



Loon's Echo



Spring 2026

www.rosenlakeratepayers.ca

Rosen Lake Ratepayer Association

RLRA

A message from the Board of Directors

Rosen Lake Friends:

The cold winter of 2025 is slowly warming to the sunshine of Spring 2026 and the summer cottage season.

In this Spring issue we will again bring about some information on the local wildlife around Rosen Lake, some of the unique and beautiful hiking and fishing in the East Kootenay area. Our nesting loons will soon be joining us along with Kingfishers and Ospreys. We will also be bringing some information on the Fire Smart Program this summer.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2026 at 9 AM at the Jaffray Community Hall

Please renew your memberships online at <https://rosenlakeratepayers.ca> When renewing please include your address (not your rural Pid or lot number).

Opening the Cottage



The winter weather is officially over and it's time to begin weekend treks to your cottage for a fun, adventure-filled summer. Before the good times can begin however, and for those of you who are not there for 4 seasons, you will likely have to open the cottage up and make the necessary preparations including priming the pump, reconnecting the water and plumbing lines and perhaps putting the dock back on the lake.

These aren't your only priorities. To avoid major hassles in the middle of the summer, other items on your checklist should include:

SMOKE DETECTOR Even if you changed the batteries before you closed the cottage for winter, it is best to check to make sure the system—including a carbon monoxide detector is working effectively.

CHIMNEY AND FURNACE Make appointments to have your chimney and furnace cleaned. A clean chimney will help prevent the occurrence of chimney fires, while a clean furnace will help allow proper ventilation to occur and ensure a carbon monoxide-free environment.

SEPTIC It is recommended to have your septic system pumped every two years. Make an appointment to have your septic pumped at the beginning of spring to avoid the bother when the summer officially begins.

DOOR AND DOCKS Check all the cottage doors to see if they are scrubbing when you open and close them, and inspect any and all structural docks to determine if they are straight and

intact. If the doors are scrubbing and the docks are tilted, it could be an indication that the foundation has shifted due to frost conditions.

EASY FIX! Once the frost is gone from the ground, the foundation should shift back to its original position causing the doors to once again fit as they should within their frames, and straightening out the piers as they should be. However, if they don't, the doors can be trimmed to once again fit in their designated space where the cottage. As for the piers, they will have to be jacked up, or replaced if they remain misaligned.

ROOF Check the interior ceilings and walls for water stains from melting snow and spring rain to ensure that roof leakage has not occurred.

EAVESTROUGH Take the time to clean the leaves and debris out of your eavestroughs. It will help preserve the integrity of your cottage roof.

DECKS and STEPS All decks, porches, and accompanying steps should be examined for signs of rot and instability. Don't forget to check the underside too as rot could be hiding out of sight. Cottage deterioration occurs with natural wear and tear and exposure to the climate of cottage country. By following this checklist during your preparations for the season, repairs to minor issues can be made before they become major problems, allowing you to enjoy a summer of leisure rather than one hindered by constructional repairs.

Source: spring-cottage-opening-checklist

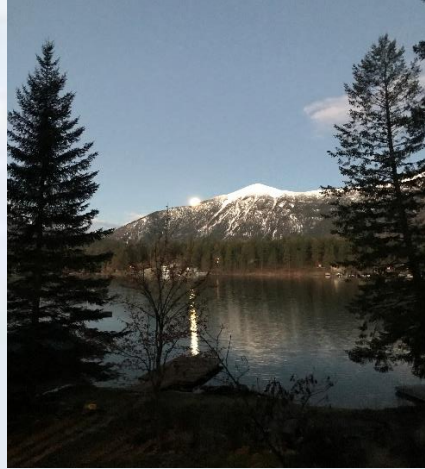
Rosen Lake Firesmart



With the coming Spring and Summer drier weather and the heat of the summer is just around the corner. Wildfire prevention should be a topic and task of all those that reside around Rosen

Lake. Cleaning out dry and dead brush, leftover firewood, dry leaves and branches will all help to reduce the fuel for a wildfire.

Currently there are several Firesmart neighbourhoods, and there are plans for more. If you would like to volunteer as a neighbourhood firesmart leader, please contact Jessica Chalmers at firesmartjess@gmail.com



RDEK Update

As part of our ongoing desire to bring pertinent news to the families and friends around the lake, we are hoping to include a twice yearly report of events and news from the RDEK which affects the area around Rosen Lake. The quick report comes from Stan Doehle on plans around Rosen Lake.

There will be monies allotted to improving the sand beaches at both the main Rosen Lake public access points. 2000.00 dollars has been allocated for this project to improve the quality of each of these sites.

There will also be a dam assessment performed this year to evaluate the integrity of the dam, and the structural needs to maintain it. 7000.00 has been allocated for the examination and review of our current dam. More to follow once the report is completed and hopefully this will be included in a future newsletter.

Ospreys



Ospreys are a common sight around Rosen Lake. The Osprey is a large hawk of the family Pandionidae. They are unique amongst North American raptors for its diet of live fish and its ability to dive into water to catch them. The kamikaze like dives are a sight not to be missed! They are often seen patrolling waterways, hovering and searching for fish swimming near the surface. Their nests are often made of large sticks neatly intertwined and set high on bare trees or as often seen, on telephone or power poles. Their keen eyesight and lofty purchases allows for the spotting of fish at large distances and heights. Rosen Lake usually has at least one if not several nesting pairs of Ospreys nearby throughout the Spring to Fall Season. The distinct shrill call is as distinct as our famous Loons.

Interesting Facts: Ospreys migrate great distances and have been tracked as far as Alaska to Central and South America. Ospreys can live up to 20 years, and have been known to log as many as 270,000 km in a lifetime. One Osprey was tracked by satellite tags flying 4500 km from Marthas Vineyard to Guiana South America over a 13 day period. Unknown to most, the Osprey can actually swim short distances with its wings to push their talons to their prey.

Ospreys are excellent anglers and several studies have shown their fish catch rates are 1 in every 4 dives. Some extremely expert birds have shown to have as high as a 70% catch rate. Average flight time before a dive is 12 minutes. Ospreys are also unusual amongst hawks as they have a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp fish front and back. Fish are positioned head forward to lessen wind resistance.

Osprey young do not hatch all at once. The older hatchlings often dominate food from their younger siblings. In times of plenty, food is shared amongst the young. In leaner times, the smaller siblings often do not survive.

So the next time you hear the high pitched screech around Rosen look up and enjoy the flight of one of natures most successful fishers.

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Osprey/overview>

Hummingbirds



Hummingbirds are a traditional spring returnee to the East Kootenay area. The sound of high RPM wings is an indication that warmer weather is here, and our migrating friends are returning along with the geese and ducks. These are amongst the most approachable and social of birds. Hummingbird feeders should have a white sugar and water mixture of 1:4 boiled gently to dissolve the sugar and remove any bacteria. Feeders should be clean of debris and mold.

Fun Facts:

Hummingbirds in the East Kootenays have a migration area that ranges from Central and Northern South America to Northern BC. The wings of a hummingbird beat at 15-80 times per second and their hearts beat at an astonishing 1260 times per minute (a human heart is in cardiac failure once it reaches 250 beats per minute).

Hummingbirds will gain 25-40% of their body weight prior to migration. The flight path is low over the treetops to look for sources of nectar. Flight distances are often 25 miles per day and speeds reach 20-30 mph while cruising, although speeds three times faster can be reached during courtship.

The sound of humming wings is a Rosen Lake constant through the spring and summer months. Once the flowers begin to bloom in the high country, the birds will gravitate to the new food source and slowly disappear. Keep an eye on strings of lights for the tiny nests. We have had many over the years.

Enjoy the 'hummers', they are truly a royal visitor to the East Kootenays.

<https://www.hummingbirdcentral.com/hummingbird-migration.htm>

Hiking around Rosen Lake



What could be more natural than a hike in the East Kootenays? There are thousands of trails to be had within walking distance of Rosen Lake or a short few minutes drive to a trailhead. Here are some suggestions for some truly spectacular walks near Rosen.

Meachen Waterfalls: This spectacular hike is only 45 minutes drive from Jaffray. Meachen Creek has one of the most spectacular falls in all of the Kootenays. To get there, turn onto St. Mary's Lake Road, drive 16.7 km until you get to the St. Mary's Lake and river junction crossing over a wooden bridge. Turn right at 0.6 km which is the second dirt road on to Hellroaring Creek Rd. At 1.6 km turn right on to Meachen Creek Rd. After approximately 8 km, you will come to a small parking area on the left and right. The falls are on the right side of the road and is a short two minute hike.

Silver Springs Lakehead trail: This trail is a little more challenging. The trail is 6.1 km but has an elevation gain of 165 meters. This is a great hike to a few very nice lakes that are gin clear and clean. All of the elevation gain is in the first 10 minutes and from there it is a relatively flat trail to the lakes. There are gorgeous views along the way.

To get there drive to the town of Elko. From there drive east on Alexander Ave which turns into Cascade Ave as it bends southward past the intersection with Kyrke St. About 350 meters past the intersection, make a hairpin turn to the left onto River Road(2wd gravel), and descend to the one lane bridge over the Elk River. Past the bridge drive 2.3 km to a large pullout on the right. Park here. An unsigned trail begins at the west end of the pullout.

For those that just want a beautiful walk around Rosen, the forestry access road near Audea road gives access to a multitude of small trails. The trails that border Sand Creek are spectacular any time of the year. The trails criss cross over bridges that interconnect both sides of the creek, and will take you through beaver ponds, incredible stands of various conifers around Rosen Lake as well as scenic views of the flats of Sand Creek. This is also a favorite 2 hour mountain bike ride which poses a number of challenges on this narrow single track path.

In most cases a pair of sturdy hiking boots or approach shoes are a must. Loose rock and uneven trails can pose tripping hazards. A first aid kit, an extra sweater and a goretex jacket are great additions to your day pack. A GPS/ Satellite device is also a constant in my pack as well.

Please be mindful of other trail users and bring a can of bear spray, water and a nice packed lunch and enjoy!

Many Thanks to Tara Petersen for the hiking informatio.

Flyfishing the Elk River



If you enjoy a day on the water fishing as much as I do, the Elk River is a first class and world famous river in our backyard. It is a jewel in the Kootenays and many fishermen travel from many parts of the globe to catch its beautiful cutthroat and bull trout. The river can be fished on foot at a number of access points along the highway or along Kokato road. However, the river is best fished floating the river from one put in spot to a takeout. Many guides fish the river using drift boats which provide a safe and steady platform to fish from. The river from Sparwood to Elko has a number of put in points for drifts from 8 to 15 km. The river is gentle and can be handled in many different watercraft including rafts, pontoon boats, kayaks, inflatable boats and even paddleboards.

Some of the more popular put in points are

Sparwood at the bridge crossing going to Elkford

Olsen's Road

Hosmer



Fernie at River Park

Morrisey Road forestry bridge

Elko

The river downstream of Elko is dangerous with the hydro dam. Caution should be noted to not go past the Elko Forestry bridge.

So get out, grab your gear, read the regulations, get a licence and enjoy the river. It is truly world class.

The RLRA Board Members wish to thank everyone for their continued support and community involvement. Best wishes for a safe and happy Spring and Summer.