

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 NEWSLETTER 2017

Dear **GLARA Members**,

To put it mildly, it was a summer few of us are going to forget, although sadly lake residents did not see much of it. We were graced to have the winds change about 30 degrees in the nick of time as it was coming straight at Green Lake traveling at about 1/2 a kilometer per hour after it crossed the Bonaparte River. Our luck was Loon, Hihium, Pressy and Young Lake's misfortune however and our heartfelt sorrow goes to those who did not fare as well.

Below are two pictures taken from the north side of the lake at day and night illustrating the tenseness of the event. For weeks, if the wind had changed to SE, we would have been in a different situation than we are today and those at the fire halls became highly aware of the wind direction to the point of near obsession.



Every cloud has a silver lining however: the way the communities united and responded was the reward for us all. Everyone was tremendously supportive of our VFD's and contributions too numerous to mention were received gratefully making all of us extremely proud and fortunate to live in an area that has such goodwill and generosity. Although the 6 1/2 weeks of evacuation on the south side was frustrating for many and by some considered overly cautious, we also must take pride that there was no loss of life in BC this summer related to the fires which in itself is a bit of a miracle considering the magnitude and scale of the fire season.

Winter has set upon us very early this year with 4" of snow on the ground and down to -20° C the first week of November. Ice is forming on the lake in some of the less wind affected bays and there is a flurry of winter preparations underway including cutting and stacking firewood. Winter residents are looking forward to the winter sports and the quiet beauty that comes with the season.

Due to the summer, the GLARA AGM was suspended until next year but in the interim, we always look forward to any input you may have to our community organization.

Sincerely yours,
Dunham Craig
Co-Chairman GLARA

South Green Lake Fire Department Report



First off, I would like to personally thank all residents, South Green Lake VFD Executive, the TNRD, Watch Lake/North Green Lake VFD, 70 Mile House VFD, 70 Mile General Store and especially our SGLVFD Fire Fighters for their commitment and dedication to protect our communities during this summer's Wildfire Event.

Without this support from everyone, we would not have been able to accomplish what we had to do. Hopefully this was a once in a life time event and won't be repeated in our communities.

Starting last fall and continuing into this past spring, the main focus for SGLVFD was the Playbook Training for our members. Also included in the training sessions was Watch Lake/North Green Lake, 70 Mile House and Loon Lake VFD's

Playbook Training would not have happened without the commitment made by Del Westfall and Dave Plenert (SGLVFD Training Officers), who are certified Justice Institute trainers.

The benefit to our community and the surrounding Fire Departments was invaluable during our 41 day Evacuation Order. We are continuing this training with our goal to have all fire fighters in our area completing the 13 Playbook standard training modules, ensuring our communities are safe.



One of our ongoing commitments is to upgrade fire protection services wherever possible. Over the past two years SGLVFD has been going through the planning and permit process to install "dry hydrants" as our primary water source. We are happy to report the "dry hydrants" have been installed and will be in service shortly. They are located at Access 5 and Access 10. One on each side of the Provincial Park.

Thank you to all SGLVFD Fire Fighters that helped with the planning and installation. Without the assistance of Watch Lake/North Green Lake in sharing their information and expertise of "dry hydrants", this project would not have been completed on-time/on-budget.

Thank you to Dunham Craig who stepped forward to manage this project for our community.

Our other main focus this past year was to participate in a TNRD requested Fire Service Review for our fire protection area. This involved a private consultant (Dave Mitchell and Associates). This review was timely for a number of reasons: The introduction of the Playbook which set Minimum Training Standards that we need to comply with and the clarification of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), i.e. the jurisdiction to enter private property. It also clarified our role as a Fire Department (Exterior Operations only).

Our recent review was very positive, covering all aspects of our operations. They looked at: Training Plans, Training Records, Apparatus – condition and Maintenance Records, Equipment – condition and Maintenance Records and overall Fire Hall operations.

SGLVFD and the TNRD are currently reviewing all recommendations put forward by the Review. Our goal is to put a plan together that will rectify any gaps and implement any recommendations brought forward by the Review.

Thank you once again to all of our South Green Lake Volunteers in making our Fire Department stand proud throughout these challenging times.

Peter McKie – Fire Chief – South Green Lake

North Green Lake Fire Department



The terrible Elephant Hill Wildfire affected countless lives this past summer. From the inconvenience of being evacuated or not being able to vacation at the lake to the devastation of the forests and the tragic loss of property and homes, the stories are many and varied. While most of us spent a good portion of the summer in other locations, following the threat of the advancing fire on the reports coming from social media, our firefighters remained behind to work with other agencies to ensure the safety of the community. Fire Chief Peter McKie has described the activities of the South Green Lake VFD during the fire, Fire Chief Andy Palaniak and his crew faced similar issues on the Northside. Precautions were well under way when in July, in association with the RCMP, Military, and BC Wildfire Service, the firefighters were involved in rousting residents from their beds in the middle of the night to help enforce the evacuation order. From then on, the crew worked in round-the-clock shifts conducting patrols to maintain security in the area. As the fire drew closer they then worked closely with the Structural Protection Specialists setting-up holding ponds and sprinklers to lessen the chance of fires being caused by falling embers and burning twigs. Just as the fire seemed to have passed by to the south-east it made a sudden turn around and moved back toward Watch Lake. The residents from that area were again evacuated and the firefighters saw a few days of live-fire action in the mop-up activities at Olsen's Flats and along Little Green Lake Road.

Throughout August, the most strenuous and time-consuming of the department's duties was to conduct a FireSmart assessment of all 525 properties on the northside and Watch Lake fire protection area. "FireSmarting," something we should all have done ourselves, involved removing flammables from decks and porches and moving woodpiles from the sides of residences. Checkout the FireSmart Homeowners Manual; <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/wildfire-management/prevention> and click on home and community. This manual describes the precautions we can all take to make our homes safer should there ever be the threat of another wildfire. This manual can also be picked up at your local Government office.



The Manual further describes ways in which we can prepare our homes and yards to help survive a wildfire. In addition to clearing our properties of close evergreens and spacing other trees we should pay close attention to fire-proofing roofs, chimneys, gutters and other features of our homes and outbuildings. A checklist is provided in the Manual titled Assess Your Risk from Wildfire that will guide you through the FireSmart process. It is through the hard work of our firefighters that we survived the Elephant Hill Wildfire. Let's all do our part to help keep our community safe should a threat such as this arise again.

Roy Allan, GLARA Director

Invasive Species Outreach in the Cariboo



The Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC) and the Cariboo Regional District are continuing their partnership on delivering a comprehensive Invasive Species education and outreach program within the Cariboo region. Current ISCBC programs share invasive species information with local schools, youth groups, community groups and Indigenous groups through presentations, workshops, resource sharing and local media.

What's New?

Invasive Wise Youth Challenge: This program 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 Council is looking to partner with additional schools and youth groups in the Cariboo for the remainder of 2017 and 2018. For more information on this program, contact Sue Staniforth (education@bcinvasives.ca).

Aquatic Invasive Species: The Council hosted an aquatic invasive species workshop in Williams Lake on November 1st in partnership with RBC Bluewater program. The program goals are to support local governments, stewardship groups, First Nations and volunteers in keeping their watersheds diverse and invasive free from invasive species. A second workshop will be held in Prince George November 8 – check out the ISCBC website www.bcinvasives.ca for further information and updates. The ISCBC will be developing aquatic invasive species actions plans, including one for the south Cariboo, and assisting in delivering on the actions in early 2018.

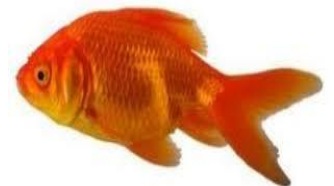
To learn more about the Cariboo Education and Outreach Program or join the Cariboo Invasive Species Network, please contact Coleen Hougen (chougen@bcinvasives.ca).

Species of Concern- Goldfish

Reference- Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group- Goldfish Invasive Species Alert- Goldfish.

Available at: www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/publications/speciesalerts/goldfish_alert.pdf

(if site warns of virus, this is a safe document) Goldfish are native to eastern Asia, including parts of China, Hong Kong, Japan and the Republic of Korea and have been introduced to Canada mainly through the pet and aquarium trade. This aquatic invasive species competes with native fish species for food, prey on native fish species and disturb sediment while feeding, which increases water turbidity and may harm aquatic plants.



Goldfish are typically found in streams and pools, ditches, and ponds in areas where there is submerged aquatic vegetation. Goldfish can tolerate a wide range of temperatures and oxygen levels, and are unaffected by ice cover.

Goldfish are being intentionally released into B.C. waterbodies by pet owners and escaping from outdoor ponds and aquariums. This species is an effective invader for its abilities to rapidly reproduce, withstand temperature and oxygen level changes, and consume an omnivorous diet. Once introduced,

they can establish in local ponds and streams, and rapidly spread to surrounding water bodies. There is an infestation of Goldfish in the Cariboo at Dragon Lake and research is currently underway on this population.

Here is How You Can Help Prevent Further Introduction and Spread

Don't Let It Loose! Never release your plants and animals into the wild or dump aquariums or water garden debris into rivers, streams, lakes or storm sewers.

What Should You Do Instead?

- Contact the place where you purchased the animal to see if they will take it back.
- Contact local science centers, zoos or aquariums to see if they can use the animal for educational purposes.
- Dry and freeze unwanted aquatic plant material and add it to non-composted trash.

If all else fails, have a qualified veterinarian euthanize the animal in a humane manner; it's far kinder than letting it starve to death in the wild or destroy the homes of native animals and plants.

Report Goldfish, or any other invasive species via:



- B.C. Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group website: www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species
- Calling 1-888-WeedsBC

Photo Request!



I am assembling a gallery of photos taken during the summer featuring what we all did during the fire, specifically during the evacuation. So far I have lots of smoke, fire and aircraft shots, but I thought it would be interesting to record what some of us had to do during the time that we were forced to evacuate. Some people travelled overseas, some vacationed in local places they wouldn't ordinarily visit, some went fishing, some camped in relatives' back yards and others sat in the shade and worried.

Send your favourite exile photo to: summerfire17@yahoo.com and see the other photos at www.glara.ca.

Roy Allan, GLARA Director



CRD Area L Report

First of all I would like to thank once again all the fire fighters, and the various groups of volunteers who did such a terrific job keeping everyone safe. Hopefully we will never experience another event like that in our life time.

Christmas is getting close, please shop locally as much as you can, our merchants need your dollars. Road conditions are starting to deteriorate, drive safe, clean your chimneys, and put fresh batteries in your smoke alarms.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and always remember we are Cariboo Strong.

**Sincerely, Brian Coakley,
Director CRD Area L**



TNRD Update for Green Lake and Area Ratepayers



Welcome to Winter 2017 and although you may be bemoaning the loss of summer it should be noted that we all seem to be better neighbours and to be communicating much better. I am working on developing banks of email addresses so that I can get messages out to specific areas quickly. I hope that I will be able to use GLARA for that purpose; of course, some of you may be on other lists so you may get messages from me twice but I'm absolutely sure that you know how to delete. The issue of getting a message out to the residents who are not connected to the internet is a bit more of an issue and I count on all of you to disperse emergency information to your neighbours who may not be as connected as others.

The TNRD Board met on November 2 as a Committee of the Whole to determine the direction that the Board will follow to assist the rebuilding of the properties that were lost to the 2017 Fire Season. As this was a public meeting I can share the information here, please remember that this is not yet "written in stone," it is still a recommendation to go to the Board on November 9 and then some of it will then go to the Provincial Government.

SUBJECT: Options for assistance to property owners with fire/flood damage RECOMMEND THAT, in the case of 2017 fire/flood damaged property, the Board of Directors:

1. Amend Development Procedures Bylaw 2385 to reduce planning fees; and
2. Enable accelerated application (inc. Building Permit) processing; and
3. Commission Riparian Area Regulation assessments for south Loon and Pressy Lakes; and
4. Create a zone allowing "dry cabins" for off-grid, limited access, seasonal use areas; and
5. Lobby the Province for Homeowner Protection Act relief for seasonal cabin rebuilds and BC Building Code changes to support seasonal cabins (similar to Ontario); and
6. Not waive disposal fees for solid waste other than fridges/freezers and food waste, but that uninsured companies and individuals be encouraged to apply to third party nongovernmental organizations such as Red Cross, for financial assistance.

The TNRD has hired a Recovery Officer that will be available to assist residents who lost so much with restoring their homes, businesses or recreational properties.



Those of us who were fortunate and did not have losses to the fire will be working very hard to FireSmart our properties to mitigate the possibility of fire loss. If you are unsure of what that process looks like please contact your fire department.

**Sally Watson,
Area E Director, TNRD**

A Summer Wildfire Season to Remember or Not?

Rather interesting or coincidental this spot in the spring 2017 Newsletter spoke about “wildfire prevention for your home and community”. At no point was this to be connected to the summer wildfire season we or the province had. This summer was the perfect storm for what happened on the landscape. The culmination of a changing climate with warmer temperatures and below normal levels of precipitation along with fuel build up left the forest in a very dry condition which allowed for the very aggressive fire behaviour that was observed, further fueled by extreme heat and wind. The result was a record wildfire season in terms of costs and area burnt which affected a lot of people and communities.

While this is a catastrophic event of epic proportions, we are to be reminded that our forested landscapes are not fire proof and are in need of fire to reduce fuel build up, rejuvenate forests and control forest pests. Making the landscape more resistant to the large-scale fires we saw and protecting communities is an important factor going forward.

While there will be the salvage harvesting of burnt timber and the reforestation of burned over areas, there are also deep conversations amongst forest professionals and land managers to address the topic of making our forested landscape more resistant to large scale fires and protecting communities. There is no easy solution or answer and will require some changes to forest policy and management practices and some of these changes will require the will of the general public.

Just over a year ago the BC Government established the Forest Enhancement Society with one of its purposes of advancing environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia’s forests by: preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires.

With the intensity with which the Elephant Hill fire burned, there is a high probability, even after winter that small spot fires and smokes could be visible next spring and summer but will be within the current perimeter of the fire. The Wildfire Service will be sensitive to this and action as needed.

Also, be reminded that while out on the trails, be aware of unstable trees.

Enjoy the fall and winter season, hope for a big snow fall to both enjoy and put moisture back into the ground.



David Schwarz, RPF

District Manager

Mackenzie Natural Resource District

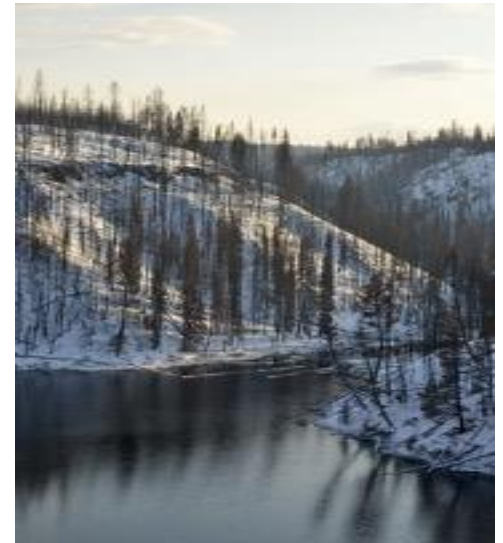
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

GLARA Director

Green Lake Snowmobile Club



In late June we had visitors who hadn't been here before. As one of the show-offs, we took them to Crater Lake, a visual treasure in a new provincial park hidden off the mainstream of highway traffic. We went back November 5th to visit the lake. At the trailhead we encountered park closed signs. This area was hit with the full force of the fire. The snow offers a strong contrast to the burnt branchless forest. The trails that used to loop from the clubhouse and back by Jim Lake/Dudley Kill/ Macintosh won't be open anytime soon. Blow downs and danger trees will limit access for the next while. The beauty of this hidden treasure will be muted.



As the 2017/18 snowmobile season begins we will have to adjust to the changes made by the Elephant Hill fire. Some trails will be closed, some trails will need extensive clearing before they can be used again but on a positive note there are a lot of new trails that have been created by the construction of fire guards. If you are a trail user summer or winter you should consider joining the snowmobile club to help in trail maintenance. Most of us moved here for the lake but have found equal value in our forest trails.

Be aware that you use the trails at your own risk. Be on the lookout for trees with weakened root systems, leaners and fallen trees. Factor in high winds and new snow loads into your trip planning. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations has hired a consultant to assess our trail system. They hope to develop signage to warn users of the potential danger trees and high stumps of the sides of the trails where they did some logging to remove fuel.

Have a fun but safe season.

John Sullivan, President

Snowmobile Membership



Off to a bit of a slow start this year, but we're rolling now, and it's time to renew those club memberships!

So if you would like to become a snowmobile member and haven't done so already, please find the renewal form at <http://greenlakesnowmobileclub.ca/membership/> Just print it off, fill it out, attach a cheque, and either mail it to the address at the bottom of the form or drop it off to **Kim Lowe** at 273 South Green Lk Rd.



Separation of Plastic Bags from Mixed Recycling

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) can no longer accept plastic bags in its mixed recycling program.

Here's what you need to know:

WHY THE CHANGE?

Recycling recovery facilities throughout B.C. have been upgrading their sorting lines to efficiently meet the standards of Recycle BC, the provincial product steward. As a result, these facilities are no longer able to process plastic bags in mixed recycling loads.

✗ WHAT STAYS OUT?

- Bags for groceries or dry cleaning
- Bags for bread, produce, dry bulk foods and frozen vegetables
- Plastic wrap



✓ WHAT STAYS IN?



For more information call 1.877.377.8673; email recyclenow@tnrd.ca or visit tnrd.ca



Separation of Plastic Bags from Mixed Recycling

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY PLASTIC BAGS?

There are many options:

REUSE THEM!

- As garbage bags in smaller garbage cans or in vehicles
 - As grocery bags
 - For pickup/disposal of pet waste
 - For padding in parcels

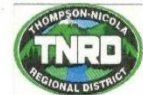
RECYCLE THEM!

- Take them to any TNRD Eco-Depot or Transfer Station, to be recycled separately
 - Check with your grocery store to see if they have a "take back" program
 - Ask your local bottle depot if they recycle plastic bags
- OR dispose of them in your household garbage

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the TNRD's mixed recycling program, please visit tnrd.ca.

For more information call 1.877.377.8673; email recyclenow@tnrd.ca or visit tnrd.ca



Winter Hours 70 Mile Eco Depot Oct. 1 – March 31

70 mile depot closed Christmas day, Boxing day and New Years day

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



Winter Hours Watch Lake Landfill 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



Winter Hours Lone Butte Transfer Station Oct. 1 – March 31

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

Watch lake & Lone Butte transfer stations: Closed Christmas day and New Years day

Fun Pictures from the past



Camels in 1862. Introduced into the Cariboo in May, 1862 by Frank Kaumeister - 27th 5th band. The last survivors of the Cariboo.

1862 - Camels were used for a short period of time by miners on the "Old Cariboo Road"

http://www.thefullwiki.org/Cariboo_camels



1867 - Great bluff south of Cache Creek



1862 - 70 mile Roadhouse & store was built, burnt down in 1956, again in 1962, and again in 2010.



1867 - 17 mile post north of Yale

http://www.thefullwiki.org/Cariboo_Wagon_Road



1943 - 83 Mile House



1860's - Jackass Mountain

http://www.thefullwiki.org/Jackass_Mountain

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