

Pesticide Free Committee Report - March 2013

During the last year we have been relatively inactive. Our focus continues to be on education about the harm of pesticides and on encouraging people to have Denman Island (and areas beyond) become pesticide free. We have encouraged the manual removal of Scotch Broom from our Island by making 2 broom pullers available for rent at the Denman Hardware (\$5 per day). A special thanks to the Denman Hardware for enabling the broom puller rentals (the entire \$5 goes to our committee for repair, replacement or other costs). We recently purchased 2 new industrial quality broom pullers to replace the old ones which had been damaged through long and heavy use. Come and try them out! We would urge each of you to work toward Provincial and Federal legislation to ban pesticide use.

Concerning invasive species such as Scotch Broom, please be aware that invasive species are usually imported by people - if a plant is "deer resistant" it is very likely invasive (special caution about Japanese Knotweed which people are planting as a fast growing 'bamboo'. Knotweed - sometimes sold as *Polygonum cuspidatum* - makes Scotch Broom look benign.)

Submitted by Peter Thomsen