

**Results from GLARA Survey of Membership on  
Environmental Concerns in the Green Lake and  
Watch Lake Area**

August 2014

## **Overview:**

GLARA is looking to expand the stewardship efforts of the organization, and used a survey to gather preliminary insights from the membership on what priorities currently exist. This survey was distributed throughout June/July of 2014, and the results were compiled in August 2014. The results were then shared with the membership at the AGM on August 23, 2014.

The survey was designed to include questions that addressed concerns that have been brought forward to the GLARA executive in the past. These results are intended to help GLARA proceed with the development of stewardship initiatives to ensure the lasting health and vitality of the Green Lake and Watch Lake area.

In this document, there is a copy of the survey that was distributed to the membership. The compiled results follow, along with the responses to the open-ended questions.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the survey, please feel free to contact: [leanna.milburn@gmail.com](mailto:leanna.milburn@gmail.com)

## **Section 1: The GLARA Survey of Members and Landowners on Environmental Concerns in the Green Lake and Watch Lake Area**

## **Introduction**

Water and Lake quality is an important issue for GLARA and all of the users of Green and Watch Lakes. GLARA is in support of good stewardship and wants to help ensure our water resources are managed for the long term for enjoyment well into the future. Community consultation is one way to gain insight into what residents feel are the issues that require the most attention. Community priorities will help guide the development of future projects and education initiatives that are needed to ensure the long term sustainability of our lakes.

After the development of the Green Lake and Area Official Community Plan, there are Land Use Plans in place that help to guide lake management in the region. GLARA want to build upon these plans to strengthen and expand environmental stewardship programs at Green and Watch Lakes. As GLARA moves forward with this, it is important to acknowledge that residents play an essential role in protecting the lakes. They must keep informed and pay attention to current issues at the lakes. They must then use this knowledge to act as stewards for our water resources. Active involvement of residents in stewardship will help to increase the effectiveness of the plans developed in the Green Lake and Watch Lake area in the future.

This survey is designed to gain the input from residents as GLARA moves forward with stewardship initiatives in the wake of the OCP. Each question has background information provided to help provide an understanding of where the concerns are coming from. If you would like more information about any of the questions, please feel free to contact: [greenwatchlake@gmail.com](mailto:greenwatchlake@gmail.com)

### Section #1: Green Lake and Watch Lake Tributaries (Inflow Streams)

The water quality of both Green and Watch Lake is affected by a number of variables. One of these is the inflow waters (the streams) that run into the lakes and act as a key source of the lakes' water. These streams can face a variety of external stressors that can ultimately make their way into the lake.

1. Would you like to see GLARA undertake research into the current health and environmental quality of these streams?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
2. Would you be supportive of a management plan created specifically for the Green and Watch Lake tributaries (inflow streams)?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know

### Section #2: Environmental Monitoring

The Green Lake Area Official Community Plan encompasses the watershed around both Green and Watch Lakes. This region is a rich habitat that supports a diversity of plant and animal life. In order to work to proactively monitor changes in the ecosystem.

1. If an environmental survey were created with the purpose of improving the quality of monitoring in the area, how would you rank the following in order of importance?
  - \_\_\_ Regional Flora (Plants in the region)
  - \_\_\_ Regional Fauna (Animals in the region)
  - \_\_\_ Aquatic Habitat (Fish and other water creatures)
  - \_\_\_ Wildfowl Habitat (Ducks, geese and other game birds)
  - \_\_\_ Invasive Species
  - \_\_\_ Fisheries Management

Please feel free to add any additional comments:

2. GLARA is already actively involved in water quality monitoring through the BC Lake Stewardship Society (BCLSS) water monitoring program. The monitoring results are shared with members through the newsletter. What is your opinion about the amount of water quality monitoring that is taking place?
  - I am happy with the water quality monitoring that is taking place
  - I would like to see more water quality monitoring on the lakes
  - I don't think we need as much water quality monitoring
  - Don't know



1. Are you concerned about the use of soaps, shampoos and detergents in the lake?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
2. Do you think that showering or washing facilities at the provincial campgrounds would help to decrease the number of people using soaps, shampoos and detergents in the lake?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know
3. Are you concerned about human impacts on the shoreline vegetation (riparian zone) of Green and/or Watch Lake?
  - Green Lake
  - Watch Lake
  - Both
  - Neither
4. Are you concerned about the operation of the sani-station(s)? If yes, what concerns you?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Don't know

Please include your comments:

5. Are any other human uses of the lake of concern to you? Please include your comments:

#### **Section #5: GLARA's Future Stewardship Initiatives**

GLARA's function has been as an advocacy group for local planning. They have provided information to residents and visitors to help them to act as stewards of the lake. GLARA also continues to be involved in water quality monitoring and education programs.

1. In what ways do you think GLARA's efforts could be improved?
  - GLARA website ([www.glara.ca](http://www.glara.ca)) [Comment box]
  - Informational signage [Comment box]
  - Education campaigns [Comment box]
  - Recreational use planning [Comment box]
  - Other [Comment box]

2. The GLARA Board of Directors would like to expand stewardship initiatives at the lakes in the future. They would like to develop a Lake Management Plan (LMP) to help guide this expansion. Stewardship organizations at other lakes in BC have used an LMP as a tool to guide the expansion of existing programs, as well as to secure funding for the development of new programs. These plans bring together the concerns of residents with emerging issues, and develop a plan to address these concerns. Would you be supportive of GLARA developing a Lake Management Plan?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

3. Would you like more information about the Lake Management Plan?

- Yes
- No

#### **Section #6: General feedback**

1. Do you have any concerns pertaining to the quality and health of the watershed that have not been addressed in the questions above? Please include your comments:

2. Do you have any suggestions to help expand GLARA's environmental stewardship initiatives in the future? Please include your comments:

3. Would you like to be involved in stewardship initiatives in the future?

- Yes
- No

4. If so, how would you like to be involved? Please include your comments:



5. Do you have any additional comments to share? Please include your comments:

### Section #7: Demographics

1. Are you a:
  - Full-time resident (The Green Lake/Watch Lake area is your primary home)
  - Part-time resident (You live elsewhere primarily, but spend an extended amount of time in the area throughout the year)
  - Seasonal resident (You spend your holidays in the area)
  - Prefer not to answer
2. Do you:
  - Own a property
  - Rent a property
  - Other
  - Prefer not to answer
3. How much time do you spend in the Green Lake/Watch Lake area in an average year?
  - Less than one month
  - Between one and three months
  - Between three and six months
  - More than six months
  - Prefer not to answer
4. Do you visit the area in (check all that apply):
  - Spring
  - Summer
  - Fall
  - Winter
  - Prefer not to answer

## **Section 2: Results from the GLARA Survey of Members and Landowners on Environmental Concerns in the Green Lake and Watch Lake Area**

Q1) Would you like to see GLARA undertake research into the current health and environmental quality of these streams?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	153	85.5%
No	9	5.0%
Don't know	15	8.4%
No answer	2	1.1%

Q2) Would you be supportive of a management plan created specifically for the Green and Watch Lake tributaries (inflow streams)?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	157	87.7%
No	9	5.0%
Don't know	11	6.1%
No answer	2	1.1%

Q5) What is your opinion about the amount of water quality monitoring that is taking place?

Response	Number	Percent
I am happy with the water quality monitoring taking place	117	65.4%
I would like to see more water quality monitoring on the lakes	36	20.1%
I don't think we need as much water quality monitoring	2	1.1%
Don't know	20	11.2%
No answer	4	2.2%

Q7) Since the spread of the Pine Beetle, there has been increased harvesting of trees. Should GLARA monitor the impacts that this may have in the watershed?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	105	58.7%
No	36	20.1%
Don't know	35	19.6%
No answer	3	1.7%

Q9) Do you think that washing stations located at the provincial park boat launches would encourage boaters to properly clean boats as they travel between lakes?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	132	73.7%
No	14	7.8%
Don't know	29	16.2%
No answer	4	2.2%

Q10) Would you use a washing station located at the provincial park boat launch?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	143	79.9%
No	20	11.2%
Don't know	10	5.6%
No answer	6	3.4%

Q11) Are you concerned about the use of soaps, shampoos and detergents in the lake?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	158	88.3%
No	10	5.6%
Don't know	8	4.5%
No answer	3	1.7%

Q12) Do you think that showering or washing facilities at the provincial campgrounds would help to decrease the number of people using soaps, shampoos and detergents in the lake?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	161	89.9%
No	8	4.5%
Don't know	9	5.0%
No answer	1	0.6%

Q13) Are you concerned about human impacts on the shoreline vegetation (riparian zone) of Green and/or Watch Lake?

Response	Number	Percent
Green Lake	34	19.0%
Watch Lake	5	2.8%
Both	91	50.8%
Neither	43	24.0%
No answer	6	3.4%

Q14) Are you concerned about the operation of the sani-station(s)?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	54	30.2%
<b>No</b>	69	38.5%
<b>Don't know</b>	51	28.5%
<b>No answer</b>	5	2.8%

Q15) If yes (referring to sani-station question above), what concerns you?

*\*Note: This was asked as an open-ended question. However, trends emerged in the string responses, and have been codified for data analysis.*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Length of season</b>	33	18.4%
<b>Location of site</b>	3	1.7%
<b>Monitoring and Maintenance</b>	5	2.8%
<b>Other</b>	10	5.6%
<b>Not concerned/No answer</b>	128	71.5%

Q16) Are any other human uses of the lake of concern to you?

*\*Note: This was asked as an open-ended question. However, trends emerged in the open-ended responses, and have been codified for data analysis. First, if an answer was given, this was recorded as a yes. Second, the answers were sorted into reoccurring themes.*

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	55	30.7%
No	124	69.3%

Response	Number	Percent
Bathing, soaps, detergents, etc.	9	5.0%
Motorized vehicles (Water)	13	11.2%
Motorized vehicles (Land)	3	1.7%
Motorized vehicles (Both)	5	2.8%
Lawns, pesticides, fertilizers, etc.	9	4.5%
Human waste	5	2.8%
Other	13	7.3%
Not concerned/No answer	124	69.3%

Q17) In what ways to you think GLARA's efforts could be improved?

Website?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	49	27.4%
No	130	72.6%

Informational Signage?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	105	58.7%
No	74	41.3%

Educational Campaigns?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	69	38.5%
No	110	61.5%

Recreational Use Planning?

Response	Number	Percent
Yes	52	29.1%
No	127	70.9%



Q19) Would you be supportive of GLARA developing a Lake Management Plan?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	139	77.7%
<b>No</b>	6	3.4%
<b>Don't know</b>	28	15.6%
<b>No answer</b>	6	3.4%

Q20) Would you like more information about the Lake Management Plan?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Yes</b>	136	76.0%
<b>No</b>	32	17.9%
<b>No answer</b>	11	6.1%

Q26) Are you a full-time, part-time, or seasonal resident?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Full-time resident</b>	48	26.8%
<b>Part-time resident</b>	47	26.3%
<b>Seasonal resident</b>	82	45.8%
<b>Prefer not to answer</b>	1	0.6%
<b>No answer</b>	1	0.6%

Q27) Do you own or rent a property?

Response	Number	Percent
Own a property	176	98.3%
Other	3	1.7%

\*Note: no respondents identified as renters

Q28) How much time do you spend in the Green Lake/Watch Lake area in an average year?

Response	Number	Percent
Less than one month	24	13.4%
Between one and three months	76	42.5%
Between three and six months	29	16.2%
More than six months	47	26.3%
Prefer not to answer	3	1.7%

Q29) Seasons spent in the area:

Response	Spring		Summer		Fall		Winter	
	Number	Percent <sup>a</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>a</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>a</sup>	Number	Percent <sup>a</sup>
Yes	158	88.3% <sup>a</sup>	176	98.3% <sup>a</sup>	156	87.2% <sup>a</sup>	122	68.2% <sup>a</sup>
No	21	11.7% <sup>a</sup>	3	1.7% <sup>a</sup>	23	12.8% <sup>a</sup>	57	31.8% <sup>a</sup>

a. These percentages were calculated as a percentage of the total respondents.

\*Note: 4 respondents chose not to provide a response to this question