

May/June 2016

## A NOTE FROM GAIL

Thank you to all who have contributed so much time and energy in helping to make the beautiful City of Nanaimo one of the best places on the planet to live. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet so many people that contribute so much to this community.

As I move into retirement you have shown me the value of giving back to the community. I hope I can learn from your example, and I too plan to contribute sometime, somewhere. Thank you, and best of luck! Gail Pasaluko

We'll miss you Gail, and wish you all the best as you move into this next chapter of life.



## INVASIVE PLANT AWARENESS MONTH

April 24 Broombusters Work Party at Northfield Park  
9:30-11:30 am (barcode 146623)

May 1 Broombusters Work Party at Third Street Park  
9:30-11:30 am (barcode 146627)

May 13 Invasives Work Party at Oliver Woods Park  
9:30-11:30 am (barcode 146625)

May 27 Invasives Work Party at Oliver Woods Park  
9:30-11:30 am (barcode 146624)

Got ivy, broom, blackberry or daphne?

### BRING IT TO THE DROP ZONE!

Available for homeowners **April 23 & May 28**  
**(10 am- 3 pm)** at Bowen Park (off Wall Street).

## WILDFOODS FESTIVAL & EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

This Saturday, April 23 11-3:30 pm

At Bowen Park

Free to attend, \$1 food tickets

### This summer with the RDN...

**Nominate Your Neighbour Who's A Water Saver** in the Weekly Water Champion Contest. May 1 until Sept 2, nominate your neighbour who goes above and beyond the current watering restrictions to save our shared water resources - enter them and you both have the chance to win!

Visit [www.teamwatersmart.ca](http://www.teamwatersmart.ca) or call Team WaterSmart at 250-390-6560 for more information.



*Daphne Laureola*



*Mahonia Aquifolium*

Do you have **Daphne laureola** growing in your yard? An excellent replacement is **Mahonia aquifolium** "Oregon Grape".

This Oregon grape cluster is growing in a non irrigated parking lot bed at Maffeo Sutton Park. Very drought resistant, masses of cheerful yellow flowers, green foliage all year round and the berries provide food for birds as well as being safe for human consumption.

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD?

### NS3 Trash to Treasures

This year over 300 students from Ladysmith/Nanaimo school district participated in the Great Shoreline Clean-up, cleaning up 11 sites and approximately 500kg of trash!!!. They have taken the trash they collected and turned it into Art. These unique pieces of art will be available for viewing at Wildfoods Festival & Earthday Celebration this Saturday, April 23.

### NS3 Citizen Science Program

In May and June, Grade 5 students from throughout SD68 will be participating in a citizen science project developed by NS3 and researchers from VIU. Students will be collecting data on the distribution and abundance of Varnish Clams, an invasive species, and of other local bivalves at Departure Bay Beach. During low tides at Departure Bay Beach. This data will contribute to a long-term monitoring study being carried out at VIU.



To find out more, see NS3's website <http://nanaimoscience.org/science-on-the-move-i/citizen-science/>.

On April 3, volunteers on Protection Island organized their first invasive workparty in Pirates Park. With a little help from the city & 9 enthusiastic volunteers, Daphne, Ivy and Holly were removed. "This first attempt at a manageable infestation has given us confidence to tackle the really bad areas! Cheers Veronica"



Click [Here](#), for info on our Wildfoods Festival/Earthday Celebration and other upcoming Special Events

## Thank you volunteer groups for all your help these past few months:

On March 12, over 40 volunteers turned out to help clean up Barsby Park . 230kg of recycle material (wood& metal) and 690 kg of garbage were removed for a total of 920 kg!!! AWESOME WORK!! Thank you Diana for organizing such a successful event

Thanks to Dover Bay Eco Club Members for their work in removing up to **130 kg of English Ivy** from around trees within Orchard Circle Park in March. Removing ivy from the base of trees allows for the tree to recover from the smothering of ivy that could eventually kill it.



Piper's Lagoon – Another big thanks to members of the Stephenson Point Neighbour Association, the Pacific Biological Centre and staff and students from Nanaimo Christian school who have worked on removing Daphne from our restoration site at Piper's Lagoon Park.

On April 16, over 22 volunteers joined the Broombusters on Sugar Loaf Mountain to "Bust some Broom". The amount of Broom that was cleared was remarkable. Take a trip to Sugar Loaf this month to have a look. - it will be chipped by the professionals in June.