



## **News Release**

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2018

### **Strategic Wildfire Program Initiatives in Lake Cowichan, BC**

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Lake Cowichan, and the Lake Cowichan Fire Department are proud to announce that the implementation of the FireSmart Education Program in 2017 was a great success.

Early in 2017, the Town of Lake Cowichan applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from UBCM-Strategic Wildfire Program Initiative for FireSmart Planning.

FireSmart is a public education program that provides information and knowledge to home and property owners living in the Wildland Urban Interface, with the objective of reducing the risk of wildfire hazards near your home and property. Follow the link below for more information at FireSmart Canada's website:

[www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)

There were many public information sessions throughout the year providing an in-depth explanation of FireSmart Principles and promoting the awareness of those principles.

There were 6 community areas in the Lake Cowichan Fire Department Service Protection Area that had volunteers come forward and form FireSmart Boards. These volunteers were trained in the principles of the program and worked in their neighbourhoods to educate others. Hazard Assessments were performed in these Communities and Action Plans were developed and implemented to mitigate the risks from wildfire damage to their homes and properties.

During the year the communities worked with the Lake Cowichan Fire Department and Margaret Symon from Strathcona Forestry who assisted with this program.

**Brookside Village**

**Woodland Shore**

**Sunny Beach Estates**

**The Slopes**

**Lambs Hill**

**Lake Cowichan First Nation**

We are pleased to announce that each of the 6 Communities have all individually received national recognition as a FireSmart Canada Recognized Community for their efforts. They are also the first such communities to receive the FireSmart Canada Community Recognition on Vancouver Island.

The Town of Lake Cowichan has also been awarded the FireSmart Community Protection Achievement Certificate from FireSmart Canada and Partners in Protection, for their work on developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The Town of Lake Cowichan and its Lake Cowichan Fire Department will continue to work with the FireSmart Program in 2018 and hope to have more communities in the LCFD Service Protection Area sign on for help and education in reducing the potential impact from wildfire to their home and property.

We will be presenting their FireSmart Canada Community Signs to them on Thursday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Town Office at 39 South Shore Rd in Lake Cowichan.

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