

# Logan Lake as a neighbor is now a fact

By Ida Makaro

Just one year ago, it was nothing but open grazing land on a sloping hillside by the tiny little lake called Logan Lake, a very different scene from what is found there today.

Turning the bend in the road about a mile past the Merritt to Highland Valley junction, immediately on the left, one finds a new town has indeed mushroomed.

Four short months ago, it was the 100 homes which were nearing construction, with moving-in date slated for around July 1; but today, a new school is there, a shopping centre and civic centre, as well as row housing apartments either for sale or for rent.

moving trucks moving in and out daily, getting the new residents settled, visitors are not encouraged to tour the town without permission. Even with permission, they are being asked to park their vehicles and take a walk along the streets instead.

**HOUSE KEYS ASSIGNED**

Sometimes, if the town superintendent, Bert Dibbs, has time, he will take visitors on a tour, but these days he is much too busy with getting the new people moved in. Would-be residents are shown the homes which are available. Then when the sale is completed, they come in to pick up keys and sign another paper to say they are now homeowners at Logan Lake.

gine and ambulance. Two RCMP will be stationed at Logan Lake soon and their headquarters are also in this building. Continuing down the long arm of the L-shape, there are offices for public health services and a visiting doctor's office since they are hoping to have a doctor visit the community on a once a week basis at first. It is planned that, since the Nicola Valley General Hospital is the closest to the community, emergency hospital cases will be brought to Merritt, a distance of 28 miles.

Also in this same building, are the offices for the town clerk as soon as one is found, and a part-time secretary, the mayor's office and the council chambers which overlook the lake, Logan Lake and the entrance to the community.

Since there is still a lot of construction machinery moving around as well as the big

However, nearly all the houses are sold and the trailer park and mobile home development, where the trailer or mobile home owner purchases the land on which he settles his home, is now open and being filled, and it was with this part that Mr. Dibbs was busy on Friday morning when the Merritt Herald reporter visited the townsite.

Provision has also been made for a first-aid station to be located in this building in which basic treatment will be given to the people of the community.

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**40 FAMILIES ARE IN**

More than forty families have moved into the first 100 homes and Mr. Dibbs said that the rest will be filled by the time school opens in September. On arrival on Friday morning, two moving vans had come in and were unloading the household effects of two more families.

On tour, Mr. Dibbs first showed the large civic building which was designed by the Vancouver firm, Townley Matheson, with the architectural design made to blend in with the total residential effect.

**TWO RCMP THERE**

This unique building, which will be one of the first to meet the eye of passers-by and visitors, houses a two bay garage on one end which will be the home for the volunteer fire department, fire en-

**SHOPPING CENTRE UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

A little further up the street, is the Commercial Centre or "shopping centre" as is commonly understood. Here, a large section which will house the Safety Mart Store is fast nearing completion and in the meantime, the Safety Mart Store in Kamloops is providing three-times-a-week visits to Logan Lake taking in basic every day supplies.

A service station, drug store and Bank of Commerce is going into this area, as well as other necessary services, including probably, Mr. Dibbs said, a beauty parlor, since this is always considered important by the women. Inquiries are coming in daily to be considered in the townsite planning.

**SCHOOL NEARLY READY**

Going back and up into the residential area, the new six-roomed elementary school is fast nearing completion. It is expected that it will be ready for classes in September. The Secondary School students will be taken to Kamloops by bus or boarded in neighboring towns.

On the side of the school facing the highway is the skeleton structure of the activity room, and this part of the construction was donated by Lornex Mines.

Since it is the policy of the provincial government to only initially provide the necessary classrooms, with activity rooms coming later, so had it been in Logan Lake. However, Lornex, the company which is responsible for the sudden appearance of the new town, felt that a community centre was very important in a town, and in particular, for a new town. So an agreement was reached with the school board last winter, that Lornex would provide an activity room for the school provided it was turned over for community use in after-school hours.

**ACTIVITY ROOM DONATED**

The activity room won't be ready for school opening but it is expected to be completed by mid-October which is about the time of the year when such an area becomes most important to a school. It is planned that an official opening celebration for Logan Lake will co-incide with the completion of the activity room or community centre.

Along a newly developed street behind the first phase of residential development, and near the school, is the town house development which will overlook the valley running back up behind Logan Lake. This is three modules of four, making accommodation for twelve families, with three units in each building being three-bedroom homes and the rest being two-bedroom homes. Some of these are being rented by the teaching staff at the school.

**SECOND STAGE BEGINS**

What is called Phase 2-A and 2-B is presently being developed, the second stage in the development of the residential area of the town.

Phase 2-A will provide 40 new homes by the end of Oc-

tober, providing new homes in living area from 1,080 square feet to 1,350 square feet. These will be a little more expensive than the homes which were constructed in the first phase of development. Phase 2-B will have 50 housing units of a very different type of development and it is anticipated that they will be completed about Christmas time. And, Mr. Dibbs said, there are people on stand-by waiting for the completion of these homes to make their purchase.

**PARKS BEING PREPARED**

Nestled in the heart of the residential area is a wooded area which provides a pleasant break in the contour. Instead of having back lanes to the properties, which was almost impossible on some of the sloping areas, it was decided to establish several small parks scattered throughout the town which will be either playgrounds or resting spots for the people.

A start had been made on the development of the central one and "Keep off the Grass" signs were posted to give the newly planted grass a chance to take hold. Sprinklers were working on this and on several properties in the new town at the time of the visit. Deep wells provide the water supply which Mr. Dibbs bragged as being one of the best supplies in the province.

**STREETS BEING PAVED**

The townsite itself, was busy with street paving, surveying crews, trucks hauling asphalt treated gravel mix and the new peripheral areas were being prepared for the underground services of B.C. Hydro, telephone wiring and natural gas. All wiring and services are underground at Logan Lake, with only the modern street lighting poles lining the streets.

The streets themselves are named after ores and precious stones and directional signs are found at the intersections.

The main problem faced by the residents at this time is dust. Because of all the construction work, plus the fact that none of the yards have been landscaped so far, there is a constant fine dust blowing around or being thrown into the air by the passing vehicles. However, this is a problem faced in any area of new construction, and one year from now will see a big difference.

**TEMPERATURE COOLER**

The temperature, even in the current hot spell, is some ten to fifteen degrees lower than Merritt, making it a very comfortable spot to visit last week.

On the road from Merritt to Logan Lake, there has been quite a bit of reconstruction this year and the Highways crew was very busy eliminat-

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## Fire protection being organized for Logan Lake

A new fire engine is presently in Vancouver being tested, which will be brought to Logan Lake within the next few days as the start of the new community's fire protection services.

At a meeting of the Logan Lake town council last Friday afternoon, it was learned that well over 40 men from Lornex Mine, who are or will be residents of Logan Lake, have signed up as volunteer firemen for the community.

Mayor John Aldrich reported that everyone is very enthusiastic, and they will be taking a training course in fire fighting and fire safety throughout the town which will be needed for fire protection, and all hydrants are in, so once our fire engine arrives, we'll be all set."

It had been recommended to the Logan Lake council that the maximum volunteer

ing one of the worst sections of the road located between the paved section along Marmette Lake and Logan Lake. It would appear that several miles of the road has been and is being prepared for a paving program next year.

**ROUGH TRIP**

However, it is still a very rough trip, particularly for two or three miles on either end of the road, and it can't be very appreciated by those people who travel back and forth to Merritt daily to work in the Highland Valley. It was confirmed that about ten Merritt families have or are moving into homes in Logan Lake and no doubt, the road was the biggest factor in their decision.

Later in the afternoon, the Logan Lake town council met for their regular monthly meeting, in a house at the townsite donated for this purpose by Lornex Mines until the civic building is completed.

The council is composed of Mayor John Aldrich presently living in Kamloops and planning to move to Logan Lake, Alderman Glen Scott, Doug Guild, Bill Gilmore and Bob MacDonald (who visited Merritt as a Logan Lake guest at the Birthday Party last spring). Alderman MacDonald was not present at this meeting as he was away on holidays. Taking notes for the council and doing duties of town clerk until a clerk-treasurer is appointed, was Mrs. Sharon Marcus.

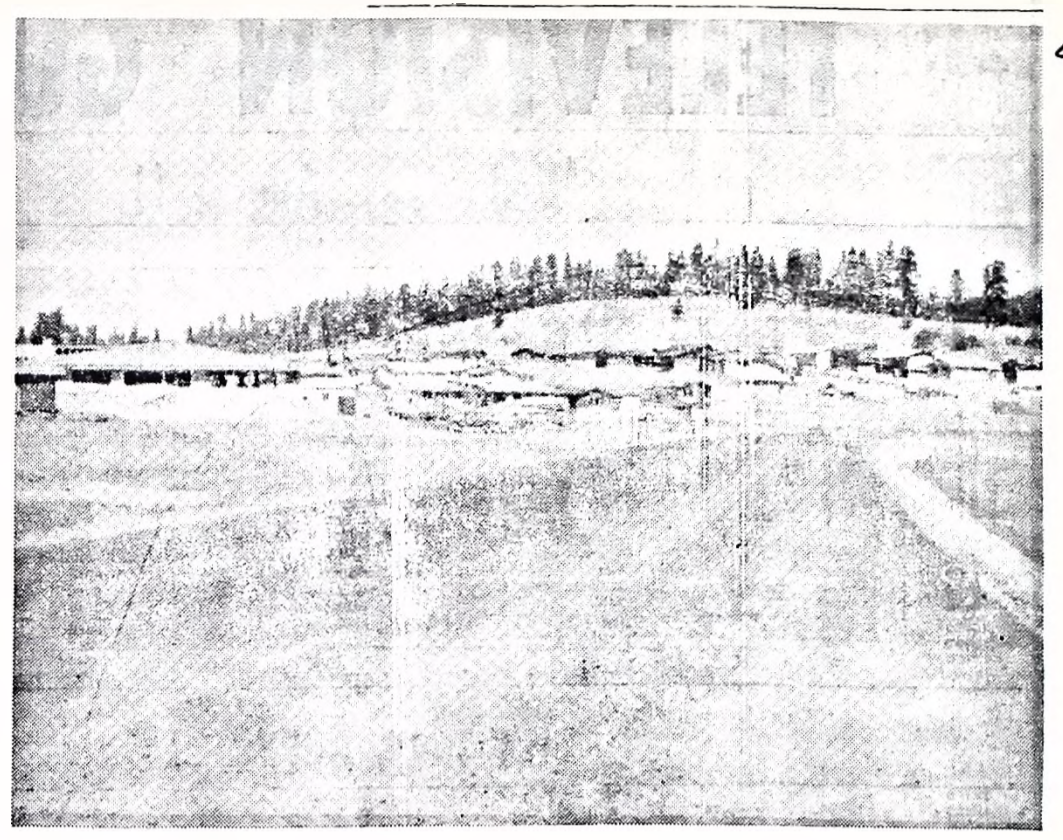
**INTERIM COUNCIL**

Mayor Aldrich said this is only an interim council composed of Lornex employees to act for the town until 1973 when a municipal election will be held by the townspeople to name their own council.

**POST OFFICE IS OPEN**

The new post office at Logan Lake is not quite ready yet but mail service began on Monday, August 9 to be operated from a private home. Even as council met, a holidayer staying at Lac La Jeune had travelled down to Logan Lake to buy a stamp and mail a letter from Logan Lake just for the historical value of the occasion.

This has all happened in one short year. It will be interesting to see what has taken place in the next year of the initial development of a well-planned, exciting new town which is Merritt's newest neighbour.



Logan Lake as seen when one approaches from the west. On the left hand side in the picture is the civic centre now under construction and the closest windows in this building are the ones in the council chambers which will overlook the highway and the nearby lake for which the town was named.

force be 25 members, but council was reluctant to cut down and decide which of the 40 will serve at this time. "When we see how many complete the training course successfully, and how it works out on the shift basis at the mine... we might need that many members to give adequate 24-hour protection... we had better wait to estab-

list: the maximum number until we know all this" Under construction at this time, is a two bay garage at the civic building which will house the new fire engine and an ambulance. The building is expected to be completed within the month, according to townsite superintendent, Bert Dibbs.

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