

# LETTER B



## Newsletter for CRD Electoral Area "B"

*Serving the Communities of Ahbau Creek, Baker Creek, Bouchie Lake, Cinema, Dunkley, Milburn Lake, Moose Heights, Parkland, Quesnel-Hixon Rd., Stathnaver, Ten Mile Lake, lower Cottonwood River, & many areas in between!*

**Written By Heloise Dixon-Warren, Director Area B**

### Greetings from me to you!

August, 2012

Letter B, Volume 1, Issue 8

*As summer holidays near their end and families gear up for "back to school", I am squeaking in my August issue of "Letter B" just in time! My family and I were away in the UK for a month so I am a little delayed in getting it written and sent out. We had a lovely time touring the countryside, seeing fabulous sites, and spending time with family and friends. It was a fantastic trip. Since arriving home, I am trying to get back in the groove of things on the Area B front! I at-*

*tended a CRD Board of Directors Meeting and have chatted to several residents about invasive plants, erosion of private property on the Quesnel River, building permits and bylaws, and the excavation of gravel on private land. Through this all I am learning more about the issues affecting Area B residents and how I can lend support when and if needed. As always, I welcome hearing from residents. I can be contacted via phone (250.249.5329) or email to [hdixon-warren@cariboo.rd.bc.ca](mailto:hdixon-warren@cariboo.rd.bc.ca)*

### Online Links

#### BLOG



[hdixon-warren@cariboo.rd.bc.ca](mailto:hdixon-warren@cariboo.rd.bc.ca)  
[hdixon-warren.blogspot.com](http://hdixon-warren.blogspot.com)



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## TWO MILE FLAT FIRE PROTECTION OPEN HOUSE

Within the North Quesnel area, there are 3 residential areas that are within the CRD and directly adjacent to the City of Quesnel. These communities are as follows:

**Banner Rd / Trask Rd.** (accessible by the Quesnel-Hixon Rd.); **Hilborn Rd./ Robin Rd.** (accessible via Hwy. 97 N. west of Brownmiller Rd.), and **River Park Rd. / Hazel Rd.** (accessible via Hwy. 97N. South of the West Fraser Timber log yards). Since 1963, Two Mile Flat fire protection services have been provided by the City of Quesnel Fire Department, through a contract with the Province of British Columbia. The Province has been collecting taxes from these residents and remitting them to the City of Quesnel in order to provide this service.

The Province informed the City of Quesnel and CRD the agreement for this service will expire December 31, 2012, and requested both organ-

izations negotiate a new agreement to continue fire protection services to the Two Mile Flat area. Under the proposed agreement, the City and CRD suggest to maintain the current service, at the current tax rates. The level of fire protection service will not change; the only change will be that the CRD collects the taxes rather than the Province of BC.

However, to enable this new agreement, the CRD must establish a new service in order to tax for the continuation of fire protection services delivered by the City of Quesnel Fire Department. In order to establish the service, the CRD needs to receive approval from the residents.

An information brochure and the official petition have been mailed to residents within the current Two Mile Flat Fire Protection Boundary. Completed petitions

need to be returned to the CRD in person, or by mail, prior to September 17. An unsigned or unreturned petition must be counted as a "no" vote.

If the petition is not approved, fire protection services for Two Mile Flat will end on December 31, 2012.

The CRD will host an Open House for residents who live within the Two Mile Flat Fire Protection Boundary. The session will take place on Monday, September 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Quesnel Recreation Centre to provide information about the proposed new Two Mile Flat Fire Protection agreement. CRD staff and Quesnel Volunteer Fire Department members will be on hand to answer any questions and provide information to affected residents.

**SEE YOU ON THE 10TH!**

### DATES TO NOTE!

Sept. 5th — North Cariboo Recreation & Parks Commission Meeting, Quesnel, BC

Sept. 10th; 7—9 pm—Two Mile Flat Fire Protection Meeting, Quesnel & District Arts & Rec. Centre;

Sept. 11th — Northern Rural Caucus Meeting; Joint Planning Committee Meeting

Sept. 13/14th—CRD Board of Directors Meeting ("Board on the Road"), Kersley, BC

Sept. 15th—Quesnel Antique Machinery Park Open House

Sept. 22-23—Quesnel Fall Fair

Sept. 24-28—UBCM, Victoria

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## AREA B COMMUNITY MEETINGS

I am planning to host a couple of Community Meetings within Area B either late September / early October to meet residents, share information, and receive feedback in terms of future direction. Additional information on meeting dates & location will be in the September issue of "Letter B", on facebook, and in email. The meetings will likely be held at Bouchie Lake Hall & Parkland Community Centre

### Potential Topics:

*Rural Recreation, Taxation Overview, Quesnel Community Foundation Grants for Assistance, Online Presence, Invasive Plants CRD Programs, Zoning / Bylaw Overview, ....*

## INVASIVE AQUATIC BEAUTIES

Recently it was brought to my attention that the invasive aquatic plant, **Flowering Rush**, has been found in a localized area in Bouchie Lake. As many of the aquatic invasive plants are truly beautiful and are accidentally introduced by good meaning lakeshore residents, I thought this a good opportunity to introduce Area B residents to the most problematic of the invasive aquatic plants that have been found in the CRD.

**Emily Sontagg, Invasive Plant Management Coordinator** with the CRD kindly wrote up the following article.

The most difficult invasive plants to manage are those that grow in aquatic environments. There are often very few effective options available to treat aquatic invasives' and they have widespread negative impacts on water quality, water quantity, recreation, ecosystem processes, and native habitats. Our most important management tool is prevention; once these species are established management programs are left, for the most part, to observe and note their progress and attempt to slow their spread to water systems nearby using mechanical removal techniques (handpulling, digging, cutting, etc.).

Six aquatics that are establishing in the lakes within the Cariboo Region are **purple loosestrife, flowering rush, Himalayan balsam, knotweed, American**

**white water lily**, and **yellow flag iris**.

All of these plants choke out native aquatic plants that provide habitat and food for fish, birds, insects, or small mammals. These invasive aquatics form dense stands in wetlands, shallow ponds, and along stream banks causing an alteration in watercourse function. Due to these impacts, all of these species are priority ones for management within the Cariboo Regional District except the American white water lily.

**Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)** is a native to different regions throughout Europe, Asia, and Africa; it was brought to North America as an ornamental pond plant. It is a common choice for water gardens because of its sword shaped leaves and showy yellow iris flowers. So you may wonder what makes this aquatic beauty so unruly? Yellow flag iris can be extremely aggressive due to its high seed production and ability to grow new plants from small fragments of its root. It can grow in ditches or lakes and in fresh or salt water. Yellow flag iris forms dense mats with its roots, which collect sediment and leads to an interruption in the flow of water. It is still



being sold in some nurseries and has escaped cultivation now occupying sites in Williams Lake, Lac La Hache, Bouchie Lake, and Bridge Lake.

**Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)** is a native to Europe and Asia; it arrived in North America in the 1800's in ship ballasts and/or in imported sheep wool. It then became a popular ornamental pond plant that soon escaped cultivation and now has taken over many lakeshores, wetlands, ditches, ponds, and wet pastures throughout North America. A single plant can produce up to one million seeds in one season and, like yellow flag iris, also has the ability to grow new plants from plant fragments. Within the Cariboo Region there are Loosestrife sites in Lac La Hache, Bouchie Lake area, Dragon Lake, and Baker Creek.



**Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)** is a native to Africa, Asia, and Europe; it was likely brought to North America from Europe as a garden plant. It is most known to invade

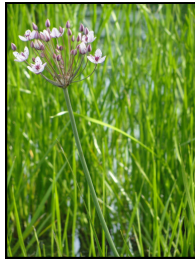
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## INVASIVE AQUATIC BEAUTIES continued

aquatic and wetland areas, but can also grow as a terrestrial plant. Once established, flowering rush can displace native vegetation reducing the overall biological diversity of an ecosystem. The dense mats of this plant restrict light, dissolved gases, and nutrients available to native submerged plants, dominating wetlands and replacing native flora and fauna. Flowering rush has an extremely limited distribution within British Columbia, Bouchie Lake presently has a confirmed infestation.



**American White Water Lily** (*Nymphaea odorata*) is native to the eastern half of North America; it was likely introduced as a garden pond plant. The American White Water Lily is a floating-leaved aquatic perennial herb that grows rooted



in mucky or silty sediments in water up to 6 or 7 feet deep. Left unmanaged, water lilies can form dense stands that can cover hundreds of acres persisting until fall and will restrict lake front access and eliminate swimming opportunities. The floating leaves of the lilies also prevent wind mixing and extensive areas of low oxygen can develop under water lily beds during the summer.

American White Water Lily has a confirmed presence in Bouchie Lake. Out of the six aquatic invasive plants listed in this article, American White Water Lily is the only species without a priority ranking; currently no management action is being taken on this species other than to note its presence.

**Himalayan balsam** (*Impatiens glandulifera*) also known as "Jewelweed", "Poor Man's Orchid", or "Policeman's Helmet"; is a very attractive looking orna-

mental that was introduced to North America from the Western Himalayas in the early 1800's. Since then this so called pretty flower has escaped cultivation and has started spreading along water-



ways and other riparian areas throughout Canada as well as throughout many other countries. Himalayan balsam is a major threat to riparian areas because of its highly competitive nature; it out-competes native vegetation on stream or river banks and replaces their deep roots with its shallow root system. Over the fall and winter Himalayan balsam dies back, leaving the banks of waterways bare of plant material to hold the soil in place; providing a deadly recipe for extreme soil erosion. Himalayan balsam spreads by seed and has unique seed pods that explode once mature, spreading seeds as far as 5m away from the parent plant. If the seeds are submerged in water they can remain viable for up to 2 years; easily spreading infestations further down watercourses. Within the Cariboo Region there are known Himalayan Balsam sites throughout the municipality of Quesnel and along the Fraser River within the City.

**Knotweed** (*Fallopia japonica*) is a shrub-like perennial native to Japan and was introduced to North America as an ornamental. These bamboo-like plants are one of the most problematic invasive plants in the world; it has become an enormous problem in places such as the United Kingdom, United States, and even here in Canada. In fact, stiff regulations and policies have been developed within the United Kingdom to help address their Japanese knotweed issue. Knotweed has the ability to spread very quickly because of its extensive root system which can reach 15 – 20 meters in



length. Growth of new shoots can emerge up to 20 meters away from the parent plant and when a plant is disturbed, a hormone in the plant is released stimulating the growth of new shoots. Knotweed spreads vegetatively through its creeping root system; it rarely, if ever, spreads by seed. It can grow anywhere from 1m to 5 m tall crowding out native plants and habitat. Young shoots generally begin to emerge in May and growth rates of 8 cm per day have been recorded. Knotweed has been observed to grow in environments without sunlight, through house foundations and through 2 inches of asphalt. It is a huge threat to species diversity and wildlife habitat, especially along aquatic and wetland areas. Within the Cariboo Regional District there are known Knotweed sites throughout the municipality and surrounding areas of Quesnel.

If you have any questions or concerns about either one of these aquatic invaders or need some assistance in the identification or management of them, please contact the CRD's Invasive Plant Management Program at 1-800-665-1636 or visit our website at [www.cariboord.bc.ca](http://www.cariboord.bc.ca).

## REPORT A WEED

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recently launched the program **REPORT A WEED**. This program is an easy, unique and innovative way to report suspected new sightings of an invasive alien plant species in British Columbia. The program allows anyone to report an invasive plant sighting so that it is compared to known locations of the reported species in the IAPP (Invasive Alien Plant Program) and then sent directly to a provincial Invasive Plant Specialist in your area. The Specialist may then share this information with the local Weed Committee Coordinator so that the agency / landowner responsible for the infestation can be notified. For additional information, please check out

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/raw.htm>