

# HAWKINS LAKE



**V.F.F.A.**

## 2008 Newsletter

April 20, 2008

Dear Fire Association Members,

Winter seems about gone so its time to think of Fire Association business. I am writing this annual letter much later than last year but still I notice on the weather link on our website that Cariboo weather is very chilly again. It is predicted to turn spring-like soon after another long and very snowy winter.

It is hard now to imagine wildfire dangers but the fuel accumulation caused by the increasing numbers of beetle killed trees in our area presents a threat. We need to remove dead trees from our properties and we need to watch beetle killed forest areas for signs of wildfire.

This letter will be posted on our website at <http://www.hawkinslakefire.com/>. Thank you to Lloyd McTaggart for organizing that. During the past year several of you have contacted us through the web page; proof it is being read! Thank you.

Fortunately we have had a quiet year for fires but we remain concerned that address confusion could create some dispatch problems. When you send in your renewal fee this year please tell us your current Cariboo Regional District property address; the one we hope you have posted at your driveway.

Our active firefighter list still includes nine names and several auxiliary or part time volunteers. We thank them! Others volunteer their help in many other ways. The directors meet regularly to guide the organization while the Hurrells continue an effective bottle and can re-cycling program. Ted and Suzanne North returned to the community to help with another fine fundraising chicken barbeque held last July at the McWilliams home. Bob Campbell, our chief, continues his seemingly tireless efforts with the able assistance of Assistant Chief Dale McWilliams. We welcome new Director Kate Adams to the board. She has taken on the role of membership officer.

We are looking for a volunteer to act as secretary for the organization because Bev McWilliams would like to resign as soon as one of you out there can take over. We thank Bev for carrying on until we find the help we need!

The 911 procedure is in place for our area. To report a fire you can call 911 and the dispatcher will contact the fire department, or you may contact the fire department directly by using the call-out list attached. It is still advisable to post the call-out list in your home.

**It is membership renewal time again and there is a change this year mandated by our AGM in August. Our annual family membership fee is still forty dollars but our membership year extends from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Could you please help us all out by sending your annual household renewal of \$40 soon to:**

**Hawkins Lake Volunteer Firefighters' Association, PO Box 36, Eagle Creek, BC, V0K 1L0. Please mark the envelope 'Attention Membership'.**

**You may also give your payment in person to Bob Campbell, Catherine Ridley or Kate Adams. Please make cheques payable to Hawkins Lake Volunteer Firefighters' Association. As mentioned earlier, please include your C.R.D address on the cheque. This will speed up our dispatch in case of fire because we are developing a residence map of our area and want to put your place on it! Please also tell us your e-mail address if you have one so that we may improve our communication with you.**

Although Ted and Suzanne North moved from the area over a year ago they have kindly expressed an interest in returning again this summer to help with a chicken barbeque. We have chosen to hold it Saturday, July 19 at the McWilliams place. We hope to recognize some long time community stalwarts then; people who have moved away but deserve our thanks. We are also planning for some kind of HLVFA sponsored multi-family and multi-location garage/yard sale at some other time this summer. We'll keep you informed.

We hope to see you all again soon.

Peter Thomson, Fire Association President