swimmers - do not rely on "pool noodles" or flutter boards as floatation devices.
- Do not drink alcoholic beverages while on the water, or if you intend to go on the water.
- Learn the safety rules for boating and other water activities before you venture out on the water.

Food Safety:

You should always use safe practices when handling and preparing food. However, in the summertime there are extra steps you should take to minimize the additional risks of food-borne illnesses. Bacteria such as E. coli and salmonella can be a hazard any place food is prepared or served and can be more common in warmer weather. Young children and people with pre-existing health problems can be especially vulnerable to food poisoning. Health Canada offers the following food safety tips:



- **Clean:** Wash hands and surfaces often to prevent the spread of bacteria. Wash your hands thoroughly in soap and water especially before and after handling any raw food - such as meat, poultry and seafood. Use hot soapy water to clean all surfaces (refrigerators, counters, dishes, utensils, thermometers, etc.) giving special attention to those that come in contact with raw meat.
- **Chill:** Keep cold food cold. Letting food sit at unsafe temperatures puts you at risk for food-borne illnesses.
- **Cook:** Cook to proper temperatures to kill harmful bacteria.
- **Separate:** Keep raw foods separate from cooked foods to avoid cross-contamination. Do not let ready-to-eat foods like lettuce; tomatoes, cheese, etc. come into contact with raw meat or its juices.

Sun Safety:

Exposure to ultra violet radiation (UV) can cause skin cancer, sunburn, premature skin aging, eye damage, and can weaken your immune system. The UV index shows the intensity of the sun's UVB rays. You should be sure to take precautions when you go outside and the UV index is 3 or higher.

- Avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun, especially to the intense midday rays between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and be aware that you can get a sunburn on a cloudy day.
- Protect your eyes by wearing UV blocking sunglasses.
- Stay in shaded areas for outdoor activities where possible.
- Protect your skin by wearing protective clothing: a broad brimmed hat, lightweight, long-sleeved shirt, and long pants.
- Apply waterproof sunscreen to all exposed parts of your body. Ensure that it has a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of at least 15 and has both UVA and UVB protection. Re-apply every two hours and after sweating or swimming.



Boating Safety

The Competency of Operators of Pleasure Craft Regulations require that all operators of pleasure craft fitted with a motor have proof of competency and proof of age on board at all times.



The Regulations were phased in over the past few years and are now summarized as follows:

- As of September 15, 2009, all operators of any motorized craft including those of less than 4 m (including personal watercraft) are required to have proof of competency.
- The Age - Horsepower Restrictions prohibit operators under the age of 16 from operating recreational vessels above specified horsepower limits:
- Children under the age of 12 and not directly supervised by someone 16 years of age or older can operate a recreational vessel with no more than 10 hp (7.5 KW).
- Youth between 12 years of age and under 16 years of age and not directly supervised by someone 16 years of age or older can operate a recreational vessel with no more than 40 hp (30 KW).
- Only persons 16 years of age or older can operate a personal watercraft (PWC) regardless of supervision.

Shore-Line Speed Restrictions

When boating on any lake British Columbia the unposted speed limit is 10km/h (6mph) within 30 meters (100 ft.) from shore. The exception to this limit is in the case of waterskiing, where the tow boat launches and drops off skiers by heading directly away from or into the shore.

Driving a Boat under the Influence of Alcohol

- 1st offence: at least \$600 fine
- 2nd offence: at least 14 days of imprisonment
- 3rd offence: at least 90 days of imprisonment
- There is no limit to the fines: the lowest is \$600
- If someone is injured or killed, the sentence may exceed 10 years imprisonment
- Insurance may not cover you.



Canadians may lose their driver's license or be prohibited from operating a vessel for 3 months, depending on the charge. You will also have a criminal record that could prevent you from being bonded or will bar you from travel to many countries.

Consumption of Alcohol on Boats

Alcohol may be consumed on board the pleasure craft if it meets all of the following conditions:

- The vessel has permanent sleeping facilities
- The vessel has permanent cooking facilities
- The vessel has a permanent toilet
- The vessel is anchored or secured alongside a dock

Other Boating Violations

The following boating offences are also in violation of the Criminal Code of Canada:

- Operating a boat in a manner that is dangerous to the public.
- Operating a boat while impaired by drugs
- Not keeping watch of a person in tow (water-skiers, etc.)
- Towing a person after dark
- Knowingly operating an unseaworthy vessel.

Fire Restrictions

With all of the wet weather and the abundant growth of grass and underbrush, wildfires may not seem to be much of an issue this year. However, as early as the Easter weekend the Watch Lake – North Green Lake VFD was called-out to two out-of-control grassfires. When summer does finally arrive things will dry out quickly and we will have an excess of fuel to contend with. As of May 2nd fire restrictions are in place.

These restrictions prohibit:

- ✓ burning any waste, slash or other materials piled or un-piled at a size larger than one metre by one metre;
- ✓ burning more than two open fires of any size at the same time;
- ✓ burning stubble or grass over any area or size; and
- ✓ the use of fireworks or burning barrels of any size or description.



Campfires are at present still allowed, but they must conform to the following description:

Campfire

An open fire that burns piled material no larger than 0.5 m in height and 0.5 m in width and is used by any person for recreational purpose or by a first nation for a ceremonial purpose.

If you are planning a small fire to burn slash or waste within the restrictions above you must check the venting index for the day of your fire by phoning 1-888-281-2992. The index must be good for the day of the fire and good or fair on the following day. For further wildfire information phone 1-888-797-1717 or check the Wildfire Management Branch website at www.bcwildfire.ca.



To report a wildfire phone 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on a cell phone.

Within our fire districts call 911 for any fire emergency

Green Lake Water Levels

The good news, folks, is that we are gaining some water in our pool, (the fact that it rains fairly hard at least once a day might have something to do with that) approximately 10" or 25cm. Even with that extra water, the test station at the Watch Creek culvert still does not have enough water in it reactivate it or to give a new reading. The water level in the test station is very close to the point where the gauge will move, but so far it reads the same as this time last year and has done for all year.

I take a reading every month around the 15th and advise Laurie Lyons at the Ministry of Environment.

The 2 buoys that we usually set out in May and in October have not been set out this year, due partly to both Fred and myself being extra busy, and the fact that with the water as low as it is, we would need to set about 20 buoys to begin to adequately warn the boaters of all the rocky areas, so for now I guess it is BOATERS BE AWARE!!!

Just a reminder to everyone that ALL THE ISLANDS in Green Lake are NO FIRE AREAS. Someone had a fire on Goat Island recently, and as wet as it has been it would be difficult for it to get away, but we might as well remind everyone of the FIRE BAN ON THE ISLANDS. I do not want a repeat of an earlier fire out there, that was not extinguished and flared up the next day and thanks to the efforts of several shore dwellers we were able to contain it to a small area.

Have a safe happy summer!

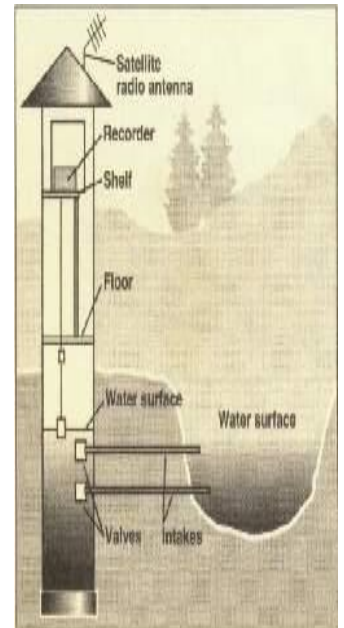
Alan Boyd

Brief water report for Green Lake: On July 26th Fred Kuyek and Brian Stroud did a water test on Green Lake. At .5 meters the lake temperature was 16.5° C, 12 meters it was 15.5° C and at 24 meters 6.5° C. The clarity of Green Lake measured 8.5 meters (approximately 27 feet) and the PH level sits steady at 9.0. I would like to thank Brian and Jackie Stroud for taking over the remainder of the summer water testing while Marie and I are away on holidays.

Fred Kuyek
Green Lake Water Steward



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**Schematic of a
Stilling well**

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