

108-ER

NEWSLETTER OF THE 108 MILE RANCH COMMUNITY

www.108ranch.com

**Articles, news,
information, humour
— all from your
neighbours on the
108.**

Winter, 2006/07

This Issue:

- 108 RCA AGM
- Light Up the 108
- VFD Ice Rescue Training
- Notes from RCA Board
- How Much Wood can a Wood Chip Chuck?
- Greenbelt Commission

and more

Photo: Jeffrey Newman
www.jnweb.com

How Much Wood Would a Wood Chipper...

The Chips were flying.

Twenty eight residents took advantage of the RCA chipping program last summer.

Through a grant from the Cariboo Regional District, the Ranch Community Association was able to offer free chipping to local residents who had branches to be disposed of.

The chipping program was introduced to help residents reduce these branches to chips instead of burning during the hot summer months. Dave Larson

and his helper, Dave "fingers" from Larson's Woodchipping and Tree Removal, did the hard work for the grateful residents.



108 Community Association AGM

The annual general meeting was held at the 108 Community Hall, Nov.15 with about 28 people present, along with the board members. The various directors presented their yearly reports and president, Robbin Edwards, thanked all the board members for their continuing hard work.

The guest speaker was Roger Packham who gave his informed opinion about lake levels (we just need a good winter runoff) and presented a slide show on his main area of passion and expertise: badgers.

Children's Annual Christmas Party

It has been a busy time at the hall with a number of Christmas parties being held.

The Ranch Community Association (RCA) held its annual Christmas party Dec. 10 for all the children of the 108 area. It was well attended, with about 100 turning out for the festivities.

That man in the red suit and white beard was also in attendance, yes Santa Claus was there also.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and businesses for their donations of special gifts for the children, as well to those who worked so hard to make this event a success.

Welcome to our 2 New RCA Directors and New Free Press Correspondent

BEV FRENCH, DIRECTOR

My name is Bev French and I am pleased to join the Board of Directors of the RCA.

My husband and I, with our 2 children and an assortment of pets, moved to the 108 fourteen years ago. We loved the size of the lots, the walking and biking trails, and the sense of community.

I have volunteered in various organizations for the last 20-plus years in which I gained valuable experience. I was active in a Historical Society / Museum, a director with a Chamber of Commerce and a trainer for Tourist Information counsellors. I have always enjoyed working with the people who kept the "community spirit" alive in the towns I have lived in.

To keep life interesting now, I work at a part-time job in town and also operate a home-based business selling gourmet spices and cookware. I love to garden, cook, read and decorate but make sure I have lots of time with my family and friends.

I look forward to working with the other RCA directors towards a common goal in providing the 108 residents a great place to live!

JOANNE YOUNG, DIRECTOR

My husband and I believe we are living in paradise! We love the winters, the cold crisp air, and spectacular sunrises and sunsets. This is truly God's country, only we don't want to let everyone know or it could end up like the lower mainland.

Having moved here just over a year ago, I feel lucky to be living in such a beautiful setting. Not only is the setting wonderful but the pace of life and the friendliness of the people is also spectacular. Where

else would you see a husband and wife stop, get out of their truck and come to push our vehicle out of the snow! Because I love where I live, I decided to get involved in the 108 Mile Ranch Association.

As a director I plan to commit to making all who live here aware of the Association and all the wonderful activities and services it provides for residents.

In the past I was chairperson of the Heritage Advisory Commission for Delta Municipality and was able to set up special heritage happenings that continue to this day. Having taught for 35 years I am also interested in facilitating the interaction of the school and all the happenings of the 108 Ranch Association.

I hope to make a positive contribution to my new community and I'm committed to doing so.

BRIAN BUZDEGAN, RCA CORRESPONDENT

Hello, I am Brian Buzdegan and have been living here at the 108 Ranch for 2.5 years now, and have been in the Cariboo for over 12 years.

When I took on the role of being the 108 correspondent, I had never written for a paper before. My background is in construction and adult education. However, I have never been afraid to try new things, and to venture into different fields.

My interests are simple: enjoying nature within the Cariboo region, and trains. Anything to do with trains are my main passion, and have been for better than 43 years.

I look forward to reporting happenings around the 108.

108'er, Newsletter of the
108 Mile Ranch Association
Box 85
108 Mile Ranch, BC V0K 2Z0

Editorial Inquiries

Phone: 791-9206

Fax: 791-9207

E-mail: keyboard@maddi.ca

Editor: Maddi Newman

Design and Layout:

KeyBoard Graphic Design

Vol: Winter, 2006/07

We invite your submissions, (500 words or less; 200 words or less for Letters to the Editor) comments and letters for future publications. We reserve the right to edit for accuracy, space and clarity. We request that all submissions and letters be signed by the author and contain an address and telephone number.

Be A Member:

To become a member of the 108 Ranch Community Association, you must be a landowner or renter of property in the 108 Mile Ranch. Members can submit and vote resolutions in accordance with the RCA Constitution. Absentee landowners/members are permitted one vote per property owned. Members can serve on the Board of Directors of the RCA.

Annual memberships cost \$10.00 per household. Please contact Al Blannin at 791-5757 to register your membership. Or complete the form, enclose your membership fee and mail to 108 Ranch Community Association at the above address.

108 RCA Membership Request

Cost: One Yr. family	\$10.00
Five-Yr family	\$35.00
Lifetime family	\$50.00

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Light up the 108 2006

It's back after a two-year absence! Once again, many residents of the 108 Mile Ranch participated in the "Light up the 108" competition.

This year, at rather short notice, organizing of the competition was handed over to the RCA. Two new directors, Bev French and Joanne Young, eagerly took on the project. With applied effort they were able to organize the advertising and gathered prizes for all three categories.

The **Heritage Thyme Restaurant**, the **108 Resort** and the **Hills Health and Guest Ranch** generously donated wonderful prizes in support of this community event.

During that busy, festive time of the year the judges were able to drive around the

108 in total darkness, making notes and scoring each entrant. The People's Choice winner was determined by ballot as many residents of the 108 voted for their favorite light display.

In addition to their prizes, winners received a festive certificate commemorating their win. Their names were engraved on a special category plaque which will be permanently displayed in the 108 Community Hall with the names of subsequent winners added each year.

Now that Christmas is long behind us it's not too early for residents to start making plans for next years competition. Be sure to watch for details and information coming early in October.

Christmas Home and Yard Decorating Contest Winners

MOST FESTIVE

David Anderson
4952 Monical Rd.

Prize: 108 Resort Golf Passes
\$225.00 value

MOST UNIQUE

Shawna Rankin
4867 Gloinzun Drive

Prize: "Spa Day" at the Hills
Health and Guest Ranch.
\$195.00 value

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Bill and Lise Hawes
4842 Telqua Drive

Prize: Dining Certificates at
Heritage Thyme Restaurant.
\$150.00 value



photo by Jeffrey Newman



photo by Jeffrey Newman

*108 Mile Ranch is getting its share of
snow this winter!*

More Ice Rescue Training for the 108 Volunteer Fire Department

On the weekend of January 13 and 14, several of the 108 Volunteer Fire Department members took part in an Ice Rescue training program run by Larry Obst of Rescue Canada. You may have observed the crew in their practice exercises, carried out on the frozen 108 Lake.

Jan. 14 was a bright, clear day and about -10 C: perfect for the practical on-site aspect of the training. The crew cut two large, square holes in the 14" thick ice in an area of the lake which is about 16' deep. Wearing insulation suits, individuals jumped into the icy water without significant discomfort. Other members, using ropes which were secured to special lag bolts in the ice, practised rescuing the "victims." The firefighters also practised using an extension ladder to perform rescues.

In spring-thaw or pre-freeze conditions, when the ice is particularly unsafe, ropes would

Wearing insulation suits, individuals jumped into the icy water without significant discomfort. Other members, using ropes which were secured to special lag bolts in the ice, practised rescuing the "victims."



Special insulation suits for cold water kept the trainees warm while they undertook the practical portion of the training.

be secured to the lakeside banks or trees in order to carry out a rescue.

Previous Ice Rescue training has been put to practical use in the (now historic!) rescue of recently-departed Elvis the Rottweiler, as well as other callouts involving wildlife. But our VFD is capable, equipped and ready to rescue any unfortunates who may fall through the ice.

The 108 Volunteer Fire

Department has three cold water suits with plans for a fourth one so that proper teamwork can be maintained at all times.

A thank you goes out to Larry Obst for his expertise and instruction. And we are very proud to have a VFD who are willing to undertake the kind of training needed to be able to be of such valuable service to our community — and also to those who might meet with misfortune when they pass through this region.



Excerpts from: **When Fire Threatens...**

— Submitted by Chris Betuzzi, RFT Forest Protection Officer

This spring and every spring make your home safe from risk of fire.

What can I do to reduce the risk of fire on my property?

- Start with a general yard cleanup. Remove needles, branches and underbrush that could fuel a fire. Get rid of brush, long grass and anything growing under large trees that could cause a fire to spread into those trees and neighbouring trees.
- Thin any thickets of trees to at least 2.5 metres apart. Prune low-level branches up to at least 2.5 metres above the ground. Replace bark mulch with gravel or decorative rocks.
- Move your woodpile and other flammable materials away from your house or other buildings. Flammable materials should be at least 10 metres away and uphill from your home.
- If your home is on a slope, pay particular attention to the downhill side of your property. Fire can race uphill and burn trees, brush, grass or other flammable materials.

What can I do to help fight a fire on my property?

- Never put your life at risk when faced with a fire. Call the fire department or BC Forest Service immediately.
- Keep a hose and nozzle permanently connected and clearly visible. Make sure you have enough hose to reach your roof and all exterior walls.
- If water pressure is a concern, have a full barrel of water and a 10-litre pail.

- Have a shovel or grubbing tool available to use to prevent a ground fire from spreading.
- Check your roads and driveways. Can you get out easily? Can emergency vehicles get in? Review and practise fire safety procedures with your family. Make sure they know where fire fighting equipment, including a ladder, is located, and be sure you have emergency numbers clearly posted in your home.
- Is your street address clearly marked?

What about my neighbours?

- Working together with your neighbours is essential. Get together and talk about a fire protection plan for your area, and schedule a neighbourhood work bee.

Where do I get financial help if my property or possessions are destroyed by fire?

- Financial compensation for losses due to fire is through individual fire insurance policies. Fire insurance is the responsibility of every home, farm or business owner and it is readily available throughout BC. Check your insurance policy to ensure you have adequate coverage to replace or restore your possessions, structures and property.

I want to do some burning in my yard; how do I ensure its legal and safe?

- The Ministry of Forests or your local Municipality regulates open burning. Contact them to see what regulations apply. As a minimum please adhere to the following:
 - Garden hose charged and able to reach all the area you are burning plus an additional 30 metres (100 feet) or suitable other water source.
 - Suitable hand tools for controlling and extinguishing your burn.
 - No burning under windy or forecast windy conditions.
 - Adequate people on site to ensure a safe burn.

For further information on protecting your home from fire, contact:

Forest Service Protection
300 South Cariboo Highway
100 Mile House, BC
V0K 2E0

Phone: (250) 395-7800
Fax: (250) 395-4618

or the Protection Program Headquarters

Second Flr.,
2957 Jutland Rd.,
Victoria BC, V8W 9C1
Phone: (250) 387-5965
Fax: (250) 387-5685.

Web site: www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/

To report a wildfire, call: 911 or B.C. Forest Service toll free at 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on the Telus and Rogers cellular networks.

Some Things your 108 RCA Board of Directors has Been Doing

The RCA Board meets on the first Wednesday of the month at The Community Hall. If you have questions or input you are welcome to contact any of the board members (see back page of newsletter or RCA web site).

Here are a few highlights from our work over the past few months:

- We are still working on acquiring funding for hall improvements from the Northern Development Initiative.
- 28 residents took advantage of the post pine beetle chipping program managed by the RCA through Graham Allison.
- Brian Buzdegen, is presently managing the Hall and is also the Free Press correspondent for the 108.
- Our membership promotion doubled to 80 households. With about 900 households at the 108, we still feel this is low so will be continuing to promote membership. It's our experience that many people just need to know what their membership supports and then are keen to join.
- Bingo attendance is down. We welcome suggestions for increasing use of the Community Hall.
- We have two new board members: See introductions on page 2. We appreciate the contributions of the two outgoing members: Mina Mutch and Gerard Mulders. See back page for a full list of the current board members.
- Light up the 108, 2006: There were ten entries. The event will be held again Christmas this year.
- Christmas party for 108 Mile Ranch children was attended by 100.
- The web site continues to draw increasing traffic.
- The newsletter comes out every four months and the 700 copies tend to go quite quickly. The current issue and back copies are available at the web site, www.108ranch.com, for reading, printing or downloading. A list of the distribution locations for the current issue is on the back cover.

— Robbin Edwards (Chair)



108 MILE RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The central and essential purpose of the association, through its elected executives, is to:

- 1 manage the activities, assets and responsibilities of the association: The Community Hall, Bingo, beaches;
- 2 support activities that enhance our community: volunteers dinner, children's Christmas party, annual beaches clean-up, community newsletter. . . . and probably most important,

- 3 act as a lobbying group on your (community residents / property owners) behalf.

While it's always encouraging for those of us on the executive (elected, volunteer positions) to know we have the active support of a good number of community members, the signed up support in the form of membership is especially important when we seek to represent the wishes and interests of the 108 Community e.g. to other levels of government. We carry a lot more clout when we have the overt support of a significant proportion of the community.

With its active community and spacious greenbelt lands, 108 Mile Ranch provides a lifestyle hard to find these days. Much is done at various levels of government and associated volunteer groups to preserve and enhance the features of life in this community.

Your membership helps to support and protect this.

Get it done! You know you want to. (There's a form on page 2)



The 108 Greenbelt Commission

Keeping the greenbelt green

— by Ron Soeder

During the past year the Greenbelt Commission focussed on three main initiatives.

1. FIRE RISK

First of all, there was the ongoing effort to reduce the risk of a serious interface fire by removing dead pines from Greenbelt lands, limbing low branches from healthy trees and cleaning up ground litter.

Funds to support these activities over the past couple of years were provided through Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSDC) grants. These grants have now expired and any further activities will have to be at a much smaller scale. We sincerely appreciate the cooperation and support received from the community throughout this project.

2. BRIDGES

The Commission's second major initiative last year was the replacement of the two bridges along the multi use trail on 108 Lake. That work was substantially completed last fall. All that remains is to put the final paint overcoat on the rails when the warm weather arrives. And, no, the rails will not remain

yellow. Forest green was the colour chosen.

3. THISTLES

The third project undertaken last year was the ongoing effort to control the large pockets of thistles, particularly around the lakes. Each summer for the past several years we have hired a team of students to undertake this task.

Until now, it was hard to point to any real progress. But this past year the team reported that there has been a definite reduction in the number and apparent vigour of thistles found, so much so that work around the lakes was completed several days early and, for the first time, the team was able to tackle another problem area – along the pipeline in Walker Valley.

DEBRIS BURNING

During 2007, in addition to normal trail maintenance, etc., the Greenbelt Commission will complete the burning of the debris piles remaining from the HRSDC program – as soon as air quality conditions are suitable.

KNAPWEED

Thistle control work will continue and, in addition this year, we will be turning our attention to the growing knapweed incursion on the 108. A committee (including a number of concerned residents) has been established to address the problem. Outbreaks will be mapped and GPS readings will be provided to the CRD for action.

SEPA LAKE BRIDGE

Finally, work will begin on the rebuilding of the trail bridge on Sepa Lake. This year new abutments will be installed and minor repairs will be made to the bridge deck – which is scheduled for replacement in 2008.

Finally, it is important to remember that our lake and access trails are multi-use trails. They are there to be enjoyed by walkers, runners, bicycle and horseback riders, and snowmobilers. But they must be used safely. Riders and snowmobilers need to watch out for pedestrians, pedestrians need to keep their dogs from chasing after horses, wildlife, etc.

For more information concerning the Greenbelt, please go to the link on the 108 Community Association's website at www.108ranch.com.

BINGO



108 MILE RANCH COMMUNITY BINGO (Now non-smoking)

Every Friday of the year the doors of the 108 Community Hall are opened at 5:30 pm with Bingo starting at 7:00 pm.

There is a Progressive Bingo with an accumulating total until it is won. Also Loonie ball and G-ball.

A concession, operated by the 108 Mile Ranch Community Association, is open with coffee, soft drinks, and nibblies.

Volunteers help run the bingo. If you are interested in helping, call **Bev Iverson, 791-9286**.

REGULAR 108 HAPPENINGS

- **Bingo** every Friday evening at the Community Hall. Doors open 5:30; Bingo starts at 7:00.

- **RCA Executive:** 1st Wednesday each month (except for the summer)

- **RCA Public Meetings:** watch post office kiosk or web site for notices

VFD

On Sept. 5, the 108 Volunteer Fire Department elected Terry Capnerhurst deputy chief and Ralph Dumbs captain. Recent recruiting efforts have paid off and the unit is now up to strength, although still taking wait list applications.

Club Contacts

- **Lions Club:** Graham Allison, 791-1977.
- **108 Mile Ranch “unofficial” Tennis Club:** Shirley Carter, 791-6220; Steve Neufeld, 791-9215.
- **108 Seniors Golf Club:** 55 years and older. 395-4518
- **Traditional Folk Dance:** Maddi Newman, 791-9206

www.108ranch.com

108 Ranch Community Association Web Site

To receive announcements of RCA events by e-mail, send your request to jn@jnweb.com

For current news on the 108 read our Free Press correspondent's column every other week. To see back copies of these reports click the “news” button on the RCA website www.108ranch.com .

108-er Distribution Outlets

108 Supermarket
108 Cafe
108 Post Office
Hair Flair
Hills Health & Guest Ranch
108 Conference Centre
Race Trac Gas
Action Fitness
Heritage Thyme Restaurant
Heritage Site Gift Store
The Post House
Aviator's Roost

If you would like to have copies for distribution at your business, call Maddi at 791-9206.

RCA DIRECTORS

PHONE

PORTFOLIO

Graham Allison	791-1977	Lions Club, Greenbelt
Barb Bailey	791-6306	Community Hall
Doug Belcham	791-5592	Fire Commission, Bingo
Aldythe Blannin	791-5757	Membership
Robbin Edwards	791-5683	Chair, Greenbelt, Water Commission
Bev French	791-7206	Greenbelt
Colin Johnston	791-7273	Treasurer
Kathie Knutsen	791-6382	Deputy Chair, Airport
Jeffrey Newman	791-9206	Commission, Web Site, Newsletter
Margaret Pugh	791-7277	Secretary
Peg Rosen	791-1980	Beaches, Greenbelt
Joanne Young	791-6709	