



# DEKA LAKE AND DISTRICT RATEPAYERS

[www.dekalake-district.ca](http://www.dekalake-district.ca)

[dekalakeanddistrictratepayers@gmail.com](mailto:dekalakeanddistrictratepayers@gmail.com)



FALL 2022



## 2022 DL&DRA AGM Overview

It has been a very long 2 years due to Covid restrictions and is great that we are able to start meeting up again and hold community functions. Over 80 people showed up for the AGM and over 110 for the community barbeque held after the AGM. Thank you to CRD and Willow MacDonald for awarding a 1000.00 grant to host this event for the community.

We are still grieving over the loss of our Community Hall at Deka Lake and the surrounding property and are making all efforts to work with the CRD and the Fire Department in regaining access. Pros and cons of continuing the effort was brought up with majority still on board to continue to make every effort to mediate a reasonable solution.

Projects this year have been to improve Access 9, 11 and Mathura which is being paid for through our recycling program and additional assistance through a 2500.00 CRD grant.

Our website is continually updated and we are always looking to get new pictures, articles, advertising and ideas that enhances the site so please connect up if you wish something posted. 2022 isn't over yet, so keep taking pics of the changing seasons and send them to us.

Thank you to our former directors Peter Power, David Scott and Marcel Marier for their support over the years. All continue to be great supporters of our community and will be missed on the Board.

Your new executive is:

Marty Mahovlich - President

Stephen Rowell - Vice President

Chris McGregor - Secretary

Lorna Weibe - Treasurer

Sandy Amy - Director

Sandy Jones - Director

Arlene Kernel - Director

Kerrie LeGrand - Director

Jane Mahovlich - Director

Shannon Sadlowski - Director

Chris Schmidt - Director

Ken Schmidt - Director

Richard Scott - Director

The solar lights are still working well and have improved our safety at night at the mailbox's at Beazley and Womack, Blain and Burgess and Pettyjohn and Mahood Lake Road.

Ken Schmidt and Ken Swaffield have upgraded our community section on our advertising board at Mahood and Horse Lake Road so that we can advertise events etc.

A reminder that we have several picnic tables provided by the Ratepayers at Higgins Access 1 and 3, Sulphurous, Deka Access 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 9, 10, 11, 12. Outhouses are located at Sulphurous and Hathaway and Portapotties on Deka 6, 7, 8 and 12. Maintenance of these resources comes from our sponsors, ratepayer dues and from our volunteers at all 4 lakes.

Our biggest win this year is the continued community and volunteer support with a rough list of over 80 local volunteers. We are always looking for more if you have some time to give an hour or two.

Ken Swaffield - Director

Both Lorne Doerkson, MLA and Willow MacDonald, Area L Director spoke ending the meeting with a Community Barbeque.

## Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society

[mtnspruce@gmail.com](mailto:mtnspruce@gmail.com)

Shannon Sadlowski, Secretary

This summer has been very busy at the Mountain Spruce Community Events Centre. We have been having Crib Nights every other Friday night at 7:30pm, but starting in October they will be changing to 7pm.

Games Nights are the last Saturday of each month at 7pm. Both these nights have seen a lot of new faces from all the different lakes in the area and have been a lot of fun for all.

We had the return of our Ladies Night on October 13 and it was a HUGE success!! There was ladies from the different lakes and a ton of new faces came out to the hall for a fun filled evening of smiles, laughter, friends, prizes, snacks, punch and pumpkin spice lattes! Many new friends were made and looking forward to meeting more of you at the next Ladies Night on November 10 at 7pm and every 2nd Thursday of the month after that!

Also we will be doing a Christmas wreath making workshop on Wednesday, December 7, so keep your eye peeled for time, cost & signup in the near future!

The Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society (MSCCS) has recently started a Facebook Group  
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/636775444453201/?ref=share\\_group\\_link&exp=9594](https://www.facebook.com/groups/636775444453201/?ref=share_group_link&exp=9594)

This is to keep everyone at Higgins, Deka, Sulphurous, Hathaway and District up to date with events and what's happening with the Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society. If

you aren't a member yet, check us out and see just what we are doing in your community and what we are all about. It's not too late to be a member, it is just \$5 per person for the year and you can pay your 2022 dues in person at any MSCCS event or by e-transfer

at [mtnspruce@gmail.com](mailto:mtnspruce@gmail.com)

If you haven't taken a walk through the Mountain Spruce Community Park at the corner of Mahood Lake Road & Burgess (6335 Mahood Lake Road) you are missing out. It is a beautiful park with amazing trails, a viewing platform overlooking Heron Lake, a picnic area, beautiful fauna, birds, wildlife and in the winter it is a X country ski and ski-skating trail. The park is there for all to enjoy, so check it out and don't forget your binoculars.

This summer's Sulphurous & Hathaway fishing derby was a huge success and a big thanks goes out to everyone for all their hard work in putting this derby in motion and making it happen. I do believe this was our best derby yet!

Thank you everyone for all your donated bottle & can returnables at the Mountain Spruce Park drop off. This program is a huge success, so stay thirsty my friends. Funds from this program help to pay for things such as the new picnic enclosure being put up at the Mountain Spruce Hall at 7571 Pettyjohn Road. Come by and check out the progress, it is looking great! Once it is completed this will be something everyone can enjoy.

So hope to see everyone out at an event soon and keep your eyes peeled for our Facebook page, new events being added and the

Christmas Party date & details. Thanks again to all our directors, our volunteers and the support of all our members in the communities we service. Here's to making many more memories and good times to come.

## Ladies Auxilliary

We live in such a great place. We are also fortunate to have such generous and giving people in our community and surrounding areas.

The DL&D Ladies Auxiliary were fortunate to be recipients of this generosity, yet again. Over the summer with the LA members baking up a storm for our fundraising efforts, along with others who donated some baked goods and the donation of items for our food hamper, we raised just over \$4000.00 net. These are amazing results, considering we only did 3 bake sales, along with 50/50 draws and our raffle. There were also cash contributions from Jim Uswak, Friends and Family Deka Lake fishing Derby, hosted by several families, as well as Genevieve Amy and her Art students. Also, our thanks to Interlake's Market for allowing us to set up shop outside the store to sell Raffle Tickets.

## *OLDE* DEKA

Diana Forster

"Deka District" is strictly residential/recreational, home to free-range cattle in the summer and more wildlife than people. Recognised as the Mahood Lake Road Corridor, it comprises Four Lakes: Deka, Hathaway, Higgins and Sulphurous; as well as parts of Judson and Horse Lake Roads. Deka was named for Billy "English" Decker, a well-known native who spoke English whilst befriending our pioneers.

Government surveyors named Higgins Lake for pioneer Ed Higgins who arrived in 1913 and was very knowledgeable in local geography, and subsequently walked these lands with them.

Sulphurous was named for a yellow patch visible from the air and incorrectly thought to be sulphur. Hathaway was named for Bill Hathaway, who eventually moved to Vancouver Island. Note that Hathaway Lake Resort, which dates from 1940, was owned by current Deka resident Gary Biro's family from 1966 to 1974, and whose acclaimed restaurant/bakery even delivered!

In 1935, Walter & Nonie Daniels built the first cabins and icehouse and, in 1941, opened the original Cariboo Chalet an "exclusive resort." In 1969, when then-owners John & Pearl Gauthier retired, the Chalet deteriorated until 1989 when it surrendered to a controlled burn with hundreds of teary-eyed spectators. That same year, the Marx family purchased the land and rebuilt the Chalet in 1994; in 1996, it again welcomed guests as Deka's first B&B, with its history hung on the wall.

The winners of our raffle were: 1st prize of our quilt was Cathy St Pierre of Surrey, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of 6 place mats with matching table runner to Jim Martin from Prince Rupert and 3<sup>rd</sup> was to Carmen Kiener who resides in Chilliwack winning our large food hamper. Congratulations to all our winners.

We cannot thank everyone enough for their support. Please extend our appreciation to your visitors and family members who drop by for a pie, cake or some cookies.

This year we will make a \$200.00 donation to the Interlakes Christmas giftboxes. This is an event that supplies food to local and surrounding area residents who are in need over the holidays. A very worthy cause.

The Executive and LA Members wish you well over the winter months and look forward to meeting up again in 2023, or perhaps sooner. Until then, Seasons Greetings to you and yours. Keep safe and stay well.

Cheers  
DL&D Ladies Auxiliary.

Charlie and Marg Womack arrived in 1948 to run a guide/outfitter business. They bought and sold well over 1,000 acres, including the original (c1940) Deka Lake Resort property, which they sold in 1960 to Tom Hurst who went on to develop Deka Subdivision. Charlie also pushed the road through from Deka Lake to Needa Lake; and donated the land for Deka Firehall.

Population “exploded” after the government subdivided in the ‘60s. The newly-formed Cariboo Regional District (CRD) took over in 1968, and zoning by-laws arrived in 1970/71. In 1969, Wolf & Erna Zink were the first lot owners on Deka Lake. “Summer people” until they became permanent in 1990, their love-affair with Deka Lake caused many others to invest in property here.

From 1961, Lorne & May Brown owned and ran Camp Deka, which provided a magnificent wilderness experience for myriad happy children, and was later taken over by the YMCA. Sadly, it closed after 2016’s camp.

The Bush Cafe at Hathaway Lake served countless hungry locals; and later became The Coyote Grill, owned by Terry & Faye Wood for several years before closing for good.

Famous for decades, Sulphurous’ *Tomlinson Studio Gallery* belongs to the late Roy, and Olga Tomlinson. The couple was instrumental in initiating the 400 acre isthmus Park Proposal; and the Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society, including acquiring the Crown lease for its beautiful park. Olga also created the “Four Lakes” logo for Deka Lake & District Ratepayers’ Association.

Deka Schoolhouse opened in 1959 at the bottom of Mahood Lake Road, with the teacherage on the opposite corner. With only nine students, it closed in June 1981. Later home to “Tiny Tots” and AA, it was eventually demolished in late 1998.

Resident since 1952, and then owners of Sulphurous’ Holiday Lodge, Vern & Helen Colgan were instrumental in originating the school, and went on to own Moosehaven Resort which closed in 1967, reopened as a private home c1980 and, in 2000, reopened as today’s beautiful resort which was recently profiled in Travel British Columbia.

Lorin Lake, to the northeast of Deka, has a sad history. In 1970, a Sulphurous property owner since 1952, Lorin Lind, died in a plane crash into this lake. Thereafter nicknamed Airplane Lake, his family eventually registered it as Lorin Lake.

From 1984, Deka’s *Magic Mushroom* was an amazing little craft store operated by the late, exceptionally creative art teacher, Moira Davies, resident since 1970. When it closed down, the “mushroom” was moved to the back of the Davies property and turned into a cabin. Sadly, this last vestige of the Magic Mushroom went up in flames April 30, 2022.

Since 1982, the area has been served by Deka Lake & District Volunteer Fire Department (DLDVFD,) which now includes what used to be Sulphurous Lake District Volunteer Firefighters’ Association (SLDVFA, formed in 1980.) Back then, SLDVFA’s “ladies” fundraised via bake and garage sales. The Sulphurous property has since gained fame as Mountain Spruce Community Events Centre under lease from the CRD and which, pre COVID, ran well-supported classes and events including art classes, yoga, games nights and jam sessions.

Since 1987, Deka Lake & District Ratepayers’ Association (DLTRA) has served the community by providing bulletin boards, docks, channel markers, no shooting signs, streetlights, and umpteen improvements at all four lakes’ accesses. They maintain the fireboard, provide three annual

Newsletters, and helped initiate the Park Proposal, the Woodlot 1483 Committee and, in 1999, Citizens on Patrol.

COVID caused cessation of the myriad activities run by DLDVFD Ladies Auxiliary at Deka Firehall since 1982. Recently, the CRD disallowed use of the firehall by the community, which has caused deep distress to many.

Most residents are unaware that there once was a buffalo ranch at our end of Judson Road, owned by Albert Walters; on property still owned by his family. Over 70 years ago, Albert guided topographical surveys on the Yukon River, and visitors were always welcome to drop by to see his "museum" and his buffalo herd.

Mahood Lake Corridor has always been a peaceful, friendly community, full of neighbourly wisdom and kindness, and a deep abiding love for its wilderness environment. When members of DLDR and SLDVFA were successful in receiving "proposed provincial park" status on the isthmus between Deka and Sulphurous in 1998, a Ministry of Environment employee said: "It's incredible. Do you realize what (these few people) have done? Just look what you've got; it's time someone gave them the credit."

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**OLE and HILDA LARSON** arrived here from Norway, via the state of North Dakota, in 1912. Originally, they set up camp at West Sheridan Lake, where one now finds Larson Road, but soon moved onto their homestead at the North Bridge Lake Road end of Judson Road, to what is now the Ward residence.

Back then, they accommodated the first doctor's monthly visits to the settlement; and the itinerant dentists, Dr. Tyreman, also saw his patients there. While the Higgins family made the sausages, the Larsons provided the casings from their pig intestines.

Hilda Larson set up a shop in a small cabin on the property and, on their annual difficult and lengthy trips to Ashcroft, would come home with 1500lbs of flour, 1000 lbs of sugar, plenty of dried fruit, and great quantities of "Cariboo strawberries," more properly called beans. The family's survival also depended greatly on sales of cream, from their dairy cows.

Hilda was a particularly good quilter and Bridge Lake Fair's Best of Show Quilt Trophy is still named in her memory.

Many of their descendants stayed in the area and the family is now represented by Bridge Lake's Jack & Gail Larson and their three boys. Sadly, a fourth son, Ryan, an avid young sportsman, died of meningitis in 1998 at the age of thirteen, at which time Interlakes' annual Snow Ball Tournament was renamed in his memory. (*This tournament is no longer running here.*)

**GORDON CHARLTON**, one of the original signatories of Roe Lake & District Recreation Commission, turned 90 in 2001 and passed away in 2006. But he is not forgotten by his many friends.

Back in 1958, he and his wife Vera (who passed away in 1996) bought the original Higgins homestead and moved onto it in 1966. There, they brought up their children, ~~Linda (later Bishop)~~ (**deceased**) and Don (**now 84 @ 250 593 4583**) who fathered Craig and Chris, both of whom also still live here.

## Eric Devries – New Area L Director

Who is Eric de Vries, your new Area L Director? (per November...)

I was born and raised in Holland and studied engineering. While I was making a career in the oil and gas industry I met my wife to be, who owned a physiotherapy clinic in Switzerland, so I moved there and managed an industrial company. After deciding to move our little family to BC, we first moved to Lapland (Finland), the home country of my wife, where we lived 2 years in a remote rural setting awaiting the issue of our entry visas for Canada.

In 2011 we landed and started developing our property and constructing our house, meanwhile living in a fifth wheel. Our goal was to start a healing retreat as my wife's healing methods had grown toward energy/holistic healing methods. Now 11 years later we, as proud fresh Canadians, have a successful private business (check out [www.piri.ca](http://www.piri.ca)) with many satisfied patients and customers.

As the construction of our house slowly came to a liveable state, we both became active in volunteering for our community. Beside being active in the Bridge Lake elementary school (and fighting to keep it open) where our two children attended, we volunteered as fire fighter and first responder at the Interlakes Fire Department of which I became Deputy Chief and subsequently Fire Chief.

At a certain point I could no longer work under the oppressive management of CRD emergency services, and with a heavy heart I resigned. This experience made me realize that the governance of our district with all the services provided is a delicate thing which requires good management and continual oversight.

### [FOOD DRIVE](#)

Deka Lake & District Volunteer Fire Department members (DLDVFD) are assisting with the Christmas Food Drive in support of the Interlakes Christmas Giftboxes.

This year it is being held from 10am to 2pm, Sunday, November 6.

I knew Donna Barnett from her time as MLA and had some constructive discussions with her about running for Area L director, a position where I could provide some level of oversight and

represent the communities in Area L in order to steer towards a regional governance serving the wellbeing of the community as a whole and not just a provider of services.

Good governance on a regional level is complicated as our community groups have different needs, such as the retirees, the young people, our entrepreneurs, industrial developments and non-permanent home owners. To meet all their needs and promote volunteering, carefully considered compromises are required. Another complication is the synergy, or lack of, with provincial governance and relevant authorities.

If any guarantees can be given, then it is the fact that without proper communication all will fail. The communities lose trust in governance when they feel their voice is not being heard. If we manage to demonstrate that issues were properly debated and each group's interest was considered and then explain the argumentation behind decisions and policies the board of directors can win the trust of our constituents.

Now at the age of 58, I strongly feel that it is my duty to my children and the younger generation in general, to engage in a governance structure which enables them to create a full and happy life in this beautiful part of the Cariboo.

Donations of non-perishable food or cash can be delivered to Deka Firehall or Sulphurous Firehall during those hours.

Cheques should be made out to Roe Lake & District Recreation Commission with "Interlakes Christmas Food Drive" on the subject line; and will receive a tax deductible receipt.

There has always been a need in the Interlakes area, but this year will be particularly hard for a lot of folks. Please consider this worthwhile gift.

Alternately, for those who can't make it to the Fire Hall, but still want to help, cheques can be mailed to Diana Forster at 6499 Mahood Lake Rd, Lone Butte, B.C V0K 1X3. Cheques must be received by November 7.

Diane Forester accepting Ratepayers donation

Make Cheque out to

ROE LAKE AND DISTRICT RECREATION COMMISSION and put Deka Food Drive on subject line



## NOTES

The Ratepayers have removed the buoys in the channel for the winter, so please use caution in the channel if going up to the big end..

Corrections in the 100 mile free press. Past fishing derbies have been run by the fire dept members with support of the Ladies Auxiliary and Ratepayers. Bingo has always been run by Ladies Auxiliary. Ratepayers did not build the lake accesses, but rebuilt them..

Until 10 years or so ago, accesses 6,8 &12 were the main accesses that were usable, but skinny. A near miss between a swimmer and boater prompted the need to improve the accesses. There was not really anywhere for people to safely swim on the lake. DL&DRA took on these projects. All the accesses were widened, picnic areas where possible added and gravel put on. In 2014, 9 cement slabs were added to both access 8 and 12 for better traction. Since then, grass and portapotties have been added to some accesses and picnic tables to most. All Deka lake accesses are owned by MOT..



3 accesses were then rebuilt at Higgins and Fresh Water Fishing Society installed the fishing dock at access 3. These accesses are owned by MOT and maintained by local volunteers.

The 1<sup>st</sup> access off Pettyjohn (Access 3) at Sulphurous is a trail for canoes and kayaks. The main access further down Pettyjohn was the largest job of them all. It took a lot of fill to build the road down to the launch and provide a parking area. The lake was dredged before the gravel went down and a swimming area was provided off to the side. Volunteers from all lakes worked hard clearing a walking path and spreading out gravel. The land is owned by BC Rec and Trails, who supplied the picnic tables and pit toilet. BC Wildfire cleared the forested area of deadfalls as a training exercise.

The large access at the end of Hathaway is also a BC Rec and Trails site. They installed a pit toilet and picnic tables. Ratepayers in partnership with Fisheries designed and orchestrated the parking and pathways down to the water with additional support from Rec & Trails.

The cost to the DL&DRA for doing all these accesses was around \$250k. The money was raised through government grants and fundraising efforts.

Many thanks to all the hard working volunteers who keep the access clean, cut the grass and keep the toilets stocked. If there are any issues with these access please let ratepayers know at [dekalakeanddistrictratepayers@gmail.com](mailto:dekalakeanddistrictratepayers@gmail.com) .

Lorne Doerkson

Fall has come again, and as summer wanes, its time to put away the RV and patio furniture and enjoy the evenings outside by the fire before the snow fall covers the fire pit.

It has been great to be home from Victoria and have some time in the riding. It has been a very busy summer season; I have been attending events all over. I was happy to be out and about, talking to the constituents from the Chilcotin to 70 Mile. I travelled back to Victoria during the summer to have a face to face with the Minister of Transportation about the serious need for infrastructure road work in the Cariboo Chilcotin. If you follow my Facebook page, you will know I spent a day with Dawson Road Maintenance as well.

I am always happy to have a conversation with people who live and work in the Cariboo Chilcotin. The needs of rural BC are important, and I am here to listen and bring those concerns to Victoria.

I hope all of you had a great summer; enjoy the beautiful fall weather and scenery here in the Cariboo Chilcotin.

**DEKALAKE & DISTRICT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**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) (no security word is required)

cash or cheque, drop off or mail to

DL & DRA c/o 7524 Burgess Rd, Lone Butte, BC V0K 1X3

[dekalake-district.ca](http://dekalake-district.ca)

**Thank you for your community support!**