



WATCH LAKE – NORTH GREEN LAKE

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

www.wlmgfiredept.org



Summer Newsletter 2023

Board of Directors and Firefighter Officials (to contact please email via wlmglvfd@gmail.com)

Tom Manion, President
Roy Allan, Past President
David Kneale, Treasurer
Andy Polaniak, Fire Chief
Bob White, Acting Fire Chief

Lee Granberg, Insurance
Bob Nathane, Website/Facebook
Alan Watrich, Fund-raising
Ron Thurston, Fire Fighter Liaison
Ed Fornelli, Deputy Fire Chief

Guy Aggiss, Director
Laura Dewar, Secretary,
Membership
Alan Boyd, Vehicle/Hall
Maintenance

Notification of our Annual General Meeting

Saturday, August 5th
10:00 a.m.

Hall #1 (Shorty Horn Memorial Hall on Pioneer Lane)

This year, we will be voting on a motion to increase to the annual fire dues. **The proposed increase is \$50 per residential property with a \$30 discount if paid before January 1st.** As you can see in the Table below, our fire dues are much lower than for other fire protection areas locally.

You need to be a paid member (by paying your annual fire protection dues) in order to attend and vote. If you want to have a say in this proposed increase, you will need to vote. If you aren't able to attend in person, please fill out the proxy vote on the last page of this newsletter so that another paid member can vote on your behalf.

Our Annual Fire Protection Fees Compared to Other CRD Jurisdictions

Fire protection areas	Tax rate (per \$1000 assessed value)	Per \$300,000 property	Per \$500,000 property	Per \$700,000 property
Watch Lake - North Green Lake	N/A	\$200	\$200	\$200
108 Mile Ranch	\$1.34	\$402.00	\$670.00	\$938.00
Deka Lake	\$1.61	\$483.00	\$805.00	\$1,127.00
Lone Butte	\$1.92	\$576.00	\$960.00	\$1,344.00
Lac La Hache Fire protection area	\$2.64	\$792.00	\$1,320.00	\$1,848.00

History of the Annual Fire Dues:

Paying your annual fire dues makes you a member of the Watch Lake North Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department Society (WLNGLVFD). The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the 5 August 2023. At the meeting the Board of Directors will be making a motion to increase our annual Fire Department dues by \$50.00.

In 2006 the dues were set at \$160 per residential property. In 2019 the members at the AGM voted to increase the dues to \$200 a year; however, if you paid before January 1st., every year, the dues you had to pay were only \$180 for the following year. With those dues over the years it brought us from a deficit position of \$-13,000 to what the Department is today with assets of over \$2 million. The Department has two halls, two Engines, three Tenders, two First Response vehicles, a pump trailer with 2 pumps which can fill our tenders in 3 minutes and the Work Safe required Emergency Transport Vehicle. Currently our roster has **34 Volunteer firefighters**.

VFD Highlights So Far This Year



Turn-out Gear

In April, the WLNGLVFD replaced 15 sets of firefighter turnout gear to comply with the NFPA (turnout gear expiry requirements) at a cost of \$50,000. We were assisted in the purchase by the Union of BC Municipalities (UCBM) Community Emergency Preparedness Grant. The Department has been able to do this without any assistance from the Cariboo Regional District.

Fund Raising

Director Alan Watrich has been the main driver behind the very successful bottle collection and sorting campaign that brings in much-needed funding each year. Our annual fire dues don't come close to covering all the costs associated with operating and maintaining our VFD. Thanks to his efforts over the last decade, we are able to keep our fire fighters well equipped and well trained!

Want to help out? Bottle sorting occurs:

EVERY Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.
(during the Summer only)
Shorty Horn Memorial Hall #1 (Pioneer Road)

There was an excellent turn-out of community members at the most recent bottle sorting on July 3rd (see photograph to the right). Thank you to everyone who attended!

Contact Alan for more information (use the general email: wlnglvfd@gmail.com)





Firefighter Training

So far this year our fire fighters have completed their forest fire or refresher training, conducted Attack Team and SCBA (Self-contained Breathing Apparatus) drills and those wanting to drive the larger vehicles, are about to write their Air Brake Certification exams. Practices are either on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings.

We Need New Directors!

We are very fortunate to have a sufficient number of fire fighters, thanks to the extremely successful recruitment drive last August. This is in contrast to many volunteer fire departments throughout BC (and Canada according to a recent W5 broadcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=45bjJyvdnI8>) that are desperate to attract more recruits. What we need, however, are new Board members.

Many of our Directors have been on the Board for years; similar to our fire fighters, some Directors are getting older and want to step down. This makes room for new people, fresh ideas and less work for everyone! Our Directors come from all walks of life and bring their own expertise to the Board. Perhaps YOU have what it takes!

Here's a short list of what we are looking for:

- Mechanically inclined? Great! We need people to maintain our equipment to a high standard.
- It is always a lot of fun to help with the social and fundraising events too. We could really use a social convenor.
- Tracking equipment and maintaining the halls (e.g. lawn mowing, and weed-whacking) is another area where we can use your help.



Interested in joining the Board? Either attend the AGM on August 5th or contact any of the directors listed at the top of this newsletter at wlnglvfd@gmail.com



If you cannot attend the Annual General Meeting on August 5th 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
Saturday, August 5, 2023, 10:00 a.m.*
at Hall #1.

Signed: _____

**valid only on date shown above*