

FireSmart Update for May 13th event:

I am just quickly going to cover a few items on FireSmart as you have all heard us talk about this program for the last 4 years now.

FireSmart BC has launched its own website at: www.firesmartbc.ca and they have also developed materials to present at the school level from kindergarten to highschool. We encourage everyone to visit the website and look at the materials, videos and tips for homeowners.

We already have 2 fires right now – so we all need to be ready.

SHOW HOMEPAGE ON LAPTOP HERE NOW : <https://firesmartbc.ca/>

Predator Ridge has been a FireSmart Recognized Community since 2016 and we applied for and received renewals for 2017 and 2018. We will apply to FireSmart Canada again this year and will include all of your volunteer hours spent on FireSmart activities in our community - which means your participation is really important !

SLIDE PICTURE OF GROUP FOR 2016:



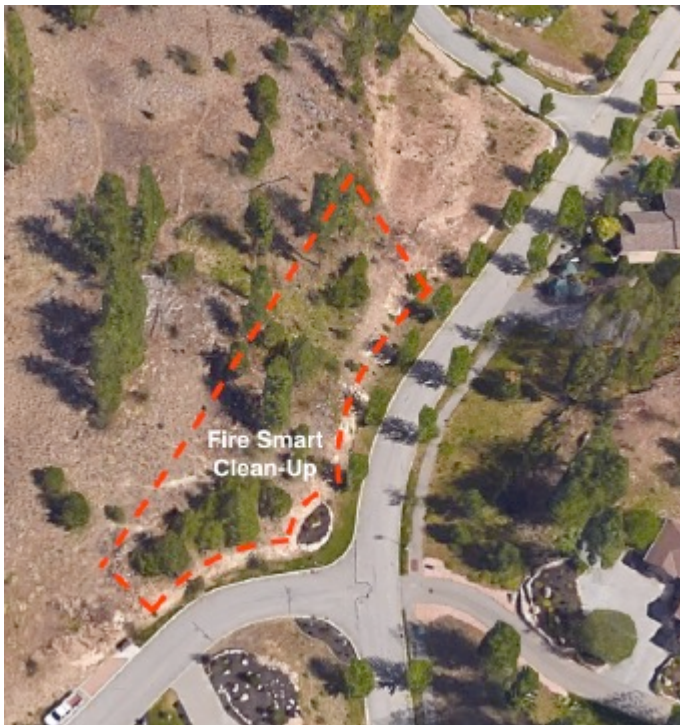
This year we will not be receiving any grant funds from the City of Vernon as they are supporting other communities to become involved with the FireSmart program as well as utilizing grant funds on prescribed burns. We had received grant funds the last 3 years to assist with chipping costs in our community clean-up events.

Without any grant funds this year, we are encouraging all of you to talk to your neighbours to look at a joint project to clean your yards together – the more people working together in a neighbourhood the bigger success we will have.

I just want to mention a few cleaning events which were led by homeowners from last year and show you a few pictures.

One strata area at Falcon Point was cleaned with permission from the strata with only 5 residents cleaning for 2.5 hours one morning – that is all the time it took to clean this sloped area.

INSERT SLIDE HERE FROM FALCON POINT AREA:





We also saw one neighbourhood with about 20 residents working together which was organized by Longspoon residents, Marcel and Laurie. They all worked on cleaning the adjoining yards and down into a large gulley where they laddered trees and removed debris. All the residents shared in the cost to remove the debris and then ...They celebrated afterwards with a potluck – so keep in mind you can also have fun once the work is done !

Last year we also had one homeowner cleaning her own property and spent 7.5 hours raking, pruning, assembling materials for the chipping company to remove. – you can see all the debris on the tarp which was accomplished by one person.

SLIDE TO SHOW OF HOMEOWNER AND TESTIMONIAL HERE:

PREDATOR RIDGE COMMUNITY FIRESMART HOMEOWNER CLEANUP EVENT - MAY 26, 2018



This year we have already had one homeowner who wanted to FireSmart his own property but could not take the debris to the landfill himself so he rented a bin from One Bin Rentals and filled it himself – great initiative already this year – this is what we need to build on for 2019 and encourage everyone to join together.

SLIDE: ONE BIN RENTAL OPEN ONE END TO FILL IN DEBRIS



The FireSmart Committee is here to help and support all residents in their clean-up efforts. We have gloves, safety glasses, information on one bin rental or chipping services and we can provide you with the firesmart guidelines, City of Vernon tree bylaw and other vegetation treatment guidelines to assist everyone who wants to move forward in their own neighbourhood.

We all need to take a look at the first 10 m around our homes. The wildfire structure survival statistics in the homeowner's manual based on all the research over the years, shows 90% survival if the first 10 metres or more of vegetation is treated.....

They also make reference to "Work with your neighbours in any overlapping priority zones"

SLIDE HERE FROM FIRESMART MANUAL:

Wildfire structure survival statistics

- 4% survival: flammable roof, no treatment and no defensive action
- 20% survival: flammable roof
- 70% survival: non-flammable roof
- 90% survival: < 10 metres (Zone 1) or more of vegetation is treated



Work with your neighbours in any overlapping priority zones!

We also want to say thanks to Wesbild for working with our us and building homes to FireSmart standards with double glazed windows, hardiplank, non-flammable roofs, concrete patios - we are also happy to announce that it has now evolved to the landscaping side which you will see in the new Commonage neighbourhood. Thanks to Breanne for ensuring that rocks are used right next to the new homes and out 5 m from the homes rather than bark mulch right up against the homes which we know is not very firesmart.

If you want more information then come and see any of the FireSmart Committee Members after the meeting.

So the message from the FireSmart Committee for 2019 is that we all need to work together and do our part to help make our Community safer from the risk of wildfires and we also need to celebrate our achievements together !

SLIDE HERE OF GROUP WITH HANDS IN AIR:



Thank you.