



# DEKA LAKE AND DISTRICT RATEPAYERS

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

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Message from Donna Barnet, MLA

See our website at [www.dekalake-district.ca](http://www.dekalake-district.ca)

We currently have 250+ members, part time and full time who have chosen to support their local community by joining the Ratepayers Association. The ratepayers cover the area from Horse Lake and Mahood all the way to the other end of Hathaway Lake, which includes, Deka, Higgins, Sulphurous and Hathaway Lake.

Part of being a member includes 3 newsletters per year and access to our local website at [www.dekalake-district.ca](http://www.dekalake-district.ca). Take a look at all of our accomplishments and decide for yourself if you want to support our great community.

Our organization relies on our membership and our volunteers so if you are interested in joining, please complete the application at the end of this notice and return it by email, drop it off or mail it to the address on the form.

### **DL&DRA Executive & what we do**

The executive consists of 14 men and women volunteers who make sure that what has to be done gets done. Our sources of income are from our membership, advertisers on our community boards and newsletters and government grants. In addition we have had tremendous support from Recreation and Trails who we partner with at Sulphurous and Hathaway, Fisheries on stocking our lakes, Forestry and Lands, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (Fishing Wharf on Higgins) CRD and many other private businesses and government agencies.

We provide 4 bulletin boards, 2 on Deka, on Blain Rd and Beazely, one at Higgins and one on Mahood at Sulphurous as well as an advertising board at Mahood and Horse Lake Road. The Bulletin Boards are meant to have temporary notices such as garage sales, selling an item and small business cards. Please ensure that you remove your ads once your notice no longer

applies. The advertising and community board at Mahood and Horse Lake is for local business's who wish to support our community for a small fee and for community notices such as fairs, stampedes and events.

All picnic tables and porta-potties are provided by the Ratepayers and are maintained by local volunteers. Please help keep them clean. Don't throw garbage and cans into them as the cost increases when we have to get them pumped out. During Covid 19 you are

responsible for providing your own sanitizer and wipes when using any of our facilities.

In addition, please note that a few of the access's have garbage cans supplied to you for your convenience. They are not the responsibility of the ratepayers but by your neighbour who has kindly offered this service to you. Please only use them when you have no other option. Our philosophy remains pack in, pack out. What garbage you have, please take home with you.

All of our accesses and the work we do is looked after by your neighbours, volunteers who go and cut the grass, clean up the garbage, remove fallen trees, and arrange larger work parties when jobs need to be actioned. Take on recycling, picking up, sorting and delivering. Some believe they pay tax's so don't need to do their part. As we have learned a long time ago, communities that help themselves are more supported than those who expect something for simply paying a tax. Please do your part, take a minute and help out and if possible, offer to help your neighbour clean up one of the local accesses. We are always looking for someone to adopt an access so if interested or have just a little bit of time, please call or email. We welcome your help.

There are 3 spill kits available for you in the event of a oil or gas spill. Deka Access 6 and 12 and one at the Sulphurous boat launch. They are large yellow bins and are not to be used as a garbage can.

Please support our advertisers when possible as they invest in our community. If you know of anyone wanting to advertise with us, please have them connect up with one of the executive.

For the last 6 years we have been upgrading all of the local accesses and boat launches with funds obtained from both our community and Government Grants. This year we hope to have the Hathaway boat launch project completed, so when you have a chance drive out and take a look.

## **Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society Update**

Even though our regular events have not been happening, lots have.

Firstly, in conjunction with the CRD, our Mountain Spruce Community Park is being upgraded. Work should begin within the next couple weeks and when completed, we will have an upgraded parking lot, all trails will be widened and improved to make them accessible for all, and a new accessible outhouse will be built. We hope that with all these upgrades, the park will be enjoyed by many!

At the Mountain Spruce Community Events Centre, we are currently looking into the development of a new driveway and parking area and construction of a picnic shelter should begin soon.

We continue to collect bottles and cans for recycling at our drop off box at the park. If there are ever any questions or concerns regarding the drop off box or sorting shed, please contact Greg Way @ (250)706-8697.

If you would like to support the Mountain Spruce Society or renew your membership (\$5.00 per person) please contact Georgie or Teresa at (604)454-4058 or drop your dues off at their house at 7586 Pettyjohn, or mail your information and money to Mountain Spruce Society, 6335 Mahood Lake Road, Lone Butte, B.C. V0K 1X3. Thank you for your continued support which is much appreciated!

## **Deka Lake and District Volunteer Fire Department**

Your Deka Lake and District Volunteer Fire Department has been serving the community of Deka, Hathaway, Higgins and Sulphurous Lakes for approximately 40 years. We started out as neighbourhood friends who wanted to have fire protection in the area. Over the years many of our members of both the Deka VFD and our supporting Ladies Auxiliary have changed, but our goal has stayed true from the beginning.

Other changes in that time have been the accreditation of the DLVD when we joined the Cariboo Regional District. This accreditation helps you by reducing your personal home insurance premiums. As well in September 2015 there was the amalgamation of the

Sulphurous VFD and DLVFD which increased the membership and equipment base for DLVFD.

The significance of joining the CRD means that we are now primarily funded by tax dollars which allows us to purchase brand new equipment such as our newly ordered Fire Engine and water hauling Tender. This takes the pressure off of our hard working, fund raising Ladies Auxiliary. As well this has allowed us to train our team following strict professional standards that are consistent throughout the CRD.

Currently we have 24 members which consists of both male and female of various ages and abilities. We are always looking for and encouraging new members to join our team to help our community. If you or someone you know who is interested in joining our team please feel free to contact the hall or any member for more information.

Best Wishes to you and your family.

DLVFD.

## **Ladies Auxiliary of the Deka Lake & District Volunteer Fire Department**

The Ladies Auxiliary is a group of volunteers from our local area. Our purpose is to raise money to support the Deka Lake & District Volunteer Fire Department and to promote community spirit. We do this through various fundraisers throughout the year – raffles, bake sales and community dinners. We also organize and run Bingo and fitness classes at the Deka hall, plus have a craft session on Fridays – the community is welcome to attend any of these events.

Our group consists of over fifty members who meet the first Wednesday of the month from October to June. We are always open to new members and invite you to call Patty Nash at 604-793-3037 for more information.

## **Citizens on Patrol (COP)**

The Deka Lake and District Citizens on Patrol are part of the south Cariboo Community Policing program, active in this area since 1999. Our patrols provide extra eyes for the RCMP. If you would like to help keep our area safe and want more information, call Donna 250-593-4541. We are always looking for volunteers.

If you see anything suspicious happening in the area, call the non emergency line 250-395-2456. COP patrols may seem suspicious, also. Phone it in if you're concerned. The RCMP know our vehicles and when we are patrolling and will take the appropriate action. Save the 911 for crimes in progress.

### **Diana Forster**

There are recycling bins for ratepayers at the firehall and for Mountain Spruce at their park on Mahood. The revenue goes right back into the community. If you see anyone stealing bottles from these bins, please let us know that this is still happening.

Dekalakeanddistrictratepayers@gmail.com.

### **Fishing Report by Gary S.**

#### **Deka Lake**

Winter fishing in Deka Lake this year was slow, producing a small amount of Kokanee from 3<sup>rd</sup> week of march to ice off, not like years past. In May, we got 35,000 kokanee and 20,000 rainbow fry in the small end and 100,000 kokanee and 40,000 rainbow in the big end. We are expecting a healthy population of lake trout.

Fishing this Spring has been quite good in the small end as anglers are catching quite a few daily limits. Red hoochies and red and pink wedding bands are producing fish in the big end as well.

#### **Sulphurous Lake**

Winter fishing at Sulphurous took off like wildfire this year and was the star lake for the first time in 4 years. I have seen many anglers fighting for position to catch kokanee. The lake responded with many limits being taken. Finally a success story. I hope fisheries can repeat for this year's winter fishing. In May, Sulphurous received 40,000 kokanee and 20,000 rainbow fry.

Spring fishing took off where ice fishing ended, with kokanee up to 2 lbs being caught on pink hoochies. There were so many trucks and

If you want to know what's happening here or in the interlakes area, this is the lady to follow. Her weekly posts in the 100 Mile Free Press Connector start up again on July 21. For more up to date announcements look for her information posts on the Deka Residents facebook page. For anything specific you can also phone her at 250-593-2155

trailers, they were parked in the overflow on the road. Nice to see this lake producing

quality kokanee in abundance. We are still waiting for the rainbows to come around.

#### **Hathaway Lake**

Winter fishing at Hathaway was great like last year, first lake to produce fish and continued til Spring. Hathaway received 16,500 kokanee and 17,000 rainbow fry in May this year. The boat launch is due to be completed soon.. Fisheries is also looking into putting in a fishing dock similar to the one at Higgins lake.

Spring fishing, as well, has been good at Hathaway, with red and pink wedding bands and pink hoochies being the favourites.

#### **Higgins Lake**

Winter fishing on Higgins was business as usual with plenty of fish to go around. In Spring the biologist told us by email that we had winter kill this year, but to their surprise, the kiddie pond had made it through another winter. The fishing dock has been well used and lots of families are using this lake to teach young anglers the art of fishing. So wonderful to see.

## What's in your well water

By A.K.(Sandy) Amy

The South Cariboo region presents some special concerns for well owners and users, from minerals in the groundwater to agricultural run-off. And what is also very true – wells in this area are a total roll of the dice, where two wells relatively close to each other can have radically different depths, flow rates, and water composition. Even though your neighbour's well may have been tested and found to be safe, this does not mean your well water is

alright. Wells only a few paces apart can have different water quality. It depends on surface and underground geology, the depth and construction of the well, and other factors. Localized areas in the region with concentrations of unusual contaminants like Arsenic and Uranium are not unknown.

Typically, groundwater is naturally clean and safe for consumption. Because the overlying soil acts as a filter, groundwater is *usually* free of disease-causing microorganisms. However, contamination may occur following improper installation of well casings or caps, after a break in the casing or as a result of contaminated surface water entering the well. Surface drainage should be directed away from the well casing, and surface water should not collect near the well. The well itself should not be located downhill from any source of pollution. And remember to test your water after replacing or repairing any part of the well system (piping, pump, or the well itself.)

Testing your private well's water quality on a regular basis is an important part of maintaining a safe and reliable source. The only way to tell if your drinking water is safe is by having it tested. Well water should be tested for bacteriological quality regularly and for chemical contamination if it is suspected. In addition to regular tests, well water should be tested immediately if there is any change in its clarity, colour, odour or taste, or if there has been a change in the surrounding land use. Well water should also be tested occasionally (at least once!) for possible inorganic and organic chemical contaminants. The test results allow you to properly address the specific problems of your water supply. This will help ensure that the water source is being properly protected from potential contamination, and that any necessary treatment equipment is appropriately selected and operating properly. Only through regular assessment and testing of drinking water, can the microbial and chemical safety of your well water be verified.

### Testing your well water

Some physical attributes of your water can be readily determined at the kitchen sink. These would be items such as taste, smell, colour, and clarity. If there's an apparent change in any of these, it's likely some (or many more) other things have, too. Testing beyond this scope must be by an accredited water lab. These facilities are equipped to do all the chemical, mineral, radiological, and bacteriological testing required to prove water quality (or "potability") under the Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines.

Bacteriological analysis (i.e. Total Coliforms and *E. Coli.*) should be performed as often as annually (depending on use and well \ conditions). If no changes in water quality are observed, this could be extended as far as 3 to 5 years.

Wells should be tested for a variety of possible mineral and chemical contaminants. A *minimum* of tests would include pH (a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the water), Total Dissolved Solids or TDS (measurement of the amount of dissolved minerals, or "hardness"), Nitrates and Nitrites (indication of impact from agricultural operations or on-site septic systems), and a Heavy Metals analysis (these would include Copper, Iron, Lead, Manganese, etc.). These would only address the most common factors. Identification of sources of specific problems with your water require more specialized lab testing. Most commercial "water" labs offer a potability certification analysis "package" service. Your well testing service provider or laboratory can provide clarification of any specific results on your test report.

### How do I fix the problem with my well?

There are as many answers as there are possible problems with well water. These could range from something as simple as installing an inexpensive filter system, to having to drill a new well. In some cases, where a serious health hazard exists, the use of bottled water for drinking and cooking is often the easiest and least costly solution. There are also many different kinds of water treatment devices now on the market that effectively remove various contaminants. Prices for them (including installation) can run from a few hundred dollars to many thousands of dollars. Businesses that can (truly) help you with the selection and installation of the water treatment system that is right for you are still somewhat rare. There are many other "snake oil" sales outlets that offer the perfect solution to all water problems. The Internet has dozens of product reviews for water treatment equipment. Research before you purchase! Consideration must be taken as to the kind of contamination, the severity of the situation, the intended use of the water, and the amount of water being consumed. In order

to select the best treatment method and equipment, a full testing of the suite of minerals and bacteria should always be conducted prior to the purchase of a device.

Further information can be obtained by emailing [info@safewellwater.ca](mailto:info@safewellwater.ca)

### **Bits and pieces**

Yes, the water is a lot higher this year in all our lakes. It's not your imagination.



We need to take a little extra care with our boat wakes to protect the shoreline habitat

We're having a little trouble putting out the red channel buoys this year. Every fall we take the buoys in and use corks to mark the anchors. We couldn't find several of these markers, as they're not close to the surface anymore. We will keep trying as the water clears.

### **MLA Donna Barnett, Cariboo Chilcotin**

Since COVID-19 came upon us in March 2020 the world around us has become a different place.

We have all become more concerned about our families, friends and communities.

Listening to Dr. Henry, taking her advice has kept us all safe.

As we move forward re-opening our bubbles and world we must continue with caution. We should all continue to support our local businesses and each other.

While we all have different opinions and comfort levels, at the end of the day we need to remember not to let fear take over.

Stay Safe and Stay Well

Recycling is back on track both at the dump and our recycle bins at the firehall. Bottles and cans can be left for ratepayers at either location

Our projects for this year include painting the sign board at the bottom of Mahood and building a roof for it. We hope the boat launch/picnic area will be finished at Hathaway soon.

We still need volunteers to help maintain the lake accesses. If you're interested, please let us know. If you see something that needs to be repaired, let us know.

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

Thanks to all our advertisers,  
both on the sign board and in the newsletter.  
who continue to support our community.

It's important to shop local As the stores are re-opening, they have certain guidelines to follow. Whether they want you to wear a mask, use their hand sanitizer or limit the customers in their stores, we need to respect that. It's affecting their bottom lines, but we all want to be kept safe.

**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!*