



District of Lantzville Community Update

**Broombusters, 10th Anniversary,
Open Burning Closure & General Information**

May, 2013

BROOMBUSTERS

Cut Broom in Bloom *Volunteers Needed!*

The District is pleased to partner with Broombusters Invasive Plant Society for 2013. The purpose of the partnership is to assist Lantzville residents to come together and take control of broom and its spread in the District. Broombusters provides the information, organization and tools. The District has committed to picking up and chipping broom cut by volunteers.

Scotch broom is an alien invasive plant taking over large areas within the District. The plant spreads rapidly and densely, choking out native species, and preventing reforestation. A single plant can produce 18,000 seeds which can last in the soil for 50 years. Additionally, broom is highly flammable, as sections of the mature plant die off naturally, so there is always dead wood making it a potential fire hazard.

Broom is most vulnerable when in bloom (May – June), which is also the best time to cut it. Use garden clippers and cut the plant at ground level or slightly below, and then tap down soil around the roots. Root removal is not necessary if cut in bloom before the dry summer heat. It is difficult to eliminate broom that is well established, as there are millions of seeds in the soil, it is better to start at the outer edges of infestation and move towards the dense areas.

If you would like to volunteer to protect the District's environment from broom, enjoy comradely with your fellow residents and possibly even have fun, please contact the District office at 250.390.4006 or visit the District website for more cutting event details at www.lantzville.ca.

Council Meetings in May

Monday, May 13 – Regular Meeting
Monday, May 27 – Regular Meeting

The public is welcome to attend all meetings of Council, which begin at 7:00 p.m. at the District Office, 2nd Floor, 7192 Lantzville Road.

Message from the Fire Chief

Open Burning Closed May 15 – October 15

Fire season is upon us, and therefore, effective May 15th open burning (fire piles on the ground) is closed. Incinerators are permitted at this time but could be closed at any time, as conditions dictate. Please note there are rules for incinerator use and that a permit is required (at no charge), and is available at the District office. *Note: Incinerators must be screened with a mesh no greater than approximately 1 inch and should always be burned as hot as possible. This helps to reduce smoke and ash.* For a complete copy of the Fire Protection Services Bylaw No. 86, please visit the District website www.lantzville.ca or stop by the office.

There are a few basic rules when burning; the two most frequently overlooked are wind speed and venting. **Burning is not permitted when wind speed exceeds 15 kph.** This is anything much more than a gentle breeze. The venting index is a guide generally applied to burning on a larger scale, but residents should be cognizant of smoke's ability, **or not**, to escape. This is a gauge of how well the smoke you produce will rise and not seriously affect your home and others. Rainy days are seldom good days to burn. The guide "Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation" can be found on the Ministry of Environment website <http://www.gov.bc.ca/env/>

Remember, when you burn, if you find the smoke or the ash fallout offensive, chances are your neighbours do as well.

District 10th Anniversary

On June 25th, the District will observe its 10th anniversary of incorporation. Council is looking forward to celebrating and looking back at the accomplishments of the Community in the last 10 years. An open house will be held at the District office on **Tuesday, June 25th**. Look for more details in the June issue of Community Update or on the District's website after June 1st.

District Office Closure

The District Office will be closed on Monday, May 20th for Victoria Day. We will re-open Tuesday, May 21st at 8:00 a.m.

Emergency Preparedness Week May 5 – 11
Is your family prepared?

The GetPrepared Campaign advises preparing for an emergency is important and something the whole family can do. By taking a few simple steps, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies and minimize the impact on yourselves and your families.

Here are three simple steps to better prepare your family to face a range of emergencies:

- **Know the risks** – Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to our community and our region (like what to do in the case of floods, tornados, earthquakes, storm surges, hurricanes, and technological or environmental accidents such as chemical spills and power failures) can help us better prepare.
- **Make a plan** – Every Canadian household needs an emergency plan. It will help you and your family know what to do if disaster strikes. We should all practice what to do in different emergency situations.
- **Get an emergency kit** – During an emergency, we may need to get by without power or tap water. We will all need some basic supplies (items such as three-day supply of water, non-perishable food, a flashlight, batteries, battery-operated or wind-up radio, first aid kit, pocket knife, prescriptions, extra set of keys and money, and copies of important documents). Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency.

Checklists for what goes into a basic kit and extra items, how to write an emergency plan and details on hazards across Canada can be found on the Emergency Preparedness web site at www.GetPrepared.ca

SCHEDULE CHANGE - FOOD WASTE, GARBAGE AND RECYCLING REMINDER:

When there is a holiday, your regular collection day moves forward a day. This means that due to the upcoming holiday the collection schedule will be as follows:

Friday, May 24th recycling & food waste
Friday, May 31st garbage & food waste

(Collection days move to Friday until the next statutory holiday in July.)

Property Tax Notices

Property tax notices will be mailed the third week in May and will include information regarding payment options, Home Owner Grants and deferment programs. If you do not receive your tax notice by the beginning of June, please contact the District Office. Property taxes are due at the District Office by 4:00 pm on **Tuesday, July 2, 2013.**

Stage 1 Water Restrictions are in Effect

Annually in May the District implements water restrictions. Effective Wednesday, May 1, 2013, the District will be on Stage 1, as follows:

- **Odd house numbers** may water **on odd numbered days**
- **Even House use numbers** may water **on even numbered days**
- Watering is **restricted to a maximum of 3 hours per designation day** and only permitted between the hours of 6:00 to 10:00 a.m. **OR** 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Free Team WaterSmart Workshop:
Efficient Irrigation - Be Smart with your Sprinkler System

Do you have an in-ground irrigation system? There may be leaks, clogs and inefficient nozzles that are wasting water and costing you money! Learn what to look for when getting your sprinkler system ready for the summer.

Date: Saturday, May 11th
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Location: Lantzville Legion, 7227 Lantzville Road

For information on the program call the Regional District of Nanaimo at 250.390.6560, or to register call 1.888.828.2069.

Free Septic Smart Workshop:
Got a Septic System?

Learn about proper care and maintenance and have your questions answered by industry experts. What you learn may save you money.

Date: Sunday, May 26th
Time: 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Lantzville Legion, 7227 Lantzville Road

For information on the program call the Regional District of Nanaimo at 250.390.6560, or to register call 1.888.828.2069.