



DEKA LAKE AND DISTRICT RATEPAYERS

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FALL 2021



Photo by Sonja Olsen

Advertising Board

Finally, the community advertising board received a new roof. Many thanks to Ken Swaffield and Ken Schmidt who designed and built it off site. The roof was then expertly assembled on the board by the many volunteers who came out to help. A big thank you to Marcel of Vancity Roofing and his crew for installing the sheet metal.



Our Fire

Dori Dennison, Deka LakeVFD Deputy Chief – contributor

June 30 started out as a nice, hot summer day. At least until about 3 o'clock when the power went out. A couple of hours later, a circular cloud like the one from Independence Day formed overhead. It was continuous thunder and lightning without a break for the next few hours. During this time from Deka to Canim Lake there were 2600 strikes.

That night and over the next few days, fires broke out at Young Lake, Canim Lake, Horse Lake, Dombay Lake, Apollo Lake, North Deka Lake, Dragonfly Lake, Drewry Lake, South of Judson Road, and our S.W.Deka Lake fire. Our team attended most of those fires.

Around dinner time, we took a strike near the cell tower. Al Boyce spotted the fire and phoned it in and the response was quick. Our VFD met BCWildfire at tower rd. The BC Wildfire team focused on the tower fire, while eight of our members proceeded to put out a small fire south of Judson Rd. Within an hour, half a dozen skimmers and two tankers were circling the tower, trying to control the advancement of the fire. Later that night the fire was quite visible from the lake and you could see how it had grown in size. Throughout the night BCWF assembled equipment to enhance the fire guard that was put in after the 2017 fires.



Although we had no power or internet to see if we were put on evacuation alert, a lot in the community were packing their bags, waiting for the knock on the door telling them to leave.

The next day, the evacuation order was issued for Deka. Sulphurous and Hathaway were put on alert.

On the 3rd day, the fire exploded and started burning along the ridge behind Ludlom Rd. BC Wildfire worked hard with their ground crews and air support to keep the fire from getting into the subdivision.

Almost immediately. BC Wildfire had set up a Structure Protection team of 20 members. They had set up camp in the field behind the firehall and were there for the entire event. They primarily focused on the structures as the fire was running in that direction. By that time our VFD had been joined by 30 other fire departments sent by the office of the Fire Commissioner. Their objective was to prepare for structure protection within the subdivision. Each department was comprised of a truck with 2 or 3 crew to set up pumps and determine water sources. Fortunately the fire did not get into any structures but everyone was prepared if it did.

After day 3 of being out attending the fires, our VFD role had changed to more of a support role, working with Search and Rescue and the RCMP to ensure security after the evacuation was executed. The VFD worked with the RCMP to set up roadblocks at Burgess and Mahood, Cariboo Chalet and Mahood, and where Womack Rd. enters the subdivision From Windy Rd. To their knowledge, there were no incidents of theft or security breach.

During the eight days of our event, the VFD had countless 911 calls. People were calling in reporting fires, smoke from miles away and propane campfires. They patrolled the area, dealing with the 911 calls, monitoring all the other fires and looking for new ones in ou

It should also be noted that during an event like this the Deka VFD is part of a large team to ensure the safety of the community. The CRD is the local governing body and sets up a command center in either 100 mile house or Williams Lake. They establish a core team of emergency services, working with the evacuation side of the fire. BC Wildfire is responsible for fighting the fire in the forest, while the Office of the Fire Commissioner is responsible for structure protection when the fire enters the community. There were representatives from all logistics working together to keep people safe. These included CRD, RCMP, SAR, Office of Fire Commissioner and BC ambulance. By having these people altogether, necessary decisions could be made quickly to ensure a positive outcome.

Lots of black trees, but quick to renew.

Pic by Sonja Olsen



by Sonja Olsen Pic

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Many thanks to all our fire fighters.

Al Boyce, Fire Chief Dori dennison, Deputy Fire Chief Tom Nash, Assistant Fire Chief
Steve Colbert, Captain Ted Weight, Captain Andy Karassowitsch, Training Officer
Rick Cole, Training Officer Monty Forster, Safety Officer

And members

Gary Biro, Bill Murphy, Jim Watson, Dave Gardner, Denise Britton, Erik Ibsen, John Stovell, Susan Sedor,
Pete Power, Bruce Allen, Ken Sandeen Paul Schlote.

The Auction

August 28 was the beautiful sunny day of the silent auction, raising money for the Interlakes Fire dept and Deka Lake and District Fire Department. It was all organized by Shelly Durand of the Country Pedlar and saw several hundred people bid on 175 items. Amongst these items were wonderful works of art donated by local artists. Great support for the volunteer firefighters who got us through the summer.



The hot dogs were supplied by the realtors at EXP Realty and skillfully prepared by local chefs Cale Bath and Bryan Austerberry, who did such a good job that his wife Siana is letting him cook at home for the next few months. The crowd got to listen to the great music of Dan Larson.

The auction was very successful, bringing in a whopping \$7100. This was matched dollar for dollar. The entire proceeds were donated to the 2 fire departments.



can communicate easier and safer.” Dori Dennison

“All of us at The Country Pedlar would like to extend our most sincere thank you to everyone that came out and supported our fundraiser for both the Interlakes and Deka Lake volunteer fire departments. We feel truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful community and we would like to thank everyone who donated to our silent auction as well as those who came out to bid. A heartfelt thank you to the local EXP Realty realtors who graciously donated all the hot dogs. Thanks to Bryan and Cale for being our " top chefs". A huge thank you to Dan Larson for being our entertainment, you rocked! The biggest thanks goes to Cariboo Storage Solutions and Bree Contracting for being generous enough to match all funds raised. We are truly # cariboo strong!”

Shelly Durand, Country Pedlar



Not everything the volunteer fire departments need is supplied.

“Money from donations is used for various pieces of equipment or safety supplies. For example we are purchasing new nozzles and fire hose. What we had was getting old and not up to date. As well we are putting money towards headsets for our helmets so that we

New Fire Truck

Brand new from Manitoba, this truck has the amount of power the VFD needs. The truck carries foam and 4550 liters of water. With a 6” intake it can suck up 5000 liters/min. The truck carries a driver and 6 firefighters. 6 firefighters can simultaneously fight the fire. All 6 hoses can fight with the same pressure. The big advantage is it’s a complete firefighting vehicle. It doesn’t need to wait for support vehicles and crews. It can be on it’s way to fight the fire while other crews are assembling at the hall.





COP – Donna Jarvis

Another summer has come to an end and the DeKa Lake and district Citizens on patrol are looking toward snowy roads, lol

The citizens on patrol have been active in this area since 1999. Some of the original members are still active with the group and with the rest of the members are patrolling to help keep our properties safe;

The more patrols equals more eyes helping deter criminal activity.

If you would like to help keep our community safer call the captain at 250-593-4541.

MLA LORNE DOERKSON, CARIBOO CHILCOTIN

I would like to start my message with a huge THANK YOU to every one of you, who in your own way contributed to the resilient way we have all weathered the storms that have come our way this summer. I cannot say enough about the VFD's and local volunteers, they are the backbone of our rural communities.

The end of August found me in Victoria, as a member of the Select Standing Committee on Finance I listened to over 100 presentations from groups through out the Province. I will be travelling around the province again this September hearing many more. It is wonderful to hear these presenters speak with such passion about projects they want the government to support. So many good ideas, to benefit all areas and citizens.

I have also been in touch with many Ministers and local governments working on issues, such as roads, access to crown land and its use. Our offices in Williams Lake and 100 Mile have been assisting with the BC Recovery Benefit and the Red Cross evacuee programs.

As Fall is starting to show its colors, I ask that we all take the time to take a deep breath, enjoy nature's display. We deserve a little down time from the worry of wildfire. So, get out there, enjoy the

Cariboo Chilcotin. There are so many areas to explore, pack a lunch and head out on a day trip.

The Legislature will resume October 1 /21, I will be there with my BC Liberal colleagues, working hard

to make sure the voices of our constituents will be heard.

As always, my offices are here to assist you, please feel free to call them with any provincial issues you need help with, or to make an appointment to meet with me. 100 Mile 250-395-3916 // Williams Lake 250-305-3800



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 (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!

