

WINTER 2024



Presidents Message:

It has been an interesting winter with very little snow, the cold blast for a week, a large snowfall for a few days and then hit with unusually warm weather. The snow has literally gone from the yard and the lake is melting fast.

In some areas, the ice may appear safe but remember, the lake has warm spots leaving very soft ice that is melting fast. Please be careful.

Several years ago the Interlakes Lions Club folded and sold their food truck to the 100 Mile Lions Club to utilize as a fundraising opportunity. A decision was made by the 100 Mile Lions Club this year to sell it and offered the trailer to the DL&DRA. We jumped at the opportunity as it would benefit our community for fundraising and social functions.

We are hoping to have a few community events throughout the summer but will we will definitely utilize it when we have the second annual DL&DRA Fishing Derby and Community Barbeque at Deka Lake on the August Long Weekend.

The community advertising board is supported by local companies and the addition built in the fall is starting to be filled up. We will be adding a roof to the new section in early spring. A huge thank you to Rona for donating the materials for this project. When you have a chance, please support these businesses as they support our community. Also take a minute to take a look at the community notification that has either updated information or a wonderful quote of the day.

We applied and received a grant from CRD for \$1500.00 to go towards the replacement of all of our older picnic tables. Once we have completed this project the older picnic tables will be made available by donation to anyone in our community who would like them.

We have come up with a solution on a few of the issues on Access 11 and are confident that this project will be completed this summer.

Thank you for your continued support dropping off your refundable recycling in our bins located for your convenience at the mail boxes on Blain, Beazley and Higgins Roads. To date, we have received positive results on the new locations. We have also built a fourth bin that we will be strategically placing in another location in the spring that has not yet been confirmed. We will keep you posted.

On our Home page of our website (www.dekalake-district.ca), we changed our webmaster and are still working out some kinks in updating the information, so please be patient.

Thank you to all the volunteers who are giving an hour, a week or a month, who watch out for their neighbours and who are here to support our community.

Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society Winter Update By Shannon Sadlowski



Well, it sure doesn't feel like winter. It feels more like April. If you haven't been down to the Mountain Spruce Community Park recently, you may want to head down for a walk. We have started using the trail groomer to maintain the trails. Also, we received a grant and were able to have some park improvements done,

cleanup, put in some new park benches and extended the parking lot to help accommodate all the vehicles for events.

With Christmas over and the new year started we began the year with the 2nd Annual Polar Bear Walk and scavenger hunt on January 1st at the park with almost 100 people attending. It was a beautiful day, and everyone had fun. Our next event at the park is coming up on February 24, it's the "Full Moon Snowshoe or Walk Through the Park" event. We will have music, fire pits for roasting marshmallows, hot chocolate, and a fun evening walking through the park lit by the moon. At the Mountain Spruce Community Events Centre at Sulphurous Lake we've got our next Ladies "SPA" Night on Thursday February 8 at 6:30pm you can RSVP by email to mtnspruce@gmail.com or call or text Shannon at 604-617-7863. Ladies nights are the second Thursday of each month at 6:30. Every Tuesday morning at 10am we have Yoga, it is an all ages, all abilities class. Whether you are a newbie or and yoga guru, you will love this class. Our Crib Nights are every other Friday at 7pm (next one is February 2nd). Our Jam Nights have been super successful and happen the third Saturday of each month at 7pm so bring your instruments, your voice or just come and hang out. We will have 2 licensed Dart & Game Nights one on April 27 & October 26 so mark your calendars now. We will be doing a couple more pottery classes, this time to make your very own peace bell. There will be a bat box

workshop along with a variety of other events coming up this year. Join our Facebook group, Mountain Spruce Community Centre Society, to stay up to date on all events and activities.

Again a huge thank you to everyone who has been donating bottles and cans to our recycling program at the park on Mahood Lake Road it is much appreciated. These funds are used to help maintain the park, hall and costs for events & activities. Stay thirsty my friends! Thank you to all our volunteers and members for all your support and help throughout the year. Looking forward to meeting many more people and everyone is always welcome to join us at the park or hall, so come on out and have some fun! Enjoy this weird winter and hopefully we will get another cold snap so we can all

meet around a hole  out on the
 lake Cheers
 Shannon

The Old Chalet at Deka Lake goes down in a fiery end

by Vye Monger

In the midst of the Great Depression, Walter and Nonie Daniels were guests at the Anderson Resort on Horse Lake. At the conclusion of their vacation, Walter made the comment to Mr. Anderson that he hated to leave this beautiful country and return to his employment as a piano tuner for Kellys on Seymour. Upon Mr. Anderson's elucidation that there was a farm for sale at Deka Lake, the Daniels investigated and promptly purchased it.

The quarter section (160 acres) was a homestead of the Richardson family before the First World War and following Richardson's service in the war the property was deeded to him. The heavily timbered property bordered on lakeshore and abutted the Burgess Resort property later purchased by Marge and Charlie Womack.

The next summer in 1935, the

Daniels, with their friend Bill Davies driving a second vehicle, embarked on their new venture. The road was little more than a cow path.

By the next summer, there were 10 log cabins built and an ice-house constructed. As the Daniels returned to Vancouver for the winter, locals were employed to saw blocks of ice from the lake and pack in sawdust to keep for summer use.

By this time, the business warranted the hiring of Noveta Higgins (now Leavitt). A wage of \$15 a month included her board and was a princely sum in those days. Noveta's previous job was for \$8 a month and did not include her board, but was considered good remuneration at the time. The six-day work week started for Noveta at 6 a.m. and continued until well after dinner. Her duties consisted of cleaning the cabins, filling and cleaning the oil lamps, kitchen duties, washing

clothes on a scrub board and then rinsing them in the lake, and when all that was completed she would help in the sawmill.

On Sundays, Noveta would walk to her home on what is now Highway 24. The distance was 15 miles but a couple of miles could be saved by taking a shortcut through the bush. On her return Monday mornings, Noveta would double on horseback with her father or brother and deliver the butter and eggs the Daniels' would purchase from her family.

Noveta worked for the Daniels' from 1936 until her marriage in 1939 and during that time Walter started the sawmill to manufacture lumber to build

the Chalet. Although Walter had never run a sawmill he adapted the motor from a vehicle to operate the saw and learned as he went. By 1940, he had enough lumber cut to start construction of the Chalet.

Right from the opening, in spite of the depression, the business was a huge success, attracting an exclusive and moneyed clientele. One of the guests, millionaire Austin Taylor, gave Noveta \$5 for the use

of horses. Noveta never learned if he used the name or whether he really meant it for a tip.

By 1947, the business proved to be too much for the Daniels' to handle so they sold and semi-retired to Bridge Lake where they built the Cottonwood Resort and a house. Walter died several years later and Pearl survived him by 10 years and died in a nursing home in Salmon Arm.

The new owners of the Chalet Resort were Si and Ruby Long. The Longs lived year round at the resort with Si taking out-of-town jobs in construction. The cabin guests continued to take their meals at the Chalet and business thrived to the point where the Longs burned the mortgage in 1957. Present-day local businessmen Stan Mathews, Stan Mickelson and Walter Levick (then all in their 20s) have many happy memories of sitting around the big fireplace of a winter's evening, sipping their favorite beverage with the Longs.

The Longs sold the resort about 1957 to Hazel and John Parker. After the birth of their daughter, Joanne Crothers (now residing at the 108) the Parkers

sold and moved to Hathaway Lake. John is deceased and Hazel now resides at Lac La Hache.

The next owners were the Scarpenos, who also owned the island. The Chalet still operated as an exclusive resort and Mrs. Scarpeno also sold dairy and egg products.

Nancy and Jim Ewing, who are now retired to Deka, have many memories of that time. When they came every summer with their children to Womack's Resort across the bay, they would enjoy sitting around a campfire listening to the music emanating from the Chalet. It was a beautiful sight with the lights reflecting on the water.

As there was no hydro, power was obtained from a generator.

The business and property was sold to Pearl and John Gauthier in 1962. The Gauthiers were attracted to the area because the climate and terrain was similar to the part of Ontario they hailed from. John was employed for a time by Slim Jens at the Canim Lake Sawmill and Pearl managed the resort. Cabin guests continued to dine at the Chalet and the business thrived until it was closed as a

resort in 1969 when the Gauthiers retired. John is deceased and Pearl lives at the Coast. Their daughter Laura Rezansoff lives on Horse Lake Rd. and another daughter has a vacation cottage at Sulphurous Lake.

A common factor of all the owners was that their clients became their friends and returned year after year.

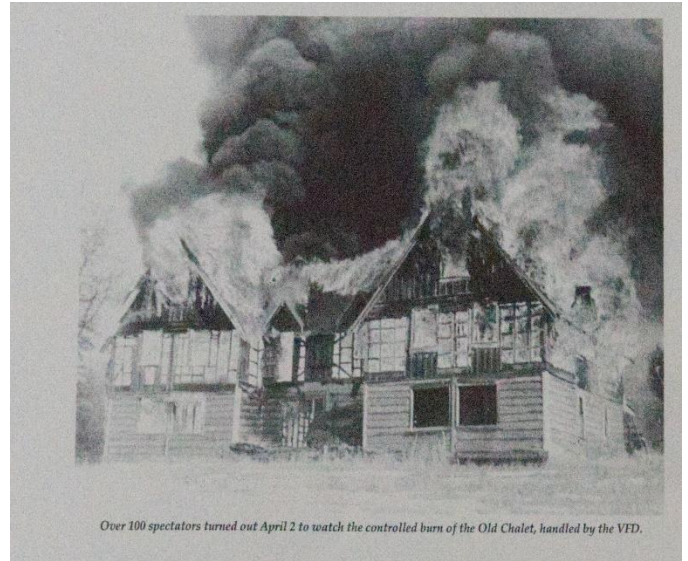
After the resort closure, the property was sold several times and the building deteriorated to such an extent that the present owner, Rick Bezanson, requested the Deka Volunteer Fire Department to conduct a controlled burning of the structure. The burn was held April 2 and attracted over 100 spectators to pay their last respects.

The bulk of the property has been subdivided into half-acre lots and the remaining 3.7 acres retaining the original zoning has been placed on the market.

With the present congestion in the cities, there seems to be a renewed interest in getting away from it all to a rural setting with the amenities such as hot-tubs and catering—so who knows, in the future there could be a replacement of the historic Old Chalet.



This is how the chalet looked in 1969, around the time it was closed to tourists.



Over 100 spectators turned out April 2 to watch the controlled burn of the Old Chalet, handled by the VFD.

FOOD TRAILER

We have just purchased a food trailer. It was originally built by the Interlakes Lions Club and later sold to 100 Mile Lions Club. Lack of use prompted them to sell it to us.

Included are generator, electrical hook up, 2 propane grills, deep fryer, fridge freezer, hot water tank, sink with water pump, microwave, tables, tents and awnings.

We are well equipped for future community events.



MLAS MESSAGE WINTER 2024

As we endure what has certainly to this point, has been a strange winter, many have been left wishing for snow to enjoy favorite winter sports, but to also replenish the moisture that the Cariboo Chilcotin needs.

That aside, it appears that many of us enjoyed an amazing holiday season and were able to get out and enjoy the many local functions. I am hoping to attend more events in the future, including the Outhouse races at the Iron Horse in February.

I have been busy over the winter break, covering a lot of territory in the riding and the province. With the Legislature sitting again on

February 20th, I will be listening carefully to the upcoming budget for 2024 and will report back as to what it will hold for rural BC, specifically the Cariboo Chilcotin.

Thank you to the volunteers of the Deka Lake Ratepayers Association for the unbelievable amount of work they do year round and for giving me the opportunity to have this space to reach your community.

As always, please reach out to my office with any concerns and questions. 100 Mile office hours: 9-3 Monday to Friday. Phone number 250-395-3916.

MLA Lorne Doerkson, Cariboo Chilcotin