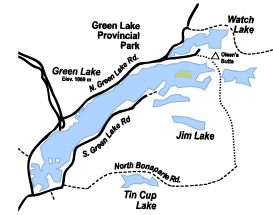




**WATCH LAKE – NORTH GREEN LAKE
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

www.wlmgfiredept.org



Annual General Meeting

11:00 A.M. Sunday, July 21, 2019

Shorty Horn Memorial, 1# Hall

Spring/Summer Newsletter 2019



The great photo of the Watch Lake and Green Lake area shown above was taken by Brent Desrocher as he flew past at an altitude of 10,500 feet. He was truly impressed with the beauty of the area and wanted to share what he saw with all of us. However, while appreciating the scenery, he was surprised by the realization that it was still March and there was hardly any snow. In fact, he says, there was next to no snow to be seen on the ground until he was approaching Quesnel.

With the forests this dry so early in the year, unless there is considerable rain throughout the spring, we could be in for another tense summer fire season. Much of the forest to the south and west of this area was destroyed over the past two years and this area is now being actively logged, but there is still a lot of fuel, very dry fuel.

Your fire department is well equipped and prepared to deal with structure and grass fires within our fire protection area. In addition, through very thoughtful donations from the 100 Mile House Rotary Club and the Red Cross, we have been able to outfit our firefighters with the necessary personal protective equipment, tools and apparatus for dealing with interface wildfires. Most of our crew have also received the necessary training to enable them to work alongside the Forestry Wildfire crews if the need arises. We all hope to never again have the threat of destruction seen in the summer of 2017, but the potential is there and several small wildfires have already sprung-up in other parts of the province.

For all fire suppression emergencies we have adequate access to water with our wells and dry hydrants. We also have excellent carrying capacity in the three tankers. With the exception of the freezing winter months, the two one-ton vehicles also each carry 250 gallons of water for rapid attack of roadside and off-road blazes. However, as always, we are plagued with the age limit of our two pumpers. Both trucks are still in excellent condition, but the age limit for certification placed on engines by the Insurance Underwriters means the we will again soon need to replace one of them. The Volvo we purchased from the Oyster River Fire Department in the Comox Valley Regional District is a superb vehicle for our needs and, even though it has passed its age limit, we will be able to keep it in the fleet as the backup engine. We have been able to internally restrict some of the funds received from our participation in the 2017 fires for the purchase of a new (to us) engine. If our gaming grant request is successful this year, we should be able to find a vehicle that is no more than 15 years old.

The remainder of the above mentioned funds has allowed us to complete the well and toilet facilities at Hall #2 and to FireSmart the property by clearing the brush surrounding the Hall. The improved parking area for public use at access 14 is also nearing completion with the addition of guardrail to improve access to the dry hydrant and to discourage visitors from parking in front of it. A final layer of gravel will provide a solid base for year-round use. If we have enough money left, we hope to construct a modified dry hydrant on 83 Mile Road to give a closer source of water for the protection of properties at that end of the protection area.

It is only through fund raising, donations and the extraordinary provision of services that we are able to accomplish these special projects. Our day-to-day operation is primarily funded by the income provided by your annual fire dues. Over the past few years we have been able to keep these fire dues as low as possible, particularly when compared to the tax rates paid in other areas. With the ever-rising cost of fuel, services and equipment, we may have to soon make a moderate increase in the annual amount. This will, no doubt, be a topic of discussion at the Annual General Meeting on July 21st.

With regard to the payment of fire dues, I must emphasize once again that if the dues are not paid on your property, you cannot legally claim to have a responding fire department when applying for fire insurance. If the dues are not paid, we do not respond. If you do have a fire on your property and there is a threat to your neighbour's property or surrounding forest, we will respond to provide community protection and bill you accordingly. There is a difference in insurance premiums between having or not having a responding fire department that more than covers your annual dues. For example, my wife and I have a relatively modest cabin by Green Lake standards, but the estimated cost of the replacement of buildings is \$233,000. Since we pay our fire dues and have a responding fire department, our annual insurance premium is \$801 or \$3.45/1000. If we didn't pay our fire dues and did not have a responding fire department, our annual insurance premium would be \$1,271 or \$5.40/1000. Therefore, it is more economical to pay my fire dues and have a responding fire department.

To make the payment of dues easier and to finally enter the twenty first century manner of doing business, this year we initiated electronic funds transfer as one way to pay fire dues. Of the 129 people who used the service, there were only two glitches in which the cards were not at first try accepted. We are late in getting the stickers sent out, but for most people, we will be placing them on your address plaque. In starting out to apply the stickers we found that some properties are unmarked. The firefighters need to be able to see your address if they are to quickly respond to an emergency on your property.

Forestry will be announcing fire bans later in April, but, until such time as there is a total ban, don't be hesitant to contact the Acting Chief if you see smoke and feel that it is something that should be investigated. We all know from recent experience that we need to attack small fires before they get out of hand.

As is always the case, I must once again put out the request for new members. As I said last year, on paper our roster shows good numbers, but we are all getting older and several members will be retiring this year. Membership is open to men and women over 19 years of age, who are willing to spare a couple of hours each week to attend practice and training sessions. Meet some great people, learn new skills, get to wear really attractive bunker gear and, best of all, become a part of the betterment of your community.

For more information and application forms please contact:

Acting Fire Chief, Guy Polisen: phone - 250-395-9082 email - <mailto:gppolisen@gmail.com>
Deputy Fire Chief, Mark Bulman: phone - 250-456-2151 email - dragnmit@bcinternet.net

Director Bob Nathane has done a lot of work to establish a good web presence for us. Learn more about your fire department and the firefighters at the web site: <http://www.wlglfiredept.org>

Check the latest department events and fire related news on our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=watch%20lake-north%20green%20lake%20volunteer%20fire%20department&epa=SEARCH_BOX

**Don't forget the annual garage and bake sale with the great breakfast sandwiches
Saturday, May 18th at Hall #2**

The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 21st at Hall #1, Watch Lake, at 11:00 a.m.**

Please enjoy all of the wonderful summer activities our lake has to offer - safely.



President, WL – N.GL VFD

FireSmart

Wanted Community Champions, the FireSmart Community Program NEEDS YOU.

We are living in a wildfire prone area of the Cariboo and if you think you would like to do something about it, please contact me, Guy Polisen at 250-395-9082.

I have completed the "Community Wildfire Hazard Assessment" for our area and for the majority of the properties, homeowners are conscientious and responsible in keeping the egress of ground fire to a minimum and we now need to complete the "Structure and Site Hazard Assessment Form" for each property in our area. Saying this, it is impossible for one person to do. This is where I need your support and become a Community "Champion".

On May 18, the Auxiliary are having the annual garage and bake sale at Hall #2 on Green Lake North Road. I will be there and will be passing out pamphlets on FireSmart. The next day, on Sunday May 19 at Hall #1 on Pioneer Road, I will be presenting a FireSmart video and discussion on what we need to do to keep our Community safe from Wildfire. I encourage the residents to come, it will start at 1:00PM.

Be there and stay safe, it is your Community.

Guy Polisen, Acting Fire Chief

Of the 502 properties in our fire protection area, almost 100 of your neighbours cannot claim to have a responding fire department.

If you cannot attend the Annual General Meeting on July 21st in person, please forward this proxy to a paid-up member of your choosing who will be attending and can vote for you.



Proxy No: _____

I, (print): _____

of local area address: _____

as a fire dues- paid member of the
Watch Lake – North Green Lake
Volunteer Fire Department (Society)
give my proxy to:

(print) _____

to vote on motions and resolutions raised at the Annual
General Meeting of the
Watch Lake – North Green Lake
Volunteer Fire Dept. (Society)
to be held on
Sunday, July 21, 2019*
at Hall #1.

Signed: _____

**valid only on date shown above*