

SEVENTH ANNUAL FIREPROOF METCHOSIN DAY!
Saturday March 6

Dust off the lopers, pull on your gloves, it's time once again to
Fireproof Metchosin.

Help prevent forest fires in your neighbourhood this summer by removing broom and gorse from the roadside in front of your property. A careless toss of a cigarette could spell disaster if it lands in a dense patch of broom or gorse.

Mayor Ranns and roads contractor Jim Paton have teamed up to offer 2 hours of free backhoe work and Shannon at the Broken Paddle has generously donated a gift certificate to the winning photos from this event. Largest pile? Biggest broom? Wackiest assault gear? Let your imagination be your guide to your photo submission.

There will be NO roadside pickup!

All broom should be burnt or composted on site or it can be brought to the firehall. If you have any concerns about burning on your property, please call the firehall at 250-478-1307 and they will answer your questions. Generally you should keep the fires small, away from trees and other flammable materials. Keep a source of water nearby to dose any unexpected flare-ups.

BROOM and GORSE REMOVAL TIPS

- Pull if the stem diameter is smaller than a pencil.
- Cut below the surface to the first sideways root on larger plants, very large plants can be cut higher, older broom plants will not usually resprout. Gorse is more likely to resprout and should be cut to 5 cm below the soil..
- Cut dead plants to ground level or pull if very loose.
- Minimize disturbance to the soil. The greater the soil disturbance, the more seedlings will germinate.

- Wear welding gloves, goggles and impenetrable clothing to work with **gorse**, as it has vicious spines which are difficult to avoid.

The Community House has two broom pullers for rent although you should be aware of how much soil disturbance these might cause. If there is a good deal of bare soil, you might consider seeding over with grass seed or native plants to reduce the number of broom and gorse seedlings that can survive.

Call Heather at 478-5155 to reserve.