



Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee

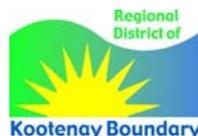
Summary of Activities, 2007



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) formally established as a non-profit society in February 2005 with the goals of education and awareness, preventing further introduction and spread, promoting coordinated and collaborative management, working towards control/containment of highly invasive plants, providing a conduit of information, and developing and maintaining an inventory of invasive plant species. Currently, the CKIPC pursues these goals by focusing on three program areas which are education and awareness, coordination, and inventory. Some on-the-ground weed treatments were conducted this year through the Communities Pulling Together program and Biocontrol Workshops.

During 2007, the CKIPC provided 8 presentations, hosted the display booth at 8 events, held a photo contest, and hosted the popular 3rd Annual Weed Tour in Creston. As well, the CKIPC hosted 3 Biocontrol Workshops for Landowners, a workshop for municipal workers (Rossland to Fruitvale), 2 workshops for BC Timber Sales staff and an Invasive Aquatic Species workshop.

The CKIPC continued to develop and use outreach tools, including distributing the remainder of the brochures "*Invasive Plants of the Central Kootenays*", installing highway signs that identify an "*Invasive Plant*" on the roadside, updating the CKIPC website (www.kootenayweeds.com) with more pages and materials, and maintaining the "Weed hotline" (a dedicated phone line that received over 120 calls in 2007). Ten press releases were issued by the CKIPC in 2007, and an additional 4 articles were written by other journalists. Eight e-newsletters were also written and distributed by the CKIPC.

The completion of the Regional Invasive Plant Strategy in 2007 was a major accomplishment. This document includes strategies to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive plants in the Central Kootenay, to manage existing invasive plant populations and reduce their impacts on biodiversity and natural resource values, and to provide a framework and capacity for long-term invasive plant management.

Other coordination activities included a strategic planning meeting for land managers, coordination information for Ministry of Transportation, following up on reports of isolated invasive plants or new invaders to the area, linking the CKIPC to the provincial Invasive Plant Council of BC and continued coordination across the US border with Idaho.

In 2007 the CKIPC conducted inventories (through weed reporting) on yellow flag iris, bristly locust and policeman's helmet. As well, high priority sites in Creston, Rossland and Kaslo were recorded and entered into the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP). The CKIPC also conducted a cursory Eurasian water-milfoil workshop in Kootenay Lake, Kootenay Canal and the lower Columbia River. Another IAPP Workshop was hosted by the CKIPC in 2007 to promote and provide training on this "one-stop shop" database.

The Communities Pulling Together program (based on the popular Weed Warrior program of the East Kootenay) was initiated in 2007. Ten community groups participated, treating 11.7 ha of high priority invasive plants. Through the biocontrol workshops for landowners, the CKIPC provided 28 releases (5270 insects) for biocontrol of spotted knapweed in the region.

One of the primary successes of this year was the generous contributions of funding partners and a timely cash flow. A challenge for this region continues to be lack of capacity or availability of experienced contractors for weed inventories and management.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) formally established as a non-profit society in February 2005 with the goals:

- To raise awareness and educate the public, government agencies, and other land managers about invasive plants and their impacts in the area;
- To prevent the further introduction and spread of invasive plants through education and awareness, early detection and control, and coordinated integrated weed management efforts;
- To promote coordinated and collaborative management of invasive plants between agencies and land occupiers;
- To work towards the control/containment of highly invasive non-native plant species;
- To provide a conduit for information and a source of expertise on invasive plants; and
- To develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of invasive plant species within the area of responsibility.

Currently, the CKIPC pursues these goals by focusing on three program areas which are education and awareness, coordination, and inventory. The CKIPC focuses on the Regional District of the Central Kootenay (RDCK) geographic area, as well as Areas A and B of the Regional District of the Kootenay Boundary (RDKB). The following report summarizes the activities of the CKIPC from January to December, 2007.

Board of Directors, Staff and Membership

The Board of Directors for 2007 (as elected at the Annual General Meeting and appointed throughout the year) include:

- Val Miller, Chair (Ministry of Forests and Range)
- John Gwilliam, Vice-Chair (Retired wildlife biologist)
- Terry Anderson, Treasurer (Ministry of Environment)
- Allan Freeborn (Kootenay Weed Control)
- Valerie Huff (Consulting Botanist)
- Darrell Smith (Ministry of Agriculture and Lands)
- Al Pollard/ Ingrid Russell (BC Timber Sales)
- Paul Peterson/ Carol Bell (Regional District of Central Kootenay)
- Crystal Wheeler (Delphinium Holdings Ltd.)
- Michael Gilfillan (West Kootenay EcoSociety)

The current Coordinator for the Committee is Juliet Craig. Other contractors were hired for specific activities including Petra Bauer, Eva Cameron, Genna Lintz and Brian Wikeem. There is no formal process for membership to the CKIPC. To become a member, an individual informs the CKIPC of their interest and provides an email address for contact. There are currently over 300 people on the CKIPC contact list, including representatives from NGO's, garden clubs, government agencies, utility companies, agricultural groups, and consultants.

2.0 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

One of the main program areas for the CKIPC is education and awareness. The key messages for education and awareness are that:

- 1) Invasive plants threaten our ecosystems and economy
- 2) People are the biggest source of spread of invasive plants
- 3) Prevention is the best control
- 4) The CKIPC promotes a collaborative and cooperative approach to invasive plant management in the Central Kootenay

A number of activities were undertaken in 2007 including presentations and events, and the development of outreach tools and publications.

Presentations and Events

Presentations

Eight talks were given to a variety of local community groups. In addition, presentations were given as part of workshops (see Table 1).

Table 1: Groups and locations of CKIPC presentations in 2007.

Group/Event	Location	Date	Audience
Castlegar Garden Club update	Castlegar	09-Jan-07	20
Classroom with Outdoors educators	Kokanee Creek Park	22-Apr-07	15
Selkirk College waterfront pull	Nelson waterfront	25-Apr-07	5
Skills Park volunteers	Rossland	17-Jun-07	45
Red Mtn. Road AGM	Silverton	24-Jun-07	30
West Kootenay Herb Growers	Edgewood	03-Aug-07	20
Katimavik Volunteers	Nelson waterfront	07-Aug-07	8
Rossland City Council	Rossland	10-Sep-07	30
ATV Quad Squad	Creston	15-Oct-07	12
TOTAL			185

Display booth

During 2007, the CKIPC display booth was hosted at eight events, including fall fairs and AGMs (see Table 2). Given the number of potential venues and the cost associated with transporting and staffing the booth, we are following a schedule to rotate the years that we take the display booth to events in order to ensure that over a 3-5 year period the display booth will be at all communities.



Table 2: Events where the CKIPC display booth was hosted in 2007.

Date	Event	Place	# people
21-Apr-07	CBEEN AGM	Nelson	Unmanned
22-Apr-07	Rossland Earth Day	Rossland	Unmanned
12-May-07	Nelson Garden Festival	Nelson	169
08-Sep-07	Nakusp Fall Fair	Nakusp	167
09-Sep-07	Hills Garlic Festival	New Denver	354
22-Sep-07	Argenta Fall Fair	Argenta	52
29-Sep-07	Trail River's Day	Trail	67
11-Oct-07	SER/CMI Conference	Cranbrook	Unmanned
		TOTAL	809 + unmanned

Photo Contest



In order to raise awareness about invasive plants, and collect useful photos to use for extension activities, the CKIPC ran a photo contest in 2007. Photographers were invited to submit photos in the following categories: Close-Up, Wildlife in Weeds, Scenic (an invasion), and Under 12 years old. Prizes of \$200 for first place and \$100 for second place were offered in each category (except for Under 12).

The website was updated to allow for uploading of the photo submissions. Over 50 photos were submitted. Photographers from Vogue Studio judged the contest and displayed the winning photos at their store. Unfortunately, there were no entries in the Under 12 category.

First place in "close-up": Canada thistle by Jim Lawrence.

Third Annual Weed Tour

The CKIPC hosted its Third Annual Weed Tour to follow up on the success of this event in the past two years. The goals of the tour were to provide an opportunity for CKIPC members to meet and network, to share information and perspectives about invasive plants and their management, and to provide current information on invasive plants. This year the tour was held in Creston and focused on agricultural issues and new invaders. Numerous guest speakers participated (see Appendix A).

The tour was offered primarily to CKIPC members rather than publicly advertised. The 2007 tour began at the Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area in Creston and went to Erickson and back. 51 people attended and feedback was excellent.

Biocontrol Workshops for Landowners



Given the immense interest in biocontrol in the Central Kootenay, particularly as a form of management for spotted knapweed, the CKIPC offered three biocontrol workshops for landowners in 2007. They were held in Yahk (July 11), Fruitvale (July 12) and Kaslo (July 17).



The goals of the workshops were to provide information to residents about biocontrol including the benefits and limitations, to show maps of releases in the area, and to teach residents how to identify bioagents on their own property. In addition, interested participants could take home bioagents (*Larinus obtusus* or *L. minutus*) to release on their property. There were approximately 75 participants at the workshops and a total of 5470 bioagents were distributed (see Table 4).

Workshop for Municipal Workers

The CKIPC responded to a request from a resident of Trail to provide training to the municipal workers of the area. We developed a workshop for municipal workers that involved introducing the issue of invasive plants, identifying local species, and discussion prevention strategies to reduce introduction and spread. The workshop was offered on June 19 to staff from Rossland, Warfield, Trail, Montrose and Fruitvale. Only five people attended. We intend to offer more workshops in 2008 to other municipalities and promote this event more actively.

Workshop for BC Timber Sales staff



The CKIPC teamed up with the Boundary Weed Management Committee in May to offer a workshop on invasive plant identification and reporting for BC Timber Sales staff in Arrow-Boundary District. As well, we teamed up with the Regional District of East Kootenay to offer a similar workshop to BCTS staff from Kootenay Lake and Rocky Mountain Districts in September. The training was part of fulfilling commitments in their Forest Stewardship Plans.

As part of this training, we developed draft prevention strategies for the forest industry and a list of priority plants to report in the CKIPC region.

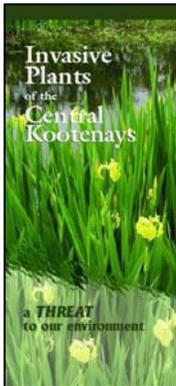
Invasive Aquatic Species Workshop



Given the recent report (2006) of Eurasian Water-milfoil in the Kootenai River in Idaho, the CKIPC (in partnership with the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program) hosted a workshop on identification and management of milfoil and other aquatic invaders. Tom Woolf from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Steve Wells from Portland State University, Terry Guthrie from Bonner's County shared their expertise in identification, sampling techniques, and reporting of invasive aquatic species.

Publications and Outreach Tools

Brochure



The CKIPC continued to distribute its brochure in 2007, stocking it at such locations as café's, garden centres, farmer supply stores, information booths, and offices. This brochure outlines what invasive plants are, why they are a problem, what people can do, and who the CKIPC is. The inside of the brochure opens to a poster featuring 11 of the invasive plant species in the area. By December, 2007, there were few copies (of the original 15,000) left and we have ordered an additional 15,000 copies. In the new brochure, blueweed and yellow hawkweed will also be featured. In addition, more information about the CKIPC and how to become a member is added.

Highway Signs

The highway sign project from last year was continued in 2007. These signs are placed on road edges (with permission from Ministry of Transportation) throughout the Central Kootenay at sites with obvious, flowering, invasive plant species. This year, we added labels of the featured species and flagging tape on the plant itself, to assist residents with identification. We continue to receive excellent feedback from the public on this initiative.



Website

The website continued to be hosted in 2007. We did an update adding new pages such as: for gardeners, for teachers, become a member, CKIPC regional strategy, reports and publications, community pulling program, and photo contest. The site can be viewed at www.kootenayweeds.com.

Weed Hotline

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee “weed hotline” (1-250-352-1160) was well advertised in 2007 through the brochure, posters of events, press releases, and the display booth. The CKIPC received approximately 120 phone calls and 162 emails in 2007 to inquire about the group, request information, or voice a concern.

Press releases

Ten press releases were done in 2007 (see Appendix B for examples). Feature press releases included:

- Scotch Broom An Alien Invader (8 May 2007)
- Help Report Yellow Flag Iris (28 May 2007)
- Communities Pulling Together in the West Kootenay (11 June 2007)
- Local Kids Pull Bully Plants From Park (18 June 2007)
- Ashram Helps Control Invasive Plants (25 June 2007)
- Get Bugs That Eat Knapweed (4 July 2007)
- Photo Contest – Your Chance to Win (20 July 2007)
- Local Groups Combat Alien Invaders In Our Backyard (August 2007 for Castlegar Parks and Trails newsletter)
- Community Pulling Program A Success (18 September 2007)
- Invasive Plant Photo Contest Winners (9 November 2007)

These were sent to (and printed by many) local papers including the Nelson Daily News, Kootenay Express, Trail Daily Times, Arrow Lakes News, Valley Voice, Creston Valley Advance, Castlegar News, East Shore Mainstreet, Kootenay Advertiser, and the Pennywise.

As well, the CKIPC and/or invasive plants were featured in articles by other journalists/writers including:

- Weeding Out (26 April 2007) by Timothy Schaffer
- There Is An Alien In Our Midst (11 June 2007) by Delta Fay Cruickshank
- Pulling Weeds for Cash (10 July 2007) by Kate Skye
- Local Invasive Species (4 November 2007) by Ulli Huber

E-Newsletters

Eight e-newsletters to CKIPC membership were developed and emailed throughout the year. Each email included:

- Current CKIPC Projects (an update on what activities the CKIPC is involved in)
- What’s happening? (Calendar of Events)
- Did you know? (Current information on invasive plants)
- Weed of the Week (a profile of an invasive plant species)

3.0 MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Strategy

One of the high priority activities for 2007 was the completion of an Invasive Plant Strategy for the Central Kootenay Region. This strategic plan provides a foundation for the long-term prevention, containment and control of invasive plants in the Central Kootenay. We hired a consultant, Brian Wikeem, to develop the strategy and it was completed in March 2007. The goal of the strategy is:

To provide a working framework for the coordination of invasive plant management through the prioritization of species and sites and to set objectives to assist land managers in delivering their weed management programs in the Central Kootenay.

The plan includes strategies to prevent the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive plants, to manage existing invasive plant populations and reduce their impacts on biodiversity and natural resource values, and to provide a framework and capacity for long-term invasive plant management.

The Strategy is organized into two sections. The first section identifies goals, objectives and actions necessary to implement the plan. The second section presents a detailed work plan to address the activities identified in the first section. The background document reviewed the current status of invasive plants in the Central Kootenay and describes the history, issues, knowledge gaps, and possible actions that forms the basis of the invasive plant strategy. The Strategy and associated documents can be found on the CKIPC website at <http://www.kootenayweeds.com/regional.php>.

Plant profiles were written as part of the background document. In 2008, these will be made into “handout” sized profiles, including photos, maps of known distribution and management objective by species.

Strategic Planning Meeting for Land Managers

To follow up on the strategy, a meeting for Land Managers (e.g. representatives from government agencies, utility companies, forest licensees, etc.) attended a meeting in November 2007. The purpose of the meeting was to revisit the strategy, re-assess the priority plant species, provide updates on current invasive plant management activities in the region, and provide feedback for future direction of the CKIPC.

Ministry of Transportation Coordination

The CKIPC assisted the Ministry of Transportation in 2007 by providing a list of roads that were a high priority for mowing early, and a list of high priority sites for treatment. Because of the “Communities Pulling Together” program, the Rest Area Rangers were not approached this year.

Weed Reports



Another form of coordination was following up on reports of rare or isolated patches of invasive plants in the area. Many of the reports in 2007 were for yellow flag iris, bristly locust and policeman's helmet since those species were advertised in the media. If a site was reported, we filled in an inventory record and entered the data into IAPP (see inventory section below for more details). In some cases, the sites were treated using the Communities Pulling Together program (e.g. yellow flag iris in Erie Lake and Meldeanna Pond) or staff from other agencies (e.g. Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program for yellow flag iris near Nelson). This system is aimed to begin an Early Detection Rapid Response protocol.

Provincial Coordination

The CKIPC Coordinator, Juliet Craig, represented the CKIPC on a broader level (primarily Provincial) to ensure that current information is brought to the Central Kootenay and that the concerns and issues of the Central Kootenay are brought to the Province. The CKIPC Coordinator participated in a number of meetings including:

- Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPC) Forum (Richmond - January)
- Provincial Weed Coordinators meeting (Richmond - January)
- IPC Communications Workshop (Richmond – May)
- IPC/ MAL Community Pulling meeting (Richmond – November)

As well, Juliet participates on a limited level with the Invasive Plant Council of BC's Communications Committee.

Cross-Border Coordination

Cross-border coordination has continued with the sharing of information between the CKIPC, and Boundary County in Idaho. Duke Guthrie, Brad Bluemer, and Tom Woolf from Idaho and Steve Wells from Portland State University provided information at the Milfoil Workshop in Creston in October. Representatives from Idaho and Washington are on the CKIPC email list so they are informed of our activities in BC.

4.0 INVENTORY AND MAPPING

Yellow Flag Iris, Bristly Locust and Policeman's Helmet Inventory

Inventories for three species were conducted this year. These included yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), bristly locust (*Robinia hispida*) and policeman's helmet/Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). Most of the inventory was done on a reporting basis, rather than systematically driving road systems. These three species were advertised using press releases, radio advertisements, e-newsletters and posters.

Provincial inventory standards (from Ministry of Forests and Range) were used to complete a *Site and Inventory Record* for each site. Generally, 100 m breaks between plants were used to designate a new site although distinct private property lines were also used since access was based on permission from the landowner.



Seventeen new yellow flag iris sites were reported/ inventoried in 2007. These included eight sites in Erie Lake (near Salmo), and sites at Shakespeare Road (Nakusp), Nelway border crossing, entrance to John's Walk (Nelson), Slocan Pool (near Slocan Valley junction), Passmore, and two sites at Taghum (past the end of Fisherman Road) and two at Rossland. Where possible (site was accessible and not on private land), these sites were targeted for the Communities Pulling Together program. All data for yellow flag iris were entered into IAPP.

Over 50 sites of policeman's helmet were reported/ inventoried in Warfield, Trail, Rossland, Oasis, Nelson (Blewett Road and surrounding area), Edgewood, Winlaw, Trail, Riondel, and Wynndel. Due to the abundance of policeman's helmet in the area, a more thorough inventory of the Rossland and Warfield was completed by systematically driving the road systems. All data for policeman's helmet were entered into IAPP.

Bristly locust was recorded in the Castlegar to Trail area, Warfield, Fruitvale, Nelson, and north shore of Kootenay Lake. Two varieties of the species (bristly and non-bristly) were recorded. Bristly locust is not currently a species listed within the IAPP application so those data were not entered. The CKIPC houses all the original data forms so they can be entered into IAPP in the future. Bristly locust inventory information was recorded and displayed in a poster by Valerie Huff for the Society for Ecological Restoration conference in Cranbrook in October.

Creston Inventory

During the planning of the 2007 Weed Tour in Creston, representatives from the Creston Valley Beef Growers Association noted several high priority invasive plant species that were present in Creston. Juliet Craig followed up on these sites with Dorothy Roth and Lorraine Friessen to fill out site records and enter the data into IAPP. Plant species recorded include leafy spurge, blueweed, meadow knapweed, teasel and baby's breath.

Rossland Inventory

Because a systematic survey for policeman's helmet was being conducted in the Rossland/Warfield areas and little other inventory information had been documented, inventory records for other species (e.g. knotweed, Scotch broom) were completed as they were discovered. Eva Cameron conducted this inventory and entered these data into IAPP.

Kaslo Knotweed Inventory

The CKIPC Coordinator followed up on a weed report of bristly locust in Kaslo but could not find the site. Instead, a brief inventory of knotweed in the Kaslo area was conducted since it had not previously been recorded. In retrospect, most of these sites were likely Bohemian knotweed (*Polygonum x bohemicum*) rather than Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) so they should be checked again to confirm their identification.

Eurasian Water-Milfoil Inventory

Following the report of Eurasian water-milfoil in the Kootenai River Idaho in 2006, and the interest in determining its full distribution during the October workshop, the CKIPC conducted a 2-day inventory of milfoil in Kootenay Lake. Frank Pouw used a milfoil rake to sample boat launches and other access points between Kaslo and Castlegar, and Castlegar to Trail. He sampled a total of 21 sites and found Eurasian water-milfoil only at Woodbury Point, although northern milfoil was extensive throughout the lake¹.

Invasive Alien Plant Program Training Workshop



The CKIPC is promoting the Invasive Alien Plant Program application as a “one-stop shop” for invasive plant inventory and treatment data in the region. The CKIPC, in partnership with the Ministry of Forests and Range, hosted an IAPP training workshop on November 6 and had full registration (20 participants). The goals of the workshop were to introduce participants to the database and its structure, provide hands-on-learning to viewing maps, collecting data, entering data, and querying data, and to collect feedback for database improvement.

¹ Pouw, F. 2007. *Aquatic Invasive Plant Survey for Kootenay Lake and Kootenay River and the Lower Columbia River*. Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, Nelson, BC.

5.0 ON-THE-GROUND WEED MANAGEMENT

Generally, the CKIPC does not conduct on-the-ground weed management. The Committee maintains that weed treatment is the responsibility of the agency/land occupier of the property. However, the CKIPC has been involved in some on-the-ground management that includes an educational component.

'Communities Pulling Together' Program

In 2007 the CKIPC initiated the Communities Pulling Together (CPT) program. Modeled after the successful Weed Warrior program of the East Kootenay, the CPT program encourages community groups to commit 3 hours to manual treatment of a high priority invasive plant site. The program includes an introduction to invasive plants, information on identification, and information on appropriate treatment methods and disposal. In recognition of the group's efforts, they receive a \$250 honorarium, t-shirts, refreshments, and other give-away items.

The Central Kootenay region was one of three areas that were part of a Provincial pilot (coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Invasive Plant Council of BC) in 2007 to assess the feasibility of expanding the program throughout BC. The goals of the program were primarily to conduct effective treatment of high priority sites, and also to raise awareness and educate community groups about invasive plants.



The CKIPC provide 10 community pulling programs to a variety of groups (see Table 3). Species of focus included yellow flag iris, policeman's helmet, Scotch broom, greater knapweed, rush skeletonweed and purple loosestrife. Generally sites were selected at the beginning of the season and groups were matched accordingly. However, some community groups were matched to sites that were reported during the field season and considered a high priority.

Table 3: Species and area treated by Communities Pulling Together program in the Central Kootenay in 2007.

Event #	Group	Site	Species treated	# people	# Hrs	# ppl hours	# ha treated	# bags filled
1	Redfish School	Kokanee Creek	Spotted knapweed	100	0.5	50	0.5	27
2	Creston Air Cadets	CVWMA	Yellow flag iris	8	3	24	1.2	16
3	Salmo Streamkeepers	Erie Lake	Yellow flag iris	7	3.5	24.5	0.0087	Large pile
4	Yasodhara Ashram	Kootenay Bay	Scotch broom	17	3	51	0.145	3 trucks
5	Golder & Associates	Meldeanna Pond	Yellow flag iris	12	3.5	42	0.1	14
6	West Kootenay Lacrosse	Warfield	Policeman's helmet	15	3	45	0.16	40
7	Castlegar Garden Club	Oasis Wetland	Policeman's helmet Rush	8	3	24	0.09	53
8	Nelson Covenant Church	Shoreacres Castlegar	skeletonweed	13	2	26	8	6
9	Mom's Support Group West Kootenay	Railgrade	Greater Knapweed	12	3.5	42	0.29	22
10	Naturalists	Bird Creek Marsh	Purple loosestrife	12	3	36	1.2	19
TOTAL				204	28	364.5	11.6937	197

As part of this program, a sandwich board, t-shirts, a giant cheque and tools and supplies were purchased in 2007 so that costs per program will be reduced in 2008. The program received excellent feedback and raised awareness about invasive plants in the region, particularly to groups who would not have otherwise received information.



Biocontrol Releases

Through the biocontrol workshops for land owners and a collaborative partnership with Ministry of Forests and Range, biocontrol agents (*Larinus obtusus* and *L. minutus*) were distributed to private property owners to release in 2007. During the presentation, land owners were provided with information on the benefits and limitations of biocontrol for spotted knapweed and information on how to identify and release bioagents. Participants were asked to bring a yogurt container to the program if they were interested in receiving insects. Landowners' names and contact information were recorded so that the CKIPC could follow up on release sites and complete a release record. All information was entered into IAPP.

Table 4: Number of biocontrol agents released (and number of releases) through the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee in 2007.

Workshop	<i>Larinus obtusus</i>	<i>Larinus minutus</i>
Yahk	1000 (5)	200 (1)
Fruitvale	1800 (17)	
Kaslo	2470 (6)	
TOTAL	5270 (28)	200 (1)

* The number of insects is displayed in the table, and the number of releases is indicated in brackets.



6.0 FUNDING

Funding for the 2007-08 fiscal year was graciously provided by numerous agencies (see Table 4). Some of this funding was project specific (e.g. education, community pulling program, inventory) while other funding was for general committee activities. We are particularly grateful for these “general” funds, provided by Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (FortisBC) since they allow the committee to continue to function and provide programs. Please see the attachment for a detailed financial statement.

Table 5: CKIPC program revenue summary by funding agency 2007

Agency	Funding Contribution 2007-08	Funding Received in 2007	Type of Funding
Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (IASPP)	\$45,000	\$41,470	Includes funding committed 2006-07 but not received then
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	\$14,000	\$14,000	Seed
Columbia Basin Trust	\$19,000	\$16,200	Education & Community Pulling
Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative (AEPI)	\$10,000	\$9,500	Education
Ministry of Forests and Range	\$ 8,000	\$16,000	Many activity areas (includes \$8,000 from 2006-07 received in 2007)
Fish & Wildlife Comp. Program (Fortis BC)	\$ 5,000	\$10,000	Strategy and Milfoil (includes 2006-07 funding of \$5000)
Ministry of Transportation	\$ 4,500	\$4,500	Coordination and Community Pulling
BC Hydro	\$4,000	\$4,000	Community Pulling
Terasen Gas	\$3,500	\$-	Inventory (entering data into IAPP)
TeckCominco Metals Ltd.	\$ 2,000	\$740	Community Pulling (received funds from 2006 commitment)
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary	\$2,000	\$2,000	Education (particularly RDKB area)
FortisBC	\$2,000	\$2,000	Community Pulling
Invasive Plant Council/Min. of Agriculture & Lands	\$2,000	\$2,000	Community Pulling
Castlegar Garden Club	\$200	\$200	Education and Community Pulling
BC Timber Sales	\$-	\$10,000	Received from 2006-07 fiscal year
TOTAL FUNDS COMMITTED	\$121,200		\$12,330 not yet received
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$132,610	

Note: Although some funds were received in 2007, they were for work completed in 2006 and were final payments from the 2006-07 fiscal year.

In-Kind

A number of agencies and companies provided in-kind services this year, including:

- Ministry of Forests and Range (Board member and Chair, biocontrol agents, printing of posters, carpooling to meetings, use of LCD projector, staff time to install signs, storage, development and plotting of biocontrol map)
- Ministry of Environment (Board member and Treasurer, use of meeting room, photocopying, laminating, use of LCD Projector, colour printing)

- Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (Board member, booklets and materials, Guide to Weeds and 7 Steps to Managing Your Weeds books)
- Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program – Columbia Basin (use of meeting room)
- Kootenay Weed Control (Board member)
- Columbia Power Corporation (use of meeting room, catering)
- Regional District of Central Kootenay (Board member, use of meeting room)
- Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (storage of brochures)
- Delphinium Holdings Ltd. (Board member, review of Strategy)
- Katimavik (putting together carabineers)
- Nelson Farmer’s Supply and Hipperson Hardware (supplies for community pulling)
- Vogue Studios (judging photo contest, photo supplies and mounting)
- Impact Equipment and Arrow Professional Landscaping (disposal of weeds from community pulling events)
- Numerous agencies (participating in weed tour and CKIPC meetings)

Table 6: Estimated in-kind contribution by expense category to the CKIPC by a variety of agencies in 2007.

Category	Estimated In-Kind Contribution
Contract Services	\$160.00
Human resources	\$71,390.00
Materials & Supplies	\$2,769.00
Printing and Production Expenses	\$447.00
Storage costs	\$1,200.00
Travel & field expenses	\$20,085.00
Grand Total	\$96,051.00

Table 7: CKIPC program expenditure summary 2007 (from Jan 1 to Dec 31, 2007)

Activity	Expenditures*
Education and Awareness	\$31,389.06
Management and Coordination	\$9,588.49
Inventory	\$10,707.41
Community Pulling	\$14,020.72
Regional Strategy	\$17,303.27
Administration	\$5,995.68
Total	\$89,004.63

* Note that GST was not included in the above expenditures; Inventory includes data management (entering data into IAPP); Community Pulling could be considered “on-the-ground” but biocontrol costs are within Education.

APPENDIX A: WEED TOUR AGENDA, 2007.

“High Priority Alien Invaders”

3rd Annual Weed Tour of the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, 2007

8:30am – Carpoolers (from Castlegar, Trail, Nelson, etc.) meet at Salmo across from Esso. Even if your car is full, please meet here as we will have a van to transport people. The Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area has limited parking.

9:45am – Carpoolers (from Creston, Cranbrook, etc.) meet at Overwaitea mall parking lot to load into bus. Even if your car is full, please meet here to load onto bus. The Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area has limited parking.

Weed Tour Stops

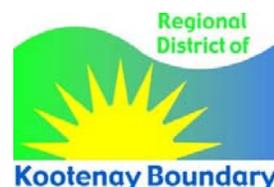
Time	Location	Topic(s)	Resource Person	Weeds to ID
8:30am	Carpoolers meet at Salmo	* Limited parking at CVWMA – please carpool!		Peak at field scabious if time allows
9:45am	Carpoolers meet at Overwaitea in Creston	As above		
10am	Creston Valley Wildlife Management Centre	Welcome and Introduction	Val Miller	
	West Creston Road	Weeds and wetlands Communities Pulling Together Dalmatian toadflax biocontrol	Carla Haegle/ Marc Andre Beaucher Juliet Craig Val Miller/ Rose DeClerke-Floate	Yellow flag iris Dalmatian toadflax Sulphur cinquefoil Orange hawkweed Oxeye daisy
	Huscroft property	Early detection, rapid response Private land issues	Dave Ralph	Leafy spurge Yellow hawkweed
	Lower Wynndel Pit	Gravel pits and vectors of spread	Lorraine Friessen & Dorothy Roth Val Miller	Blueweed
	Hwy 3	Garden ornamentals	<i>Drive by</i>	Japanese knotweed hybrid
	Sylvester and 36 th St.	Garden ornamentals – approaches and challenges	Juliet Craig	Baby's breath Samples of teasel and knotweed
12:30pm	Canyon Park	LUNCH (provided)	Mugwump's catering	

“High Priority Alien Invaders”

3rd Annual Weed Tour of the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, 2007

1:00pm	Just outside Canyon Park	Yellow hawkweeds update High priority sites on private land	Val Miller Lorraine Friessen	Yellow hawkweed Common tansy
	Canyon-Lister	Agricultural impacts - Creston Valley Beef Growers program Single Agency Delivery Model Approach	Lorne Ostendorf Kevin Paterson	
	Canada-US Border	Updates from across the border Updates from Down Under	Duke Guthrie Amy Ferriter Shon Schooler	
	Goat River south road	Prioritizing species – CKIPC Regional Strategy	Juliet Craig	Meadow knapweed
	Garden ornamentals	Garden ornamentals	<i>Drive by</i>	Teasel
	Lower Kootenay Band Land	First Nations and invasive plant management Hound’s tongue biocontrol	Chris Luke Jr. Rose DeClerke-Floate	Hound’s tongue
3:30pm	Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area	Wrap-up Evaluation Forms	Val Miller Juliet Craig	

Special thanks to all our funders for education in 2007



Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee

invasiveplants@uniserve.com

(250) 352-1160

www.kootenayweeds.com

**APPENDIX B: SAMPLES OF ARTICLES BY/ABOUT THE
CKIPC, 2007.**



(TOP) A Douglas maple is put into the ground by (from left), Rachelle Evans, Frank Fowler, Bob Roy and Raymond Carney. (BOTTOM LEFT) Bob MacIver, an instructor at Selkirk College's Integrated Environmental Planning, carries some native plants to be placed in the ground along Cottonwood Creek waterfront. (BOTTOM RIGHT) Selkirk College Integrated Environmental Planning instructor Frank Fowler guides the front end loader as it moves a tree to the planting site.

Bakery key to project

Continued from Page 1

As well, the soil used from Biosustain included a mix of local soils, amended with ground up cottonwood and coffee grounds from Oso Negro, said Ellen Pearkes, a Nelson resident who brought Au Soleil Levant french bakery and the college together on the project.

During the summer a student from the program will be employed by the fund to weed and water the area so it can establish the growth.

For more than one year Au Soleil Levant has been collecting 25 cents for each paper bag used at the bakery to raise awareness about the environmental costs of non-reusable bags. The paper bag fund grew to be over \$1,800, used for the Cottonwood Creek project.

But this won't be the last project funded by Au Soleil Levant, said owner Raymond Gariepy.

"We want to be involved in the community, with any worthwhile projects that are involved with environmental improvements," he said. "So we're still collecting funds for [future projects]."

What are invasive plants?

Invasive plants are non-native species that are generally free of the natural predators that help to keep them in check in their native country.

Most invasive plants arrived here either as seed stowaways in grains from Europe and Asia, or as treasured plants from the homelands of settlers.

What do they cause?

Since grazing animals rarely eat these weeds, infestations can impact wildlife habitat and rangeland.

These plants can also compete with agricultural crops and choke them out.

On a global scale, these plants are considered to be the second biggest contributing factor to the loss of biodiversity, next to the loss of habitat.

Source: BC Hydro's Invasive plants of the Central Kootenays

WEEDING OUT

Selkirk College students take aim at invasive weeds on Nelson's waterfront

By **TIMOTHY SCHAFFER**
Daily News Staff

Nelson may have a tourism-based economy, but there is one type of visitor that isn't welcome.

Invasive weeds, ones that have arrived from Europe or Asia through various means, aren't helpful to the local ecology and therefore must be removed or controlled, said Frank Fowler, Selkirk College instructor of Integrated Environmental Planning.

Fowler and four of his students were on the waterfront along Cottonwood Creek walkway Wednesday to remove common tansy and replace it with native plants such as red osier dogwood.

The \$1,800 project — fund-

ed by Au Soleil Levant and the City of Nelson — was a vital one for the health of the waterfront, said Fowler.

"It's important to keep after some of these invasive species and to keep them in control, if not eradicate them," he said.

"If you let [the invasive species] go they just keep taking over more and more area."

Without natural checks, and their aggressive growth and abundant seed production, non-native plants spread rapidly throughout local ecosystems, choking out native species.

This impacts the local ecosystem by reducing, if not eliminating, the source of food for wild animals, reduces their habitat and minimizes cover, said Fowler.

With the west waterfront pathway through Cottonwood Creek over-

makes the perfect place to do the project, said Fowler.

As part of their annual field school experience, three IEP students removed tansy using shovels and axes and replaced it with native shrubs such as red osier dogwood.

Last year the area was mapped with GIS by second year students. This year the work of removing some of the tansy began.

"One of the goals was to restore riparian health of the Cottonwood Creek area up to the outlet (of the creek)," said Rachelle Evans, one of the IEP students.

Other native plants included in the replanting were hawthorn, chokecherry, douglas maple and kinnikinnick.

Top alien invaders in the Kootenays

Orange hawkweed
Dalmatian toadflax
Common tansy
Rush skeletonweed
Hound's tongue
Field scabious
Scotch broom
Yellow flag iris
Purple loosestrife
Policeman's helmet

grown in places with non-native weeds such as tansy, it

See BAKERY/Page 3

COMMUNITIES 'PULLING TOGETHER' IN THE WEST KOOTENAY

By JULIET CRAIG
Special to the Daily News

Are you part of a club, sports team or organization that is trying to raise funds? Do you work in an office and want to promote team spirit? Would you like to do something for the environment? If so, consider the "Communities Pulling Together" program offered by the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee.

Based on the "Weed Warrior" program of the East Kootenay, Communities Pulling Together (CPT) encourages community groups to become local stewards by hand pulling invasive plants at a high priority invasive plant site.

In recognition of the group's efforts, they receive an honorarium of \$250 for their efforts, as well as gifts and refreshments.

Invasive plants (also called noxious weeds) are introduced, non-native plant species that take over our local landscapes. Because they arrive in Canada without natural predators to keep them under control, they choke out native plants, reduce biodiversity, affect agriculture, and impact wildlife habitat. Some of these species include spotted knapweed, purple loosestrife, and yellow flag iris.



— PHOTO SUBMITTED

Participants of the East Kootenay "Weed Warrior" program (top and bottom). Now folks around here can help rid the area of bad weeds and build community spirit at the same time.



By pulling these plants, we can reduce the impacts they have on our environment.

Funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and BC Hydro, the Communities Pulling Together program is geared towards a variety of community groups including sports teams, youth clubs, non-profit societies, community service groups, church groups, etc.

It's a wonderful way to promote stewardship, encourage a family activity, and raise money for your group.

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) has identified high priority sites for hand-pulling and welcomes groups from throughout the West Kootenay to participate. A group makes a three hour commitment for the event for a day and time that is convenient. The three hours includes an introduction to invasive plants, pulling weeds, and a refreshment break. For more information, see www.kootenayweeds.com/pulling or call the CKIPC at (250) 352-1160.

Juliet Craig is the Coordinator of the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee.

N

HELP REPORT INVASIVE YELLOW FLAG IRIS

NELSON — Have you seen a beautiful yellow iris on a local lake or river? If so, the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) would like to know.

Yellow flag iris, like some other non-native invasive species, is introduced as a beautiful garden ornamental that can "jump the garden fence" and infest native habitats. This iris is used to beautiful ponds and other wet areas, and is showing up in lakes, rivers and other wetland areas.

"Because invasive non-native species like yellow flag iris arrive in Canada without natural predators to keep them under control, they can quickly spread" explains Juliet Craig, Coordinator of the CKIPC. "Once yellow flag iris is introduced, it forms dense thickets and changes the natural habitat affecting birds, frogs, native plants, and other wetland species."

Yellow flag iris has been



— PHOTO SUBMITTED

Yellow flag iris, an escaped garden ornamental, growing at Nancy Greene Lake.

reported in Nancy Greene Lake, Meldeanna Pond, Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, and other remote areas where gardens are not nearby.

"We're not sure how this iris is getting introduced into our local wetlands" explains Juliet Craig, Coordinator of the CKIPC, "but it is a great con-

cern. We are trying to identify the full distribution of this species so we have a better idea of how to manage for it. Once it is established, it is very difficult to remove."

The public can help by reporting sightings of yellow flag iris. Since it is the only yellow iris that grows in water, it is easy to identify.

"Basically, if you see a yellow iris growing in water, that's the plant. It is the same species that is being sold as a garden ornamental. We are interested in mapping all locations including both natural habitats and gardens. We are also very happy to report that all of the nurseries we have spoken to this year will no longer order yellow flag iris for next year's stock."

If you see any patches of yellow flag iris, particularly in native habitats (but also garden ponds), please call the CKIPC at (250) 351-1160 or email invasiveplants@uniserve.com.

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Invasive weeds the Kootenay culprit



photo courtesy of juliet craig

WEED WARRIORS — Local students helped out with the "Communities Pulling Together" program in pulling out the invasive plant, knapweed from Kokanee Creek Park.

LYNSEY FRANKS
News Editor

From June to September various group organizations are encouraged to sign-up to help remove foreign foliage from the West Kootenay region.

The organization is entitled "Communities Pulling Together," (CPT) and has come to life to rid of invasive

plants in the Kootenay's. According to Coordinator for the Central Kootenay, Juliet Craig, it's based on the "Weed Warrior" program of the East Kootenay.

CPT is encouraging local groups, clubs, sports teams and organizations to become stewards by pulling invasive plants at high priority invasive plant sites.

Craig says that yellow

flag iris, a garden pond ornamental has been escaping into natural wetland habitat as well as policemen's helmet, a garden ornamental that escapes and goes down river systems. Rush skeleton weed, a plant that can be found in the Slocan Valley, came in accidentally from contaminated seeds, field scabies, a plant that can be found in the Salmo area, was introduced to the area by unknown causes, as well spotted knapweed, scotch broom, orange hawkweed and purple loosestrife are all considered invasive and non-native plants.

These invasive plants must be removed in order to reduce and prevent the choke-out of native plants, the reduction of biodiversity, agricultural land loss and loss of ungulate winter range, which deer eat.

According to CPT, these plants are introduced to Canada without the natural predators that keep them under control in their homeland, and since local animals rarely eat these plants, there is nothing to prevent them from spreading, resulting in dense monocultures that take over habitat of native plants.

This summer, CPT hopes to host 10 different weed pulling events throughout the Central Kootenay, with a hope that the project will be

successful, Craig says she'd like to see the program pick up in future years.

The program is funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and BC Hydro and

"This will make a difference in the area," said Craig. "By controlling them we can help prevent them from spreading to other areas."

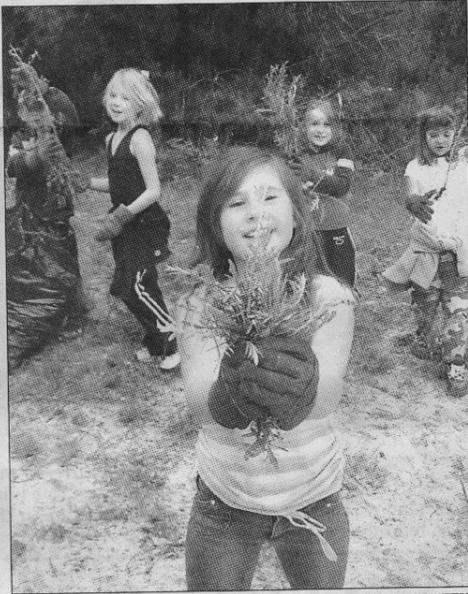
Most recently, 100 school children participated in a weed pull at Kokanee Creek Park, where all parties involved were delighted at the results.

"And there's a bonus for the community group," said Craig. "They can receive a \$250 honorarium for their help."

For more information on CPT, visit www.kootenay-weeds.com.



Kids pull 'bully plants' from park



— PHOTO SUBMITTED

Redfish students did a great job of ridding the park of knapweed earlier this month.

NELSON — Almost 100 school children participated in a "weed pull" at Kokanee Creek Park earlier this month. Children in grades one through six from Redfish School helped the park by pulling spotted knapweed, an aggressive invasive species.

Organized by the Friends of West Kootenay Parks, the Kokanee Creek Interpretive Centre, and the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, this program kicked off with a play in the theatre on "bully plants" and how they can take over our environment. Students enjoyed watching their peers act out characters like "Lucy Loosestrife" and "Nathan Knapweed" to learn how they arrive to Canada and impact our ecosystems.

"It was great to see so many smiling faces in our centre" says Nancie Dohan, long-time park interpreter at Kokanee Creek Park. "It is important for both visitors and residents to understand the issues of invasive plants so they can do their part to control spread."

Invasive plants, including spotted knapweed, scotch broom, purple loosestrife, and orange hawkweed, are introduced to Canada without the natural predators that keep them under control in their homeland. Since local animals rarely eat these plants, there is nothing to keep them from spreading, so they can form dense monocultures and take over habitat from native plants and animals.

"Invasive plants are a growing problem in the Central Kootenay" says Juliet Craig, Coordinator of the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee. "They can impact both our ecosystems and economy so getting people motivated to do something about it is just wonderful."

Armed with gloves and plastic bags, the students swarmed the beaches of the park to pull spotted knapweed. Over 20 bags of plants were pulled, reducing both the number of plants growing in the park, and the number of seeds that will be produced this year.

"The kids had so much fun" says Ursula Lowrey of

Getting bugs that eat knapweed

By JULIET CRAIG
Special to the Daily News

One of the most common questions we receive at the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee is "How do I get rid of knapweed?"

Spotted knapweed is the most prevalent non-native invasive plant species in the Central Kootenay. It covers thousands of hectares of land in BC, is highly competitive and degrades natural plant communities.

The knapweed invasion has a negative effect on wildlife, including important ungulate winter range. An individual plant can produce up to 140,000 seeds per square meter, giving little opportunity for native plants to grow.

On your property, this plant can be very difficult to control and can impact pasture and agricultural land.

There are many methods for controlling knapweed, including mechanical methods, and chemical methods (herbicides).

Another tool is biological control (biocontrol). This method involves the use of the plants natural enemies, usually insects, that attack and weaken the plants. These insects are carefully screened before they are released in Canada by Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada.

There are several insects that have been used to help control knapweed including root-attacking moths and weevils, and seedhead-attacking weevils and flies.

Another common question that we get asked is "How do I get some of those insects for my property?!" Our answer? You probably already have most of them.

Biocontrol agents have been released in the West Kootenay area since the 1950's. The Ministry of Forests has been actively releasing biocontrol agents for knapweed since the 1970's in this area.

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee is offering workshops on Knapweed biocontrol. Each event includes an update on invasive species in your area, information on biocontrol, and insects to look for.

Then we'll head outside to look for these insects up close. You'll learn how to monitor your own property for insects that might already be there, and how to develop a strategy for controlling knapweed on your property.

Visit Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee website at www.kootenayweeds.com.

The events are being held at:

- o Yahk Hall, Wed. July 11, 1pm.
- o Kaslo Senior's Hall, Thurs. July 12 at 7pm
- o Fruitvale Memorial Hall, Tues. July 17 at 7pm.

Bring a yogurt container with holes punched in so you can bring some insects home.

Pulling weeds for cash

By Kate Skye
Times Staff

An environmental group is dangling an extra incentive for non-profits to get out and pull weeds — a \$250 honourarium.

If groups spend a few hours pulling invasive plants from roadsides and riverbanks around the region, the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant committee will offer the honorarium.

Last week, the West Kootenay Razorbacks lacrosse team with some parents, and Emily Nilsen from the B.C. Land Conservancy, helped Juliet Craig pull and bag hundreds of unwanted invasive plants called "policeman's helmet" from Emerald Ridge in Warfield.

The program is called Communities Pulling Together and is modeled on a national program called Weed Warriors, said Craig. Teams who sign up receive the honorarium, T-shirts and free refreshments while they work.

Craig is the coordinator for the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant committee, a group that educates and takes action on invasive plants in the area. She said Communities Pulling Together "promotes stewardship and is a great fundraiser."

In Warfield, policeman's helmet, also known as "Himalayan balsam," is an escaped garden ornamental that has been listed as an invasive weed. The plant grows up to two metres tall and can produce 200 seeds. If touched when ripe, the seeds can shoot out six metres. The pink flowers are shaped like a policeman's helmet, hence the name.

"Nothing eats this plant," Craig said. "It is invasive by nature and was likely brought to the area by accident."

The plant thrives in wetlands, and can be found on river's edges and stream banks. The shallow root system makes the plant easy to pull as the 11 volunteers found out Thursday when they filled dozens of bags. Village of Warfield crews helped by taking the bags to the landfill.

"This isn't a plant you can compost," Craig added, "as the seeds will spread when you spread the compost."

A number of sites, like the one in Warfield, have been identified for weed pulling and more than 10 groups have been assigned to pull various invasive weeds over the summer.

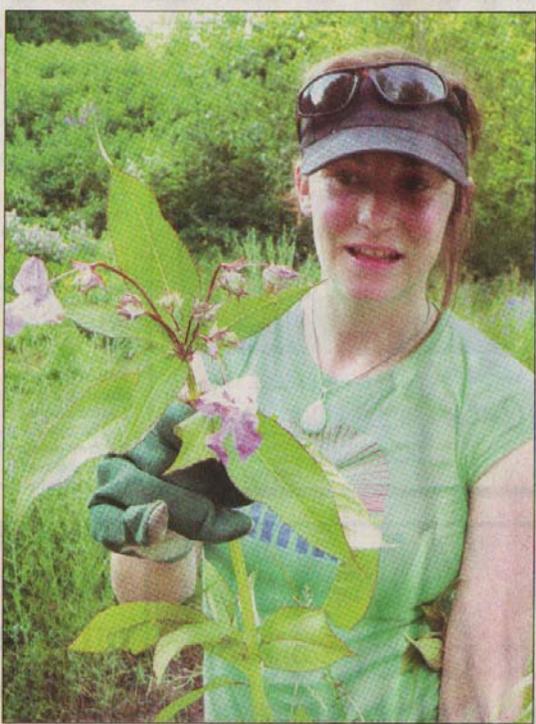
Castlegar's Sally Davidson and son Travis were among the group of volunteers who helped pull weeds Thursday. Davidson said the lacrosse team signed up to help raise money for the provincial lacrosse championship they were hoping to attend.

"Unfortunately, our team was knocked out by Cranbrook at the end of June," she said. "But the fundraiser will help the team get a jump-start for next year."

The Razorbacks have played in the provincial lacrosse championship three years in a row, winning bronze in Prince George last year, and brought home a silver medal three years ago.

Disappointed they won't be playing this year, Davidson said weed-pulling is a good distraction and a great way to spend an evening. Weed pulling is also good for hand-eye coordination, a skill necessary in lacrosse.

To find out more about Communities Pulling Together, go to www.kootenayweeds.com



Kate Skye photo

PLANT BE GONE: Emily Nilsen was part of a group of hard-working, weed-pulling volunteers who spent Thursday pulling handfuls of "policeman's helmet" from the banks at Emerald Ridge in Warfield.

Workshop in Fruitvale Tuesday

Get bugs that eat knapweed

By Juliet Craig
Times Contributor

NELSON — One of the most common questions received by the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee is, "How do I get rid of knapweed?"

Spotted knapweed is the most prevalent non-native invasive plant species in the Central Kootenay. It covers thousands of hectares of land in B.C., is highly competitive and degrades natural plant communities.

The knapweed invasion has a negative effect on wildlife, including important ungulate winter range. An individual plant can produce up to 140,000 seeds per square metre, giving little opportunity for native plants to grow.

The plant can be very difficult to control on private property, too, and can impact pasture and agricultural land.

There are many methods for controlling knapweed including mechanical methods (such as handpulling), and chemical meth-

ods (herbicides).

Another tool is biological control (biocontrol). This method involves the use of the plant's natural enemies, usually insects, that attack and weaken the plants.

These insects are carefully screened before they are released in Canada by Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada to ensure that they only attack knapweed and no other plant species. There are several insects that have been used to help control knapweed including root-attacking moths and weevils, and seedhead-attacking weevils and flies.

Another common question that the invasive plant committee gets is, "How do I get some of those insects for my property?"

Answer: You probably already have most of them!

Biocontrol agents have been released in the West Kootenay area since the 1950s. The Ministry of Forests has been actively releasing biocontrol agents for knapweed since the 1970s in this area.

In this region, there have been

so many biocontrol releases for knapweed that the insects have likely spread onto local property already, giving a helping hand for knapweed control.

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee is offering workshops on knapweed biocontrol. Each event includes an update on invasive species in your area, information on biocontrol, and what insects to look for.

Then attendees will head outside to look for these insects up close where they will learn how to monitor their own properties for insects that might already be there, and how to develop a strategy for controlling knapweed.

A workshop will be held at the Fruitvale Memorial Hall on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Attendees are asked to bring a yogurt container with holes punched in it so insects can be taken home with them (pending availability).

For more information on the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, visit www.kootenay-weeds.com or call 250-352-1160.

West Kootenay groups 'pull together'

CENTRAL KOOTENAY INVASIVE PLANT COMMITTEE

Are you part of a club, sports team or organization that is trying to raise funds? Do you work at an office and want to promote team spirit? Would you like to do something for the environment? If so, consider the Committee Pulling Together program offered by the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee.

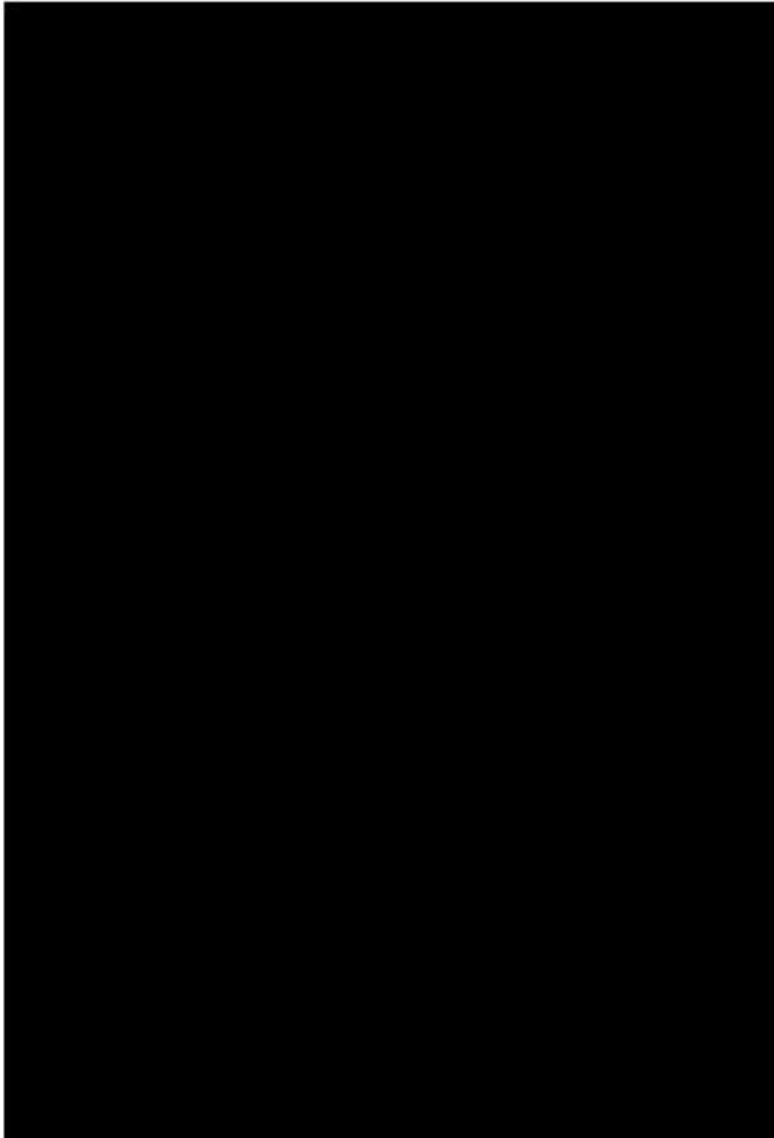
Based on the Weed Warrior program of the East Kootenay Communities Pulling Together, the program encourages community groups to become local warriors by hand-pulling invasive plants of a high-priority invasive plant site. In recognition of the group's efforts, it receives an honorarium of \$250 for its efforts, as well as gifts and refreshments.

Invasive plants (also called non-native weeds) are introduced, non-native plant species that take over our local landscapes. Because they arrive in Canada without natural predators to keep them under control, they choke out native plants, reduce biodiversity, affect agriculture and impact wildlife habitat. Some of these species include spotted knapweed, purple loosestrife and yellow flag iris. By pulling these plants, we can reduce the impacts they have on our environment.

Funded by the Columbia Basin Trust and BC Hydro, Communities Pulling Together is geared toward a variety of community groups, including sports teams, youth clubs, non-profit societies, community service groups and church groups. It's a wonderful way to promote team spirit, encourage a healthy lifestyle and raise money for your group.

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee has identified high-priority sites for hand-pulling and welcomes groups from throughout the West Kootenay to participate. A group makes a three-hour commitment for the event for a day and time that is convenient. The three-hour event includes an introduction to invasive plants, pulling weeds and a refreshment break.

For more information, see www.kootenay-weeds.com/pulling or call the CKIPC at (250) 338-1111.



Invasive plant committee holding photo contest

CENTRAL KOOTENAY INVASIVE PLANT COMMITTEE

The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) is holding a photo contest this summer and the top prize in three categories is \$200.

Invasive non-native plant species, like spotted knapweed, purple loosestrife and orange hawkweed, to name a few, are posing an increasing threat to our local ecosystems and economy. The CKIPC is holding a photo contest to encourage local residents to learn to identify these plants and get outside to look for them.

The categories include "scenic" for an overall view of an invasive plant invasion, "wildlife in weeds" to demonstrate impacts of these plants to wildlife and "close-ups" for up-close photos of invasive plant species. There is also a special category for young photographers who are 12 years old or younger.

Don't know your invasive plants? You can learn all about invasive plants and which species are included in this photo contest at www.kootenayweeds.com. This is a great opportunity to get outside, take some photos, learn something new, and even win some money! The contest closes on Sept. 15.



Ashram volunteers pull broom

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When you drive off the ferry at Kootenay Bay, you may notice something different. The colourful yellow blooms of scotch broom will not be greeting you. That's because volunteers from the Yasodhara Ashram participated in the Communities Pulling Together program to do some broom control.

Scotch broom is an invasive plant species that has been introduced to the area as a garden ornamental. Although its bright yellow flowers and deep green foliage can be considered attractive, this species escapes gardens and impacts native ecosystems.

Because it is introduced to B.C. without the natural predators that keep it under control in its native country, and because local animals rarely eat it, it can form dense monocultures and take over habitat from native plants and animals. This aggressive growth can impact local biodiver-

sity and forest regeneration, and create a fire hazard.

Volunteers from the Yasodhara Ashram, armed with shovels, pickaxes and gloves, spent a few hours digging, pulling and dislodging broom from two high priority sites — the entrance of Pilot Bay Provincial Park and the slope above the Kootenay Bay ferry landing. In return for their efforts, they received information on invasive plants, T-shirts and a \$250 honorarium.

The Communities Pulling Together program was launched this year to match volunteer community groups to high-priority invasive plant sites. For more information on the program, see www.kootenayweeds.com/pulling or call (250) 352-1160.



Community pulls together to help get rid of invasive weeds

NELSON — Communities of the Central Kootenay did their part this year to pull invasive plants at high priority sites. The "Communities Pulling Together" program, modeled after the "Weed Warrior" program of the East Kootenay invites community groups to spend a few hours pulling, clipping, or digging up invasive plants at high priority sites. In recognition for their efforts, the group receives t-shirts, refreshments, and a \$250 honorarium.

"We couldn't believe the response to this program this year" says Juliet Craig, Coordinator of the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee.

"We were fully booked for our 10 programs and had wonderful, enthusiastic volunteers coming out to do their part."

Groups included the Castlegar Garden Club, West Kootenay Naturalists, Creston Air Cadets, West Kootenay Minor Lacrosse Team, Nelson Covenant Church Youth Group, Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers, Mom's Support Group in Castlegar, Golder and Associates (who donated their honorarium to the Canadian Cancer Society), Redfish School, and Yasodhara Ashram.

"This program brought our team together in a working environment and raised money for the team while helping the community" said an organizer of the LaCrosse team.

A participant from the Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers said "It was great being out in a beautiful place with friends and concerned people doing something good."

Efforts in 2007 were focused on yellow flag iris, policeman's helmet, purple loosestrife, and scotch broom. These beautiful garden ornamentals escape into natural habitats and impact habitat for birds, frogs, mammals and other wildlife. Because they are introduced to Canada without the natural predators that keep them under control in their native country, there is nothing to keep them under control.

"The efforts of our communities are so important in invasive plant management" says Craig. "These volunteers have reduced the spread of some of our highest priority species. It has been wonderful."

This program is funded by the Columbia Basin Trust, BC Hydro, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Forests and Range and FortisBC. Donations were provided by Hipperson Hardware, Nelson Farmer's Supply, Impact Equipment



— PHOTO SUBMITTED

Students from Redfish School pulling spotted knapweed from Kokanee Creek Park.



— PHOTO SUBMITTED

Volunteers from the West Kootenay Naturalists who pulled purple loosestrife from Bird Creek Marsh near Nelson.



Weeds a threat to environment: biologist

By Raymond Masleck
Times Staff

Chainsaws usually come to mind when threats to British Columbia's wild areas are raised, but weeds are also a major problem.

"They can be very competitive in our environment and take over a lot of ground," Juliet Craig, of the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, told Rossland

council recently. "They are the second-largest threat to bio-diversity after habitat loss."

City staff has been directly to look into ways to combat the spread of noxious weeds in Rossland.

Weeds are typically brought into Canada either as ornamental plants or accidentally. Away from their native environments and predators, weeds become "biological pollution," Craig said.

They form dense monocultures that choke out native plants, which reduces forage for deer and other ungulates, dries up wetlands, and threatens already endangered plant species.

"In some areas, forage can be reduced by up to 70 per cent and some of the invasive plants can be toxic to horses and wildlife," she said.

The committee's website (kootenayweeds.com) lists 16 problem

weeds. Of particular concern in Rossland are giant knotweed, policemen's helmet, and hoary alyssum.

"Giant knotweed is considered one of the most pernicious weeds in the United Kingdom," Craig said.

Imported as an ornamental plant, knotweed grows up to three metres in height, spreads rapidly and is difficult to eradicate.

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Submitted photos

UNWELCOME GUESTS: Giant knotweed (from left), policemen's helmet, and hoary alyssum are three invasive plants that are problems in Greater Trail.

Weed invading Trail Creek

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In the wild, its dense canopy kills off native species, while in urban settings, its roots can undermine pavement and even the walls of older buildings.

Policemen's helmet, also known as Himalayan balsam, is taking over all along Trail Creek in

"I have had calls from people in Rossland who said they brought in three or four of them and now they are covering their whole property," Craig said.

Councillor Larry Doell noted that "in some clumps it absorbs so much moisture that the creek bed is going dry."

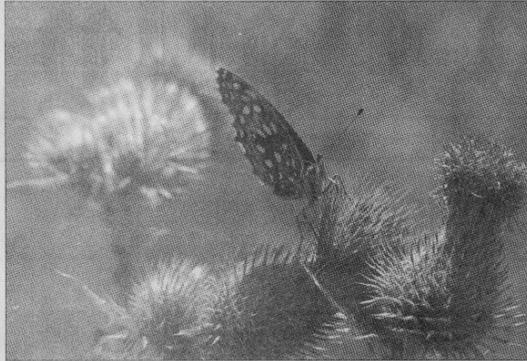
Hoary alyssum grows up to 70 centimetres, is extremely invasive, and toxic to horses. It is par-

"There are a lot of things people can do that are very cost- and time-effective." For the city, these would include:

- reseeding bare areas
- regular mowing of infested areas before the plants go to seed
- cleaning mowers between sites
- including information about weeds with city mailouts
- a bylaw prohibiting planting

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BAD WEEDS, GREAT PHOTOS



A look at some of the winning photos: (top left) photo taken by Tiffany Ware; (top right) photo taken by Marcie Allan; (right) photo taken by Melissa Badger.

NELSON — Some Kootenay residents are \$200 wealthier since the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) announced the winners of their "Worst Weed" Photo Contest.

During the summer of 2007, Kootenay residents were invited to take photos of invasive plants species in three categories: Scenic, Close-up, and Wildlife in Weeds. First prize in each category was \$200 and second prize was \$100.

"We ran this contest to encourage residents, including local photographers, to learn more about invasive plants and the species in our area" says Juliet Craig, Coordinator of the CKIPC. "Only photos of species on our priority list were accepted, so photographers had to identify these top species."

Invasive plants are non-native species which arrive in Canada without the natural predators that keep them under control in their home land. Once established they can spread rapidly and aggressively, impacting our environment and economy. Some such alien

invaders include spotted knapweed, yellow flag iris, and Scotch broom.

"The photo contest was extremely popular" says Craig. "We had over 60 entries and many excellent photographs."

Derek Bruce and Michael Mayrhofer from Vogue Photographic Ltd. judged the contest. The prize winners in each category are: Scenic – Melissa Badger (first) and Janet King (second); Wildlife and Weeds – Tiffany Ware (first) and Tim Kendrick (second); and Close-up – Jim Lawrence (first) and Marcie Allan (second). Photographs will be on display at Vogue Photographic Ltd. in Nelson (565 Baker Street) for the next week.

Funding for this project was provided by the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (IASPP) and the Columbia Basin Trust. Vogue Photographic Ltd. provided in-kind support. To learn more about the contest and the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee, see www.kootenayweeds.com.

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