

DEKA LAKE AND DISTRICT  
RATEPAYERS

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## Presidents Message

I must admit I am very happy that 2020 is behind us but also so happy that we live in one of the most beautiful places in BC. The skies this winter have been amazing, weather unpredictably warmer than usual and less snow than we have seen in years.

During 2020 we have concentrated our efforts on the Hathaway launch in partnership with Rec and Trails and Freshwater Fish Society. The small boat launch that is available to smaller fishing boats has been gravelled and raked. We are hoping to get a bit more gravel next summer to completely finish it off and assist with a bit of the drainage. A decision was made to close off the launch for the winter in order to allow the launch area to settle and firm up. We will re-evaluate it in the spring after the melt. A special thank you for the huge number of volunteers who came out to get the work done.

In addition, The Freshwater Fish Society installed a fishing dock at the end of the left trail off the upper parking lot. We are hoping to get a picnic table down beside it this spring.

The Womack Road Emergency Access as well as the wildfire fuel breaks have been completed. We will keep you updated if further work continues in the spring. We are reminding everyone that the Emergency Access Road at the end of Womack is not to be used as a short cut or for general use to get over to Windy Mountain. It is an emergency road only and will not be maintained by anyone. As we all know, the more a dirt road is used, the rougher it gets. We must as a community ensure that this road is kept in the condition that it can accommodate not only trucks but small cars to escape the area if needed.

Our recycling program is still up and running and we appreciate everyone who drops off their refundable recycling to the fire hall. All proceeds go to the Deka Lake Ratepayers who in turn put all proceeds back into your community, new projects, maintaining what we have, supporting the local fire department and much more.

Due to the cancellation of the fishing derbies our fundraising efforts have been considerably reduced so we very much appreciate your donations to recycling, your payment of local dues and letting your new neighbours know about us.

We hoped to renovate the Community board at Mahood and Horse Lake Road, but we have had to postpone this to this coming summer. We are still looking for new advertisers, so if you know of anyone, please contact us directly. The cost is very inexpensive and the benefits are great.

The 3 Solar lights located at the Sulphurous Bulletin Board, Blain and Burgess and Beazely 1 just off of Womack are still working well. If you happen to notice that they are not lighting up, please let us know.

I would like to thank everyone who has been looking after our local accesses at all 4 lakes. Several of the accesses have designated people caring for them but your additional efforts to clean up the lake shore, taking your garbage out, cleaning up some brush and simply sharing space respectfully with others has not been unnoticed. We are a great community with great people and are an admiration to almost every community in the Cariboo.

Please note that the access roundabouts and driveways must remain clear of parking including your Off Road Vehicles. Please park in the designated parking spots. Let your friends and family who come to visit know the rules of the road and what they can do to help out.

On a more controversial note - it is important that we respect our roads, drive a little slower, especially when people are walking, do not use the roads for your Snow Mobiles ATV's or Dirt Bikes as a personal track - drive your off road vehicles to the thousands of km just down the road and enjoy. Let your visitors and children know the rules.

As our community is growing in great strides we will need more community support, more volunteers, and keeping an eye on each other. Our community depends on working together and taking care of what we have.

If interested in helping us out, adopting an access, taking on a small project or just promoting our district ratepayers, please don't hesitate to give us a call or send us an email.

Remember we are always looking for new ways to promote our website, pictures, stories that you may have as well as any functions or activities you would like to post.

I look forward to being able to work with everyone in 2021, that we all are able to spend time together with people outside our bubble and without a mask. Until then, please be safe, be kind, be respectful and stay healthy.

Marty M  
President

## Camp Deka – Memorable Out trips

Stephen Rowell

As I write this week and am looking outside at the frozen lake, I remember that Lorne and May Brown, at this time of year, would have had all the ice blocks cut out of the lake, and put into the ice shed and covered with sawdust to be used in July and August in the ice boxes.

In this edition, I am going to share with you three of the best out trips of my Deka years. Camp Deka, back in the 60's and 70's, was as close to Outward Bound as any boy could encounter. During the days in camp, we learned all the skills necessary to camp successfully in the woods.

Back then we would plan a very detailed trip; destination, supplies, maps, and menu planning.

**Trip #1:** Our group of 8- and 9-year olds did a two-night trip to Fortune Lake (now Apollo Lake). We portaged one canoe for a group of 8 boys and two leaders. Four boys would carry the canoe at a time. We started out of camp along the road towards the ranch (Monte and Darlene Furber's ranch) and carried on through the hay field until we hit the trail head. The trail had many logs to climb over and some points only two of us could carry the canoe. We finally arrived at our destination of Fortune Lake after what seemed like days to a

young mind. The canoe was put in place and then we set up camp. We cleared a spot for the cooking area and campfire. Then we put up our lean-to shelter for us to sleep under. The lean-to was a large tarp tied to a log that was lashed between two trees. After camp was set up, we had lunch. We were now ready to use the canoe to explore the lake. With 8 of us and the two leaders we, of course, had to take turns exploring the shore and looking for wildlife. After two nights it was time to portage the canoe back to camp.

**Trip #2:** Our group of 12-year-olds had several Deka summers under our belts. So, we planned a three night out trip to Bowers Lake with a day hike to Lorin Lake. This longer out trip required more planning and especially extra attention paid to our menus. Because we were hiking into the two lakes, food weight was a big consideration. The camp director, Lorne Brown, tied our supplies in canoes behind the small put-put and dropped us off on the opposite side of the lake from the camp. That location is about halfway down the eastern shoreline between the point across from the camp and the northern end of the lake. The hike into Bowers Lake went as planned. We set up camp, putting our meat supplies into Jim Creek. Bright and early the next morning we had breakfast and prepared lunch and snack supplies for our day hike into Lorin Lake. We set off over Jim Creek and then took a compass bearing on our map. The hike seemed to be taking longer than planned. It became apparent that one of the campers was confusing true north and magnetic north causing us to go off course and have a much longer hike. When we finally arrived at Lorin Lake, very tired and losing daylight, our counsellor made the **decision** to stay put for the night. We made a wind break and started a big fire. Our counsellor must have known something. He made our lunch and snacks last for dinner and breakfast the next morning. As the darkness drew around us, we decided that four of us would sleep for four hours while four of us would tend to the fire. For sleeping we had ponchos for ground sheets and a blanket. A piece of plastic did not seem like much, but it worked. Four bodies, like sardines packed in a can, sleeping, or resting. In the morning daylight we ate and headed back to base camp at Bowers.

Before we left, we took a piece of paper and wrote our names on it and placed it inside an empty Tang orange crystal pouch. We tied it to a branch like a cairn. Back at Bowers we had a feast. We did not want to carry the food we had not eaten for dinner or breakfast. Our brunch was a large pieces of roast beef where we each cut 1" to 2" slabs to fry up, plus two eggs or more each, toast, and cheese. And a feast it was. We could barely walk, and we headed back to meet Mr. Brown to take us back to camp.

**Trip #3:** In one of my last summers, before the camp closed, our group (14-15-year olds) decided we wanted to challenge the circuit. As the years have gone by, I do not remember the time we were trying to match or beat. But in one day we were doing Deka, Sulphurous, Hathaway, Dragonfly and back to camp. The weather was perfect as we started out in our Chestnut canvas and wood canoes. We passed the island in the big lake, known as Brown's Island, through the narrows and down to the portage between Sulphurous and Deka. Once on Sulphurous we headed on the west side of the island around to the old boat launch, that is now one of the new access roads on Sulphurous Lake. We then portaged across Petty John Road to the Moosehaven Resort property, where we were able to launch onto Hathaway. At the end of Hathaway Lake, we took the canoes out and portaged on Mahood Lake Road and then put into Dragonfly Lake. We crossed Dragonfly to the ranch (Furbers ranch). We portaged the canoes through the hay fields and on to the camp road. We arrived back at camp before dinner. What an epic day; tired, sore, and very satisfied.

Lorne Doerkson, MLA

CARIBOO - CHILCOTIN

Happy New Year!!!

I am sure that none of us will be sad to say goodbye to 2020. There is no question that it has been one of the more trying years that we have all endured. While it was tough, I received exciting news October 24th, 2020 – that I would have the good fortune of representing this riding!! I am more excited to do so than I can explain in words!! Thank you for the opportunity – I promise that I will do my very best to be sure that your messages are heard in Victoria

While this region has experienced some very dry years and ultimately the wildfires of 2017/18 – those years as you know have been followed by some of the wettest and worst flood years in our history! I have seen very many locations that the water is higher than it has ever been, this was last week! I along with many are very concerned about what the spring will bring and how our snowpack will add to the already very high-water table.

I ask that you please keep our office in 100 Mile House in the loop on any flood events as we may be called to action to ask for assistance from some

of the Province's ministries. I hope that things settle down in the spring, but we want to be prepared for this as we are currently working on this file.

Property assessments are now in the mail - many people are seeing significant increases in their

property values. The real estate market has remained strong over the past year through most of the riding and that has translated to increases in the assessed value. These values can be contested by calling 1866 825 8322. While the local governments decide the amount of taxes to be paid your value is certainly part of the equation.

Due to a few challenges surrounding Covid 19 and technology – we were a little slow to open the office in 100 Mile House. We are now open Mon through Friday and welcome your calls and visits. I very much look forward to working with and getting to know all of you. See you soon.

Lorne Doerkson

## OUR ADVERTISERS

A lot of businesses and trades have chosen to advertise with us, both in the newsletter and on the sign board at the bottom of Mahood. Revenue from their advertising directly benefits the community. We hope you will consider them for things you need and projects you want done. All the advertisers can be found on our web page as well. <http://dekalake-district.ca/>

**FISHING DERBY** has unfortunately been cancelled once again, due to COVID

**OUTPOST ON THE LAKE** Richard has built himself a new fishing hut. He's gone solar power with 2 white LEDs on the front, 2 red on the back and 2 amber on the sides. It will be a beacon on the lake, not to be hit. He says it's not to be confused with a vehicle stuck on the lake, but it could be a plan to have BCAA tow him home at the end of the season.

## RECYCLING

Our recycling program was started years ago by the volunteer fire dept as a way to raise extra funds.

The money was used for fishing derbies and equipment not budgeted for. As the community grew so did the program and it has now become a joint effort with the Deka Lake and District Ratepayers. We have three bins beside the firehall which are used for Ratepayers recycling. Currently,

Any bottles taken to the dump for recycling are split between us and Mountain Spruce Society.

Many thanks to the 3 ladies who do our recycling and to the volunteers who pick up bottles from the dump.

the parking lot is very good. The ground is frozen and the snow is plowed. There is no problem accessing the bins.



**DEKA LAKE & DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Renewal Membership form**

*Please Print*

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Only complete information below if amending membership information already on file.

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Full-time residence \_\_\_\_\_ Lake: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt? No Yes

**Membership Fee: Family \$10.00 Single \$7.00.**

We accept e-transfers to [dekalakeanddistrictratepayers@gmail.com](mailto:dekalakeanddistrictratepayers@gmail.com) (ensure you email your preferred security word prior to sending the transfer), cash or cheque, drop off or mail to  
DL & DRA c/o 7524 Burgess Rd, Lone Butte, BC V0K 1X3

*Thank you for your community support!*

