

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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FALL 2014



Co-chairman's Report

Dear Ratepayers,

On behalf of GLARA, I would like to thank all of the respondents to our survey conducted this year. The purpose was to identify new directions for GLARA and the resident's input was very helpful. An amazing 180 residents responded - comprising 68% of the polling group which is statistically very high for such a study.

It reflects the appreciation of the area by those of us who live and recreate here and also the desire to protect our habitat and way of life. The directors were very impressed with the response and it provided incentive to carry on with our work.

The survey indicated that the top priorities of the residents are lake water quality and management. In the past, GLARA has advocated for action on these issues to a variety of governmental agencies without much successful response. We hope to leverage the polling to these agencies as the concerns are supported by a significant number of residents and represent a large local voting block.

We also feel that GLARA is mandated by the membership to proactively seek external funding support for habitat improvement and issues that were identified by the survey. In order to give credibility and structure to our efforts, we have volunteers to develop a Lake Management Plan (LMP); a document that will outline a staged approach to our efforts. This LMP will be presented to residents in draft form for comment prior to acceptance by the GLARA directors.

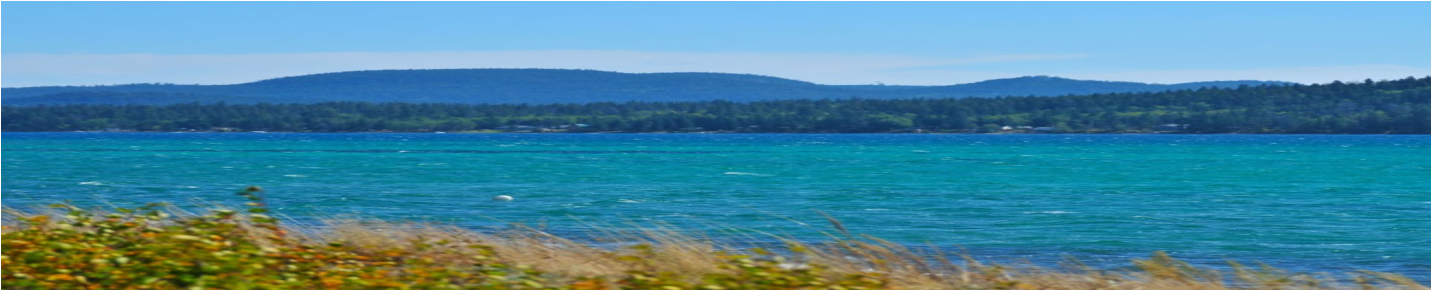
Over the last few years, we have found that resident associations are increasingly becoming involved in local improvements and monitoring as regional, federal and provincial governments are re-allocating tax revenue to other areas in response to the electorate. This is cyclical, as in the past, pioneers volunteered their time and efforts towards community development with little government support. In the last 20 – 30 years, social demographic changes have reduced the government's ability to be involved in services that were considered normal in the past. Consequently, communities such as ours have to revisit the pioneering spirit and become more proactive in initiating local benefits to the area.

Our community is already very active with volunteer fire departments and local clubs. We are graced with residents that are very generous with their time and efforts. We greatly appreciate the support of our residents and will endeavor to provide the best service we can towards this end.

Best regards,
 Dunham Craig
 Co-Chairman



GLARA to Expand Environmental Stewardship Initiatives



GLARA has long been involved in environmental stewardship through projects such as water quality monitoring, and invasive species education. However, at its core, GLARA has primarily been an advocacy group for the Green Lake/Watch Lake area. GLARA is currently looking to expand its stewardship initiatives and play a more significant role in protecting and preserving the lakes that we love for enjoyment long into the future.

The executive wants to be sure that the expansion of environmental stewardship initiatives is done in such a way that it addresses the key concerns of the GLARA membership. To do this, a survey was conducted during the recent months to provide an opportunity for all members to provide their thoughts on environmental concerns in the region. This survey was intended to be used as a starting point for the GLARA executive to move stewardship initiatives forward.

The survey questions were designed based on concerns that have been presented to the executive by GLARA members, as well as issues that have come up during previous general meetings. There were 180 responses to the survey, which was a tremendous rate of response! It was great to see how many people took the time to complete the survey, and it was also clear that a great deal of thought and effort went into the completion of the surveys. We received some very detailed and insightful responses, and we want to thank everyone who submitted a survey!

One of the ideas that the executive had to ensure that all concerns were addressed appropriately was to put together a Lake Management Plan. This plan would be used to guide GLARA's environmental stewardship as it moves forward. Having such a plan in place can also provide a solid foundation for GLARA to apply for grant funding, or approach organizations to build collaborative partnerships.

To gauge the level of support that would exist for such a plan, the survey asked members if they would be in favour of the creation of a Lake Management Plan. 78% of respondents said yes. The survey also asked if members were interested in receiving more information about a Lake Management Plan, and a similar level of interest was expressed. So, a presentation on the survey results and the Lake Management Plan was given at the Annual General Meeting on August 23rd. After the presentation, a motion was put forth for the GLARA executive to look into the creation of a Lake the process, and that the plan will not be accepted without membership approval. We are looking forward to beginning this process, and we welcome ongoing input as we continue to move forward!

The complete results and an overview report of the survey will be made available on the GLARA website in the coming weeks. An outline of the objectives and goals of the proposed Lake Management Plan will also be made available to members through the website. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to get in touch!



By: Leanna Milburn, GLARA Director

WE HAVE A WINNER!

The first GLARA Photo Contest had a total of 93 entries that can all be seen at the website www.glara.ca

What a great collection of photos and what an awesome task for the judges to select just one winner. We were assisted in the judging by four members of the Bridge Lake Photo Group.

In the end it was a split decision, but the winner of the iPad Mini with the most points was the submission from Trish Forster with her photo of a tubing adventure on Green Lake. Actually Trish submitted two separate photos of the same tube ride and it is humorous to see the change of expression on the faces of the two ladies as the tube leaves the surface of the water. We have included the second photo in case you didn't see it on the web site or at the AGM.



The winning entry



Companion photo

The second place photo and winner of a certificate for two at the Dusty Rose Pub was from Val Whittington. Her submission of a pleasant evening scene on the lakeshore was favoured by the Bridge Lake Judges and only lost out by the slimmest of margins.

Although we stipulated in the contest rules that there were to be no sunsets, in this case Val slipped one in as an integral part of the end of the day activity. The following comments from the Judges were most interesting:

We found this photo very intriguing. It captures our attention while simultaneously giving us a puzzle to work out. It is well focused and the horizon is level even though the glass may be tilted. The colours are excellent and the subject matter - a glass of wine waiting to be enjoyed while watching a summer sun setting over the lake - perfectly captures the vacation experience. The distorted patterns caused by the glass give us a view of the world which is out of the ordinary. An excellent, well thought out image.



Second Place

The first runner-up was chosen by the Bridge Lake Judges. This photo submitted by Valerie Craig also received some very perceptive commentary.



First Runner-up

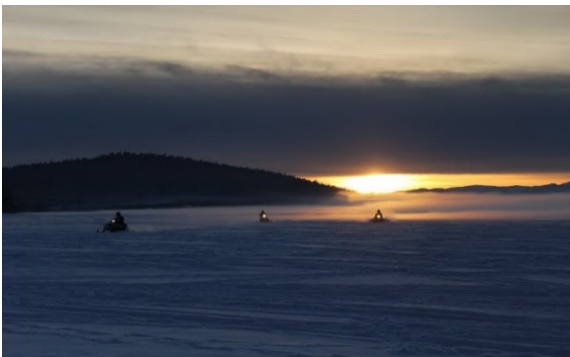
This is an excellently composed photograph. The curving snowmobile tracks lead the viewer's eyes from the lower right center to the middle left edge. The outer track then draws the eye to the misty, smoky middle band. And the bent grass mimics the curve of the tracks also inviting the eye deeper into the photo. Everything is further enhanced by the low angle of the sun whose light adds warmth to the scene despite the snow.

The second runner-up is a great family-fun scene submitted by Tim McBride. With this contest we were hoping to get a variety photos of year-round activities on the lakes. All were great and they did cover every season. It looks as though dad and the kids are about to fall into the lake. The close-cropping tends to indicate that it was a quick shot taken just in time to catch the action. These are the memories of family summers with all the great adventures at the lake that will last a lifetime.



Second Runner-up

All of the remaining 87 entries truly deserve an honourable mention, but this photo from April Quinn stands out in the way in which it captures that moment in time we all experience when we just don't want the day to end. She also has slipped a sunset in there, but it signals the end of the ride and that night is fast approaching. The blues of the landscape and ominous clouds are in sharp contrast with the narrow yellow line of the horizon, the sledders must hurry home before the dark settles around them.



Honourable Mention

Once again our thanks and congratulations go out to all of the entrants. With just a few photos we have demonstrated the varied activities and the many beauties of our area. If we have future contests like this, we will be sure to broaden the scope by creating more categories. It is obvious that we should include wildlife, scenery and perhaps even sunsets. Your comments and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.



Green Lake Snowmobile Club

Did you know?

The Green Lake Snowmobile club maintains registered trails under an agreement with the forestry that ensures that these trails will stay open for all people to enjoy. Maintaining the trails take a great deal of volunteer time and expense to keep the trails clear of deadfall, as well as installing proper trail signage to insure everyone's safety.



Staying on the trails and not damaging the sensitive landscapes these trails run through will help insure they remain open for generations to come.

During the winter months trails leading from the clubhouse are groomed for snowmobile use and all other motorized vehicles are asked to stay off, trail maps are available at the Snowmobile Clubhouse or 70 mile General Store.

Come out and support the Green lake Snowmobile Club as we continue to maintain and improve the trail system for all types of use.

Why does foam form on our lakes and what is it?

Surface waters naturally contain dissolved organic compounds. Some of these are surface – active agents or “**Surfactants**” as they are commonly called. Like soap, surfactants lessen the surface tension of water. Diminished surface tension allows air bubbles to persist at the water's surface. Vigorous mixing of surface water by waves and even boating activity generates bubbles that persist and build up as foam. Some people have contacted me with concerns about this foam on our lakes and are worried it may be soap and/or phosphates. I contacted Ministry of Environment in Kamloops, Marge Sidney, she replied back with the information above. She also added that most foam on lakes is natural and an easy way to tell if it is natural or man-made is to get some in your hand. If it smells like the outdoors it is natural and if it smells like perfume it is man-made.

Marie Kuyek,
GLARA Director/Editor

2014 Fish stocking report for Green Lake, Watch Lake and Nolan Lake

Green Lake	62,000 Rainbow trout (unspecified breed or size)	Spring release
Nolan Lake	5,000 Blackwater Rainbow trout (sterile) female yearling	Spring release
Nolan Lake	10,000 Blackwater Rainbow trout (sterile) female fry	Fall release
Watch Lake	40,000 Pennask Rainbow trout (sterile) female yearling	Spring release



Water report 2014

This year the **“Danger Rocks”** buoys were put into Green Lake the first week in June and taken out again in late September. Thank-you very much to Alan Boyd and Grants Spears for taking care of this.

We never did recover one of the buoys that went missing in the summer of 2013. If anyone has seen it could you please let somebody on the GLARA executive know.

This year Marie and I did a scaled down water testing season compared to last year’s extensive testing. We tested for temperature and Clarity in Green Lake. The Clarity of Green Lake is at approximately 8 to 8.5 meters this year: last year it was between 8 and 9 meters throughout the summer. We had a very warm summer this year and would like to share one of the readings that we did on August 12th.



½ a meter was 21.6 Celsius
9 meters was 19 Celsius
10 meters was 14 Celsius
24 meters it was 6.8 Celsius

We still do not have anyone to do testing on Watch Lake. If you know of anyone that would like to do the water testing please let me know.

Fred Kuyek, Green lake Water Steward

Green Lake Stilling Well – Update!

On June 30, 2010, Bob Grace from Ministry of Environment and a co-worker, with assistance from Gordon Labinsky installed a Thalimedes data logger in the stilling well at the road causeway at the mouth of Watch Creek. Unfortunately the water level of Green Lake had dropped too low and the original stilling well could not be used. Thank-you to Alan Boyd for organizing the installation of a new stilling well on Access 14 North Green Lake Road. The culvert is ready for the installation of the Thalimedes data logger and will be installed at a later date.

What is a “Stilling Well?” A Stilling well is a gage house that is built immediately adjacent to the lake. The well is connected to the lake with pipes so that when the water level in the lake changes, the water level in the well also changes. A float in the well is connected to a recorder or data-collection platform.

Once the Data Logger is installed, Alan Boyd will be recording the data on a regular basis.

Old Stilling well at culvert



New stilling well, without data logger



Thalimedes data logger



Watch Lake – North Green Lake Fire Department



Water, water everywhere

Even though our community is on the shores of two lakes, the rapid access to water can be a major problem. The Northside VFD trucks carry a total of 7,250 gallons of water and an emergency tank holding another 8000 gallons of water was installed in the water system at Hall #1. This supply could be quickly exhausted in the event of a major fire and another supply must be available. The pumper trailer can fill the largest of the tenders in just over three minutes, but the lakes are inaccessible in early and late winter when the ice is unsafe. Furthermore, Work Safe BC regulations will soon preclude entering the water or working on the ice surface to place the suction lines for the pumps. To solve this problem we have been working on the installation of two dry hydrants for the past year.



Stilling well
Culvert →

2 dry hydrants at
← access # 14
North Green Lk Rd

Dry hydrants are pipe lines that are dug into the lakeshore and run out into the lake at a depth sufficient to lie below the thickness of ice in the winter providing a year-round source of water. This system has been successfully installed in other local areas so research began to find suitable locations here. Level road access and adequate water depth were important criteria in determining the appropriate locations. The permit applications with various government departments took far longer than the simple digging a hole in which to lay a pipe. We had to pay careful attention to past research in order to avoid known sites with an archaeological significance. In the end, Accesses #20 near 83 Mile Road and #14 just east of the Watch creek culvert, turned out to be the most suitable. With the paperwork done and materials purchased we helped Brian Beherrall build both hydrants in one day at each location. Screens were floated in the lake on either side of the excavation to keep the disturbance of the lake bed to a minimum and the units were completely assembled on location then carefully placed in the excavation. Subsequent testing has shown that the two four inch lines can be used simultaneously allowing for the filling of two tenders at the same time if necessary. To guard against vehicles accidentally hitting the hydrants, short pieces of culvert filled with gravel will be placed to surround the units.

It took a lot of work by a lot of people, but so far everything is working perfectly.

Roy Allan, GLARA Director/President, WL-N.GLVFD



South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department

I have no report for the SGLVFD but I would like to extend to them a big
"Thank-you!"

On Saturday, September 27 our fire department was called out to a fire at 868 Green Lake Road South. By the time the Firemen arrived the flames were 15 to 20 feet above the roof, so they were unable to save it. The house was situated very close to several other homes and our Volunteer Firemen were able to keep the fire contained.

Nobody was in the home at the time and the cause of the fire is still unknown.



We as a community are very appreciative for all the training and hard work the fire department does to keep the South Green Lake Community safe.

Marie Kuyek, Editor

Please check out our website!! www.glara.ca

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