



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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To Contact a Director please email your request to: greenwatchlake@gmail.com



Dear GLARA Members

At the time of writing, April 29th, the ice is off the middle of the lake but is still hanging on in some of the bays and far corners! A muskrat was spotted swimming along the open water along the 800-block foreshore. Brrr! This hearty creature climbed out over the shore and was content when he found a spot basking in the sun on the warm rocks!

Looking forward to spring and summer 2022! Like all events in Mother Nature's hands, time is our companion to be ready when it comes to monitoring the lake level with the spring freshet. Similarly, hope for the moisture conditions to keep the back country green to discourage lightning strike fires and the habitat healthy for creatures great and small, fur and feather! Resolution of extreme lake high-water levels has been addressed through thorough research leading to the engineering improvements for Green Lake outflow with the installation of a bridge over an enhanced outflow water course. Wildfire mitigation is always at the forefront in terms of practicing fire safety on personal property. Although the back country provides various activity opportunities, consider how dry the conditions are and, if necessary, off road when it is safer out of respect for the ecology and the protection of the values you enjoy.

The return to "socializing" looks promising with cycling, hiking, dog walking and resident garage sales! The SGLVFD has decided to stop hosting a seasonal garage sale. A community day is in the works with refreshments and hot dogs by donation to a worthy organization to be determined by the Auxiliary. Another event that looks hopeful is the **2022 GLARA AGM set for August 20th**. More to follow on agenda, guest speakers, location, and time.

The Directors are here to serve you—to promote awareness and increase education about topics that continue to sustain the health of the area and values that draw you here. If you would like to learn more, or share your knowledge, thoughts, or comments with us, don't hesitate to reach out.

The natural ecology is what attracts and sustains activity and life in the area. The strength of the health of the streams, lakes, the wildlife, and back country is the voice we need to hear, to listen to as we continue daily life.

Monitoring the health of this voice, indicates strength, resilience, and health in the natural habitat. Individual efforts become the collective benefit for all guests and residents – thank you for your mindfulness and leadership. Welcome to spring and soon, summer on and around the lakes, 2022!

Co-chairs Dunham Craig and Bruce Gilmour

Invasive Species article

With the signs of spring rapidly approaching, many are making preparations for spring planting and the upcoming growing season. However, managing for invasive species is often overlooked.

Invasive species have a profound impact to the environment. Globally after habitat loss, invasive species are the second biggest threat to biodiversity. They lack the natural predators that they evolved alongside in their native range and can easily become widespread in new areas. They can out compete for resources and displace native species, creating extensive monocultures that can alter landscapes and offer poor forage and habitat for wildlife.

Invasive plants have many pathways of spread; both unintentional and intentional. One of the unintentional pathways spreading invasive plants involves recreational activities, including boating, camping, horseback riding, hiking, recreational vehicles, and off-road driving. There are many invasive plants intentionally used in gardening and agricultural activities, and with improper disposal of garden waste these plants can establish and spread into natural areas. It is of concern if they are one of the more invasive horticultural varieties like Himalayan balsam, purple loosestrife, yellow flag iris, knotweed, mountain bluet, dame's rocket, or goutweed, it is extremely difficult to control them.



Himalayan balsam



purple loosestrife



yellow flag iris



knotweed



mountain bluet



dame's rocket



goutweed

Here are a few key points to consider and follow if you have plants in your garden that you know are invasive, or are showing invasive tendencies within your garden:

- Remove unwanted plant material before plants go to flower, or next best, before they go to seed.
- Deposit unwanted plant material in heavy plastic bags and dispose of them in the designated bins at Your local landfill in Williams Lake, Quesnel, or 100 Mile House.

Please Do Not:

- Compost the material, as some plants spread vegetatively and will begin to grow in your compost and The seeds of the plants will grow when compost is added to soil.
- Burn in open piles, as seeds will often survive and will sprout
- Dispose of unwanted garden plants in vacant areas or green spaces next to your home, as they may survive and begin to spread

Aquatic invasive species are of concern as they can be difficult and costly to manage and/or eradicate once established in new aquatic environments. British Columbia is very vulnerable to marine invaders due to its

vast freshwater resources and extensive coastline. Introductions of aquatic invasive species can result in damage to sensitive ecosystems, as well as fisheries, aquaculture, municipal infrastructure, tourism, land values, utility infrastructures, and impact recreational activities. The most common pathway of aquatic invasives are commercial shipping boats, many species hitchhike in ballast water or sediment and in hull cavities for water intake. But other vectors include recreational boats, aquariums, water gardens, and live food fish.

We can all do our part to help preserve our terrestrial and freshwater resources for future generations to enjoy by preventing these pathways and reducing the spread of invasive species by following these steps:

- Educate yourself, find out what invasive species are in your area, and inform others. Visit the Invasive Species Council of BC's (ISCBC) website to learn more at bcinvasives.ca.
- Learn how to identify aquatic invasive species. Visit the ISCBC's website to learn more.
- Never transport plants, sediment, or live bait into aquatic ecosystems.
- Do not release aquarium plants or live bait into aquatic ecosystems.
- Dispose of submerged aquatic invasive plant material far from water and spread it out so that it can completely dry. For all other plant material, bag and dispose of it at the 100 Mile House Landfill in the labelled invasive plant bin.
- Report invasive plants to the Cariboo Regional District at 1-800-665-1636 or invasiveplants@cariboord.ca
- Report invasive species at forms.gov.bc.ca/industry/report-an-invasive-species/
- Help educate other lake residents, boaters, anglers, and hunters.
- Clean off all plants, animals, and mud from your boat and related equipment (e.g., boots, waders, Fishing gear). If a power washing station is available, use it.
- Drain (on dry land) any item that can hold water (e.g., buckets, wells, bilge, and ballast).
- Dry all items completely before launching the watercraft into another body of water.
- Empty your bait bucket on land before leaving any waterbody.

To learn more about invasive plant species in the region, please contact the Cariboo Regional District at 1-800-665-1636 or visit the CRD website at cariboord.ca.



Please check out the GLARA website glara.ca to read another interesting report by Invasive species. "Emailed copies have the article attached"

Look for: **Invasive Species Important News:** AIS Invasive Species Council of BC

Adventure Charters Bus Service

Passenger bus service *Connecting communities*
Cariboo - Kamloops - Fraser Canyon



Prince George to Surrey: Monday & Thursday
 Surrey to Prince George: Tuesday & Friday
 Williams Lake to Kamloops: Monday & Thursday
 Kamloops to Williams Lake: Monday & Thursday
 Williams Lake to Prince George: Monday & Thursday
 Prince George to Williams Lake: Tuesday & Friday

We offer Greyhound style service on the following days:

Prince George to Surrey every Monday & Thursday.
Surrey to Prince George every Tuesday & Friday.

Prince George to Kamloops every Monday & Thursday morning.
Kamloops to Prince George every Monday & Thursday afternoon.

Online bookings need to be made a minimum of 10 hours in advance.

<https://www.adventurecharters.ca/>



WATCH LAKE – NORTH GREEN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Service in the Covid Years: We have all been waiting so long for life to return to normal that we begin to wonder what will “normal” ever be? Despite the restrictions imposed upon gatherings and other interpersonal

relationships, our fire department managed to maintain an uninterrupted level of emergency service for the community. With a concern for their personal health and that of their families and all members of the community with whom they come in contact (with the exception of one member who, for personal reasons, took a leave of absence), all of the firefighters were voluntarily vaccinated. Training sessions were conducted with strict adherence to the WorkSafeBC Covid19 protocols.

Our involvement in the Watch Lake Dump and Flat Lake wildfires of last summer was covered in detail in the Fall 2021 GLARA Newsletter. The new truck had a short involvement at the dump fire and our crew patrolled the area 24/7 to watch for spot fires caused by flying embers from Flat Lake. All three of our tenders saw extensive service supplying water to the Forestry crew working out of 83 Mile. At one point the demand for water was so great that we had to call for assistance from South Green Lake and 70 Mile departments. The fire did come perilously close to homes at 83 Mile, but fortunately none were damaged. Our department's participation was another hands-on learning experience and as property owners we can surely now appreciate the importance of FireSmarting our properties. There are information booklets available at the local fire halls and from Forestry and a well-presented video on the topic can be viewed on the internet at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ksf1DidyvMg>.

We are always in need of new volunteer firefighters. In fact, as the current members get older, the need for younger people to take their place becomes urgent. If you would like to get involved with this important community service, please contact one of the following officers for more information:

Fire Chief, Andy Palaniak,
Deputy Fire Chief, Ed Fornelli
Deputy Fire Chief, Bob White all on Department cell - 250-395-0486
or **President** Tom Manion at 250-395-6021



If your time to volunteer is limited, when available, you can always assist Director Alan Watrich at the weekly Hall #1 can and bottle sort. Last year Alan and his crew raised enough money to purchase hats and shirts for the members as well as holding an appreciation dinner without having to delve into the department's general revenue fire dues funds.

After many years of volunteer hours and hard work by so many members of our community plus the diligent budgeting of our directors, we can proudly claim to have one of the best equipped and most well-trained volunteer fire departments in the province. In spite of this, and with little regard for the protection our crew provided during the wildfire threats of recent years, there are still about 70 property owners who are getting a free ride and refuse to pay their annual fire dues. These people cannot claim to have a responding fire department, and should they ever have a fire, they may find they have no insurance coverage. We receive no funding from the Cariboo Regional District and operate entirely on the annual fire dues, donations and remuneration from wildfire participation with the occasional supplement from lottery grants. Over the years we have managed to keep the fire dues down to an annual rate less than that assessed to government supported departments and we can only keep our rates affordable through community support.

Once again, Covid restrictions have forced the postponement of the Annual Garage and Bake Sale usually held on the May long weekend. We hope, however, to hold an open house at our Annual General Meeting in July (time and date yet to be announced).

Roy Allan, Director WL-N.GL VFD



SOUTH GREEN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The SGLVFD had a busy winter attending two structure fires and a chimney fire that got into the structure around the chimney. We also attended a medical assist call with BCAS and attended a downed power line and pole on South Green Lake Road. Fortunately, this occurred around 9:00 p.m. on a Sunday evening and did not impact traffic too much. SGLVFD was released when

Hydro showed up on the scene.

In reference to a message sent out on the GLARA website concerning some "Williams" gas heaters, more were found to be defective. If anyone has one, it should be inspected by a certified gas inspector before using it. All gas appliances should be inspected on a regular basis. With the weather improving the fire season will be here once again.

Our FireSmart team is encouraging all homeowners to continue with FireSmarting their property. FireSmart contact is Ken Alexander 250-456-7496. We encourage homeowners to take their debris to the Eco Depot instead of burning it. This will reduce the fire risk. We expect fire restrictions to come into effect any time due to weather conditions.

This year, in lieu of our annual garage sale, the fire department will be holding an open house at the fire hall on May 21st from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. We will be serving hot dogs, coffee etc. available by donation with proceeds going to a worthy organization to be determined by the Auxiliary. We will have a FireSmart table set up with a rep on hand to answer any questions and provide information on FireSmarting. I would also like to congratulate the neighborhood champion and the committee, as well as the local FireSmart representatives for receiving recognition of the Bravo neighborhood, being a FireSmart neighborhood. The focus is now on getting the other two neighborhoods organized. We will also have a table for sprinkler orders or questions. We will have a sprinkler demo set up so you can see how the system works. The Auxiliary will also be holding several raffles.

All apparatus and equipment will be on display as well.

For the children attending, there will be a children's table along with a special guest appearance from "Amber" the FireSmart mascot. We are obtaining a couple of new apparatus' this year, one being a new pumper/tanker capable of carrying 2500 gallons of water, which will provide us with a lot more water for initial attack. This will replace our aged-out pumper number 2. We are also securing a command pick up that will be a rapid response vehicle for emergencies.



Cattle fence: there will be a table for the cattle fence and maintenance. They are looking for more help from the community for the yearly maintenance. Without proper maintenance the fence will deteriorate and we will have cattle running at large. This is the responsibility of the community, not the cattle ranchers. If you are interested contact Dennis Nagy at: 250-456-6020. I hope you have a safe summer.

Roger Graham, Fire Chief S.G.L.V.F.D.



Black Bears

British Columbia is home to the black bear! Bears that learn to associate humans with food sources, may become dangerous and need to be destroyed. Human activity and associated attractants, make it a matter of life and death for the bear. There are important things to know to minimize animal attractants in your garbage and on property which discourages the curious black bear from numbering its days! Human/wildlife interactions resulting in the destroying of bears, are prevented when attractants are responsibly managed. Understanding the life cycle and habits of black bears is an educational opportunity!

The American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) or simply black bear, is a medium-sized bear endemic to North America. It is the continent's smallest and most widely distributed bear species. American black bears are omnivores, with their diets varying depending on season and location. They typically live in largely forested areas, but will leave forests in search of food, and are sometimes, needlessly destroyed as a result of human encroachment into black bear habitat and or attracted (socialized) around human activities.

BEARS AND GARBAGE - Carelessly managed garbage is the cause of 80 per cent of human and bear interactions. Deter wildlife to attractants — the following is practical information to incorporate into daily lives living in the lakes area:

Keep garbage and the compost bin in your garage, basement or in a wildlife - secure location Place household waste and other materials into vehicles the morning of the trip to the transfer station.

BEAR ATTRACTANTS -- Overlooked items to manage that may attract bears onto your property

- remove bird feeders or make them inaccessible to bears
- pick ripe berries and fruit as they ripen; pick up fallen fruit regularly
- feed pets inside your home
- Clean barbecues (grease-free) and do not leave food unattended
- Enclose outdoor freezers
- compost effectively using an equal proportion of 'brown' (yard trimmings) with 'Green' (vegetable and fruit scraps). Layer on top of the compost, dry 'browns', and aerate to accelerate material breakdown.
- put away all petroleum products, including rubber, tarpaper, paint, turpentine, kerosene, and charcoal fluid — these products attract bears!

BEAR SIGHTINGS – MOST human/bear interactions end without incident. If given space, bears will always avoid interactions with humans!

Encountering a bear? **Stay Calm speak in a firm, clear voice** — your voice helps to identify you as a human – the threat is reduced

- Back away slowly from the bear - put children and pets indoors or in a vehicle
- From a safe location, make plenty of noise to draw the bear's attention
- **remove the attractant** - if a bear has found food, be sure to remove the attractant once the bear has left the area!
- reduce solid waste odours enticing wildlife
- freeze meat, fish, bones, and plate scrapings before placing into your green bin on the trip day to the transfer station
- wash or rinse jars and cans before placing into your recycling bin
- rinse any food residue off meat trays before placing them in your garbage.

Conclusions

Our biggest issue with black bears is when they can access non-secured attractants (natural-human influenced and non-natural). The bears then become conditioned to that food source, habituated to humans around that food source. Regrettably, most times these preventable circumstances turn in to a potential public safety concern! The best advice is to manage attractants appropriately so that bears never get the chance to become food conditioned or habituated!

Additional assistance for the Watch and Green Lakes area related to safety and living cooperatively with black bears and other wildlife, contact:

Joel Kline

Conservation Officer - Fraser River Zone
 Box 1600, 300 Hwy 97
 100 Mile House BC V0K 2E0

Email. Joel.X.Kline@gov.bc.ca

BEAR PROOFING to manage attractants, including where to get bear resistant storage bins, visit:

<https://northshorebears.com/>



GLARA 2022 AGM

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 20, 2022

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 of all 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!"

Off-Highway Vehicles



With the snow disappearing and spring upon us, many are looking forward to heading out into the back country trails with their ATV or dirt bike. Now's the time to give our off-highway vehicles (OHV) a good pre-season service check and also, to review the rules and regulations that govern their operation to ensure we're all ready for a summer of safe riding fun.

You're definitely going to want to do a complete change of lubricants and filter in the engine and transmission as applicable. Clean and lube the air filter to ensure the engine is breathing clean fresh air. Same applies to the chain and sprockets. Check your tires for damage, condition and correct inflation pressures - replace as required.

Check all bolts and fasteners for tightness. Be sure to refer to your owner's manual or dealer for specific requirements of your vehicle.

So now that the ATV or bike is ready to go, what about the driver and their knowledge and ability to operate the vehicle safely.

Strong Recommendations

- 1) OHV operators should always wear a government-certified helmet, eye protection, and protective clothing and footwear at all times. Helmets are the law and mandatory on forest service roads.
- 2) Operators of OHVs designed for single riders should never take on passengers.
- 3) OHV drivers should never operate a vehicle after drinking alcohol or when potentially impaired by other substances.
- 4) Children and youth younger than 16 years of age should not operate an OHV without the direct supervision of an adult. Ensure your child/youth only rides an ATV that is appropriate for their age, weight, and maturity. Follow manufacturers' recommendations.
- 5) Extreme care should be taken when approaching blind corners or trail sections as other riders may be coming the other way.
- 6) There are several open areas in Crown Land that are designated as sensitive grassland so please ride on the trails and stay clear of them.

Riding Etiquette

- 1) When meeting oncoming riders, slow down and signal with a finger count the number of riders following behind you.
- 2) When meeting others on horseback, stop and allow them to pass. Remember, motor vehicles are required to give way.
- 3) When using trails alongside any roadway, proceed slowly. Be courteous to your fellow neighbours so you don't kick up a dust storm.

The Laws

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, who governs all provincial roads and highways clearly state it is illegal to operate your OHV on any road or highway. Those that choose to ride on the road are committing an offence and are liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5 000 or to imprisonment for not more than 6 months or to both.

The Ministry of Forests and Range regulations require you to carry proof of liability insurance (minimum of \$200,000 third party liability) if you operate your OHV in the back country on a FSR (forestry service road). When stopped by a Conservation officer, Forestry Enforcement officer or the RCMP, you will be asked to produce proof of insurance. The fine can be well over \$200.00 for failure to do so. OHV liability insurance can be purchase for just over \$100/year.

With the ATVs and dirt bikes serviced, ensure all in your group understand what's required and expected before heading out for your riding adventure. This way everyone can share and enjoy the trails safely.

YEAR	ICE OFF	ICE ON	YEAR.	ICE OFF	ICE ON
1994	N/A	21-Nov	2009	02-May	01-Dec
1995	29-Apr	05-Dec	2010	18-Apr	23-Nov
1996	25-Apr	20-Nov	2011	06-May	01-Dec
1997	28-Apr	05-Dec	2012	28-Apr	08-Dec
1998	21-Apr	04-Dec	2013	26-Apr	05-Dec
1999	01-May	08-Dec	2014	1-May	30-Nov
2000	26-Apr	03-Dec	2015	28-Mar	26-Nov
2001	30-Apr	03-Dec	2016	8-Apr	8-Dec
2002	05-May	18-Dec	2017	25-Apr	5-Dec
2003	23-Apr	24-Nov	2018	30-Apr	26-Dec
2004	18-Apr	06-Dec	2019	22-Apr	28-Nov
2005	05-Apr	30-Nov	2020	2-May	23-Dec
2006	20-Apr	25-Nov	2021	27-Apr	8-Dec
2007	24-Apr	06-Dec	2022	30-Apr	
2008	13-May	04-Dec	2023		

ICE OFF



It is now officially Spring? Green lake broke up and the ice did its annual vanishing trick on April 30th this year, with a few area's still having some ice patches. The Loons, Merganzers and Golden eyes quickly spread out onto the open water letting us know they were here. 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 28 years.

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.

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
GLARA email: greenwatchlake@gmail.com Website: www.glara.ca

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