



WATCH LAKE – NORTH GREEN LAKE

VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

www.wlmgfiredept.org



Summer Newsletter 2025

Board of Directors (to contact please email via wlmgvfd@gmail.com)

Ron Thurston, President
Roy Allan, Past President
Gisele Polisenio, Vice President and
Social Conveyor
David Kneale, Treasurer

Laura Dewar, Secretary,
Membership
Lee Granberg, Insurance
Bob Nathane, Website/Facebook
Guy Aggiss, Director

Alan Watrich, Fund-raising
Tom Bachynski, Director
John Dustan, Director
Cory Rushinko, Director
Ernst Schmidt, Interdepartmental
Liaison

Notification of our Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 11th
10:00 a.m.

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

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 any 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.

President's Message

Hello from your Fire Department's Board of Directors.

I would like to inform you that the Departments AGM is scheduled for the 11 October 2025 at 10:00 a.m. It would be great if you could put aside an hour or two aside to attend the AGM so that you can participate in the manner that your fire department is run. We are holding it at Hall #1 on the Thanksgiving long weekend so as many part time residents that are up closing up can attend.

We have had a fairly quiet fire year mainly due to the fact that our spring weather was wet and cool. This has allowed the range grasses to grow significantly which is good for the ranchers; however, the last few weeks have been hot and dry and that raises a high risk of fires over the next few weeks. The lightning we've recently experienced during the evenings has caused a significant number of forest fires daily within the CRD. With BCWildfire's quick action, most of the new

fire starts have been controlled quickly. At the time of writing there are no Fires of Note close to our community, though that could change quickly with the forecast of more thunderstorms.

Although our Department is an Exterior Fire Fighting Department, we have changed our policy to allow for Rapid Intervention Teams to be trained, which will allow entry when it is safe to do so and there is a threat of loss of life of a resident. Over the last year we attended calls relating to structure fires, assistance to B.C. Ambulance Service, motor vehicle collisions and the ever presence of fallen trees and power lines down across our roads after wind storms.

In October, 2024, the legislation that governs wildfires changed. One of the major changes to that legislation is the dollar amount that can be handed out as fines in a situation where a resident on private property allows a fire to escape from their property. For example if a resident has a camp fire when they are prohibited and it escapes his/her property and goes into Crown Land (Forest Fire) the fines can be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, so please follow the prohibitions. Although we could have camp fires this summer they are now prohibited as of noon on 28 August 2025 until the end of October or the order is rescinded.

In closing, the Department is in desperate need of a person who can act as a Secretary. The duties would be to attend the Board of Directors meetings which are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month and take minutes of the meeting. Meetings last approximately 2 hours. He or she would then be responsible for typing them up and distributing them to the Directors prior to the next meeting. **If you are interested in helping out, please contact Laura Dewar by phoning (250-395-0020) or emailing her (pandldewar@outlook.com) or contact me at thirsty5782@gmail.com.**

Ron Thurston
President of WL-NGLVFD

Donation of a Water Skid for FR 11



Thanks to the generosity of an Ontario-based company called GlobalMedic, we are the proud owners of a new water skid for one of our Fire Rescue vehicles, FR11.

Our existing water tank was quite large and when filled to capacity, was not legal to operate on public roads as the gross vehicle weight was too heavy. This newer tank is smaller and came equipped with a newer, lighter water pump. Given the extremely dry conditions out there right now, this donation is certainly well appreciated!

The Passing of the Torch – a fond farewell to two long-serving directors

After this year's AGM, I (Laura Dewar) have mixed emotions in writing that we won't have two directors that have been with us for decades.

Guy Aggiss joined the Department in 2006 when we were desperately trying to prevent the Fire Department from dissolving. Guy played many roles over the years, including Treasurer and membership manager. His careful financial management while working with the other dedicated directors not only prevented the Department from folding but allowed it to grow to become one of the best equipped and managed Volunteer Fire Departments in British Columbia!

Each year, Guy sent out nearly 500 invoices to the membership, doing most of them by hand until 2017. Guy stayed on as a director to be the voice of experience, which was well appreciated when new directors (including myself) came on board.

Ron Thurston, our current President, was a fire fighter for decades before joining the Board as the Fire Fighter Liaison and President. I know both these men will be dearly missed when they step down, but they have certainly earned the privilege to “retire” from the Department. Just what on earth are you two going to do with all that free time, I ask?

Fund raising – kudos to the bottle sorting volunteers!

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 our equipment.



The bottle and can recycling program has been a good source of funds to help keep our Fire Department running. For some reason or other, possibly weather-related, the number of cans and bottles collected this year was lower than usual...that is...until after the August long weekend.

There were LOTS of cans and bottles to sort and thankfully, there were LOTS of volunteers who showed up to make quick work of the huge total.

Are you interested in helping out and meeting/catching up with your neighbours? Bottle sorting occurs:

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

Thank you for reading! Please be cautious during these dry conditions.



First training at Hall #1 this summer

If you cannot attend the Annual General Meeting on October 11th 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, October 11th, 10:00 a.m.*
at Hall #1.

Signed: _____

**valid only on date shown above*