



DEKA LAKE AND DISTRICT RATEPAYERS

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WINTER 2022



INVASIVE SPECIES

invasive mussel monitoring program involving B.C.lakes. Thank you to Camilla Sangarapillai for the following article.

Deka Lake Avoids Invasive Species

Date: Dec 21, 2021

2021 has been a big year for Deka Lake and invasive species. Deka Lake underwent invasive mussel monitoring and new Clean Drain Dry and Play Clean Go signs were installed in the area.

Deka Lake is part of an invasive mussel monitoring program; lakes across BC are tested over the summer for the presence of invasive mussels. Zebra and quagga mussels wreak havoc in fresh water systems; they attach to hard surfaces, clog boat motors and their sharp shells cut swimmer's feet. Sampling at Deka Lake was performed by the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC), they took monthly samples at the south point of Deka Lake. This is the second year Deka Lake has been tested. Thanks to the input from the Ratepayers, ISCBC will be monitoring at the Lake Access #6 in 2022 pending funding.

Clean Drain Dry is a program that encourages recreationalists to stop the spread of invaders into lakes and rivers. Seven new Clean Drain Dry signs were mounted at four different lakes in the area (4-Deka Lake, 1- Higgins Lake, 1- Hathaway Lake, 1-Sulphurous Lake).

New Play Clean Go signs were intalled along three trails in the area (1-Deka Lake, 1-Higgins Lake, 1- Sulphurous Lake). Play Clean Go also encourages recreationalists to ensure their gear, clothing and pets are free of invasives before setting out on a trail. Two signs had boot brushes attached to them for

recreationalists to use.

All 3 projects were undertaken by the ISCBC in partnership with the Deka Lake & Area Ratepayers Association. Mussel monitoring was funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the BC ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy. Signs were funded through the Cariboo Regional District.

If you have any questions, please direct them to outreach@bcinvasives.ca. Clean Drain Dry sign coordinates can be viewed on an interactive map at <https://bcinvasives.ca/play-your-part/clean-drain-dry-partners/> Report invasives or join ISCBC's community science network at bcinvasives.ca.



New Play Clean Go sign and boot brush along Sulphurous Lake trail.



Casting a plankton net on Deka Lake at a boat launch. The fine net can capture young microscopic invasive mussels before they begin to settle on hard surfaces. We test at boat launches as watercraft are the most likely to introduce mussels into waterbodies.



New Clean Drain Dry sign installed at Deka Lake. A resin cast of adult mussels are pictured for reference. As of 2021, no invasive zebra or quagga mussels have been detected in British Columbia. Play your part, keeping your watercraft and gear Clean Drain Dry can stop the spread of invasives.



To whom it may concern,

The 2022 Hot July Nights Committee would like you to get involved in this year's Hot July Nights Car and Bike Show held in 100 Mile House. This 3 day event starts on Friday, July 15, 2022 ending with the Show and Shine on Birch Avenue on Sunday, July 17, 2022. You can support the event by donation of funds, products and/or by volunteering your time. Anything you can give supports the event and your community.

This event is meant to lift the spirits of 100 Mile House, support local business and bring in hundreds of car enthusiasts and spectators from across the province. The Committee has changed the focus to attract out of town participants encouraging them to tour the South Cariboo and support our community. For every out of town person who attends the show brings in a minimum of \$1000.00 per vehicle. This as well as local participants and spectators, we speculate that this event will draw in more than \$500,000.00 into our local economy for that weekend. Further benefit is that it will increase future tourism and residential growth.

This year's Hot July Nights will be an event for everyone in our community to get involved. We are hosting this event for our town's future and to lift the spirits of the community after being hit with health restrictions, fires, floods as well as the economic downturn due to business closures. Our vision is to grow the show every year and plant the seed for the years to come with the commitments of our local businesses, major sponsors, our local government, local car clubs and our community at large.

We would like to thank you for your consideration and support. If you are able to help, please contact us at the email or phone number below.

Sincerely,

Hot July Nights Committee
Website: hotjulynights.ca
Email: cars@hotjulynights.ca
250 593 4161

The Fire Hall

We are continuing with our efforts to regain access to the fire hall for our community activities.

In the article, Stuart Larson says that the chiefs are concerned that the issue had “become political” since the communities had gone to the area directors on the matter. We totally agree! It is political. This is why we elect people, to explore options, look at compromises and make decisions.

CRD Chair Margo Wagner agrees that losing access to fire halls is a huge issue for the communities involved. She also said that formulating a policy would likely take until January. Hopefully, we’ll be seeing that soon.

According to Chris Keam, Manager of Communications, a motion was carried to direct staff to prepare a report outlining the conditions to be met. Hopefully the wording was approved in their December meeting and we’ll be seeing that report soon, as well.

We also believe that insurance can be obtained by the community groups to eliminate the need for the Fire Chiefs’ personal liabilities.

Nov 25, 2021 **CRD Directors Debate Public use of Firehalls** published in the *100 Mile Free Press* and written by *Melissa Smalley*.

The public use of Cariboo Regional District fire halls in communities that don’t have other places to gather is being discussed by local leaders, following concerns raised by affected residents.

The issue was originally raised by Area L Director Willow Macdonald, who oversees Lone Butte – Interlakes, at a board meeting in October when she said her constituents were upset to discover they were no longer allowed at the Deka Lake Volunteer fire hall.

Historically, members of that community had been able to use a room upstairs at the fire hall for gatherings and events, but, according to Macdonald, were recently told by the fire chief they were no longer allowed to use the space.

In addition to the Deka Lake hall, the 150 Mile and Wildwood fire halls also often doubled as community meeting spaces, according to directors.

At last week’s Committee of the Whole meeting, concerns about public safety, CRD liability, building code standards and “fractured communities” were discussed at length.

“This is an evolutionary issue,” CAO John MacLean said, noting that for many years before the fire halls became functions of the CRD, ladies auxiliaries and other “offshoots” would hold fundraisers in the halls.

“Now that these are a taxpayer service, the halls are fire halls. They’re not necessarily built or maintained to public occupancy standards. But if we did have a formal arrangement with rules and understandings, that’s the way forward.”

Macdonald agreed there should be protocols in place for members of the public using the fire hall spaces, but wondered where that left her constituents, while staff worked to address the matter.

“My communities are crumbling and fighting and they want access to their spaces. The fire chief shouldn’t have the final say,” she said. “I just want our communities to meet when they haven’t been able to do so. We should be strongly encouraging our fire chiefs to work with our community groups.”

Stuart Larson, manager of protective services, said the chiefs of the three halls in question had reached out with concerns that the issue had “become political” since residents in the communities had gone to the area directors on the matter.

“In each of these cases, the chiefs have called and expressed their concerns that now that we’re moving our fire halls in a more positive direction and actually adhering to legislation and liability and they’re cognizant of this, these chiefs are scared to have people in their buildings because they don’t want to be held accountable,” Larson explained.

CRD chair Margo Wagner, who is also director of Forest Grove-Canim Lake, said that for communities that don’t have other meeting spaces nearby, losing access to the fire halls is a “huge issue” that the CRD needs to work through sooner rather than later, especially for the Deka Lake community.

“I have so many emails not just from the ratepayers’ group but other members that live out there that are so concerned,” Wagner said, noting the process of formulating a policy would likely take until January. “During the winter is when a lot of these activities take place. Is there any way we could kind of give them a bye for four months?”

According to CRD manager of communications Chris Keam, Larson is in the early stages of reaching out to the fire chiefs at the halls in question to discuss options for the short term.

A motion to direct staff to draft a report outlining the conditions by which community groups might be allowed to use the halls was carried unanimously at last week’s meeting.

“The next step will be to ensure the motion’s wording is reflective of the board’s intent,” Keam said. “It will be reviewed and (potentially) approved as part of the Nov. 19 meeting minutes, at the next COW meeting in December. At this time we cannot say which CRD volunteer fire departments would be impacted, as the policy and criteria by which fire halls could be used for other activities would need to be established and approved before we could determine suitability of a hall.”

MLA Lorne Doerkson

I thought for sure, by this time we would have seen the majority of Covid in the rear-view mirror, but it continues to make our lives extremely complicated. My hope, if nothing else in the very near future we will move past these challenging times and once again return to diving from the dock and enjoy BBQs with our friends and communities.

I am grateful for the patience that all our residents have shown through what has been arguably the most challenging time in recent decades. It has not just been Covid of course that has been challenging but mandates at different levels of Govt. and different services as well, including the debates currently involving our fire halls. I can’t think of a building that has been built for public use in the Cariboo Chilcotin that has not been built with resident’s funds whether by donation or taxation and for that reason I can appreciate the passion around this subject. I know that this is an ongoing discussion in your community, and I hope that talks continue between the Cariboo Regional District and the Rate Payers Association are successful for all the residents. I tip my hat to the people involved in these discussions, most being volunteers trying to make the community a better place for all. And..... I hope once a resolution has come to this situation, we can all return to enjoying the fresh air and all the Cariboo has to offer.

As always, I am available to you through my 100 Mile office. 250-395-3916 or by email : Lorne.Doerkson.MLA@leg.bc.ca Good Luck ice fishing!!! MLA Lorne Doerkson, Cariboo Chilcotin

