



R.R.1, S11, C16
Princeton, B.C., V0X 1W0

President's Spring 2016 Newsletter

April 10, 2016



The Big Flood – hit the west end of Lakesyde Rd. on April 8th. When the Waterboard were forced to take out the dam on Lee Creek a few years ago, they informed the government the size or quantity of culverts under the local roads may need to be increased. This did not happen and now a few days of warm weather have resulted in a quick melt and water running over Princeton Summerland Rd and Lakesyde Rd.

At this point, Lakesyde is blocked (access is still available from the east end) and a couple of homes have basements flooded – luckily there were no injuries.

It ended up being a day of community and neighbors coming together to help each other and

combat nature. The three culverts on Lee Creek: Princeton Summerland Rd., Meadow Crescent, and Lakesyde Rd. were all overwhelmed by a surge in the creek that started April 8th at 9 PM and ended 4 PM the following day. Hayes Creek Fire Dept. with mutual aid from Erris Fire Dept., neighbors, friends, and later, help from Provincial Emergency Preparedness, RDOS Emergency Coordinator Dale Kronebusch, and the big guns from Argo: Dave Swales and Clinton. Well over 40 bodies, 2 local hoes, a dump trailer, 3 tractors, and a Skidsteer Bobcat were used. They also filled over 400 sand bags and placed them. Special thanks to Suzie and her crew who kept the troops fed and hydrated. A big thank you to all who worked so hard or provided equipment or aid.

Snow lovers enjoyed this year, with the white stuff still falling on March 27th, Easter Day! Winter started a little late, but there was lots around for Santa's snowmobile ride on Christmas Eve. The snow pack around the area is slightly above normal, so hopefully it won't be too dry out with too many forest fires. The lake level is quickly rising, but spring rains will be the big deciding factor. But no matter what, still expect camp fire bans and low lake levels – this seems to be the new normal for our area.

Easter was very early this year, and we had around 15 children taking part. A little more challenging with snow falling, covering all the 'hidden' eggs. This was a free event open to all residents, their families and friends. Thanks to Karren Hodge for looking after all the details and organizing it this year – also to Christine Nichols for getting us lots of candy.

BC Assessments in the area varied greatly this year – like the rest of BC, they have generally increased. The average for the Chain/Link/Osprey area was +8.4% - but don't panic too much – other than for inflation, property taxes should only vary by the amount your property assessment deviates from this.

For houses/cabins with wood stoves (most in the area), many house insurance companies are now demanding annual chimney cleaning by WETT certified companies. One company servicing the area is Top Hat Service from Penticton. He tries to get a number of places in the area to do at one time, to limit travel costs – contact Al @ 250-493-5190.

In March, long time area resident Jack Brock was killed instantly in a bicycle accident while on holidays in Melaque, Mexico. Jack was an avid fisherman and photographer.

Now that spring is here, the local bears will be in our community shortly. Please remember to keep all garbage locked up and bird feeders out of reach for the next few months.

Upcoming 2016 Spring/Summer Events:

- **Hayes Creek Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, May 1st** – 10am-noon – Fire Hall - \$10
- **Osprey Ratepayer's Annual GM & Election of Officers - Saturday, May 21st** – 10:00am – Hayes Creek Fire Hall
- **Osprey Snow Wheeler's Annual GM & Election of Officers - Saturday, May 21st** – 10:30am – Hayes Creek Fire Hall
- **Spring Roadside Cleanup - 9th Annual - Saturday, May 28** – Quadlings – 4192 Princeton-Summerland Rd. - 9am
- **Hayes Creek Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, June 5th** – 10am-noon – Fire Hall - \$10
- **Hayes Creek Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, July 3rd** – 10am-noon – Fire Hall - \$10
- **Hayes Creek Fire Annual General Meeting/Open House - Saturday, July 30th** - 10:00am - 2:00pm - Fire Hall
- **Hayes Creek Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, August 28th** – 10am-noon – Fire Hall - \$10
- **Osprey Lake Corn Roast - 33rd Annual - Saturday & Sunday, September 3rd – 4th** – 4105 Lakesyde Rd

Osprey Ratepayers

Please try to attend our Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers on Saturday @ 10am on the May long weekend. It's your community, and together we can all make it even better. Current directors for another year are Mark Nilson, Rob Miller, Myra Quadling, and Rod Farquharson. Up for re-election for another 2 year term are Alan Holmgren, Tom Sellmer, Maggie Ramsay, Christine Allenby, and Ruth Bourgoin. We have funds available for community improvement projects - if you have any ideas, please let any of the executive know.

Osprey Corn Roast

Summer's not even here yet, but make sure you plan to attend the **33rd Annual Osprey Labour Day Corn Roast** on **Saturday & Sunday, September 3rd and 4th**. Hopefully we'll have another year of great weather, great times, and great fun. As usual, we need Cake Walk goodies and lots of prizes for the bingo and sporting events - if you can donate any form of prize, we need your help!



Hayes Creek Fire

Pancake Breakfasts at the Fire Hall will be featured over the summer from 10am to noon – Sundays approx. once a month – check the ‘upcoming events’ calendar for dates. Cost is only \$10 – join in for a great breakfast and meet some of your neighbours.

The community has been fortunate over the last three months, with no emergency medical or fire calls, except for the spring ‘flood’. But over the Christmas break they were busy with two serious medical issues. Both related to snowmobile accidents. A reminder that snowmobiling in the neighbouring areas can be dangerous – always be prepared, ride safely, wear protective equipment and NEVER ride alone.

The ‘rear’ fire hall addition is nearly complete – just waiting for additional funding to complete the bathroom, flooring, and final electrical. They are also looking for some **round banquet tables** – if anyone has access to around 10 used tables – the 5’ ones with folding legs – please contact Rob or Gail.

Recently we discovered provincial funding available to create community disaster shelters. All that’s needed to upgrade the fire hall is an emergency generator and related electrical changes – we’ve applied for a grant to cover these costs and will proceed, if approved.

Hayes Creek Fire operations receive no government funds, so please ensure you pay your annual Property Registration Fee of \$100/property. Hayes Creek Fire responds to all local fire and medical emergencies with trained first responders and equipment. Check the Community Organizations, Hayes Creek Fire page on our community website for a Registration Form. Questions? Contact: Rob Miller 250-295-6420 or hayescreekfire@ospreylake.ca

Hayes Creek Fire Annual General Meeting will be at the Fire Hall **Saturday July 30th, 10:00am**, followed by their Meet & Greet Open House, free hot dogs and pop, and the Final Mega Garage Sale until 2:00pm. There will also be Garage Sales each weekend at Quinton’s (east end of Link Lake), from May 21st to July 24th. Donated items can be dropped off at Quinton’s – all proceeds will be used to buy Fire Dept. equipment.

Osprey Snowwheelers



The snowmobile season is over, but a great year for all those with sleds. We had a successful Poker Run over Christmas and performed trail maintenance on many occasions.

We have planned an **Osprey Snowwheeler’s Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 21, around 10:30am** (immediately following the Ratepayer’s meeting) at the Fire Hall. Review of last years events, financial status, election of officers, plans for

the ATV club, and trail grooming – hopefully everyone with a snowmobile or ATV will attend.

The ATV season will be underway shortly. There is lots of work needed to clear the trails as the spring rains always result in rapid brush growth. There was no point in operating two ATV clubs in the same area, so this year, the ATV portion of the Osprey Snowwheelers will not be operating, but we suggest riders join the Similkameen Valley Riders ATV Club, from Chain Lake. For membership info contact Vic Bartel @ 250-295-7592 or email svr.atvclub@live.ca or join directly thru the ATV/BC web site – www.atvbc.ca. ATV Club membership is only \$55/year and allows you to buy reduced cost Liability Insurance.

The Osprey Snowwheelers received a \$22,500.00 grant from the federal National Trails Coalition. With donations and volunteer work ‘in kind’ from the communities of Tulameen, Coalmont, Jurra, Erris, Chain and Osprey Lakes, and the Vermillion Trails Society, the total value was \$68,500.00. Work completed last fall included brushing out and grading the KVR for 107 kilometers from Tulameen to past Osprey Lake. This is the first grading of this entire section of KVR since 1993. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible.

A reminder, Off Road Vehicle (ORV) mandatory regulations are in effect when driving on all Crown and public land. One time registration plates (\$48) are required. We have already been informed the Forestry and Conservation Officers and RCMP will be policing our area this spring and summer and issuing fines for non-compliance. Check out <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/orv/> for the latest information. Registration and plates are currently available from any ICBC Autoplan agent.

Christmas 2015:



The season started off with the 32nd annual **Christmas Eve Santa Run** - with a lit and decorated sleigh pulled by a reindeer mounted snowmobile and of course Santa and his costumed elves. They caused quite a stir as they dashed across frozen lakes and snow to 12 houses bringing gifts, candy and excitement to 30 wide eyed little ones, and a few big ones too. Special thanks to Grant-a-claus and all his elves and to Ruth Bourgoin and Susie Grizer for organizing all the gifts.

After a year lapse, another successful **Poker Run** was held on Sunday, December 27. There were 42 sleds registered for the 42km run - all enjoyed a perfect day. Winner was Sydney Reid. Prizes were awarded to most riders. Thanks to all those who donated prizes and the volunteers who helped lay out the run, set up, groomed, took registrations, sold tickets and served food. Key sponsors were Pro Auto, Five Star Motorsports, B Line Designs, Snap on Tools, Ridgid Tools, and the O'Connor Group. Thanks to Herman Zorn for donating a trophy. Penticton Honda arrived with five Timbersled snow bikes for everyone to see and try. Last year we had a major fireworks display, but we notched it up a little this year with a full **New Year's Fireworks Party** on the ice. Approximately 150 people gathered in front of the Osprey Lake Forestry Campsite for refreshments and music, then at midnight Al Quadling and Duane Bencharski set off a fantastic fireworks display. Thanks for all those who made this such a great evening.

The 20th annual **Snow Golf** tournament attracted 43 golfers for an afternoon of generally mediocre golfing, the odd good golfer, but lots of laughs. Winners were settled by a "chip off" with Darcy Nichols taking it. Len Mitchell, Norris Smith, Scott Haller, Jordan Quadling and Chris Newman were all 'almost' there. Thanks to Len and Troy Mitchell for designing and setting up the course, and to John Deere, HY Louie, and many others for donating prizes.

And special thanks to Rob Miller for hosting the nightly **Hay Wagon Ride**. Although it got down to -23C once, up to 30 people at a time enjoyed an open air evening ride around the community, with tunes and flashing lights, tucked under warm blankets and helping out with donations for the Princeton Food Bank.

Unfortunately, we also had a couple of significant snowmobile accidents requiring ambulances – one during the Poker Run which required the Hayes Creek Rescue Toboggan and the second involving two ladies on a sled – almost fatal due to no helmets, inexperience, not familiar with the area, and riding alone.

To view our live Osprey Webcam, current local weather, pictures and local information plus current dates, times, and locations of all upcoming community events please check our community web site at www.ospreylake.ca. If you have local oriented questions or suggestions, or would like to be added or removed from our Newsletter email list, please email: ratepayers@ospreylake.ca or contact me at 250-295-3844.

Alan Holmgren
President, Osprey Area Ratepayers Assoc.