

# Friends of Gardom

# Lake

# NEWS

April 2015

## Yellow Flag Iris Snip-Off June 7 at 1:00pm at the Park

Laurie Ankenmann

**Kick-off of this year's Yellow Flag Iris control program.** Friends of Gardom will be joined by the Gardom Lake Park Society and the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society for this Sunday afternoon event to show volunteers how to identify and control the growth of these invasive plants that are spreading along the shoreline of Gardom Lake. Bring your hip waders or boat and a sharp knife, and join the fun. There will be refreshments and some friendly competition. This will be the launch of a month-long project, as the irises continue to bloom into July.



Yellow Flag Iris is choking out the native cattails and bulrushes. It is very aggressive, with massive root balls and large seeds that germinate easily, making it very challenging to eradicate. By removing flower heads before they form seeds we can slow its spread.

Cattails and bulrushes are home to, and a source of food for, numerous species of birds on Gardom Lake. Cattails also act as natural filters for water entering the lake.

In the past few years we "deadheaded" (removed the flower heads) of about 90%

of the plants in the lake. Last year we also experimented with removing all of the leaves of some plants to below the water level to see if it would slow their growth.

In July of 2014, we received a \$700 grant from the CSRD to buy equipment, cover dumping fees and the cost of educational materials.

Here are some ways you can participate:

- Be on a team in the boats/hip waders
- Get the word out: post posters, make phone calls and/or distribute flyers to local residents
- Photograph the lake sections for ongoing-yearly comparison/monitoring

If you are interested in helping, call Laurie 250-832-0367 or Val at 250-832-6929 or email [friendsofgardomlake@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgardomlake@gmail.com) to let us know what you would like to help out with.

This year let's put our best community foot forward to maintain a healthy habitat for water fowl and other wildlife on the shores of this little gem of Gardom Lake.

## Lake Management Plan

The draft of a management plan for Gardom Lake will be completed by May of this year.

This planning process began with the FoGL initiated Round Table held at the Bible Camp in 2013. Funding for the LMP was provided by the CSRD, who contracted with the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) to manage the process. The FBC are a non-government organization with experience in these management plans. They use a "consensus" approach rather than voting.

The FBC held a public meeting at the Deep Creek Firehall in November. The issues that were raised at that meeting were grouped and form the guiding direction for the LMP. The three groupings include water; flora and fauna; and people issues.

The FBC is working with the Gardom Lake Planning Committee (GLPC) which includes representatives from the following groups: FoGL, First Nations, Ministry of Environment, Gardom Lake Park Society, Gardom Lake Bible

Camp, Legion Camp, Fly Fishers, Fish and Game Club, Agriculture, and others.

The FBC has arranged for a number of speakers to present information relevant to Gardom Lake at the GLPC meetings.

The focus of the Plan will be the Lake, including the uplands, but will not include Gardom Lake's watershed at this time. FoGL and the Gardom Lake Park Society representatives expressed concern that the watershed was not to be included.

Numerous full-day meetings have been held to accommodate the condensed time frame of the planning process. The draft plan will be presented to the public at a meeting in May.

The FBC has created a website for the Plan, with meeting minutes and presentations to the committee, as well as other information about the planning process. Go to [www.gardomlakeplan.ca](http://www.gardomlakeplan.ca)

If you have suggestions for input into the Plan, please contact us at [friendsofgardomlake@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgardomlake@gmail.com).

## March 4 Meeting Sarah Weaver

Continued support for Friends of Gardom Lake (FoGL)'s work on water testing, invasive plant control and participation in the Lake Management Plan was shown at a public meeting held on March 4, 2015 at the Deep Creek Community Hall.

The management team (Liz Winter, Dyann Johnson, Val Janzen) called an informal meeting to provide information and get input on the Lake Management Plan (LMP) process, as well as to find out if members were willing to participate in various group activities.

The meeting saw support for two big changes that have been proposed – one is to form a society. (Since its formation in 1992, FoGL has been an informal group.) This step will allow us to apply for grants that are only available to societies. It will also help to clarify the confusion about what FoGL stands for, how inclusive it is, and who speaks for the group. A concern was raised at the meeting that there is a perception

that FoGL is an exclusive group and has been "policing" the lake. Meeting participants were told that FoGL is an inclusive group, and that anyone who is acting as if they are policing the lake does not represent FoGL. It is hoped that by forming a society there will be more clear responsibilities and authority.

The second big change is to our name. When the new society is formed, we will be dropping the name "Friends of Gardom Lake" and becoming the "Gardom Lake Stewardship Society".

Stewardship is about partnerships with the community to care for something that we all hold dear. We will now join other lake groups which have the word "stewardship" in their name.

Some of the questions that were raised about the LMP included whether the process is necessary, given regulations that are already in place, and how lakeshore owners are being represented. FoGL representatives pointed out that the Lake Management planning process is leading to more communication amongst all the different players which influence the lake. FoGL has many members who own property on the lake and takes their concerns to the Lake Management Planning Committee. (See over for more information.)

A number of meeting attendees offered to help on sub-committees for the newsletter; Yellow Flag Iris control; and water quality testing. Sixteen people – including lakeshore owners and others – attended the meeting.

## How is the Lake Doing?

Sarah Weaver

At the January 20, 2015 meeting of the Lake Management Plan committee, BC Ministry of Environment biologist Dennis Einarson interpreted the results of the water quality testing the FoGL members have been carrying out. He confirmed that Gardom Lake is in the middle stage of the lake aging process.

The following sketch, taken from a website for Wisconsin Lakes, explains what this means. Over the long term of "geologic" time, runoff gradually silts in a lake with organic matter and nutrients. The lake becomes more "productive", meaning capable of producing biomass such as vegetation. A lake like Shuswap Lake is "oligotrophic". Over time, it will change until eventually it fills up with more and more silt and organic matter at the bottom. Gardom

Lake is in the middle stage of this process, or "mesotrophic".

Because it is mesotrophic, Gardom Lake is "moderately sensitive" to nutrient inputs such as fertilizer runoff and seepage from septic fields. The lesson for those who live in the watershed of the lake is that we need to avoid runoff and seepage that can add nutrients and silt to the water.

## Gardom Lake Bird Watch

Helga Vrabac

It is now mid-March and the ice on the lake is melting from the shoreline. Many of the waterfowl are coming to claim nesting sites, including Ringnecked Ducks and Goldeneyes. Yesterday we watched a pair of Wood Ducks checking out our nest box. The high water level has created excellent habitat in the wetlands of Gardom Creek. A pair of Bald Eagles is nesting on Main Island again. Also on Main Island we heard a pair of Barred Owls communicating with each other, which is a good indication that they have a nest very nearby.

Last year "our" Loons hatched and raised one chick. The loons nest in one of the least disturbed bays on this lake. Many of us feel that their successful hatching was helped by the placement of specifically designed floating signs around the nest, reminding lake users that it is a federal offense to disturb migratory birds. Kayakers and canoeists – please keep well back from the loon's nest! They are very sensitive to disturbance.

The number of Swallows was very low last summer. On our property only three of the seven normally used nest boxes were occupied. And if that was not bad enough, we had to watch a squirrel raid two of them!

This winter we had a Pygmy Owl again. At any time from dawn to dusk it tried its luck around our feeders. Any mouse, vole or bird would do.

Of course the other diners did not want the little owl around. The chickadees let everyone know by loudly chickadeeing, and all went into hiding, except some of the woodpeckers. At one point we watched a Hairy Woodpecker trying to chase the owl away. On two occasions, the woodpecker charged at the owl which then finally left.

This coming season the waterfowl nesting around the shoreline of Gardom Lake won't have to contend with bow waves of motor

boats any more. The 'ELECTRIC MOTORS ONLY' rule is in effect now, which also means less potential for uncombusted fuel to seep out and pollute the lake as it has no year round creek running in or flowing out (low flush rate).



Moose on the Lake winter 2013

## Did You Know?

If you plan to carry out development within 30 metres (98.4 feet) of a watercourse you need to obtain a Development Permit from the CSRD. Development includes:

- Removal, alteration, disruption or destruction of vegetation
- Disturbance of soils
- Construction or erection of buildings and structures
- Creation of non-structural impervious or semi-impervious surfaces
- Flood protection works
- Construction of roads, trails, docks, wharves and bridges
- Provision and maintenance of sewer and water services
- Development of drainage systems
- Development of utility corridors

## The Singing Lake

Sarah Weaver

Have you ever woken up on a winter's night and heard whalesong coming from the lake? When all else is quiet, the groans and moans, cracks and bangs of ice can sound other-worldly.

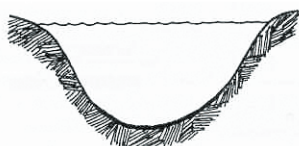
The noises we hear are due to the lake's ice cracking, which is caused by expansion and contraction. Ice does not warm and cool uniformly across a lake and these different rates of warming and cooling cause stress on the ice, leading to cracking. When the ice cracks, water can seep into it and freeze, leading to the expansion of the ice sheet.

Source: <http://www.pierofdnot.com/pier-qa/ice-behavior/>

*The Friends of Gardom Lake is an informal group of residents and frequent visitors to Gardom Lake who would like to preserve the unique environment of the Lake.*

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*Article submissions for future newsletters are welcome. We reserve the right to edit.*



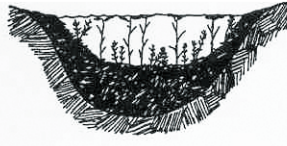
### Oligotrophic

- Clear water, low productivity
- Very desirable fishery of large game fish



### Mesotrophic

- Increased productivity
- Accumulated organic matter
- Good fishery



### Eutrophic

- Very productive
- Possible oxygen depletion
- Rough fish common