

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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WINTER 2016

Dear GLARA members,

Similar to the migration of the geese, we seem to await the ice on the lake in November and the ice off the lake in April. The ice is on as I write, and we have crisp temperatures of up to -20 C at night. This gives us hope that winter has set in and our lifestyles and sport activities are officially transitioned to winter mode.

GLARA attended an Invasive Species workshop in December and it is always a fresh reminder of the attention we residents must pay to this issue. Many who were around in the fall noticed a crew spraying a purple coloured material in patches along the road and in some cases on private property. This was a non-toxic herbicide application co-funded by the CRD and the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) to control the knapweed infestation which has a very rapid spread rate. GLARA commented our appreciation of the CRD's and ISCBC's proactive approach. The workshop discussed planning for the next 3 years and GLARA suggested that due to the complexity of invasive species, it is a bit daunting for the lay person to comprehend. We suggested that if the ISCBC could give us the top four problem species, we could disseminate information on a targeted program and possibly be more effective. I was pleased to learn that if you have invasive species on your property, the CRD will provide you with a species specific herbicide, applicators and train you in the safe use. We will post this information on our GLARA website during the winter.

At the western end of the lake in Boyd's Bay, an application for C-4 (Commercial Zoning) is in effect. Several GLARA directors attended a privately sponsored presentation by the applicant (Brad & Gail Potter) at the snowmobile club in November. Also in attendance were Sally Watson, TNRD Director and Dan Wallace, TNRD Planner. If you require additional information, please contact a GLARA Director or Dan Wallace at the TNRD. After the meeting GLARA directors submitted a letter to the TNRD Board asking for them to respect certain clauses in the Green Lake Official Community Plan when deliberating the application. A public hearing is planned for January in the area.

On behalf of the GLARA directors, we wish everyone a wonderful holiday this December and hope to see you soon in the new year.

Dunham Craig, Co-Chairman



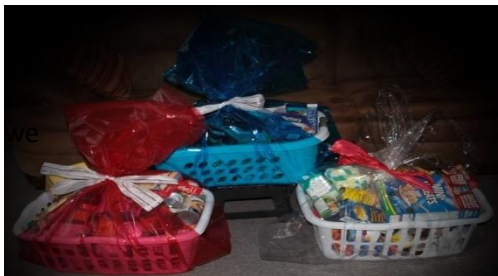
Watch Lake – North Green Lake VFD Quick Summary for 2016

There is not much to report regarding emergency call-outs on the north side of the lake for the past year. We did have a major fire last March, but since then the fire calls have been relatively minor in nature.

On the bright side of things, this year, with the help of the Auxiliary's fund raising activities, we were able to tweak our budget enough to obtain two new, (to us) much needed vehicles. Early in the year we found an exceptional 1995 Freightliner with very low hours on the pumps to replace the aging 1986 Mack. Work Safe BC regulations require us to have an ETV onsite when our firefighters are in a training group or attending an emergency. To fulfill this role, we found a 1999 Suburban with fairly low mileage that has room to carry a stretcher. This vehicle also provides economical crew transport when all of the larger vehicles are not needed.

We advertised the old Mack for sale in several places, but there was no interest in a vehicle of that age. Steve Condon of First Touch Auto Centre in 100 Mile House told us he was starting a fund-raising campaign to try to purchase the engine for the Psalm 23 Transition Society at 59 Mile. Having a truck such as this on site will give them much needed fire protection and it will provide a source of training for the resident students that could lead to careers in the future. The Board decided donate this engine to the Transition Society. We were given a truck by the City of Coquitlam 10 years ago and it started the rebuilding of this department to the level we enjoy today. Perhaps this truck will help the Psalm 23 attendees in their own rebuilding attempt.

In October, we found a good deal on a used 10 x 40 metal container that with the assistance of Steve Brown of the Interlakes Rona, we moved it to the back of Hall #1. This structure is already wired for lights and plug-ins and has an overhead hoist. Plans are underway to add insulation and sheet metal cladding to make it more usable during the winter months and to help it blend-in with the other buildings. The main use for this unit will be to store some of those seasonal and seldom used pieces of equipment that always seem to be in the way. So far all it has stored are cans and bottles collected for recycling, an activity that has already paid for the unit.



Last year at this time we had a very successful non-perishable food hamper Drive with collection boxes at 70 Mile Store, Little Horse Lodge and 99 Mile Market. Enough donations were made to fill three large hampers. To these added a turkey and \$50 gift certificates to be used at Save-On-Foods. We distributed these hampers to three families in the area just before Christmas. We hope to have the same success this year with donation boxes in the same Locations. Please contribute what you can and help to make someone else's Christmas a bit brighter.

If you haven't seen it before or even as a good reminder, take a look at this one minute video of a Christmas tree fire. It's pretty scary when you think that this could happen in your own living room.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HJGjwo3MQ8g>

Afternote: We almost made it through the year without another major call-out. Unfortunately, there was a structure fire in the evening of December 8th that required all of our resources. A house on Green Lake North Road was totally engulfed when the call went in and there was little the firefighters could do when they arrived but protect the neighbouring properties. The situation was made worse by fallen hydro lines, a gas line fire within the house and firewood stacked against the side of the house. It is sad that the owners of this property lost their house and contents and equally sad for them that they haven't paid their fire dues for the past two years. We will have to bill them for the time our crew and equipment were involved. It will undoubtedly come to more than the \$170 annual fire dues. Please have a safe and happy holiday season and new year. **Roy Allan**



SOUTH GREEN LAKE VFD – FALL/WINTER NEWS LETTER REPORT

First off, I would like to thank all the volunteers that help make my job as Fire Chief very enjoyable. Without all the help of a lot of people we would not be where we are today as a Rural Fire Department. The Playbook (BC Fire Service Minimum Training Standards) has kept us quite busy over the summer and fall months. We have partnered with our Mutual Aid Fire departments to provide this training to WLNGLVFD and 70 Mile VFD. This collaboration has kept the cost down for all our departments and we have trained/upgraded our firefighter skills around the lake and with our neighbours at 70 Mile. We have just completed Module 11 (Hazmat Awareness) with only TWO MODULES to GO!



Being in a rural area where the only source of water is Green Lake, it is critical we have quick, efficient and safe access to the water to fill our trucks. Along with getting the water in the trucks faster, WorkSafeBC regulations now preclude us from wading in the water in the summer months or in the winter to auger holes in the lake to access water. With these two challenges on our mind we as a department have started the process to install 2 Dry Hydrants on South Green Lake. We have chosen Access 5 and Access 10 for the location of the first 2 dry hydrants. The reason for these locations is based on water depth, slope of beachfront and access 5 and 10 split the south side of the lake in thirds, giving us equal distance to both ends of the road.

Along with the dry hydrants and the purchase of a newer Tender/Tanker, we should be able to apply to have our FUS (Fire Underwriter Survey) re-assessed. We recently went through a review and I quote from the report.

“FUS is please to advise that the insurance grades for the South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department have been maintained since the previous assessment”.

South Green Lake VFD has also been very active in working on a solution to resolve our major concern, AHJ (Authority Having Jurisdiction). South Green Lake VFD, being in the TNRD and being a Society, is not governed by bylaws from some level of local government for fire services. We are concerned about being left without an authority to point to if we are challenged by a property owner during a fire or any other event we could respond to. The liability risk for our Fire Fighters and Board members of the Society is becoming a very serious concern to all of us. Legally we have no right to enter private property without permission from the land owner or a local government bylaw.

Since June we have been meeting with the TNRD, Office of the Fire Commissioner, and other TNRD Society Fire Departments also affected. What we are looking at is an “Order in Council” province wide or a ruling on implied consent provincially. Alternatively, the Fire Commissioner can rescind his AHJ ruling and/or issue AHJ to society volunteer fire halls.

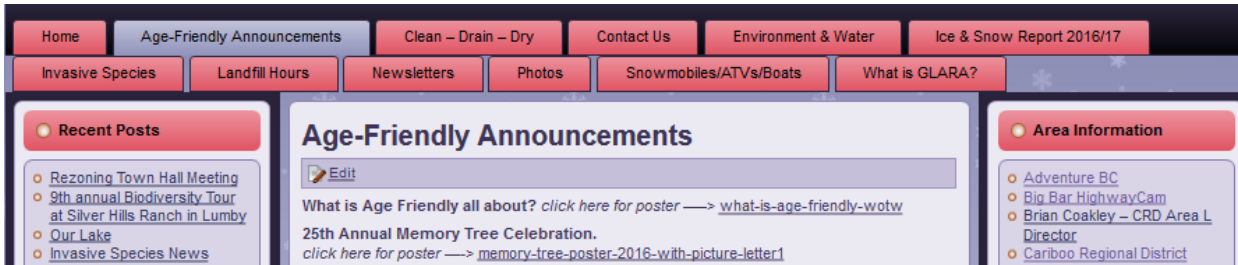
Another solution is to become a TNRD volunteer Fire Department, which you will hear more about as we move through the process.

Coinciding with the formal Playbook Training, we practice bi-monthly. As Rural Fire Department we are always looking for new members. If you are interested in joining our team, please drop by the fire hall (546 Green Lake South Road), next practice Dec 10 or call Peter McKie at 250-456-6806. Our current firefighter roster stands at 25 members.

Peter McKie, Fire Chief SGLVFD

GLARA Website!

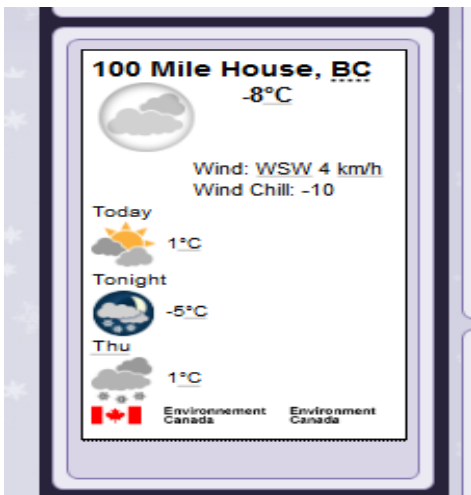
The GLARA web site is alive and well. We try to keep the main page as topical as possible by posting items concerning community issues and announcements of local events as they are sent in. Lake stewardship and invasive species news and calendars of events arrive quite often. Seasonal safety items that provide good advice for all of us are generally sent from Work Safe BC, BCAA and DriveBC. The Age Friendly Society in 100 Mile House has so many interesting events taking place that we made a roll-down tab just for their news. (see “Age Friendly Announcements” tab)



The “Ice and Snow Report” tab is very popular with part time residents who want to check ahead on the local conditions prior to coming up for winter recreational activities. The tab is ready to go, but until November 15th when we had our first skiff of snow all there was upon which to report was the number of mushrooms popping-up in our yards.

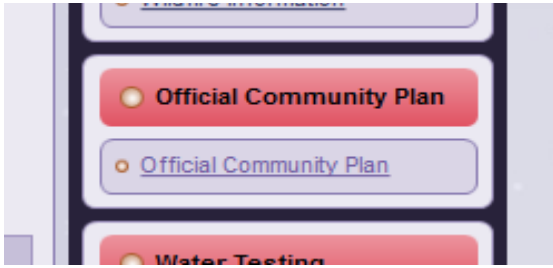


Several of the links on the sides of the main page get a lot of usage since they provide quick access to useful information. The most popular link is to the Environment Canada weather site where present conditions and forecasts are quickly available. The Highways Weather and Conditions link also gets a lot of use by residents checking road conditions before they leave on trips away from the lake.

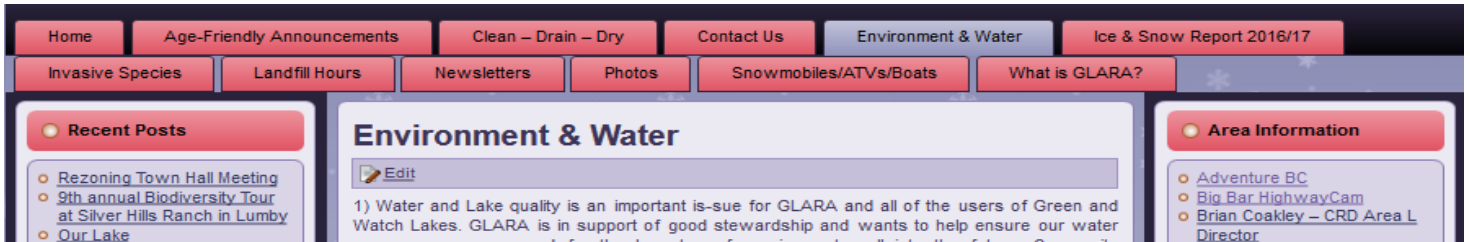


With the exception of Jack Dekens’ beautiful aerial photo of the west end of the lake and a couple of recent additions by Bob White and Dale Heggveit no one has submitted any photos to highlight the beauties of the area or to show off our many seasonal activities. Send us some of your favourite photos and help brighten the main page. 4

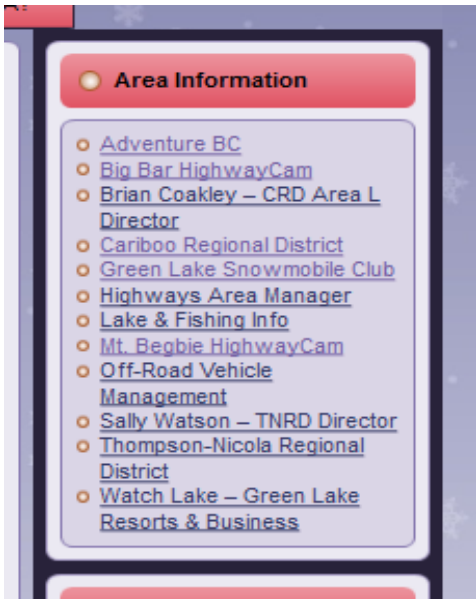
The aerial shot gives us a magnificent view of the lake that we don't all get to experience and it is interesting to see all of the other small lakes and ponds in the surrounding area. This certainly brings home the importance of the preservation of the watershed that is so integral to the goals of the Official Community Plan. For quick access to the OCP click on the tab half way down the right side of the main page.



In relation to the OCP and related environmental studies done for both Green and Watch Lakes click on the "Environment & Water" tab at the top of the main page.



Several residents have requested the addition of a web cam that would show a live view of the lake. If anyone can provide information about establishing a permanent video camera and internet link, please contact Roy Allan. In the meantime, the best we can do is to provide a link to the Highway Cams at the Mt. Begbie and Big Bar highway locations. (see "Area Information" on the right side of the main page)



If you have some news or an article of interest to share with the community, please send it in and also become a famous photographer - send us any photos that highlight the enjoyment of our area.

Roy Allan

When is a park not a park?

There were public “hearings” on July 29th and October 18th, but who was listening? BC Parks officials have now taken unusual measures to stop the abuse of Buck Side hill by all-terrain vehicles and to prohibit the use of the natural boat launch at the “Y”. The intention of the July meeting was to obtain input from residents on solutions to the problematic use of these areas and to present solutions based upon this input at the October meeting. However, it became apparent from the start that Parks had a plan and no amount of input was going to change that plan.



The damage caused by quads and other vehicles on the hillside is obvious, but the “fence,” made up of about 500 posts, there and at the boat launch appears to be an absurd reaction to the problem. The one meter spacing of the posts may deter four-wheel vehicles, but not dirt bikes and these posts will create an obvious hazard for tobogganers on the hill during the winter.



Blocking off the boat launch that has been used by local fishermen since long before it became a park is supposed to protect spawning fish. This could have been done on a seasonal basis, but Parks opted to make it a permanent closure. Boaters are now directed to use the boat launch at Little Arrowhead that is generally closed from October 1st until around the middle of May. Both the boat launch and the Arrowhead campground could be left open later in the year particularly past the Thanksgiving weekend when many part time visitors come to the lakes for their last visit of the year. Also, European motorhome tourists often come through the area in October only to find everything closed.



At the heart of this closure is the reluctance of Parks to provide toilet and garbage facilities in this area. For a number of years the pull-off at the “Y” has been a popular day-use area and tourists often over-night here. The lack of toilets and garbage receptacles has created an unsanitary and unsightly problem. Parks employees had several reasons for not being able to provide these services. Their first reason was that the proximity of an archaeologically sensitive site precluded the building of any type of toilet in the area. They turn a blind eye to the fact that any archaeological site would have been buried several years ago when Highways filled the parking area with gravel. Secondly, they claim that this area is a Class A park and no improvements are allowed. This seems contrary to the full definition of a Class A park given by BC Parks in which these are “lands dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public.” And, it continues by stating “development in a Class A park is limited to that which is necessary for the maintenance of its recreational values.” Wouldn’t maintaining the “recreational values” include sanitary facilities rather than fence posts?

A suggested solution to the problem here is to develop a community park just beyond the Parks boundary, 500 meters up the road at Access 14. This would remove BC Parks responsibility entirely. The question now arises, who will build this site complete with picnic table, toilets, garbage cans, parking lot and a concrete pad for the boat launch? Who will maintain it?

Submitted by a concerned GLARA Member

Green Lake Snowmobile Association



As the sun gets lower on the horizon and the days get shorter, our thoughts shift new ways to enjoy our outdoor lifestyle. Choose between cool walks, snow shoeing, skiing, skating and sledding. The Norwegians have a hard to translate word called "friluftsliv". It is a term that is used often to describe a way of life that is spent exploring and appreciating nature. It is literally translated as "free air life". An important choice for me is snowmobiling. Beyond the exhilaration, it allows me to explore vast areas in our area that would not be available by other modes of travel.

I'd like to encourage all residents to consider membership in our club. It gives an opportunity for snowmobilers to share our riding experience through group rides and through our trail system. The club is active in removing deadfall and leaners to open up the trails for their year-round use. The clubhouse provides a place for community meetings, social get-togethers, and special events.

Club membership is a way of sustaining what we have here.

Club applications are available through Kim Lowe (250-456-7506) or myself (250-456-2145).

Also check out our website, forms are under "membership". <http://greenlakesnowmobileclub.ca>



Signage on one of the Snowmobile trails

One of our club's successes last year was the addition of signs linking Moose Alley to 70 Mile House. Our trails now are linked to the Gold Rush Trail. They were provided by Recreation Sites and Trails BC. The signage is a great benefit to not only the club but to the year-round users in our community. The information increases both access and safety. Our signs experienced some damage last year and 4 signs had to be replaced. Report vandalism to the Club executive. Another success was the placement of a fire ring and picnic table at the Jeep Lake site.

I'd like to remind people that our trails are limited to snowmobiles when the snow reaches 8 inches and/or the trails have been groomed.



I'm looking forward to lots of snow, winter sun, and fresh cold air. Join us. "FRILUFTSLIV"!

John Sullivan

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