

March 20, 2013

Broom Busters workshop next week

Are you interested in doing battle with the dreaded Scotch broom? The Campbell River Communities in Bloom Committee will host a community workshop on broom busting next week – and all interested members of the community are invited. Featuring Broom Busters founder Joanne Sales as guest speaker, the workshop will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sportsplex.

Sales started the Broom Busters group several years ago in Qualicum Beach and is looking forward to sowing the seeds of a successful broom bashing campaign in Campbell River.

“Since we went on the offensive against this invasive plant, Qualicum is almost free of broom and the bushes are disappearing for kilometres in each direction,” Sales says.

The broom busting success is attributed to hundreds of volunteers who come out each year during the broom blooming season from Parksville, Nanaimo and Courtenay.

“Few municipalities or regional districts today have the funds to send workers out on the roads to remove Scotch broom,” says Councillor Ron Kerr, who is involved in local plans to eradicate this dreaded plant. *“An organization like Broom Busters is a very effective way to take action.”*

“Broom is threatening to take over the open spaces in every corner of our municipality, and many people are becoming seriously concerned about the consequences if residents don’t take action,” says one of the workshop organizers, retired City Councillor Morgan Ostler. *“Our Communities in Bloom team is inspired by the success of the Broom Busters organization in Qualicum, and we hope learning from them will help us take up the charge here.”*

The Communities in Bloom Committee hosts several community workshops and events each year to support city beautification. The committee will host two broom bashing events in April. For more information, please call the Parks Dept. at 250-286-7275.

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