

2011 Progress:

Events: 8

Volunteers: 190

Volunteer hours: 487

2008 - 2011 Progress:

Events: 63

Volunteers: 1122

Volunteer hours: 2786



WEED OUT INVASIVE PLANTS

Fall is a great opportunity to ensure invasive plants don't escape

As summer draws to a close and annuals start to fade, we can help prevent the escape of two invasive species commonly used in hanging baskets – *Lamium* and English Ivy. Dumping of hanging baskets is the most common way these fast growers wind up in our parks, ravines and riparian areas. You can prevent their spread by:

- picking spent flowers so birds can't spread the seeds;
- hand-pulling any shoots that pop up in your yard;
- disposing of plant material into your Green Can for the City to collect;
- never composting invasive plants in your backyard composter or dumping into a park or green space;
- asking your garden centre to carry non-invasive alternatives.

Next year, consider choosing or planting up baskets with some other great options, such as *Ipomoea* (Sweet Potato Vine), *Brachyscome* (Swan River Daisy), *Bacopa*, Trailing heliotrope, Lotus vine (also known as Parrot's Beak), *Scaevola* (Fan flower) or *Lantana/Verbena* to name just a few.

For some great ground cover alternatives to *Lamium* and English Ivy, check out the "Grow Me Instead Brochure", which can be downloaded from the City of Coquitlam's website.

by Barbara Sherman

Secretary, Burke Mountain Naturalists and Chair, Coquitlam Invasive Plant Advisory Group



Volunteer Spotlight - Stephanie Proulx

Stephanie Proulx is a Katimavik* volunteer that has journeyed here from Montmagny, a small town in the province of Quebec. Since mid July, Stephanie has been volunteering with the City of Coquitlam's Environmental Stewardship Team and will continue until December. Her work has primarily consisted of maintaining compensation sites and natural areas through the removal of invasive plants. She has quickly learned how to identify various invasive and native plants in the field. She particularly enjoys eating Himalayan blackberries and plans on using them in her baking. During her volunteer term, Stephanie has also helped with the Nature Adventure and Seekers camp, where she assisted the camp leader and contributed to teaching kids about nature through games and interpretive learning. Stephanie has also helped with the Adopt a Tree program, where she helped residents choose appropriate trees for their property. Stephanie is always positive and we've really enjoyed having her around.



*Katimavik is a national volunteer program that offers Canadian youth the opportunity to contribute to the sustainable development of communities across Canada through challenging volunteer service programs. www.katimavik.org.

What's with that Knotweed?

"What's with that Knotweed or What are those crazy people at DeBoville Slough up to?" I'm sure that's what many people were thinking when we started to remove the Japanese Knotweed at DeBoville Slough. Six years later and thousands of man hours, we have many of the invaded areas under control but there is still much work to do. Japanese Knotweed is a tough customer, a deciduous perennial plant with a rhizome root that can grow up to twenty or thirty feet. Knotweed forms dense stands up to ten feet high, forcing out native plants. The plant can regenerate from broken pieces of the root or from air roots at the nodes along the stalk and should not be composted in home composters.

In the beginning we were probably a bit naive, trying to control knotweed by hand. Manual control has been generally unsuccessful in other jurisdictions but we have had success and the secret has been long term commitment. We cut the plant at the base and try to do this four times a year. The last cutting of the year may be the most important as we must try to schedule it four weeks prior to the plants going dormant for the winter so the plant can't store energy back into the root structure. The knotweed is then incinerated at the Metro Vancouver Burnaby Incinerator through the assistance of the City of Coquitlam. Enough credit cannot be given to the hundreds of volunteers that have come out over the years making this a special and rewarding project.



by David Mounteney

President, Friends of DeBoville Slough

Upcoming Events

◆ November 13, 2011

Hyde Creek Salmon Festival
Hyde Creek Recreation Centre
www.hydecreek.org

◆ January 24 - 25, 2012

Shutting Out Invaders
- IPC BC Public Forum
Delta Hotel, Richmond
www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca

Learn more. Get involved.
Visit www.coquitlam.ca or call 604-927-6226

Coquitlam