

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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SPRING 2017



Co-chair's welcome...

Seasonal residents of Watch and Green Lakes will be interested to know that on Green Lake, ice off was on April 25th. My sources tell me, if the current lake level is any indicator, water front homes have significantly smaller beaches with the high run off flows filling the lake. Replenishing the back-water basin will ideally bode well for a green spring and a summer resistant to lightning strikes and wild fires.

My sources describe for this time of year, activity about the lakes is localized to a property here and there. However, what seems to be in abundance are the loons on the water side and the foxes on the shore side. Shaded areas still hold onto the last of the winter snow. No reports of bear sightings as of this time, but the deer are abundant.

This message traditionally has and continues to welcome folks out of their forms of hibernation in anticipation of what comes from warmer and longer days for the enjoyment of the activities attracting residents to the lakes. A primary objective of GLARA is to monitor and support the awareness for sustaining the health of the natural values of the lakes area. To this end, we have and continue to be interested in the recruitment of volunteers to assist in the annual water sampling activities (contact Marie and Fred Kuyek). Water quality indicators falling into accepted ranges mean residents are responsibly managing and contributing to the health of all communities dependent on the watershed. However, essential and critical monitoring needs to continue and to be completed. Thank you.

Through this publication, ones to follow, and by attending the annual general meeting in August, GLARA advances another important aspect of the mission – communication with the lake residents. These opportunities provide the means for the TNRD and CRD, the RCMP, the Dept. of Highways, the Invasive Species Council of B.C., among others, to update and promote relevant information to support safety, education, and opportunities to participate at a local level in a manner important to you. Please support your GLARA by commenting and by learning more about how to be involved in the local community such as GLARA or your Volunteer Fire Departments. See you along the road or at a garage or bake sale!

Bruce Gilmour, Co-chair



WL – N.GL VFD Activities of the Past Year

The Watch Lake - North Green Lake VFD had a pretty quiet time for most of last year and so far for this year. There were a couple of structure fires in 2016 and the firefighters were called upon to provide assistance at a couple of Lone Butte fires under the mutual aid agreement with that department. This has given them a bit of live-fire experience and a chance to test the apparatus and response times in real emergency situations. The "Playbook" training courses taken in partnership with South Green VFD continued throughout the year and weekly practice sessions kept everyone up-to-date with equipment operation.

A lot of the department's activity this past year involved the collection and recycling of refundable cans and bottles. This has developed into a venture we never expected. So far, recycling alone has paid for the storage unit at Hall #1 and provided enough revenue to have the wiring connected and a heater installed. This summer the plan is to add some metal siding to improve the appearance of the structure. We will never equal the collection enjoyed by the South Side, but, at peak party times during the summer, there were so many cans and bottles that there was no room for storage of department equipment.

What began with a couple of firefighters taking in the occasional bag of empties dropped off at Hall #2 during the summer has now mushroomed into a year-round activity involving firefighters and board members sorting and delivering refundables to recycling centres. Firefighters Donna Theissen and Gord Silljer gave the collection a tremendous boost by collecting and delivering empties from the Watch Lake Dump to Hall #1. Former firefighter, now director, Ken Brennan, has taken on the task of coordinating the project. As of May 1st, Central Cariboo Disposal will be managing the dump and they have given us their approval to continue picking up empties from the designated container. Our thanks go out to them and to everyone in the community for helping out with this project.



The Auxiliary is baking pies and collecting merchandise for the annual garage and bake sale on Saturday, May 20th. Their hard work has provided funding for several otherwise unaffordable projects for the department. Please stop by on Saturday morning, buy a pie, find a treasure and enjoy a breakfast sandwich.



Why does foam form on our lakes?

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.

YEAR	ICE OFF	ICE ON
1994	N/A	21-Nov
1995	29-Apr	05-Dec
1996	25-Apr	20-Nov
1997	28-Apr	05-Dec
1998	21-Apr	04-Dec
1999	01-May	08-Dec
2000	26-Apr	03-Dec
2001	30-Apr	03-Dec
2002	05-May	18-Dec
2003	23-Apr	24-Nov
2004	18-Apr	06-Dec
2005	05-Apr	30-Nov
2006	20-Apr	25-Nov
2007	24-Apr	06-Dec
2008	13-May	04-Dec
2009	02-May	01-Dec
2010	18-Apr	23-Nov
2011	06-May	01-Dec
2012	28-Apr	08-Dec
2013	26-Apr	05-Dec
2014	1-May	30-Nov
2015	28-Mar	26-Nov
2016	8-Apr	8-Dec
2017	25-Apr	
2018		

ICE OFF

It is now officially Spring? Green lake broke and the ice did its annual vanishing trick on April 25th this year. This was only a day or two early, but not far off the average date. The loons were getting anxious and visited an open area on the Northside on April 21st. Even though our spring days seem a bit cool it is time to start getting the summer toys out of storage, summer is coming!

Here is a chart of the dates the ice has come and gone over the past 24 years.



Wildfire Prevention for Your Home and Community

Even though there has been substantial harvesting and removal of mountain pine beetle attacked stands the risk of wildfire still exists.

As spring approaches and hot summer temperatures descend on us, the concern of wildfire always comes to mind. Interface wildfires are a big concern for all of us no matter where we reside, but it is of particular concern in rural areas where residents are surrounded by forest and treed properties.

Taking a proactive approach through educating ourselves and neighbors about "Fire Smarting" our properties is the most effective avenue for prevention and spread of wildfire. Fire Smarting your property is about removing hazardous material from the ground, pruning the lower branches from trees and removing the young trees that are coming up in the understory. The concept of removing the ground material, branches and young trees is that it slows the rate of spread of a fire, should one start, and allows for greater ability for fire suppression. A good green lawn around your house is very effective in reducing the spread of a fire. A very good example of "fire smart" is the work that was done a number of years ago directly behind the fire hall.

Fire Smart information booklets can be found at any Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations office, as well as, our local fire hall. Ask about them at the garage sale or any other event at the fire hall.

The link below speaks to this topic and is a good information source.

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/wildfire-management/prevention/for-your-home-community>

Enjoy the spring and summer season while doing your part for education and prevention.

David Schwarz, RPF

GLARA Director

SGLVFD Auxiliary Report

The SGLVFD Auxiliary members made more than 700 pies for the annual Garage and Pie Sale at Fred Potter Memorial Fire Hall (546 Green Lake South Rd.) on May 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be apple, blueberry, cherry, apple blueberry and strawberry rhubarb pies available for \$8 each.

Auxiliary members worked hard to bake pies twice a week for 10 weeks. There will be a lot of treasures at the garage sale again this year, along with a table of raffle baskets. Tickets for the baskets will be three for \$5. Hotdogs, pop, chips and water will be available for purchase. Anyone having donations for the Garage Sale and needing a donations pickup can call Roger Graham at 250-456-7755.



This year's Community Day will be held on Saturday, Aug. 5 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come meet your volunteer firefighters and neighbours, while keeping cool with a delicious ice cream cone. Hotdogs, pop and water will also be available for purchase on Community Day.



Brian Coakley

I would like to wish everyone in the Green Lake and Watch Lake areas a safe and healthy Spring and summer. The CRD Official Community Plan is almost wrapped up and there are some important changes regarding secondary suites in a house and also what people refer to as granny flats. Please go to the CRD website and check it out. The other good news for the area is that ABC Communications with money from the Federal and Provincial Governments and with help from the CRD will be expanding Broadband in the area so that everyone in our area should be able to get WIFI.

You probably have heard the news by now about the lumber tariffs. The Federal Government, the Provincial Government and the CRD have all committed themselves to fight this unjust sanction by the TRUMP administration. Canada has been to the WTO five times in the last ten years or so and we have won every time. This time will be no different. Once again, I wish everyone a great rest of year. Please email me at: bcoakley@cariboord.ca if you have comments, concerns, or need clarification on any item that is CRD related.

Be Bear Aware



It's that time of year when the bears are coming out of hibernation and they will be hungry. Keep all garbage securely stored until you take it to the dump. Bird feeders often become bear feeders. Please – only feed birds during the winter months. Feed pets indoors, or if fed outside, take in any food that is not immediately eaten. Keep your barbecue clean and free from odours. Burn off the grill every time after use and clean out the grease traps.



SOUTH GREEN LAKE VFD –SPRING 2017 NEWS LETTER REPORT

First on the list is to thank all residents on the South Side for a quiet winter for our fire department. We appreciate everything the residents do to their keep their homes and cabins FIRESMART. Keep up the great work.

Again, this year I would like to thank all the volunteers that help make my job as Fire Chief very enjoyable. Without all the volunteer fire fighters, volunteer board members and our volunteer auxiliary members we would not be as successful as we are.

Great news, we just completed the 13 modules for the Playbook (BC Fire Service Minimum Training Standards). The training kept us quite busy over the fall and winter months. Once again, we have partnered with our Mutual Aid Fire departments to provide this training to WLNLVFD and 70 Mile VFD and have started sharing our knowledge with Loon Lake VFD. Thank you to all the fire fighters for their commitment and dedication to finishing phase one of the playbook. Over the summer, we will be having makeup sessions for modules missed by a few fire fighters. A thank you goes out to Sally Watson, our Area E TNRD representative for the funding we required for both our department and the 70 VFD in completing the Playbook training.

As a fire department, our focus is on safety, especially for our fire fighters. With a limited budget, we have chosen to replace all outdated PPE (Personal Protected Equipment) for all full time resident fire firefighters and we replaced our old gas detector with an Altair 4X Multigas Detector. It is designed to assess and mitigate the exposure for our fire fighters to combustible and toxic gases along with low oxygen levels. We also replaced our AED with funding from Jackie Tegart MLA Fraser-Nicola. The newer one has a training module which will allow us to keep current on the device. Our old AED is now located at the Green Lake Snowmobile Club house, giving the community another option in the event of an emergency situation.

Our training will continue over the summer months with our focus on refresher training for our fire fighters. We have scheduled, First Aid OFC Level 1, Pumps and Pumping, Emergency Vehicle Operation and Playbook review.

The dry Hydrant project is progressing quite well. SGLVFD is planning on installing two dry hydrants in South Green Lake at Access 5 and Access 10. The bathymetry was conducted in the late summer of 2016 in order to provide a plan to submit to the Ministry of Transport (MOT) and FLNRO Water Stewardship Officer. The Water Licence (FLNRO) was both expensive and time consuming and thanks to Donna Barnett, MLA Cariboo-Chilcotin, this has been greatly simplified and is at no cost to VFD's in the province. Donna Barnett was the primary champion of getting the restrictions simplified and on behalf of all provincial VFD's, we thank her for her efforts. The next steps for the SGLVFD is to give FLNRO a



notice of our plans of which a response must be provided within 45 days. Secondly, an application to the MOT has already been submitted and upon receipt of FLNRO's approval, a site inspection will be conducted and construction may begin. If all goes to plan, it appears that the Dry Hydrant construction can begin sometime after July which allows sufficient time to be completed before ice on this fall/winter.

WE, the South Green Lake VFD are still 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 still 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. Another solution is to become a TNRD volunteer Fire Department. Step one in this process in to have a Fire Service review for our fire department. We have started this process in partnership with the TNRD. The consultant will be looking at all aspects of the fire department such as:

- Current organization
- Current operations model
- Response times
- WorkSafeBC compliance
- Administrative structure
- Fire Hall apparatus and equipment review

The review will have recommendations for:

- Potential service changes
- Potential bylaw, policy changes
- Level of service recommendations
- High-level action plan for implementation

We continue to 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 May 6th or call Peter McKie at 250-456-6806. Our current firefighter roster stands at 26 members.

Peter McKie
Fire Chief SGLVFD



Marge Sidney

Green Lake Water report

This year we will be doing water temperature and clarity readings on Green lake every 2-3 weeks. The first water test was done on May 3 with Marge Sidney from Ministry of Environment conducting several tests with the help of Fred & Marie Kuyek and Dunham Craig. Marge tested for: Temperature, Clarity, Oxygen levels, Turbidity, PH levels along with other tests. When we get the report back from Marge it will be posted on GLARA's website: www.glara.ca Green Lake's water temperature at .5 metres was 6.5°C, at 12 metres it was 5.2°C and at 24 metres it was 3.7°C. The clarity of Green lake was at 7.9 metres. From the data gathered, Marge determined that the lake had only turned over only to a depth of 15 metres. Thank-you to Dunham and Valerie Craig for the use of their boat and Brian & Jackie Stroud for the use of their dock. Overall the health of Green Lake looks good right now!

Don't forget to check out the GLARA Website!

www.glara.ca

The website is specifically for GLARA news, local information, useful links and photos. It contains articles concerning local issues written by the GLARA directors and all members are also asked to contribute items they feel may be of interest to the community.

All of the "**Green Watch Newsletters**" back to issue no. 1 from 1993 have been archived and it is interesting to browse through past issues to see how GLARA concerns have been dealt with over the years.

There is a "**calendar of coming events**". If you know of an upcoming event of interest to the community, please let us know and we will post it on the Calendar. Down on the left side of the page there is also a link to the Environment Canada website set on local weather, but you can also use it to access weather forecasts anywhere in Canada.

There is a tab titled "**contact us**" that contains a telephone directory for all of the GLARA directors to enable you to contact a board member for more information on lake area issues and activities.

You will also see a tab titled "**snow report**". Here you can get an update on the snow depth and ice conditions throughout the peak of the winter season to help you in planning your winter recreational activities. Under the tab titled "**Snowmobiles/ATVs/Boats**" we have listed the often overlooked Provincial regulations concerning these vehicles. We hope that this will help promote the safe operation of recreational vehicles in our area.

Take a look under the "**Photos**" tab. We have a few photos here representing various seasonal themes, but we need submissions from everyone in the community. Send your photos to admin@glara.ca and share the record of your good times in all seasons here in the Watch Lake - Green Lake area.

The tab titled "**What is GLARA**" describes the aims and goals of your community voice. The concluding statement is particularly important for keeping the interest in all of our concerns up-to-date.

There is also a tab titled "**Membership form**" for you to print off if you would like to become a member or renew your membership.

There are several other tabs that you may find interesting, so go check it out! www.glara.ca

"GLARA is your organization". Let us know what you want to see, or to be involved in, within your community, whether it's Watch Lake, Green Lake or 70 Mile House. Share your ideas or contribute your suggestions and get involved. Contact a director or the editor of the Newsletter at greenwatchlake@gmail.com or the website administrator at admin@glara.ca

"We want to hear from you!"



70 Mile Summer Eco Depot hours April.1 – Sept.30

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



Watch Lake Summer hours April.1 – Sept.30

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:00 am - 4:00 pm	7:00 am - 4:00 pm	Closed	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm



Lone Butte Summer hours April. 1 - Sept.30

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:00 am - 6:00 pm	7:00 am - 6:00 pm	closed	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	8:00 am - 6:00 pm	8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Important date to keep in mind

The GLARA AGM is being held at South Green Lake Snowmobile Club again this year. Please keep Saturday, **August 19th – 9:30 am** open on your calendar and plan to attend. Not only can comments and ideas be brought forward, but the meeting will provide updates from your Regional District Area Directors as well as reports from directors on the watershed management plan, water quality updates, transfer station, treasury reports and possibly a visit from our local RCMP. **Hope to see you there!**

Open burning fire ban

As of noon on Thursday, April 13, 2017, Category 3 open fires have been prohibited throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre.

What is a Category 3 open fire?

A category 3 open fire - As defined in the Wildfire Regulation (s.1); an open fire that burns

- (a) material concurrently in 3 or more piles each not exceeding 2 m in height and 3 m in width,
- (b) material in one or more piles each exceeding 2 m in height or 3 m in width,
- (c) one or more windrows, or
- (d) stubble or grass over an area exceeding 0.2 ha

For more information go to www.bcwildfire.ca



Invasive Species

The Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC) and The Cariboo Regional District have partnered to deliver a comprehensive Invasive Species education and outreach program within the Cariboo region. The ISCBC is working to share invasive species information to local schools, youth groups, community groups and Indigenous groups through presentations, workshops, resource sharing and local media.

Some of program highlights include piloting the Invasive Free Youth Challenge which is a curriculum based education resource that teaches children and youth how to identify and keep their school or community free of invasive species. The ISCBC has also been working with citizens in the South Cariboo area to develop an Aquatic Invasive Species Action plan that is geared towards keeping their local watershed free of invasive species. Going forward, the ISCBC staff will be busy this summer and fall attending local community events where they will be sharing information on invasive species, and simple actions folks can take to stop their introduction and spread.

The Council will be hosting several workshops, including an Adopt - A - Watershed Workshop. This workshop will provide information on priority aquatic invasive species and best management practices to prevent aquatic invasive species introduction and spread. All of our upcoming events will be shared with the Cariboo Invasive Species Network through a monthly update as well as on the ISCBC website www.bcinvases.ca

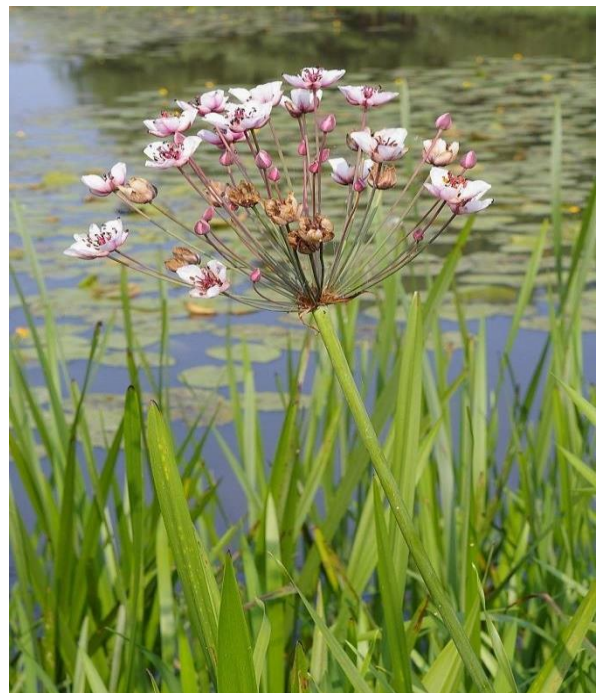
To learn more about the Cariboo Education and Outreach Program or join Cariboo Invasive Species Network, please contact Steve Relkov (jcp.wllead@bcinvases.ca).

May has been officially proclaimed Invasive Species Action Month in BC. You can help prevent the introduction and spread of harmful invasive species in our communities. There are many ways to take action against invasive species and make a difference - at home, in the garden, at work, on vacation and with your pets and aquariums. To learn more, visit the Invasive Species Action month website: <http://bcinvasesmonth.com>

Cariboo Species of Concern- Flowering Rush

Currently within the Cariboo region, there has only been one reported sighting of this species at Bouchie Lake, located northwest of Quesnel. The Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) have been treating this plant as a provincial alert species that qualifies for Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) within the province. Early detection of newly arrived invasive species, followed by a well-coordinated rapid response, will increase the likelihood of eradication or containment of new invasions.

Within Canada, this species has been classified as one of five invasive plants that have had a major ecological impact on natural ecosystems. Like other aquatic invasive species, the spread of flowering rush is partly due to its popularity in aquatic gardens, and has now been introduced to natural water bodies. Flowering Rush grows along the shorelines of freshwater bodies, canals, and ditches. It can rapidly colonize these areas and spreads by rhizome fragments and buds. Flowering Rush reduces the quality of boating, fishing, and swimming in shallow, freshwater habitats; as well as, negatively impacting native plant and aquatic animal communities.



continued next page.....

Flowering rush is a freshwater plant that can grow up to 1.5m tall. It has a single, flat topped cluster of 20-50 light pink flowers, each with 3 petals and 3 sepals. Leaves are fleshy and 3 sided at the base, with a noticeable slow twist or spiral and flattening out towards the tip. When the stem is broken in two, white stringy fibers can be seen.



Success at keeping the region free of Flowering Rush depends heavily on residents of the Cariboo. Residents should be on alert for Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) and report any sightings by calling the Cariboo Regional District's Invasive Plant Management team at **250-392-3351** or toll free at **1-800-665-1636**, or visit their website at <http://cariboord.ca>

GLARA Membership form

Your expiry date is in the subject line of your email

Thank-you for your support. GLARA is a non-profit organization

GLARA Membership Renewal Form Membership fees are \$15 per year or \$40 for 3 years.

Name(s) of member(s) applying

Lake Address

Full mailing address

Home phone

Lake phone

Cell phone

E-mail address for color email
newsletter & notifications

"or" E-mail address: "use only for small notifications of happenings around the lake, not to be used for Newsletters."

Make cheques payable to G.L.A.R.A.

Mail to:

GLARA, #99 Green Lake South Rd, 70 Mile House, B.C. , V0K 2K2.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GLARA

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