

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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Dear GLARA Members

Worthy of lake resident attention are the topics of current ground water levels and anticipating what will be released into streams and lakes throughout the South Cariboo with snow melt. How rapidly night time lows will decrease and the day time highs will trend up, can only be observed. The catch basins of direct interest to Green and Watch Lakes include the upper reaches of 83 Mile Creek, Green, Jim, Nolan and Watch Lakes. How much water will be released is only understood through increases in lake levels as measured against fixtures along the shoreline. GLARA encourages residents to prepare for the potential of what Mother Nature might have in store as the rate of snow melt is released.

Ice off this year for Green Lake was April 27th, the date for last year was May 2nd! Ice off provides the circumstances to walk and review the interface between the lake level and the shoreline to identify threats from the forces of water. To minimize the forces of wave action erosion, the placement of sand bags, concrete blocks, or rocks will serve as diverters and reduces the potential for erosion and property damage.

The shared lessons experienced with high lake levels from last summer, provides the knowledge to prepare for what may or may not happen this summer. What is not in our control is the pace spring exits and summer makes its introduction. For permanent residents you are better able to monitor the day-to-day changes. For seasonal residents in anticipation of opening places up this spring, in fairness, be advised how more than cleaning supplies, rakes, weed eaters, extension cords, and refreshing of the propane tanks might be in order upon arrival! Monitoring of the Green Lake outflow into Little Green brings relief in the knowledge that the culvert is unobstructed and releasing lake water at a substantial rate.

As soon as can be confirmed, information will be shared about the availability of sand bagging materials. In the spirit of support for the continued health of all residents and guests, thank you for your efforts directed towards the health and safety of the region during the management of the pandemic. Whatever form of access is used to enjoy time on the water or in the back country, respect for the natural ecology provides the same enjoyment for others to follow on an outing! Whatever draws you to Green and Watch Lakes and the area, warm wishes from the GLARA Executive for the enjoyment of your traditions!

Bruce Gilmour, Co-Chair

Roads, Ditches, and Culverts - Spring 2021 Ministry of Transportation Update

The ministry and the maintenance contractor continue to inspect roads and prepare for the Spring Freshet. Watch for frost heaves and broken pavement this spring! MOT crushed more gravel in the Pressy Pit area over the winter in anticipation of additional graveling in the North Bonaparte Road and Boule Young Roads (post wild fire areas). Dawson Road Maintenance is regularly patrolling North Bonaparte Rd, focused on removal of broken asphalt. The road continues to have the posted 50% Load Restriction. Ongoing discussions continue about short/ long term plans for North Bonaparte Rd at present. Residents are asked to inspect and clean their access culverts to assist drainage. Badger populate the South Cariboo and are known for occupying the road and access culverts. If there is evidence of badgers, please respect their habitat! **(See link below.)**

Road Maintenance : Dawson Road Maintenance provides Road and Bridge Maintenance Services. Contact: <https://www.dawsonroadmaintenance.ca/> Live 24/7 1-800-842-4122. **Services include:** mowing on paved roads, sign replacements, grading, ditch and culvert maintenance, pavement patching, emergency response, and cattleguard maintenance. (see link below.)

Links

Culverts: <https://www.tranbc.ca/2015/08/04/culvert-maintenance-responsibilities-on-bc-highways-your-questions-answered/>

Residential Driveways: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/transportation-infrastructure/engineering-standards-guidelines/highway-design-survey/geomatics/driveways>

Seasonal Load Restrictions and subscriptions:
<http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/bchighways/loadrestrictions/loadrestrictions.htm>

Freshet on Roads: <https://www.tranbc.ca/2011/05/11/what-is-freshet-hint-its-not-an-air-freshener/>

Drive BC: <https://drivebc.ca/>

Tran BC Badgers: <https://www.tranbc.ca/tag/badger/>

Tran BC Road Signs: <https://www.tranbc.ca/2015/03/13/7-types-of-traffic-signs-on-bc-highways/>

Highway use Permit: (commercial advertising signs are not permitted on public roadways)
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/funding-engagement-permits/permits/works/signs#:~:text=Local%20governments%20and%20business%20owners%20must%20apply%20for,signs%20point%20out%20conveniences%20to%20the%20travelling%20public.>

Road and Bridge Maintenance Services: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/transportation-infrastructure/contracting-to-transportation/highway-bridge-maintenance/highway-maintenance>

Michelle Schilling

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South Green Lake Fire Department



2020 was a challenging year with the COVID provincial health orders and restriction in place just trying to keep the fire service operating and having meaningful practices. To help keep the firefighters informed and updated with the COVID restriction in place we held 7 Officers/Captains meetings and 8 Tuesday night Safety/Admin meetings on Zoom. This seemed to work well with almost all firefighters able to connect.

As of Feb 2020, we have resumed our Bi Weekly Saturday practice modified with the COVID restrictions still in place by adding a high level of COVID safety procedures and policies signed off by our Health & Safety Committee and all our firefighters.

Moving through 2021 we plan to keep working through our 5-year Plan and are hoping to continue with our upgrades and equipment purchases.

They are:

- Portable wash station for garage (already purchased with COVID restart funding TNRD).
- 3 portable radios for new members and replacement of old radio
- Replace Pumper 2 (1994) in 2022
- AED for second out Apparatus, both halls and Community hall. (GLSC) 4 in total
- Carbon fiber bottles for second out Apparatus
- Finish Dry Hydrants for a total of 8 accredited in the fall of 2021
- Live fire training area
- Command truck (\$7,000.00 grant received from Enbridge last year)
- Continue with PPE replacements of aged out equipment
- Community Sign Board replacement (\$2,000.00 donation from Chris's Sign (lot 981) Requested the other monies required \$1,500.00 through Sally Watson (for frame and electrical hook-up)
- Road crossing culverts at Dry Hydrant accesses

Home Safety Program

In British Columbia, smoke alarms are mandatory in all homes and recreational cabins. Thanks to the Fire Chiefs Association, Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) and the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department has several combination Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms to give out to South Green Lake full-time and part-time residents. These alarms are for the owners of older homes and cabins who don't have hard-wired alarms in their buildings. However, these alarms will also be available to people who want one for their garage, shop or guest cabins that don't have hard-wired alarms.

The free alarms are powered by a Lithium Power cell, which lasts around 10 years, so there is no need to replace batteries. Smoke alarms have a working life of 10 years, so they have to be replaced when the 10 years is done and then be recycled. The alarms should be checked once a month for ongoing safety. The alarm packaging also includes instructions for self-installation and self-activation. The alarms come in a reusable TNRD Fire Protection Services bag, which includes information brochures on the use and placement of smoke alarms, Carbon Monoxide Safety and Portable Fire Extinguishers.



Bag full of safety information

* The bag also includes a Home Fire Safety Checklist. Residents are urged to go through the checklist, and check off the items as either “yes” or “no” so they know how fire safe their homes and cabins are, and then make some changes if needed.

* The bag also includes Home Fire Escape Plan information. Residents and vacationers are urged to develop an escape plan for their homes and cabins. The plan can save family members from loss of life or serious injuries in a house fire by having everyone getting out of the building quickly and safely to meet at a designated safe gathering place.

* The bag also contains suggested items to make up an Emergency Grab & Go Bag in case you have to evacuate quickly in an emergency situation.

So where can you get the alarms?

Local FireSmart Representatives Bob Bell and Ken Alexander will be handing out the bags of the alarms and important fire safety information at the South Green Lake Fire Hall (546 Green Lake South Rd.) on **May 22 and on July 31 from 1 to 3 p.m.** both days. It will be a drive-thru event. We will need residents' lot address number and their names.

If you have questions or need more information, call Ken at **250-456-7496** or e-mail at **top_drawer@shaw.ca**

FireSmart Neighborhood Recognition program slated for 2021



South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department (SGLVFD) Captain Bob Bell and firefighter Ken Alexander are South Green Lake's local FireSmart representatives (LFR). They recently completed FireSmart Canada's two-day virtual LFR workshops and retained their LFR certifications.

In 2017, the Elephant Hill wildfire, which started 80 kms away on Elephant Mountain near Ashcroft, burned through wildland forests close to the houses and cottages of the South Green Lake Community. It was so close residents and vacationers had to be evacuated. That's when it sunk in that the South Green Lake community had a significant risk of wildfire damage and destruction of homes, cottages and properties.

After the Elephant Hill wildfire burned itself out, Bell and Alexander attended a FireSmart BC conference in Williams Lake and learned how to help mitigate the risk of wildfire damage for people living in the Wildland Urban Interface. They were introduced to the FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program during the recent FireSmart Canada virtual workshops. Bell and Alexander think this program will be a great fit for the South Green Lake community. #FireSmart Canada. The Neighbourhood Recognition Program will teach residents how to live with wildfire threat and increase their home's chance of survival through proactive actions. The program also encourages neighbours to work together to mitigate the risk of wildfire destruction on their properties. Bell and Alexander decided to split the South Green Lake community into three neighbourhoods by using the format the SGLVFD used – Alpha, Bravo and Charlie – during the Elephant Hill wildfire.

The first neighbourhood project will start at lot address 501 (next to Access Road #5) and reach out to lot address 733 (next to Access Road 9A) where the Sunset View Site of the Green Lake Provincial Park begins on the shoreline side of Green Lake South Road. The corresponding lot numbers on the off-shore side from Access Road #5 to the Buffalo Ranch at lot address 938, will also be part of the first Neighbourhood.

Bell and Alexander will kick off the program by conducting the Neighbourhood Wildfire Hazard Assessment, which is an important step in the FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition process. It's a tool to help neighbourhood residents understand their wildfire hazard, so they can learn how to reduce the risk.

Here is a key piece of information: research has shown embers (burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation) can be carried up to two kilometres by the wind. These embers and small surface fires are the two primary sources of home ignitions during wildfires – residents can mitigate this risk by removing flammable materials within 10 metres of their homes or cottages. Therefore, residents must prepare their homes, cottages and outbuildings to withstand embers and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching their homes or any attachments.

To make the FireSmart Neighbourhood Program work, someone in the neighbourhood needs to step up as the Neighbourhood Champion which will help rally his or her neighbours, and also act as a point of communication with the local FireSmart representatives during the recognition and funding application process. Neighbourhood Champions also find other volunteers to serve on the FireSmart Neighbourhood committee and will be provided with step-by-step support during the process.

For more information about the Neighbourhood Champion role, contact Bob Bell at 250-395-0622.

Anyone wanting assistance with a self assessment of their buildings and property can contact Bell or Ken Alexander at 250-456-7496 or cell at 250-319-8085 or e-mail at top_drawer@shaw.ca #FireSmartBC



News from the WL-NGL Fire Department

5771 Green Lake Rd North, 70 Mile House, BC V0K 2K1

www.wlmgfiredept.org



Hello good people! We have had an “uneventful” year; fortunately, there were no call-outs for chimney fires or other incidents. Our dedicated fire fighters, however, have continued their training and practices despite the challenges faced from Covid restrictions.

We are eagerly waiting for our new fire engine to be completed. It will be very exciting when that shiny new truck is paraded through the neighbourhood later this year and hopefully in time for the busy summer season!



Fire and flood watch



We have experienced a minor population boom as more and more people have decided to make this area their permanent or seasonal home. There are several new homes being built and a substantial number of upgrades and renovations happening around the neighbourhood. Let's do our best to welcome our new neighbours to the land of paradise.

We rely on each other to stay safe; this includes watching for suspicious activity on or near seasonal dwellings, and of course, reporting any grass or structure fires as quickly as possible. With this clear sunny weather, the higher elevations and southern slopes are tinder dry at the moment. We have also experienced very windy conditions that can quickly cause a small bonfire to escalate out of control. Please be mindful of your

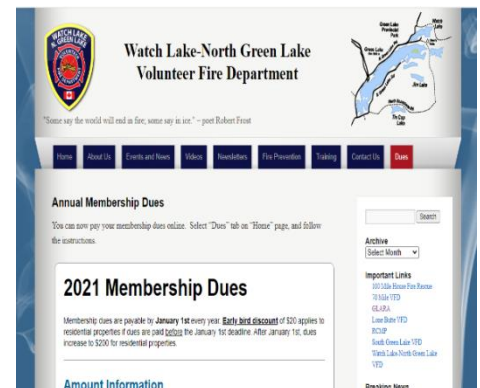
backyard burning and never leave a campfire or small burn pile unattended.

On the opposite side of the scale, we still have an exceptionally high-water table and many are still experiencing flooding. A small number of sand bags and sand is available to our membership at Hall #2 (the Sonny Johnson Fire Hall) located on North Green Lake Road.

Dues are due!

We rely on our neighbours to pay fire protection dues annually in order to support the fire department and to help keep us safe from house-, grass- and/or wildfires. As of the writing of this newsletter, over 80% of our properties have fire protection. That means 20% of our neighbours are not paid up, leaving them without fire protection. This year so far is shaping up to be a drier year and we may be looking at an increased risk for wildfires. Let's hope this isn't the case; however, if you are new to the neighbourhood, or if you have a new neighbour, please click on this link

https://www.wlmgfiredept.org/?page_id=2159 to learn more about paying the annual fire protection dues. There is also great information and links to local burning allowances on our website, Fire Smarting your property, etc.



As we progress through the 3rd wave of this pandemic, we are missing our cabin friends and neighbours terribly. Once again, we will have to postpone our very popular and highly anticipated May long weekend Annual Garage and Bake Sale. Let's hope we will be able to safely gather again at some point this summer. In the meantime, please take good care and stay safe!

Warmest regards, Laura Dewar - WL-NGLVFD Director (Membership)

TENTATIVE DATE FOR

Green Lake and Area Ratepayers' Association

Annual General Meeting at South Green Lake Snowmobile Clubhouse

South Green Lake Road Fire # 176

9:30 AM Saturday August 21, 2021

We will be announcing at the beginning of July if it will take place

Forest Health

Forest health in the vicinity of Green, Watch and Pressey Lakes continues to be a concern with the presence of both Douglas-fir and Spruce beetles.



Douglas-fir Beetle

Dendroctonus pseudotsugae



Spruce Beetle

Dendroctonus rufipennis



The recent over wintered beetle population will be set to emerge in the coming weeks. The duration of the flight is typically May through July with the peak in June. While these beetles favour downed and weakened trees they will attack and kill green standing as well.

Leaving untreated beetle attacked trees, down or standing, will result in the spread of beetles to the surrounding area and trees. To limit the spread, it is critical to remove and dispose of downed material and beetle attacked trees prior to the next beetle flight commencing next spring. In addition, pheromone baiting is a practice that is used and can be very effective in beetle management to help protect trees and properties from attack. These are anti-aggregating pheromones and need to be applied in the spring, prior to flight, to be most effective. (April - early May application). Beetle flights typically start when temperatures reach 16 degrees Celsius for three consecutive days.

Beetle attacked trees can generally be identified by evidence of boring dust (saw dust like material) found near the base of tree to well above eye level. Douglas-fir boring dust is an orangey color while the spruce dust is more of white to very pale-yellow colour.

Imbedded is this [document](#), it provides additional and more detailed information regarding Douglas-fir beetle management and identification.

[Synergy Semiochemical](#), is the company that produces the pheromone baits (MCH bubbles) and has them available for purchase. Questions related to quantity/density for your property, storage, placement, etc would be answered through their website or customer service.

Stay safe, and collectively we all have a role to play in the health of our forests. Keeping your trees watered is helpful in ensuring healthy strong trees.

David Schwarz, RPF
GLARA Director



Beware These Invaders in Your Area and Sign-Up for Invasive Plant Services

Hoary Alyssum – *Berteroa incana* 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.



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

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 each year 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@cariboord.ca or 1-800-665-1636 to register or for more information.

How to Hang Your Laundry: Put drama into your daily lives...

Drying your clothes in the sun is easy to do and saves electricity. "Hang-drying your laundry is one of the easiest and cheapest ways to save energy, carbon emissions and money," says Joe Wachunas, a program director at an organization in Portland, Ore., that advocates electric transportation. Two decades ago, as an exchange student, Wachunas traveled to Italy. It is estimated 3 percent of households own a dryer. He has been evangelizing sun-dried clothes ever since. A few years back, a local television station featured Wachunas on a segment about line drying to fight climate change. "They filmed me hanging up my underwear," described Wachunas.



You'll need some clothespins and a folding rack or a clothesline.

If you're using a washing machine, it's better to have one that spins out most of the water.

You don't need a yard or a big house, people all over the world dry clothes on tiny high-rise balconies or in windows.

Check the weather first. If the sun is out, hang your laundry outside in the morning.

Use pins to maximize the surface area exposed to the sun. If the forecast calls for rain, put up a rack inside.

If your heat is on, put the rack near a vent. If it isn't, open windows; cross breezes can dry garments in a couple of hours. To avoid crunchy towels and wrinkly clothes, vigorously shake them before pinning.

Wachunas has repeatedly timed himself and estimates that hanging a load of laundry takes about eight minutes longer than putting it in the dryer. Larger items go up faster than smaller ones like baby clothes or socks. If you work from home and have easy access to a washing machine, the task itself gets you up from your chair and often outside in the sun. If you rely on a laundromat, you'll have to carry wet clothes — but Wachunas calculates that by line-drying, you'll save about \$600 a year. And your air-dried clothes will shrink less and last longer.

In the United States, some 80 percent of all households use a clothes dryer, an electricity hog of an appliance, second only to a refrigerator. Even with renewably sourced electricity, humans will need to cut their power usage to drastically reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Wachunas's house is covered in solar panels, and still he hangs his laundry out in the elements. "This is a small way to help enormous problems," he says.

New 2021 Fishing Regulations for our area

WATER BODY	MGMT UNIT	EXCEPTIONS TO THE REGIONAL REGULATIONS
GREEN LAKE	5-1	No fishing northeast of line between boundary signs posted on opposite shores of the bay at the mouth of Watch Creek, Mar 1-May 31
NOLAN LAKE	5-1	No ice fishing Daily quota = 1 (none under 50cm); single barbless hook, bait ban
WATCH CREEK	5-1	No fishing Mar 1 – May 31

GLARA Membership form

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

Check your email subject line or your envelope for your membership expiry date

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

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.

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