

## Pesticide Free Committee

Our committee has not been active over the last year except for our Scotch Broom pulling project. We receive \$1500 from CVRD to hire 3 or 4 local workers to pull the broom and to arrange for hauling it away each year. The Denman Island Garden Club has been working with us on this project and contributes \$500 and the volunteer time of Anne Page. By pulling the broom mechanically, we are able to avoid having the CVRD come in and spray pesticides to get rid of it. We are planning to proceed again this Spring, probably in May, when the broom is in full bloom.

We encourage all Denman islanders to adopt a section of roadway on the island or to keep their own property free of broom. Our committee has broom pullers for rent for \$5/day at the Denman Hardware. They can be tricky to use at first, but within 15-20 minutes you will be an expert! Please do your part to make Denman island pesticide free. Thank you.

Peter Thomsen  
Chairperson

### **Additional comment from Harlene Holm:**

If you report on the broom pulling, would you also consider giving kudos to Jenny Balke for planning and delivering a program to eradicate invasive Spartina from the Denman shores. The Province intended to use Round Up and Jenny presented a manual removal alternative that the Province could not dismiss. Thus Denman and Hornby are entering the second year of manual removal while the shore of Vancouver Island is again exposed to Round Up.

As a side note, Jenny was the one who first identified the Checkerspot Butterfly on Denman. Thanks to her, Denman is not sprayed with BT as occurs elsewhere in the Comox Valley. BT may be fairly benign to humans but kills the larvae of other insects on contact including lady bugs, lacewings and pollinators possibly including honey bees if the dust is tracked into the hive.

Harlene

### **Additional comment from Jenny Balke:**

Many thanks to Harlene for her endorsement, but mentioning me is not necessary. It probably would be good to give thanks to all those on Denman who spoke out about the possible use of a herbicide on our shores to treat the invasive marine grass. We will continue with the manual monitoring of any tiny regenerating seedlings ( a volunteer spartina shoreline monitoring program will start this summer). Also many have worked on our butterflies, especially the checkerspot, but it might be great to remind folks (what I'm sure you are well versed with) that the use of many garden chemicals, particularly pesticides are harmful not only to the rare and significant species, but also to all those beneficial garden species from bats to amphibians and predatory insects, such as spiders that help us out!

Thanks,  
Cheers jenny