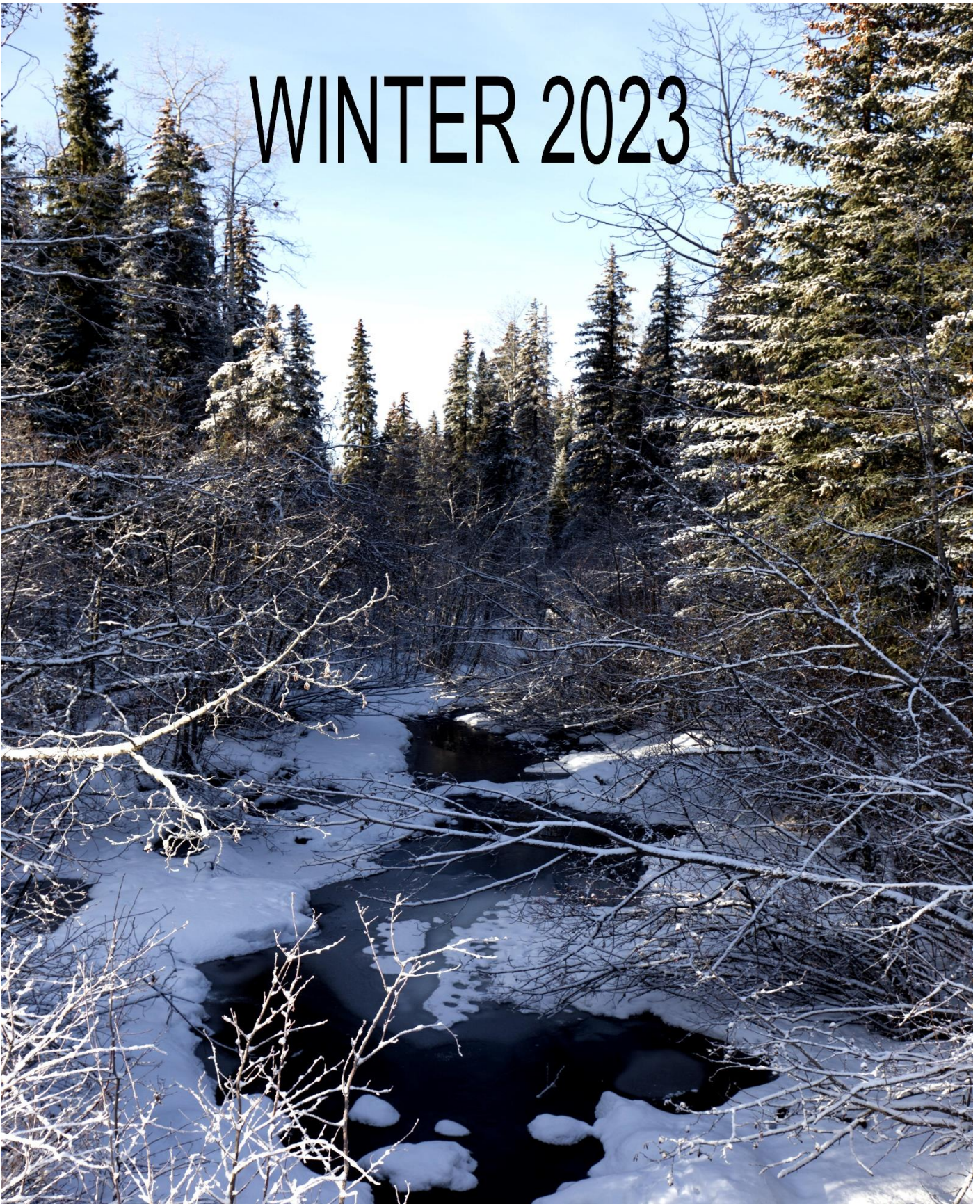


WINTER 2023



Presidents Message:

It has been an interesting winter with the cold blast in the fall, the summer warmth in January and now finally some winter snow for us all to enjoy. It is good to see most of the Covid restrictions removed so that we are able to start spending more time with friends and neighbours.

Last year we updated Access 9 and Mathura on Deka and have a couple of loads of gravel ready to fix up Access 11 which will hopefully be completed in early spring.

We have a new sign board on the Advertising Community Board located on Mahood by Horse Lake Road. If you need anything advertised or the sign updated, please let us know at dekalakeanddistrictratepayers@gmail.com.

As you know we relocated our recycling bins for your convenience to the mail boxes on Blain, Beazley and Higgins Roads. To date, we have received positive results on the new locations.

We are in the process of changing our webmaster on our website but continue to welcome pictures and stories of our local community to post and share. We would like to thank Mario for all of his dedication and support keeping this site up to date and will miss him. Wishing him well on his retirement.

On our Home page of our website (www.dekalake-district.ca) is our Mission statement. A statement of which we have not varied from since its inception as far back as the 70's.

"The Deka Lake and District Ratepayers Association is a non-profit, independent organization made up of residents and property owners from Deka, Sulphurous, Hathaway and Higgins Lakes who are dedicated to enhancing their general well being of our community. Our objective is to build on established relationships with the Cariboo Regional District, various Government Ministries and other Community Associations, fundraise to ensure monies are available for community projects and to support area projects that safeguard our environment." "I bring this up because there seems to be a misconception that the

Ratepayers is a single person or small group of individuals when in fact we are the voice for many within our community.

We continue to work towards a solution and are in active discussions with CRD to assist in rebuilding our community and to bring back events that we have enjoyed for the past 40 years.

We appreciate and honor all volunteers in our community; volunteers who can give an hour, a week or a month, citizens on patrol, those who look after the elderly and the dying, our local firefighters, those who do health checks, our health foundation at the Hospital and all the volunteers who work from there, our Ladies Auxiliary, Mountain Spruce members, volunteers who provide food to those who don't have much, those who check on their neighbours, the ratepayer members, search and rescue, those who simply shovel their neighbours driveways and so many more who give their time. Together, all these groups are important for the physical and mental health of our entire community and I personally thank each and every one of you.

Mountain Spruce

Happy New Year from everyone at the Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society and all the best for 2023!!!

Since the last newsletter in October we have had a lot going on at the Mountain Spruce Hall and at the Mountain Spruce Community Park. We had a few nights of crib, ladies night with a free barista bar, yoga classes, the Remembrance Day Ceremony, a book giveaway, games night, a wreath making workshop, a sold out Christmas dinner and even a Charcuterie workshop. Then, we started 2023 off with a bang with our 1st Annual Polar Bear Walk in the Park and an all ages scavenger hunt on January 1. It was a HUGE success. We had close to 100 participants! Wow! We had winners from all the lakes, 14 winners in total and here they are, Charles Wessman, Emily,

Michelle Theriault, Doug Burke, Dave Burton, Rick Coumont, Gwen Burton, Sue Vannet, Ken Swaffield, Cathy Sampson, the Hughes Family, Denise Britton and Corliss Kerr. Prizes were graciously donated by The Painted Cottage, Moving Mountains Site Services, Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society and Shannon a.k.a. The Epic Spice Fairy. We also had a fondue themed Ladies Night for January and it was a lot of fun for all the ladies that attended, it was a great turn out!

The Mountain Spruce Community Hall is located at 7571 Pettyjohn Road at Sulphurous Lake and the schedule will be continuing with Yoga Classes every Tuesday at 10 AM, Crib Nights every second Friday at 7 PM, Ladies Night on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM, with a different theme each month. Jam Night will be the second Saturday of each month at 7 PM and Games Night is the last Saturday of each month at 7 PM. If you haven't joined our Facebook page yet, you are going to want to, so you don't miss out on any of the great events coming up.

What do we have planned so far??? We have our Ladies Night on Thursday, February 9 at 6:30PM. It will be a "Spa Night" theme and we will be making bath bombs, brown sugar scrubs, enjoying a hand salt scrub, a paraffin hand dip and a moisturizing treatment. There will be a small fee to cover supply costs. Feel free to wear your pjs. For an evening of rest and relaxation please RSVP if you would like to attend. Jam Night will be starting up again on Saturday, February 11 at 7 PM, so bring your instruments, your voice and let's have some fun! On Saturday, March 11 grab your snowshoes or winter boots and come on down to the Mountain Spruce Park at 6335 Mahood Lake Road. Sunset is at 7:19 PM so drop by the park anytime between 7-9 PM for a moonlit walk or snowshoe through the park. All ages welcome. Enjoy a hot chocolate, roast some marshmallows by the fire and spend some time mingling with neighbours and friends. Feel free to wear a headlamp or bring a flashlight. Then on Wednesday, March 22 from 6 to 9 PM we are having a Resin Workshop. The fee is \$60, you will learn the entire process from start to finish and you will create your very own resin

board to take home. This class will sell out quickly so RSVP as soon as possible.

Thanks again to everyone for all your bottle & can returnables at the Mountain Spruce Park drop-off! Funds from this program help to pay for hall & park events and improvements, such as the new floors that were just installed at the Mountain Spruce Community Hall. They look great and are going to be so much warmer for things like yoga. Watch our Facebook group for activities and events throughout the year. Looking forward to meeting many more neighbours from the surrounding areas and having fun together!

Ladies Auxilliary

Happy New Year everyone! I trust that you managed thru the very cold spell and the holidays without incident. Due to all the funds raising efforts of the Ladies Auxillary last year, we were able to make a donation of \$200.00 to the Interlakes Christmas Hamper and to provide a \$500.00 scholarship for graduating students from our area that are attending the Peter Skene Ogden High School. This scholarship is for June 2023. With these funds we are also able to continue outfitting the AED's that the LA purchased for our area. We purchased 5 machines and from time to time components of the AED's need to be updated.

As one of the fitness instructor from the LA, I wish to remind people to be active and social. Go for a walk with your neighbour, spouse and/or even the dog. Meet up with people in a social setting as per the article in the Free Press where gathering with other adults can possibly delay the onset of dementia. There are other benefits per the Alzheimer's Association (as stated in the Free Press Article) where social engagement may reduce the risk for depression. So stay active and be engaged. See you in the spring.

Kerrie LeGrand
President, LA



A good start in the New Year

The Cariboo winter came with typical unexpected weather conditions. We got it all...extreme minus and plus temperatures and not enough snow to enjoy typical winter recreation. That you have to take it as it comes and look on the bright side of things is something we learned real quickly after arriving in the Cariboo. Whenever things look more miserable than fun, I think of how the pioneers had to deal with it and then it doesn't seem so bad at all.

New CAO

The CRD board has begun the search for a new CAO (Chief Administrator Officer) through a process led by Interim CAO, Brian Carruthers.

High Speed Internet connection projects

Telus has been providing Fiber Optic to the Bridge Lake and Deka Lake area. Many of our properties have now the option to switch to faster Internet. Now the question remains, when will the remainder of our properties be connected? The province is very active with

the Connectivity BC program and providing funding for connection projects as performed by Telus, Shaw and ABC Communications. The set target is to provide high speed internet options for all rural communities by 2027. This may be wired or wireless solutions such as Fiber Optic for wired and 5G for wireless. Good news for 300 properties at Sheridan Lake as Telus has announced that Fiber Optic will be brought in there next. The timeframe of installation is not clear yet but I will probe through our Telus contact to get clarification on that.

Many questions with regard to connections for Lone Butte have reached me, so that is also on my list to clarify.

Telus has requested approval for the placement of a tower in the Green Lake area so this will create options for wireless internet connections.

Charge North

This community Energy Association has been planning and building charging stations for EV (Electrified Vehicle) travel since 2019. The network of 58 stations covers travelling from Kamloops to Prince Rupert and Fort St. John. Currently the route is only covered by class 2 stations where a full charge takes 4-6 hours. The vehicle running time between charging stations allows for a charging time of 2-3 hours. This makes long distance EV travel more suitable for tourists. For locals, the wait is on for the Class 3 fast chargers, which will make long distance EV travel a viable alternative to our diesel or gas engine cars.

Cariboo Gold Project

OSISKO Development Corp. has started a project near Wells for an underground mining operation. Currently it is in the Environmental

Assessment Process aiming for approval and start of operations this year. The mine lifetime is estimated at 12 years and will create a total of 314 new jobs in phase 1 and a total of 488 jobs in phase 2. This is a big boost for the employment opportunities in the Cariboo.

Where does our property tax money go?

Is tax money collected from our area also spent in our area or does it disappear into big pots and ultimately spent somewhere in the regional district? This question pops up regularly and is not answered in one sentence. I propose to analyze one line on our property tax notice in this newsletter and gradually work through all of them to try and clarify how each works.

I'll start with a easy one as I have some background on spending this tax money. The Fire Protection taxation will appear as "Interlakes Fire", "Deka Lake Fire" or "Lone Butte Fire" on your Property Tax Notice. It is charged with a rate on improvements and for some departments also with a Parcel Tax. These two collections provide for the total budget of the department. This money comes back to fund all the expenses of the department with some exceptions. The salary of CRD staff involved with the fire protection management of the whole region are paid from this and the 911 dispatch center and radio system maintenance are also charged pro rata. This taxation is an example of tax money spending fully dedicated to a service for our communities in Area L.

Interlakes Volunteer Fire Department

Many of you have approached me expressing your worries with regard to the IVFD and specifically with the suspension of the

Medical First Responder service. The latter is a direct consequence of a lack of volunteers. I have forwarded your concerns and discussed this and other issues with the interim CAO, Brian Carruthers and he, his staff and the Fire Chiefs are addressing the issues.

Deka Lake Community use of Fire Hall

The many concerns which reached me have been discussed intensely with the interim CAO Brian Carruthers. As the situation developed before his time, he is conducting a thorough assessment to get all the facts on the table. He will make sure that the community interests and various options for a solution are considered.

So...I think that is enough to digest in one newsletter. Don't hesitate to contact me on issues in your community. I might not be able to solve everything but certainly will provide a listening ear.

Eric de Vries

Cariboo Regional District

Electoral Area L Director

Phone 250-706-2758

www.cariboord.ca

[Email Me](#)

Message from MLA Lorne Doerkson

I hope all of you had a great Christmas despite the cold weather! I know many of us were unable to travel, so many families had a much quieter time than usual. Hopefully Family Day will see some of us able to connect with those not able to visit during the holidays.

As we work our way through the winter months, I hope you are all getting out a bit to enjoy the beauty of the area and the many ways we can enjoy the great outdoors.

I will be heading back to Victoria next month with a long list of questions for the Government. I have heard from many of you about your concerns with Health care, Roads, and Land use. I will endeavour to get some answers from the government in the Legislature.

I post on my Facebook page almost daily about issues and events in the Cariboo and often will contact constituents who ask me questions of the page , so please check it out.

I attended the Natural Resources Forum in PG this month and found it to be very interesting as well as eye opening. Our different regions in the province were well represented by Local, Regional and Provincial government. I know some great and necessary conversations, as well as idea exchanges happened and will continue into this year.

As always, I am here to serve you, please never hesitate to contact my offices if you have a question or an issue you need assistance with. My staff can help with almost anything, and if you need to speak with me personally, they will pass your information along to me. I call back constituents as soon as my schedule will allow.

100 Mile Office 250-395-3916 Mon to Fri 9-3 Beverly Marks

Williams Lake 250-305-3800 Tues to Fri 8-3 Jenny Huffman