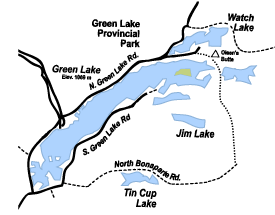




## **WATCH LAKE – NORTH GREEN LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**



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

[www.wlmgfiredept.org](http://www.wlmgfiredept.org)

### *Fall / Winter Newsletter 2018*

A sudden, heavy snowfall at the end of September seemed to indicate an early winter, but since then we have had the good fortune to return to some beautiful, clear, fall days. The last few golden leaves are falling rapidly, and the frost is on the pumpkins so winter can't be far off. If you haven't done so already, it's time to get the chimney cleaned and replace the batteries in your smoke detector. Over the years our firefighters have been called out to numerous chimney fires that could have been avoided by a bit of fall maintenance.

The new tender T11 is now in service. With its 1,700 gallon capacity we now have a total of over 8,000 gallons of "water on wheels." Like the other two tenders, this truck is outfitted to be rated as an engine by Forestry should the need arise for us to assist in out-of-area wildfire suppression. In addition to the dry hydrants at Accesses 20 and 14 and the well storage at Hall #1, we have now installed an in-ground 9,000 gallon tank at the Tristan Road ponds to provide a better water supply to all ends of our protection area.



The well drilling at Hall #2 went very well and work is now progressing on the installation of washroom facilities. With a reliable in-ground supply of water and the 3,000 gallon reserve tank we can now rapidly fill tenders from that location. With no community water system and no fire hydrants, we must rely upon every source available to fill the three tenders so that they can in turn deliver a constant supply of water to the engines at a fire. If we can maintain a constant flow of water to an engine for a two hour period, we will be eligible for an upgrade to our Insurance Underwriters Certification resulting in reduced annual insurance premiums.

Long-time Fire Chief, Andy Palaniak,, and Training Officer, Jayne Palaniak, have resigned their positions to devote more time to travel and to their many recreational interests. The Board has appointed Guy Poliseno as Acting Fire Chief.

As mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, a Reserve Firefighter Division has been created to encourage part-time residents to become involved in backup firefighting activities. The department has accepted a couple of applications and we have budgeted for several more.

For more information and application forms for either Regular or Reserve Divisions contact:

Acting Fire Chief, Guy Poliseno : phone - 250-395-9082 email – [ggpoliseno@gmail.com](mailto:ggpoliseno@gmail.com)  
Deputy Fire Chief, Mark Bulman: phone - 250-456-2151 email - [dragnmit@bcinternet.net](mailto:dragnmit@bcinternet.net)

## **FireSmart**

During this past summer we did not experience the wildfire threat that saw most residents evacuated from the area for a good portion of the previous summer. However, the heavy smoke from fires in other parts of the Province was a constant reminder of how proactive we must be in the protection of our properties and the surrounding forests.

Please download a copy of the *FireSmart – Homeowners Manual* from the government web site at:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/wildfire-management/prevention/prevention-home-community/bcws\\_homeowner\\_firesmart\\_manual.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/wildfire-management/prevention/prevention-home-community/bcws_homeowner_firesmart_manual.pdf)

Answer the questions in the *Assess Your Risk from Wildfire* pages and find your *Home and Yard Hazard Score*. Are you really prepared?

## **Garage and Bake Sale**

This year's garage and bake sale was very enjoyable. There were many garage sale bargains available, the bake sale was a great success and, as usual, the ever-popular breakfast sandwiches sold out early. With thanks to the generosity all of our neighbours and visitors, the combined sales brought in just over \$4200.

## **Payment of Annual Fires Dues**

The annual fire dues are payable by January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. This year, for the first time, payments by credit card or bank transfer can be made online. All property owners have 30 days to pay their fire dues. During the month of January, owners of property who paid their dues in the previous year will not be charged a call-out to their address. However, any property owner who has not paid his/her annual dues after the grace period will be charged for any call-out to their address. If fire dues are in arrears, the property owner cannot claim to have a responding fire department when applying for fire insurance.

To make an online payment go to the department's web page at [www.wlmgfiredept.org](http://www.wlmgfiredept.org) and click on the "dues" tab. Upon completion of the payment, a confirmation will immediately be sent to your email address.

## **Winter Safety**

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable winter. Be cautious with the use of woodstoves and any other home heating device. Remember the dangers created by the careless use of Christmas lights and decorations and please be aware of the hazards of dry live and cut Christmas trees. A dry Christmas tree will burn faster than newspaper. As demonstrated in this video the whole room can be ablaze in less than one minute: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t\\_eHBqVYa8A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t_eHBqVYa8A)

For the latest department events and fire related news see our Facebook page



President, WL – N.GL VFD