



## Kananaskis Lakes Association News

The Kananaskis Lakes Association (KLA) held their Annual General Meeting on Saturday August 28 at the Peter Lougheed Visitor Centre. Trans-Alta representatives Roger Drury and Ameera Shivij presented information for the Pocaterra Penstock Project and SRD Frankie Kerr provided updates on the Land Use Order. The KLA community would like to thank Arnold Hoffman who replaces Craig Reid as the representative to KID. Georgina Brown will move on to the role of President of KLA and Karen Madro to Past President.

Special Interest Table Sessions were conducted by members from EMS, RCMP, KID SRD, and Firesmart, following the business meeting.

Winners of the Annual Fishing Derby were:

- ♦ Girl's- Maria Fanning ♦ Lady's- Wendy Hnatiuk
- ♦ Boy's- Kevin Lee ♦ Men's- Russel Leitch

Thanks to John Hnatiuk for coordinating the fishing derby!

## Seeking Community Event Volunteers

The Kananaskis Improvement District is seeking volunteers from within the community to organize community events such as the Canada Day Celebrations. If you are looking to engage with your community or perhaps enhance your resume, this could be an excellent opportunity!

This role would be hands-on and the ideal person would be able to complete a wide range of activities requiring clear communication, excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.

If you are interested in discussing this further please contact Tammi Pretty by phone at 403 591 7774 or by email at [tammi.pretty@gov.ab.ca](mailto:tammi.pretty@gov.ab.ca).

## Household Hazardous Waste Roundup

The Kananaskis Improvement District continues to offer to our residents and ratepayers the opportunity to dispose of for free your household hazardous wastes. These wastes may harm humans or the environment unless given the special handling and treatment in the way they are discarded. They may be flammable, corrosive, explosive or toxic, because of these dangerous characteristics they should not be disposed of in landfills or sewage systems.

Between the hours of 9am and 4pm bring your household hazardous wastes to the Kananaskis Emergency Services Centre for free disposal. Materials that are commonly brought include abrasive cleaners, paint, batteries, old fuel, kerosene, medications, solvents and weed killers. A complete list is available at the Kananaskis Emergency Services Centre or at the following website: [www.kananaskisid.ca](http://www.kananaskisid.ca) Please check your home for potentially hazardous products you no longer need.

### Kananaskis Emergency Services

#### STATISTICS

##### August 2010

Parks/Dispatch Calls	927
EMS Transport Calls	5
EMS Non-Transport	20
Fire Response Calls	30

##### July 2010

Parks/Dispatch Calls	764
EMS Transport Calls	7
EMS Non-Transport	25
Fire Response Calls	49

**The Kananaskis Improvement District is a proud member of E911.**

**To report an emergency:**

- Fire
- Ambulance
- Police
- Mountain Rescue

**Dial 911**



## Be Bear Aware!

As summer moves over to make way for fall bears get an incredible urge to fill up with all the yummy food they can get their paws on. Bears are ruled by their need to eat. In the fall they need about 20,000 calories every day to prepare for hibernation. That is the equivalent of about 300 apples, or 60 hamburgers, every day! A bear's natural foods include vegetation (greens, roots and berries), insects, carrion, and fish. If natural food sources fail, bears are more likely to try foraging in areas inhabited by people.

Some people feel sorry for the bears, but letting a bear eat your plums, or a bit of dog food is not the way to help them through the winter. Bears often seem harmless at first. They keep their distance and are wary of people, but this apparent respect can disappear quickly. Bears that learn to forage in populated areas soon lose their fear of people, and may cause property damage or even injure someone. If we want to help bears, we have to make a few changes in our own behaviours and in our communities to make the habitat we live in less appealing to bears.

**Garbage** should be stored indoors, in a garage or basement. Conditioned bears will damage weaker structures to get garbage. Take garbage to the dump regularly. If you have collection service, set the garbage out on the day of collection. Try freezing pungent wastes until garbage day to combat odours.

**Gardens** should be kept neat. Ensure that all windfall fruit is cleaned up daily. Harvest fruit as early as possible. If you don't plan to use the fruit pick the blossoms. Remove unused fruit trees and replace them with attractive, non-bearing, native trees.

**Compost** is a great way to keep solid waste and soil nutrients out of our landfills, but it can attract bears.

Compost should not smell; if it does then something is wrong. If your compost has attracted bears in the past, it likely will again in the future. Try composting kitchen waste indoors using worms. If you have a garden enclosure put your compost inside the fence. Generally prune low brush and tall grass around your yard to eliminate cover. Bears are initially less comfortable crossing open exposed areas. Brushing also increases the distance that you will be able to see, so that you are less likely to surprise (or be surprised by) a bear.

**Bird Feeders** also attract bears, especially in the spring. Seeds are high in calories and a very good source of energy. While feeding birds can help them survive through the winter and off-sets habitat loss, we have to balance the good we do one species with the harm we cause to another. Bears can climb to reach nearly any feeder. If yours is suspended by a metal pole, bears have been known to simply push the pole over. A feeder high up on the side of the house is likely safe from bears. Don't let seeds accumulate under your feeder or you will make the neighbourhood cats very happy. Put out your feeders after the first snowfall, once the bears are safely in their winter dens, and take them down when spring arrives.

**Barbecues** attract bears too, but this is easily remedied by burning off all excess residue after cooking and keeping the grill clean. Leave the barbecue on high with the lid closed while you eat your supper. Cover it with a tarp or a cover once it has cooled to prevent the food odours from being carried by the wind.

**Other common attractants** include pet and livestock feed. Here the only solution is to keep these items securely indoors. Beehives are very attractive as well. Though hives are often kept farther from our homes, bears can cause a lot of expensive damage.

## Forest Renewal in Kananaskis Country

The Alberta Government will conduct several prescribed fires in the Kananaskis area as conditions allows. By imitating natural wildfire in a controlled manner, these projects will:

- ◆ Help protect nearby communities from the threat of future large-scale wildfires;
- ◆ Restore vegetation diversity, improve and expand wildlife habitat; and
- ◆ Remove prime pockets of mountain pine beetle habitat.

The prescribed fires are planned in the Evan-Thomas valley and the Buller Creek and Mount Nestor area.

Every effort will be made to minimize the impact to backcountry users and nearby communities, however some areas will be temporarily closed to ensure public safety.

For more information on these prescribed fires call 1-866-916-INFO or visit [www.Kananaskis-Country.ca](http://www.Kananaskis-Country.ca).