

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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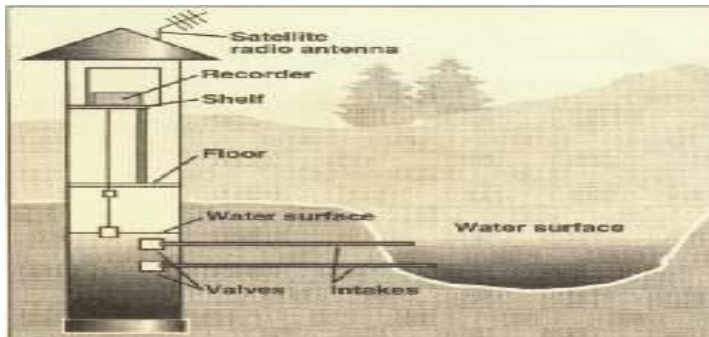
FALL/WINTER 2015

Co-chairman's Report

Dear GLARA Members,

Welcome to the fall/winter GLARA newsletter and update on the 2015 GLARA AGM.

During the August AGM, the standing directors were re-elected and our financials were presented. GLARA is in sound financial condition and we are currently conserving our cash for expenditures on a habitat assessment study (which is explained below) and general operating costs.



Schematic of a stilling well and shelter at a stream-gaging station

Alan Boyd reported on the north side stilling well installation and we would like to send thanks to both Alan and the WLNGVFD for their assistance. This stilling well monitors Green Lake's water levels in an official capacity which the government discontinued a number of years ago. We feel that this, and water quality are two of the primary concerns residents have with respect to our enjoyment of the area.

Marie Kuyek reported on the lake water quality which continues with a clean bill of health. Government funding for water quality monitoring remains very limited and so it is on the resident's shoulders to carry the vigilance of our habitat. This is especially important work as we have waterbodies that have very restricted inflows and outflows and hence biological and/or chemical change can develop rapidly.

On the subject of resident vigilance, we are becoming increasingly aware of the invasive species epidemic that is sweeping across North America. In the Green Lake/Watch Lake area we have had the good fortune that our area is not aquatically affected. Good fortunes are the key words as several lakes surrounding us have been impacted. Control or containment is very difficult once the species have established in the system.



In September, GLARA members attended an invasive species workshop in Lac La Hache. Not being a biologist and relatively unaware of the issue, I was amazed at the size, dimension and impact of the invasive species problem in Canada and its steady march westward into BC. Several lakes in BC have been impacted to the point of recreational loss and property value depreciation. I implore residents to go to the website www.bcinvasives.ca and become aware of certain aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. You will then be able to help us identify and report these species in their early stages so that remedial action can be taken in a timely manner.

Last year we agreed that a new mandate for GLARA would be to complete a professional environmental assessment for the GL/WL OCP district and identify areas where we could participate championing or participating in habitat improvement. We have received a cost quotation that we believe is reasonable but it would impact our treasury rather significantly. With the help of GLARA directors, we have submitted proposals for grant assistance and I am pleased to announce that the TNRD has offered to cover approximately 35% of the costs. A special thanks to Sally Watson, our TNRD area director, for her guidance. We have also submitted a grant application to the CRD asking for matching funds to the TNRD grant and this will be determined by the CRD committee in January, 2016. GLARA will contribute the balance of required funds if the CRD approves the grant.

We would also like to thank the Provincial government for keeping the parks and sanitations open beyond Labour Day. This is much appreciated by residents and visitors during the fall, which is one of our most beautiful times of year.



We encourage your participation and suggestions at all times. Roy Allan, who manages our website www.glara.ca is continually asking for input, so please help us keep him happy!

Sincerely, Dunham Craig
Co-Chairman, GLARA



70 Mile "New" Winter Eco Depot hours Oct.1 - March 31



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
10:00 am - 4:00 pm	closed	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	closed	closed	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(these hours are new, the TNRD website has not been updated yet)

Watch Lake Winter hours Oct.1 - March 31



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	7:00 am - 4:00 pm	closed	closed	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Lone Butte Winter hours Oct.1 - March 31



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	closed	10:00 am - 2:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Watch Lake – North Green Lake VFD GLARA Newsletter Report

In spite of a remarkably dry few months, the Northside was free of any major fires this past summer and it is a credit to our residents and visitors who respected the campfire and fireworks bans. There were three lightning strikes that could have turned quite serious had the crews not been able to respond rapidly. The first two fires were close to Watch Lake and, although off-road, they were both suppressed quickly and without incident. We were pleased that the water supply from the dry hydrants played an important role in providing a quick and reliable source of water for the firefighters in containing these blazes.

The third strike could have been far more serious, but the smoke was seen and reported by residents on the Southside who said it appeared to be somewhere behind the Flying U Ranch. It turned out to be in the Graham Lakes area on the fir ridge north of Farmer's Bull Pasture. Using their own quads and motorcycles, the firefighters cleared a trail in to the fire scene for the Forestry crew to do the mop-up.



Fortunately, a water bomber was available in Williams Lake and after four dumps of retardant the fire was out. Everyone on the south side had a first-hand display of fire suppression in action.

There were several call-outs to motor vehicle accidents throughout the summer. In one incident, the wife of one of the fighters sustained serious injuries. The other incidents were relatively minor and required only traffic control and clean-up of the road. Further traffic control was required during windstorms in the late summer and early fall when there were call-outs for trees on the hydro lines.

The Watch Lake area has long been plagued with a couple of radio dead spots. Numerous attempts have been made to correct the situation with little success. This summer, Chief Andy Palaniak and a couple of firefighters joined forces with the Southside Chief Peter McKie to clear some of the trees from around the radio tower on Mount Jack. This made some improvement, but there are still modifications to be made. Plans are in the works to move some of the equipment at Hall #1 to see if that works.

Recently the North and Southside departments, with members from 70 Mile joining them, have combined some of their Saturday training sessions to meet the requirements of the Structure Firefighters Competency as established by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

As winter approaches it's time to check-out the woodstove and make sure it is safe to use for another cold season. Be sure the chimney is cleaned also, before the roof gets too slippery. The night we turned the clocks back was when we were supposed to change the batteries in the smoke detector. If you didn't get it done then, please do it now. Let's all enjoy a safe and fire-free winter.

Roy Allan



The Information Backroad

In the Watch Lake - Green Lake Area we enjoy a quieter, slower way of life, away from the day to day



turmoil of urban struggles. We are, however, never far away from the so-called information highway. From satellite and wireless connections to dial-up, if we choose, we can have access to all that the cyber world has to offer at the click of the keyboard. "What kind of bird is that?" – "What are those bright stars in the night sky?" – "How are my stocks doing?" – "Who won the Stanley Cup in 1949?" just Google it. Anytime of the day or night you can send an email to your sister on the other side of the world or, better yet, talk with her via

Skype with no long distance charges. A couple of years ago we were able to follow the daily email reports from the North side Fire Chief Andy Palaniak and his wife Jayne as they climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. If we want it, we can have all of the big city advantages of the World Wide Web at our finger tips while enjoying the solitude and beauty of our natural surroundings.

There are four sources of local information right here on our own information backroad. The Green Lake Snowmobile Club <http://greenlakesnowmobileclub.ca> has a very interesting site highlighting winter activities with important news items and announcements added throughout the rest of the year. The Green Lake Area Ratepayers Association site <http://www.glara.ca> covers year-round local interest news and events with links to many area services. Last year they held a photo contest highlighting the many activities that residents and visitors alike enjoy throughout the year. During the winter months there is also a weekly snow and ice report. Fire Safety information and department activities of the South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department are found on their site <http://southgreenlakevfd.ca> and during the summer months this is a good source for the Kamloops area fire restrictions and campfire bans. Since the north side of the lake is in the Cariboo area, the Watch Lake – North Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department site <http://www.wlmgfiredept.org> may post fire restrictions that apply only in their area. Like the south side this site covers a wealth of fire prevention and safety articles as well as locally important fire department news.

The web master for the north side VFD tracks the usage and location of the people accessing their site and publishes a summary of his findings in the summer and winter newsletters. It is interesting to note that in its five years of operation the "hits" on this site have grown to over 1000 per month and that many of them come from as far away as Russia and Saudi Arabia.

While you are perusing the local web sites to see what is of interest, remember the latest best seller you heard about on CBC is only a click away at Amazon. And, the Canadian Tire on line sale flyer just came out or how about that new sled on eBay? Just like downtown.

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South Green Lake – Volunteer Fire Department



First off I would like to thank all of you for having a safe fire season in 2015, we have had only a few 911 calls this year to now.

- Trees on Hydro Primary line at South Green and Boulder Road
8 Fire Fighters attended
- Medical Assistance call
14 Fire Fighters attended (Medi-Vac)

We continue to hold our fire practices bi-weekly on Saturdays at 10:00 am with the exception of the summer months of June, July and August, when practices are held on Tuesdays nights. We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested in joining the VFD or would just like to have a look around the hall; please let me or any firemen know.

We have a fire ground command structure to ensure all firefighters follow our operational guidelines and we all return from an incident with everyone safe back at the Fire Hall. Without this commitment from all the firefighters we would be unable to meet this objective.

Thank You all.....

Roger Graham	Deputy Chief	Steve Gehl	Assistant Chief
Bob Walker	Maintenance Officer	Dunham Craig	Safety Officer
Del Westfall	Training Officer	Dave Plenert	Training Officer
Dennis Nagy	Captain	Ken Alexander	Fire Fighter
Bob Bell	Fire Fighter	Dave Clearwater	Fire Fighter
Dave Goodwin	Fire Fighter	Art Groves	Fire Fighter
Sandy Jamieson	Fire Fighter	Doug Hughes	Fire Fighter
Russ Milne	Fire Fighter	Matt McFarlane	Fire Fighter
Larry Messaros	Fire Fighter	Bob Palmer	Fire Fighter
Dwayne Parrent	Fire Fighter	Darryl Rogers	Fire Fighter
Vic Sizer	Fire Fighter	Jim Smith	Fire Fighter
John Sullivan	Fire Fighter	Brian Wagner	Fire Fighter
Steve Baker	Fire Fighter	James Walter	Fire Fighter

As a department we have completed or have scheduled the following training for this calendar year.



- Exterior Operations (Playbook) Minimum Training Standards
- 2 Modules Completed by SGLVFD, WLNLVFD & 70 Mile VFD
- Passport Incident Accountability System
- Hydro Safety under Power Lines
- Attended Fire Smart Seminar in Williams Lake
- Attended Exterior Operations Train the Trainer in Kamloops
- 150 Mile Training Weekend in May

We are constantly monitoring our apparatus and equipment and have replaced a few minor items this year. We also have been very fortunate to receive donations from Richmond Fire, Delta Fire and North Vancouver. Thank you to all departments.

As a rural department we are always looking for ways to enhance our firefighting capabilities and are constantly talking to other departments. Some of the projects we are working on are:

- Sprinkler System – Defensive Wildfire for Residences
- Dry Hydrants / Increasing the amount of water tendered to the fire scene
- Operational Guidelines Specific to Exterior Attack Only
- Lake access issues (conditions of road base and easy access to water)
- 911 coverage at the north east end of lake
- Newer Tender

Peter McKie,
Fire Chief



NEED AN ADDRESS SIGN?

In an emergency when every second counts, firefighters, police or medical emergency services could lose critical time if they cannot locate your home. Despite recent advances in technology and improvements in our 911 emergency dispatch system, there is a marked difference for emergency personnel in being directed to an address and actually locating the residence. In an emergency, time lost trying to locate the correct driveway can have a tragic result.

Address signs posted in a uniform position, with highly visible reflective properties which allow the appropriate emergency response team to find you as quickly as possible. Signs that are not reflective or right beside the road may not be seen, especially at night or in bad weather conditions

We have the opportunity to again supply these signs for the reasonable price of **\$20.00 each for a single sign** (taxes are included). The signs measure 8" high x 16" wide and are made of engineer-grade aluminum with 5" black numbers on a white, highly reflective background. These signs are clearly visible in the daytime and at night, as well as during adverse weather conditions and they are approved by our Fire Departments. This order form is for; South Green Lake, North Green Lake and Watch lake. If you wish to participate in this initiative, please fill in the order form below and mail it (with your payment in either cash or cheque made out to SGLVFD)

Mail to: SGLVFD, 546 Green Lake South Rd, 70 Mile House, BC V0K 2K2

Pick up will be arranged at a later date at the Green Lake South Firehall.

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Numbers to appear on address sign: _____

One sign \$20: OR **Two** signs \$40: Street Name: _____

Cheque enclosed: _____ OR Cash enclosed: _____

SOUTH GREEN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

"If we can't find you...we can't help you"

Greenlake Snowmobile Club

The Snowmobile season will soon be here, work preparing the trails and grooming equipment for the upcoming season has started with support from the many volunteers from the Snowmobile Club. We have recently completed our renovations at the club house adding 400 square feet and indoor washrooms to complement the facility.

Also, in cooperation with Recreation and Trails, we are in the process of installing additional signage on the trails to enhance the safety and enjoyment of the trails for everyone.

Snowmobiling is a family sport enjoyed by all ages so please refrain from using ATV's on the trails once the snow has arrived and grooming has started as ATV's leave large ruts in the trails which result in unsafe conditions for snowmobile operation.

Come out and support your local Snowmobile Club by becoming a member and enjoying many of the club activities throughout the year including snowmobile and ATV events

Applications are available on the club website www.greenlakesnowmobile.ca or by calling Kim Low at 778-866-3451

Everyone is welcome to attend our general meetings held at the clubhouse (176 South Green Lake Road) the first Monday of each month at 7.00 pm



Celebration of life for Betty Haywood-Farmer

Betty has been a resident of the Green Lake community, full time and/or part time, for the past 70 years. Betty's father, Charlie Wilkinson, was the former owner/operator of the Flying 'U' Ranch as were her former sister and brother in law. Betty and her husband Frank own "Farmers Bull Pasture" on North Green Lake.

A eulogy was delivered by her son, Stewart Haywood-Farmer at the Community Hall in 70 mile Sept. 19. Betty's daughter Sally and grandson Patrick delivered a presentation about her love of reading and the importance of literacy and how this influenced others. A very touching series of emotional tributes was delivered by all the grandchildren along with a moving slide show chronicling Betty's life in the Cariboo. Family friend, Jack Keough was the MC for the afternoon's agenda and, in typical Cariboo fashion a sing song closed off the Celebration with two of Betty's favorite songs. Close friends and family returned to the Community hall for a pot luck dinner later that evening.



Betty Haywood-Farmer
* 1922-2015 *

Invasive Species Workshop

Newsletter content for several issues now has featured information concerned with an urgent issue related to land based (terrestrials) and water borne plant species. As a result of information sharing with the BC Invasives Species Council, GLARA was approached late this summer with an invitation to have a workshop sponsored in our region. This offer was music to our ears. When did the Council intend on scheduling the event? As soon as possible!



On behalf of GLARA Leanna, Dunham & Bruce attended this workshop

In mid-September, a day long workshop was hosted at Lac La Hache. My take away was the seriousness of the threat to our precious lakes from the introduction of invasive species.

Secondly, faces were put to names and encouragement not only from the Council's commitment, but the local interest from 100 Mile House through Highway 24 to obtain further education for residents living by water. I am confident, from this workshop experience, that GLARA can expect to see additional support from the Council in 2016 to heighten the efforts not only to prevent the loss of government to act more responsibly and proactively on the invasives file.

Bruce Gilmour

I think for me it was interesting to see what is of focus in the world of invasive species and what is being done about it. However, I'd say my biggest takeaway was that a number of the species have been intentionally introduced for human enjoyment (i.e. bass, yellow flag iris, etc.), and that this is largely based on the fact that people do not understand the implications of doing so. To me, that really stressed the importance of educating people on how devastating invasives can be if they're in the wrong place.

Leanna Milburn



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