

PEOPLE, PLANTS AND PRIDE...

Growing Together

B.C. COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM NEWSLETTER

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BC COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

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BC Communities in Bloom introduces a **WELLNESS** theme for 2020

Many news reports profile the benefits of time spent in greenspaces and its positive effect on our mental and social well being. This year participants will be encouraged to show some of the ways their CiB program strengthens **WELLNESS**; from school & youth involvement, exercise groups in parks or even the volunteers who bond together to weed or plant a new garden. This will be a special category recognized at the provincial awards and conference in Sicamous (September 11-13).

Never has it been so important to acknowledge how essential greenspaces and community engagement are to our health and happiness. 'In Bloom' communities are at the forefront of this changing awareness.



How Managing the Vegetation on Your Property Can Help You

Become More FireSmart



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart

By Lisa Barrett, Office of the Fire Commissioner and BC FireSmart Committee member

WHAT IS FIRESMART?

Technically, FireSmart® is a brand owned by FireSmart Canada that includes a comprehensive set of tools and guidance on how to carry out community-based wildfire prevention and mitigation initiatives. It is the Canadian standard recognized by all provinces and territories and is backed by a vast amount of field, laboratory and modelling research

Basically, it's about living with and managing for the reality of wildfire on our landscapes.

THE SEVEN FIRESMART DISCIPLINES

FireSmart is founded on seven disciplines: Education, Vegetation Management, Legislation and Planning, Development Considerations, Interagency Cooperation, Cross-training and Emergency Planning.

Together, these disciplines create a framework for how FireSmart addresses wildfire at the home, community and provincial levels. In order to ensure that communities are as prepared as possible for the eventuality of wildfire, they need to consider each of the seven disciplines.

For the purpose of this article, let's focus on vegetation management, one of the key ways to mitigate the wildfire threat on properties in fire-prone areas.

WHAT CAN I DO?

There are simple steps you can take to manage vegetation on your property, such as keeping your gutters clear of leaves, cutting your grass to below 10cm and trimming branches that hang near your roof.

The other thing you can do is plant fire-resistant plants. These plants do not readily ignite from flame or other ignition sources. And although they can be damaged or even killed by fire, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fuel and fire intensity. For an extremely comprehensive list of fire-resistant plants, visit firesmartcanada.ca and check out the excellent "FireSmart Guide to Landscaping".

Knowing your priority zones (see below) is also key to ensuring your home stays safe. These zones are the areas around your property that require unique vegetation management activities.

WHY SHOULD I CARE?

During any given wildfire season, British Columbians may be evacuated from their communities and homes may be threatened or destroyed. Living in a forested area means that you and your community eventually will have to contend with the impact of a wildfire. FireSmart methods have

been demonstrated time and time again to reduce the risk of losses, under even the most extreme wildfire conditions. Your best protection is prevention and your best tool is the FireSmart program. To learn more visit firesmartbc.ca

WHAT ARE THE FIRESMART ZONES?

Non-Combustible Zone: The most critical zone (0 to 1.5 metres from the home)

- Remove combustible material right down to the mineral soil
- Use non-flammable materials such as gravel, brick or concrete in this critical area adjacent to your home
- Avoid having woody shrubs, trees or tree branches in this zone
- Consider planting FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS. Avoid planting HIGHLY FLAMMABLE PLANTS such as cedar, juniper, pine, tall grass and spruce.

Zone 1: 1.5 to 10 metres from the home

- Plant low-density, fire-resistant plants and shrubs.
- Avoid planting coniferous trees (cones and needles) in this zone, since they are highly flammable.
- Keep lawns mowed.
- Move firewood piles, construction materials, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into Zone 2

Zone 2: 10 to 30 metres from home

- Prune and trim evergreen trees to create at least three metres of

horizontal space between single or grouped tree crowns.

- On the remaining evergreen trees, remove all branches to a height of 2 metres above the ground.
- Regularly clean up fallen branches, dry grass and needles from the

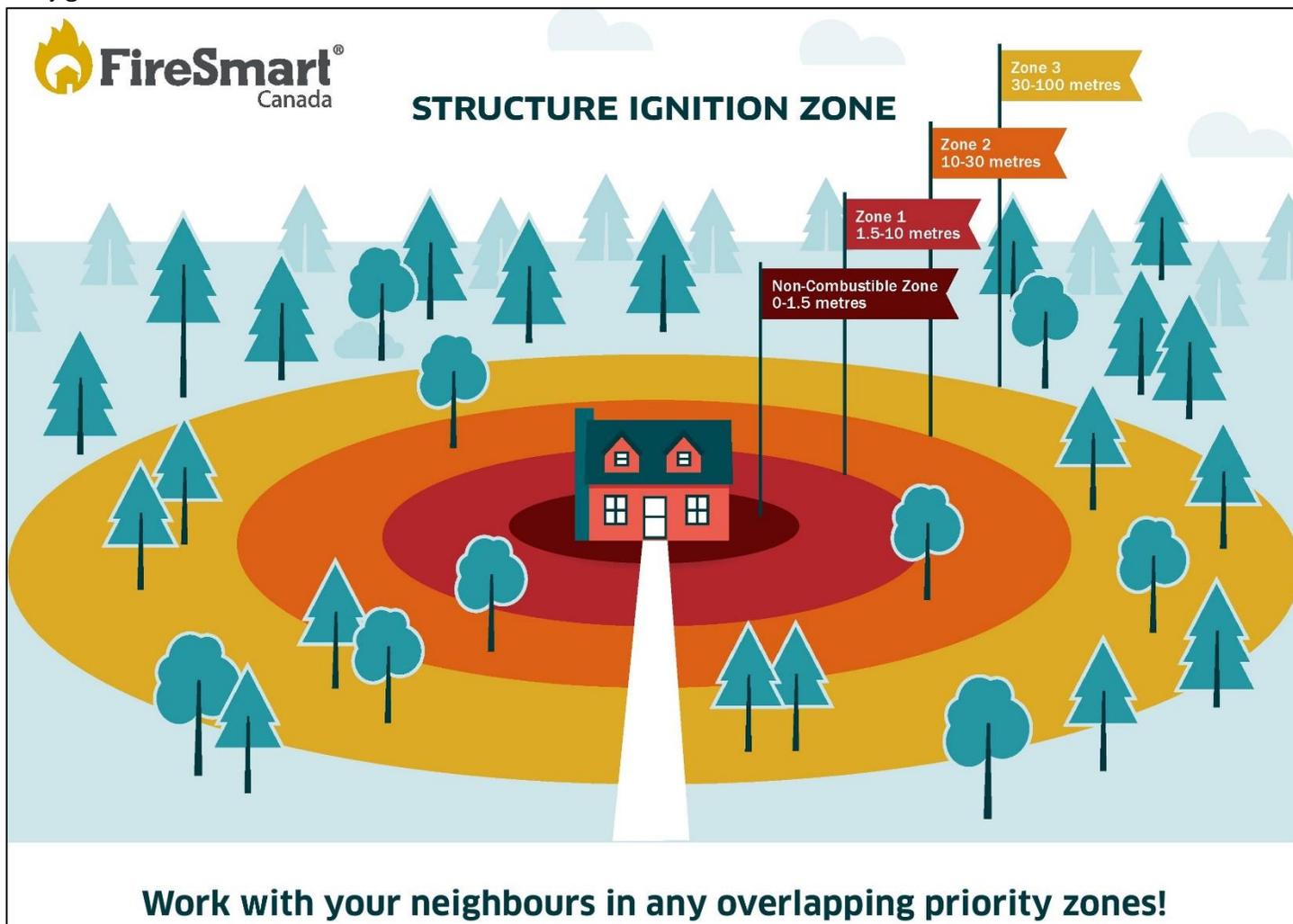
ground to eliminate potential surface fuels.

Zone 3: 30 to 100 metres from home

- Create an environment that will not support high intensity crown fires.

- A focus on fuel reduction and conversion (rather than removal) is the main priority in this zone.

- Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other flammable vegetation.



Upcoming Events or Deadlines:

- February 28 – Deadline for Early Registration Contest for BC provincial participants – www.bccib.ca
- February 28 – Deadline for Gro for Good Grants www.groforgood.com
- February 26-27 – Visit BC Communities in Bloom and BCLNA Table at the BC Recreation and Parks Associations' [Parks Professional Pathways Conference & Tradeshow](#)
- Ongoing – Become a BC Communities in Bloom Member - [Individual or Community](#)
- March 31 - Final Registration for Evaluated, Friends and Novice provincial participants
- July 31 – Submit a Places & Spaces Community Showcase for small projects – [form](#)
- July 12-18 – Provincial Community Evaluations Week



2020 PROVINCIAL EDITION

BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM

EARLY REGISTRATION CONTEST:
Paid Registrations received before
Feb. 28, 2020 are eligible to WIN a pair
of Tickets to the
PROVINCIAL AWARDS DINNER
FINAL DEADLINE: March 31, 2020

MUNICIPALITY (PLEASE PRINT)		TOTAL POPULATION	MAYOR
NAME OF MUNICIPAL CONTACT		POSITION / TITLE	
ADDRESS		CITY	POSTAL CODE
()			
PHONE		MUNICIPAL CONTACT EMAIL	
NAME OF COMMUNITY CONTACT OR LOCAL CiB CHAIR		WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR COMMUNITY	
()			
PHONE		COMMUNITY CONTACT/CHAIR E-MAIL	
PARTICIPATION CATEGORIES (please indicate your level of participation)		REGISTRATION FEE Based on Population Size:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NOVICE WORKSHOP Introduce CiB to your community with a pair of trained BC CiB facilitators.	<input type="checkbox"/> FRIENDS NON-EVALUATED holds your bloom rating one-year (½ Registration Fee)	<input type="checkbox"/> up to 1000 - \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> 1001 to 2000 - \$600 <input type="checkbox"/> 2001 to 5000 - \$675 <input type="checkbox"/> 5001 to 10,000 - \$800 (Plus 5% GST)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10,001 to 20,000 - \$925 <input type="checkbox"/> 20,001 to 50,000 - \$1025 <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001 to 100,000 - \$1225 <input type="checkbox"/> 100,000+ - \$1525 (Plus 5% GST)
<input type="checkbox"/> PROVINCIAL EDITION EVALUATED Community receives a Bloom Rating Award and 18-page report ONLY CATEGORY ELIGIBLE TO WIN A CRITERIA AWARD Getting Started package of information sent upon registration.			

EVALUATED PARTICIPANTS should plan to:

- Create a local 'in Bloom' committee to build collaboration with citizens, business, service clubs and a municipal rep (Councillor, Public Works, Administrator, Parks/Recreation);
- Prepare for an **Evaluation** to take place in mid to late July;
- Create a **Community Profile Book** (CPB) outlining the community's achievements in the specific evaluation criteria;
- Develop a simple budget to cover registration fee and to create community wide CiB awareness projects, i.e.: parades, tidy up days. Consider planning some fundraising events too;
- Host 2- facilitators (judges) typically 3rd week of July. 2-nights maximum in separate rooms (Hotel, B&B or Billeting if certain conditions can be met); with meals during evaluation day.
- Budget for sending a couple of people to the BC CiB Provincial Awards and Conference Event in the fall. Recognize your volunteers by providing an opportunity to network with other participants and to learn how to maximize your CiB program.

COMMUNITY RECEIVES:

- Getting Started Package of Information;
- Evaluation by a pair of trained BC CiB facilitators for 1-2 days;
- Bloom Rating Certificate (1 to 5 blooms);
- 18+ page Evaluation Report with Comments & Suggestions;
- 5-Bloom Winners receive a special recognition Street Banner;
- Profile on www.bccib.ca and Gardens BC tourism website;
- Information about National Competition in future years.

BENEFITS to Community:

- **Involves People of all ages to be part of the Volunteer Effort**
- **CiB Program is a tool to encourage Tidiness & Beautification**
- **Promotes Excellence in Horticultural Best Practices**
- **Provides Focus & Deadline for new & ongoing Projects**
- **CPB and Evaluation Report showcases Community Assets**
- **Report is a Cost-Effective Measurement of Success**

Cheque payable to: BC Communities in Bloom NEW MAILING ADDRESS: 19951 Fraser Highway, Langley, BC V3A 4E2	
AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$ Population Fee + 5% GST = \$ GST # 8446 03670 RT0001
PLEASE INVOICE US AT:	<input type="checkbox"/> Above Address
CANCELLATION POLICY:	Before April 30 th a \$50.00 fee may be charged, after that, all registration fees are non-refundable.
Request more information:	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsorship Catherine Kennedy (604) 576-6506 c.kennedy@telus.net



Promote your Blooms

Be proud of your Bloom achievements!

Start sharing your success and let's cover every corner of this province in Bloom winners!

Reproduction Ideas for your Bloom Badge

File formats available: jpeg, png, tif, gif, pdf

Please protect the integrity of the image: enlargements will degrade the bloom logo. Year is stated and must be shown.

8 x 10" - full size

- Metal roadway sign

4 x 5" - half size

- Window Sticker (cling vinyl)

2 x 2.5" - 1/4 size

- Ads in local paper
- Parks & Rec publications
- Municipal website
- Letterhead and Business Cards
- Facebook, other social media

More Info: c.kennedy@telus.net www.bccib.ca

