



Pat Bell MLA Cheque presentation at NWIPC headquarters

On April 22nd, a fresh breeze blew prosperity and joy into Prince George; with it came much-needed funding. NWIPC's headquarters was host to Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell and members of the press. "Today, as we celebrate Earth Day, the Province is continuing its commitment to provide strong leadership to ensure a collaborative approach to invasive plant management in BC," said Bell. "One example is the successful NWIPC pilot project, in which a single agency is coordinating services in dealing with invasive

species across jurisdictions, from the Alberta border to the Queen Charlottes, and from the Yukon border to north of Quesnel." Program Manager Andrea Eastham gave Pat an NWIPC hat and T-shirt; in exchange she got a cheque for \$250,000... which we thought was a fair trade. The funding will go to on-the-ground management of invasive weeds. Bell thanked former MLA Dave Chudder, a south Cariboo rancher, who explained to the government caucus the economic and environmental dangers posed by invasive weeds.



Andrea Eastham and MLA Pat Bell

Weed of the Month



Field Scabious Flower and Taproot

Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*) is a very competitive plant that will compete with forage stands, native pastures, and even undisturbed plant communities. It may be found on roadsides, disturbed and some undisturbed areas, and mid-elevation fields. It has a well-developed woody taproot with stems that can grow up to 1.5m tall. Stems are hairy, coarsely toothed and have feather-shaped leaves. At the top of the stems there is a large violet to pink clover-like

flower. Each flower can produce up to 2,000 seeds, and each seed is viable for many years. Flowers may start to bloom around June. It is currently part of a "containment line" treatment method (see next page). Once established it is very hard to get rid of. Small infestations can be hand-pulled; be sure to pull the roots to avoid re-sprouting. Pulling before flowering is recommended; if pulling after, make sure to dispose of the plant properly to reduce seed spread.

Your invitation to volunteer

The sun is here, and with it comes all the great markets, festivals, and exhibitions.

Come represent the Northwest Invasive Plant Council — we need you!

Attend some of the best events the summer has to offer, absolutely free!

RSVP at 1-866-44WEEDS or e-mail info@nwipc.org

Program Manager: Andrea Eastham
Newsletter: Luke Wichrowski, P.A.
Editor: Paul Glover, Director

Check out the
new website
www.nwipc.org

www.nwipc.org



Oh happy day - the NWIPC has entered the 21st century! Find out what we are all about at our website: www.nwipc.org. This is an organization that shares information, ideas, and inspiration with those who care about native species and resource uses of BC. Please check us out. You will

discover who we are, news and events, weeds to watch for, what you can do, valuable resources, downloads, and how you can contact us. Apply for compensation towards the treatment of weeds on your property, join our membership, or volunteer. It's all on www.nwipc.org

IP Management Through Containment Lines

by Andrea Eastham

The NWIPC was asked to test the long-standing practice of establishing containment lines as part of our pilot project. A containment line is a closed polygon (imaginary line) that is established around infestations, with the idea that the species will be "contained" within and not allowed to spread outside the line. Portions of the infestations must be treated to prevent the weed from crossing the line, while the main body of the infestation inside the line may be left untreated. All plants of the target species outside the line must be treated. NWIPC members have worked together to establish

containment lines in our area for two species: marsh plume thistle and field scabious. The containment lines are reviewed annually by the membership, based on new inventory information and our ability to have success with treatment. You can go to IAPP to view the containment lines at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/application.htm>. Click on "Enter the IAPP Map Display module" to get to the map. On the tool bar you will see an icon for display of containment lines: Follow the directions from there. The largest containment line in the northwest is east of Prince George. This line was es-

tablished in 2006 and reviewed in March 2007. The end result was that the western line has been extended closer to Prince George (not reflected in the current mapping). Although this may sound discouraging, the objective of containment lines is to prevent spread and then, over time, work in towards the centre of the infestation. This is a long-term plan that has worked well in other parts of North America. Due to the efforts of local contractor Graeme Johnstone, the Marsh Plume Thistle western containment line at Rupert may no longer be necessary. *Now that's weed management at work.*

Local Hero

by Paul Glover

A long-time Smithers-area resident has been working steadily to fight noxious weeds in her neighbourhood. Sheila Peters has been pulling Canada thistles not only on her 13-acre property, but along a half-kilometer stretch of road near her house as well. As a result, her property and the nearby roadside have been virtually thistle-free for years—without the use of pesticides. "It doesn't take much work to keep things at this level any more," she says. "What used to be thick patches have dwindled to almost nothing, or are gone completely." The Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park has also benefited from her efforts, as its thistle-free roadside is preventing the weeds from spreading into the park. "I'm expanding my efforts to include Yellow Hawkweed, too," she adds.



Sheila Peters, benevolent local hero

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council
Report Invasive Plants
1-866-44WEEDS (1-866-449-3337)
www.nwipc.org email: info@nwipc.org

Know a
local hero?
Let us know