

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 NEWSLETTER 2020

Residents and Landowners

At the time of this spring message drafting, my sources have kept me current on local data which typically distracts us all at this time of the year. Ice off happened during the night between Friday, May 2nd and Saturday morning! I gather there were some stubborn pieces of ice floating still in some bays. Also, of interest, is the news from our lake level monitoring team – Green Lake has set an historic high-level mark! More lake for all of us, yet a significant reduction in beach for many. If you have a seasonal place, it might be a good idea to see if a year-round neighbor could take a peek along your waterfront to identify threats from the relentless mechanical wear from wave action. Water levels of this magnitude bring back memories for longer standing residents in how stories are told about how one with a canoe could navigate to the west end of Green Lake, cross the road, and re-enter the navigable water system through the ponds to 70 Mile House!

Looking forward into the summer, GLARA will continue to participate in water testing and quality monitoring. This file includes the continued focus on learning and supporting efforts to prevent the introduction of terrestrial invasive plant species and the same prevention of invasives into Watch and Green Lakes. Please keep this in mind when considering your garden seed sources.

In closing, I am reminded continuously about how the individual effort of all residents results in the collective enjoyment of the natural ecology and values sustaining the life you enjoy in the area. Organizationally speaking, heavy lifting has and continues to be provided by the many who sustain our Volunteer Fire Departments. Thank you and a special mention for the part you have contributed to the wildfire mitigation activities about the lake. My thoughts are also heavy with gratitude for the planning and subsequent implementation of the grocery service activated during pandemic lock down. A special mention to the 70 Mile House General Store under Krista and Miguel's leadership and collaboration!

Please read on to learn from a variety of updates masterfully compiled by newsletter Editor, Marie Kuyek. And on a need to know, Adventure Charters (Williams Lake), continues to provide once a week bus service to Kamloops and twice a week to Metro Vancouver (Tel. 250 305 2251. Web: www.adventurecharters.ca).

Many thanks and we will be seeing 'y'all in the weeks and months ahead as the good times return.

Bruce Gilmour and golden guide, Marley, Co-Chair



Fire Bans and Restrictions

Find out what fire bans and restrictions are in effect in your area. You can face <u>serious fines</u> and <u>penalties</u> if you fail to adhere to these bans and restrictions.

Most open burning activities throughout British Columbia are now prohibited. Open fire prohibitions came into effect noon (Pacific time) on Thursday, April 16, 2020.



The following activities are prohibited: Category 2 open fires; Category 3 open fires; Resource Management open fires; the use of fireworks; the use of sky lanterns; and the use of burn barrels or burn cages of any size or description (except when used for a campfire). Restrictions will remain in effect until the public is otherwise notified

For more information, please review the information bulletin found here.

Open Burning Restrictions continued for all High Smoke Sensitivity Zones in British Columbia

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, in collaboration with provincial public health partners is continuing open burning restrictions for all High Smoke Sensitivity Zones across the province until Monday, June 15, 2020. Pursuant to the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation, no new fires may be initiated and no additional material may be added to existing fires. These restrictions do not apply to campfires. These restrictions are directly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the effect pollutants have on viral respiratory infections.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's media release can be found here.

All of the areas affected by this open burning restriction, as well as other restrictions from venting conditions, can be found on the provincial Interactive Venting Index web page.

South Green/ North Green/ Watch Lk Firesmart

The population make-up of the community, with only about 20 per cent being full-timers, makes it difficult to let people know Fire Smarting properties can help protect both our own and our neighbour's buildings and properties during the wildfire season.

We have been putting up displays with video, handouts and face-to-face conversations at the annual Garage Sale and Community Day events and we will continue to do that. We know it is working because more and more people are Fire Smarting their buildings and properties. Neighbours are seeing what is being done next door and have started their own Fire Smarting activities. Word of mouth is our best tool at this time. However, we're going to try to reach out to more people through Social Media to encourage them to check out FireSmart BC, which has a lot of Fire Smarting great information, tips and useful forms on its website that people can download to learn more about protecting their buildings and properties.

If you have questions, contact SGL VFD Fire Smart Coordinators: **Ken Alexander** at 250-456-7496 or 250-319-8085, or **Bob Bell** at 250-395-0622. For WLNGL VFD: **Guy Poliseno** at 250-395-8092. They will be adding new and innovative ways to get the message out to full and part-time residents and property owners this year.



Watch Lake – North Green Lake Fire Department News

This has been a strange spring for all of us and at this time it appears that it will have a major impact on our summer activities. Our firefighters have been unable to participate in regular training and practice activities, but they are maintaining the vehicles and keeping them fueled-up and ready to go in the event of a local or interface fire. Fortunately, there have been no incidents that have required group attendance. We don't have enough vehicles for them to travel individually. Please pay close attention to the fire restrictions for our area. Even the smallest, unattended campfire can quickly get out of control and become a serious threat to our families and properties. In addition to that, any fire emergency will require attendance by our firefighters and bring them into close proximity to each other and to members of the public.

The need for social distancing and the limits on the size of group events has forced the cancellation of the annual garage and bake sale for this year. This is most unfortunate since it is a very popular event on both sides of the lake and it affords us the one opportunity to show-off some of the vehicles and to meet with so many members of the community. On the plus side, with so many people staying in their homes and cleaning out those storage spaces for something to do, just imagine how many treasures will be donated for next year's sale.

Once again, we have no major fire activities to report, but the big news for us is the acquisition of sufficient funding to purchase a new pumper. For several years we have tried to put together a funding package with which to purchase a new-to-us truck that would not "age-out" within five or so years. Finally, with the aid of a \$200,000 Lottery Capital Grant and the remaining fifty percent plus coming from an anonymous donor and funds remaining from our 2017 wildfire suppression activities we have been able to purchase a new vehicle from Hub in Abbotsford. We are pleased to be able to accomplish this without having to draw any funding from our operating budget which is covered by the property owners' annual fire dues. With our backup vehicle being in such good shape and three excellent tenders, we will not have to replace the major vehicles for many years to come.

We were also very pleased to receive a Red Cross Community Resiliency Grant to cover the cost of replacement equipment and pumps used during the Elephant Hill Wildfire. This grant will take a huge burden off our operating expenses for this fiscal year.

As of May 2nd, the ice is officially off the lake and most years we would be planning our summer activities. Remember, this year we have to avoid group activities, and this will certainly put a damper on those annual summer get-togethers with family and friends. By being cautious for a while longer, we can put an end to this pandemic and continue to enjoy our lakes for many years to come. Stay safe – stay home – what better place is there?

Roy Allan - Past President, WL-N.GL VFD

Fuel-management at Green Lake's Sunset view site

The most recent fuel-management projects at Green Lake Provincial Park sites started in December 2019 at the Sunset view site on the south side of the lake and Emerald Bay on the north side.



BC Parks' goal is to reduce fuel loading and ladder fuels in interface areas of the park to mitigate the risk and spread of wildfire.

There was a five-person Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nations wildfire crew – all from Canoe Creek – working at Sunset view site, from 941 Green Lake South Rd. and heading toward the park entrance, from Dec. 3 to Dec. 12. They thinned out the forest and pruned tree limbs to shoulder height. Then they collected the ground and ladder fuel and put it in one-metre by two-metre piles for burning.

The crew was back in late January and early February to do some more Fuel Treatment Units work on both sides of Green Lake South Road and they conducted some burning during a couple good venting index days. BC Parks expects to have this site completed in 2020.

South Green Lake Fire Department

I would like to personally thank all residents, Auxiliary members, all volunteers, the TNRD staff and especially our SGLVFD Fire Fighters for their commitment and dedication to protect our community. Without support from everyone, we would not have been able to achieve all our accomplishments this winter.



The transition to TNRD is complete and has gone quite smoothly. We continue to explore all options with the TNRD for funding, training and capital expenditures. I would also like to thank Sally Watson our TNRD Area E representative, for helping us navigate through the TNRD processes.



Aligning with the TNRD, we were very successful over last fall and winter in our grant applications. We as a fire department were able to renovate the Old Hall, with Gas Tax funding. This included reinsulating the hall, new siding, new windows, new floor upstairs, and paint...

We were also successful in our application for the Red Cross Resiliency funding. This funding was aligned with the 2017 Wildfire season and focused on the purchase of wildland firefighting equipment for fire departments who were under evacuation notice in 2017. We were able to purchase pumps, hoses scene lighting and various wildland fire fighting tools. Another funding opportunity was through the UBMC. Their focus was on Fire Department communication

equipment and safety. With this grant we were able to purchase 3 new portable radios, upgrade our old pagers, upgrade our SCBA equipment and purchase a TIC camera.

Just last week we were also successful in a grant from Enbridge with monies towards a Command/Utility Vehicle. I would like to thank everyone who assisted with securing all these grants. The research and ordering of equipment was no small task. The total amount of these grants is \$124,500.00. This has allowed us to purchase quite a few items on our 5 years strategic plan without using any monies from our 2019/2020 operations budgets.

With the Covid-19 measures in place we are unable to hold full practice's but are maintaining essential services for 911 calls. Also, we are performing weekly apparatus and equipment checks and holding virtual meetings to keep Officers and Captains engaged in hall operations. Hopefully in early summer we can return to normal operations with our bi-weekly practices and our monthly Tuesday night administration meeting. Our roster is in great shape with 31 active members.

SGLVFD is in year 3 of our 5-year project to install dry hydrants as our primary water source. We are happy to report the dry hydrants installed last fall at Access 1 and Access 14 have passed the accreditation process and have been recognized for fire insurance grading purposes. Last fall we installed 2 more dry hydrants at Access 2 and Access 10, with accreditation this summer... Details of the dry hydrant locations will be published within the Canadian Fire Insurance Grading Index for insurance brokers to use. Thanks to all who helped with last fall's installation and to our project coordinators Dunham Craig and Jim Smith.

Thank you once again to all our South Green Lake Volunteers in making our Fire Department stand proud throughout these changing times. It takes dedicated people to run our fire hall and I thank them all for their hard work.

Hoping everyone has a safe and healthy summer 2020.

Peter McKie – Fire Chief – South Green Lake

Wildfire Fuel Reduction Update

As evidenced by the logging and the piling of material adjacent to South Green lake Road from Point Road to the Buffalo Ranch, a good portion of the fuel mitigation treatments conducted by the Ministry of Forests, Lands,

Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) was completed this past winter. The decked logs, which are a combination of saw logs and pulp logs will be removed from the site in order to utilize the material while minimizing the need for burning. A grinder is being accessed to grind some of the material into hog fuel for pulp mill use. The area where the piling treatment work was done will be burned this fall to reduce the fire hazard. You can expect some final cleanup work to be completed in the treated areas over the spring months.

The objective of the treatments is to reduce forest fuel loading, provide greater separation between tree crowns, and remove ladder fuels all to help mitigate the effects of wildfire and increase the opportunity for wildfire suppression. Additional work in the vicinity of access 13 and the egress route is expected to be completed in the coming months.

While the opportunity to ride around on the new access roads is inviting, it is discouraged in order to respect the properties adjacent to the logging and to maintain the road in a suitable condition should it be required for fire suppression.



Forest Health

Forest health concerns continue with the presence of the Douglas-fir and Spruce beetles in the area brought on by the Elephant Hill Fire and drought. Something that is being kept an eye on, so I encourage you to pay attention to the health of the trees on your property.

We can all do our part in protecting our forests, community and supporting the fuel mitigation work by employing wildfire prevention and FireSmart techniques on our properties.

David Schwarz, RPF GLARA Director

Roads

The Ministry of Transportation Cariboo District staff are remaining healthy during Covid 19 and are working from home, office and vehicle. Corey Peterson is the new Road Area Manager for Bridge Lake and Clinton Corey.Peterson@gov.bc.ca cell 778-444-4089. Michelle Schilling Operations Manager 250-395-8948 michelle.schilling@gov.bc.ca. This has been a busy spring mostly to address North Bonaparte Road and Pressy Lake area due to flooding in the Rayfield River. The maintenance contract changed June 1 2019 and Dawson Road Maintenance can be reached 1-800-842-4122 (live 24/7 answering service) or by website https://www.dawsonroadmaintenance.ca/ The Ministry and the maintenance contractor will continue to focus on the regular activities such as grading gravel roads, patching paved roads, road painting, brushing, sign maintenance, mowing grass and cattleguard maintenance.

Regards, Michelle Schilling

Operations Manager | Cariboo District T: 250-395-8948 | C: 250-644-2200

Water Levels in Green Lake

Marie Kuyek asked me if I would write this article for the GLARA newsletter. I have been measuring and recording the rise and fall of Green Lake water levels for quite a number of years. The measurements are done with a staff gauge (imperial measure), from the water surface down to the top of a metal datum hub that I installed in the lake bottom in front of my waterfront property in the 1200 Block of South Green Lake Road. In low water years I can obtain the measurement wearing chest waders and in high-water years I use a canoe or kayak.

The following is a list of the highest water levels measured for the past 10 years.

May 11, 2020 July 22, 2019 May 19, 2018 May 26, 2017 May 30, 2016 May 28, 2015 July 26, 2014 June 27, 2013 July 26, 2012	+69 ½" +61 ¼" +51 " +58 ½ " +48 ½ " +51 ¾ " +44 ½ " +28 ¼ " +21 5% "	Culvert at East end of Green Lk
July 26, 2012 July 23, 2011	+21 % " +25 1/8 "	

My last measurement for 2019 was October 19th and was 54 $\frac{1}{2}$ " compared to May 11th, 2020 at 69 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The water level in the lake has come up 15" and is still rising. The lake level is now at the highest level that I have witnessed since I became a property owner in June of 1967 (53 years). The lake is not flooding, the May 11th, 2020 water level is within a few inches of the level I personally witnessed in June 1967 on my beachfront property.

The **lowest** I have ever recorded was on Oct. 23, 1989 at 0.325 m The **highest** level I have ever recorded was on May 11, 2020 at 1.84 m. That is a difference of 1.524 m (60 inches or 5 feet)

Please do not panic because the beach in front of your property is under water; the lake is only behaving like it has for many many years. You will get your beach back in the future. The lake is draining, as it always has

in high water years, into a stream that flows into Little Green Lake. This stream flows through a 48" diameter road crossing metal culvert. Here is a picture taken May 4, 2020, the culvert was flowing at 3/4 full.

Enjoy your summer on the lake and stay safe.

Gordon Labinsky (the water level guy)



Please be careful when you are boating this year. The water levels are very high and excess speed within 30 meters of the shore will damage the shoreline.





Beware these invaders in your area!

Hoary Alyssum – Berteroa incana The Hoary alyssum is currently found in the Cariboo with localized infestations in the Green Lake area. It has small, white flowers with deeply notched petals. The flowers are borne at the end of multiple or single, erect, thin stems. The stems and leaves have a rough texture that feels like sandpaper. Each plant flowers and produces a large number of seeds. These seeds are spread through hay, vehicles, equipment, footwear, wildlife, and soil or gravel. Infestations can reduce hay quality and value, displace plant communities, and poison horses.

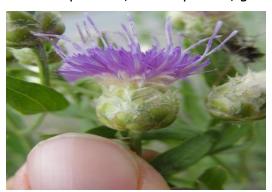






Russian Knapweed – Acroptilon repens

Russian knapweed is currently found in isolated locations within the Cariboo. It is a bushy, branched plant with many flower heads. The flowers are pink to purple in colour. The leaves are gray-green in colour and arranged along upright stems. Russian knapweed reproduces by seed and through its root system. It is an aggressive invader of pastures, non-crop areas, grain fields, and other cultivated fields. It is also poisonous to horses.





If you see any plant species that you suspect is invasive, please report the sighting at 1-800-665-1636.

To learn more about the invasive plant species in your area, please visit the Cariboo Regional District's Invasive Plant Management Program

website at https://www.cariboord.ca/services/invasive-plants/crd-invasive-plants.

Sign-Up for Invasive Plant Services

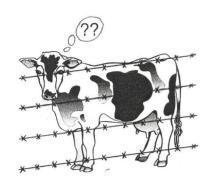
The CRD's Invasive Plant Management Program has many Landowner Assistance Program services available to help you control the unruly plants on your property. Registration opens in January for services, including:

- Herbicide dispensing services
- Equipment loan-out services
- 50/50 Treatment service rebate (purchase of services by an approved invasive plant management contractor)
- 50/50 Treatment product rebate (purchase of herbicide, fertilizer, or other approved product for invasive plant management)
- Biological control agents
- Invasive plant disposal bags
- Property assessment and management advice
- One-time private property treatment (free of charge)

Space is limited in most of these services, so sign up as soon as possible! Contact us at invasiveplants@cariboor.ca or 1-800-665-1636 to register or for more information.

South Green Lake Cattle Exclusion Fence

In the 14+ years since this fence was built and declared "open for business" (Spring of 2005) many new property owners have joined the South Green Lake community. My purpose in writing this article is to tell you why and where the fence was built in the hopes that, together, we will continue to prevent open range cattle from accessing the South Green Lake subdivision.



The subdivision, from day one, is an area regulated by open range grazing laws. These laws make it legal for the free range cattle to graze, access water,

sleep, walk, run, moo, take bathroom breaks, etc., anywhere on private property as well as the main road, the lake access roads, the lake itself and the beaches for the full length of the subdivision. The law frees the rancher of liability for any damage done to private property by the cattle. Back then, if you did not want cattle on your property you had to fence your entire property and have an access gate or cattle guard. Some individuals of the community realized the most cost-effective way to keep cattle completely out of the

subdivision was to build a range separation fence on Crown Land to the south of the subdivision. The government chose not to partake in the project.

To make a long story short the fence was built and paid for by a great many South Green Lake volunteers. God bless them all for their generosity and support.

Phase 1 of the fence (has yellow painted metal gates near each cattleguard) runs from the west end of Nolan Lake to the east of Goofy Lake (south of the 1100 block); then from the west of Goofy Lake to the east side of No Name Lake (south of the 900 block); then from the west end Of No Name lake to the northeast corner of the XH Buffalo Ranch fence which then becomes part of the cattle exclusion fence.

Phase 2 of the fence (has red painted metal gates near each cattle guard) runs continuously from the northwest corner of the XH Buffalo Ranch fence all the way to just west of Point Road where it ends at Green Lake.

If you notice any damage to Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the fence (trees on the fence, broken barbed wire, pulled staples or any vandalism) please call one of the maintenance people listed below.

Phase 1 - Gordon Labinsky: 250-456-2310. I have a couple of volunteer helpers and we will get it fixed.

Phase 2 - Dennis Nagy: 250-456-6020. Dennis and his volunteer helpers will do the work.

You too can do your part to keep cattle out of the subdivision. If you go through one of the many gates please close it behind you and secure the gate with the short length of chain that is welded to the gate by wrapping the chain around the wood post and then hooking the last link of the chain over the hooked flat bar that is also welded to the gate. On many of my maintenance walks along the fence line I sometimes find gates left wide open or in the closed position but not securely fastened.

If you enjoy the fantastic trail network on the Crown Land south of the subdivision you will pass through the cattle exclusion fence somewhere on Phase 1 or Phase 2. If you happen to get turned around or lost, just remember the colour of the metal gate (yellow or red) at the cattle guard when you left the subdivision. The yellow gates are on the east side and the red gates are on the west side of the XH Buffalo Ranch property. The ranch is several square miles in area and is surrounded by a 6-foot high page wire fence on treated posts. The XH Ranch is right across the road from Sunset View Provincial Park. Might be a good idea to share this with your family, friends and anyone utilizing the trail system.

Have a good summer and stay safe,

Gordon Labinsky

RCMP Report

Good day fine people of the Green Lake area. Summer is quickly approaching and we are definitely facing unprecedented times with Covid-19. There are a few areas that I will touch upon, and for those of you who read the Clinton Lariat there may be a little repetition.



The number of break and enters this winter was down from last year. This does not mean that you can relax your efforts in the area of keeping your property from being a target. Continue to be vigilant by reporting suspicious occurrences and recording detailed information whenever possible. A number of you already perform these duties and we truly appreciate it as the police cannot be everywhere all of the time, so community policing is the only way we can maintain safe communities. Besides "break and enters" topic, the other main complaint in the area is traffic related.

I would like to acknowledge that a couple of months back, with the assistance of community members from 70 Mile House, through Green Lake up to Watch Lake we were able to apprehend the people from a vehicle that fled from police and had been on a crime spree in the Lower Mainland. Depending on a situation, we do not pursue vehicles and put the public at risk unless the situation warrants it, which explains how the vehicle got away from the member. The telephone network of people in the area allowed us to determine the direction this vehicle travelled and when the culprits set off the motion detector on a surveillance camera, all three occupants were then apprehended. Our thanks go out to all involved.

For those people who are not full-time residents, if you are a firearm owner, please do not leave your firearms in residences that are not permanently occupied. If you are a permanent resident and are away for an extended period of time, consider storing any firearms with someone who is appropriately licensed while you are away. The storage regulations for firearms are pretty basic, and many people purchase firearm safes that meet the basic requirements, but fail to keep the firearms out of the hands of the people breaking into their residence. Purchase a safe that cannot be pried open easily, that is heavy and would be difficult to carry or if the safe is lightweight, have it anchored to a wall or the floor. If the safe is key accessed, then you need to be responsible for that key and not leave it around where it can be used to access the safe. I prefer a digital or combination locking mechanism to eliminate the key accessibility issue. You should keep records of the make, model and serial number of all firearms and store that information somewhere safe and easily accessible in case the firearms are stolen. Since the federal government dissolved the gun registry, we have found that most victims of non-restricted firearm thefts are unable to provide us with the necessary information to flag their stolen firearms on our system.

A reminder that All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) are not permitted on designated highways with the exception of to cross them for which you require a permit. Permits are issued at our office and are valid within our Detachment area only. This means depending on where you live and the area that you operate your ATV, that you may require permits from more than one Detachment. Our Detachment is currently not issuing these permits due to Covid-19, but as the risk reduces, we will once again. All ATVs operated off of your private property require current license and registration. For highway crossing or use on a Forest Service Road (with appropriate insurance), a valid driver's license is a requirement. If your quad is meant for one person, then that is all that is permitted to ride on it, I have seen too many people doubling or even having the attached seat backs to accommodate a second person when the quad is not designated that way. Be respectful of the areas in which you use your ATVs and be certain that you are not trespassing. Safety is paramount: wear an approved helmet, maintain the ATV including lights and do not go beyond your skill level or the operating parameters of the vehicle. Impaired operation of a motor vehicle does include ATVs and if you are prohibited from driving then that includes all vehicles that are not on private property.

I hope that everyone has a good summer and we hope to see you as we patrol the area. If you need to reach us for non-emergency calls, the Detachment phone number is 250-459-2221. For emergency services and matters that require immediate attention, always call 9-1-1.

Cpl Chris von COLDITZ
Detachment Commander Clinton RCMP

What is GLARA?

Green Lake Area Ratepayers Association

Responding to population growth, GLARA was created in 1993 as an opportunity for local voices to be represented regarding the community and ecological health of the Green lake area.

GLARA has grown to be recognized by local governments and the membership for enhancing advocacy and education.

GLARA is nonpartisan and partners with the government of the day on providing input to such important features as the function of Transfer Stations, monitoring lake health through the vital work of water sampling and testing, road improvements and wild fire interface safety, through to assisting the processes for policies to formalize a long term vision for sustaining what is important to the area through land use planning.

Residents are kept up to date on the GLARA files through two to three newsletters a year. Suggestions and concerns are communicated directly to the GLARA executive or at the more localized level by getting to know the GLARA Director living in your part of the lake area.

All questions and suggestions are welcomed.

GLARA is your organization. Let us know what you want to see, or be involved in, within your community of Watch Lake, Green Lake or 70 Mile House. Share your ideas or contribute your suggestions and get involved. Contact a director, the editor of the newsletter at greenwatchlake@gmail.com or the website administrator at admin@glara.ca. Check out our website: http://www.glara.ca/

We want to hear from you.

GLARA Membership form

Thank-you for your support. GLARA is a non-profit organization **Membership fees are \$15 per year or \$40 for 3 years.**

Name(s) of member(s) applying			Lake Address	
Full mailing addr	ress			
Home phone	Lake phone	Cell phone	E-mail address	

If you want your email used only for **small notifications of happenings around the lake, not to be used for Newsletters."** Please put an X here. •

Make cheques payable to G.L.A.R.A. GLARA, #99 Green Lake South Rd, 70 Mile House, B.C., VOK 2K2.

GLARA can now receive e-transfers Email to greenwatchlake@gmail.com

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