



## **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)



## *Summer Newsletter 2024*

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

Tom Manion, President  
Roy Allan, Past President  
David Kneale, Vice P/Treasurer  
Andy Palaniak, Fire Chief  
Bob White, Acting Fire Chief

Lee Granberg, Insurance  
Bob Nathane, Website/Facebook  
Ron Thurston, Fire Fighter Liaison  
Ed Fornelli, Deputy Fire Chief

Guy Aggiss, Director  
Alan Watrich, Fund-raising  
Gisele Polisenio, Social  
Conveyor Laura Dewar, Secretary,  
Membership

## **Notification of our Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>  
10:00 a.m.**

**Hall #1 (Shorty Horn Memorial Hall on Pioneer Lane)  
Open House, Bake Sale and BBQ Lunch after meeting**

This year, we will be voting on motions to remove the early bird discount on fire dues and the address sign sticker program.

**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 either or both of these motions, 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.



## VFD Highlights So Far This Year

### New (to us) SCBA Gear



Fire Officers Bonnie Kent and Jayne Palaniak met Jon Lavigne from Thornhill Fire Department Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at Hall 2 (see photo to the left).

We now have 12 lightly used and newer SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) units and 20 carbon fibre bottles to use with them. These bottles will give us 45 minutes of air versus our present limit of 22 minutes. Our current airpacks are essentially obsolete and difficult to get parts for to pass the required annual testing. They are 25 years old and these new ones are only 7 years old.

**Thornhill VFD was gracious enough to sell them to us for only 10% of their value. Thanks to some generous donations from fire fighters, board members and property owners, we were able to make this purchase.**

If only one of our old packs had failed inspection this year (which the inspector said was going to happen soon), it would have cost **\$12,000** to replace JUST ONE UNIT. Plus, the new unit would not be compatible with our current packs so we would have been required to replace them all once one failed the recertification test.

We would have to spend well over \$100,000 to replace our aging units.

Needless to say, we are very grateful for the generous reduction in price. Thanks again to the Thornhill Fire Department!



### Membership

In the last few years, our little community has continued to grow. It is wonderful to see new families moving in and hear the sounds of children playing in the neighbourhood. It also means that our membership within the Fire Department Society has grown. We have at least 10 new property owners since 2020. We know that there are still property owners that we haven't been able to contact yet. If you know of any new owners in the area, please do let them know about our independent Fire Department and how they can be assured of fire protection for their properties (and their insurance policies). They can contact Director Laura Dewar at 250-395-0020 (cell) or email: [pandldewar@outlook.com](mailto:pandldewar@outlook.com).

## Fund Raising

As you may know, we are an *independent* Fire Department. That means we do not get funding through rural taxes from the Cariboo Regional District. That is why we collect annual fire protection dues from property owners in our catchment area. Our fire dues, however, do not cover all of the costs to maintain and operate 2 fire halls plus of our equipment.

Director Bob Nathane has recently launched a “Leave a Legacy” campaign that has already brought in some generous donations to help offset expenses. Please visit our website <https://www.wlnglfiredpt.org/> or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/wlnglfiredpt> to learn more.



Director Alan Watrich has been the main driver behind the bottle collection and sorting campaign that brings in much-needed funding each year. The poor weather this spring has caused around a 30% reduction in the number of recyclables coming in. Hopefully that will change as hot sunny days are around the corner!

Want to help out? Bottle sorting occurs:

**EVERY Monday morning at 10:00 a.m.** (during the Summer only)  
**Shorty Horn Memorial Hall #1** (Pioneer Road)

## Passing of the Torch

After several years as Treasurer and for the last 2 years as President, Tom Manion has decided it's time to step away from the Board. This decision was not based on any animosity towards the Fire Department; in his own words, “it's time for me to try a new role within the Fire Department”. His sense of humour and ability to keep even difficult discussions light will certainly be missed. He also had an amazing ability to keep meetings brief while covering off all the issues. Tom's last official duty as President will be to chair the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you, Tom, for running a smooth ship!



As mentioned in previous newsletters, many of our Directors have been on the Board for years and want to step down. Our Directors come from all walks of life and bring their own expertise to the Board. Perhaps YOU have what it takes!

Interested in joining the Board? Either attend the AGM on August 3<sup>rd</sup> or contact any of the directors listed at the top of this newsletter at [wlnglvfd@gmail.com](mailto:wlnglvfd@gmail.com)

**Please take care with campfires this summer. Although the recent rains have been welcome relief to our drought conditions, the ground under that lovely green carpet is still powdery dry. With the upcoming heat wave next week, the risk for wildfires will return quickly!**

If you cannot attend the Annual General Meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3, 2024, 10:00 a.m.\*  
at Hall #1.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*valid only on date shown above*