

## **Bustins Island Firewise Community**

I'm pleased to announce that last November, Bustins Island received Firewise Community status renewal for 2017 after completing our requirements for wildfire fuel reduction and educational outreach activities during the year.

In spring of 2017, on behalf of the Bustins Firewise Community, I applied for, and was awarded, a \$500 grant from the NFPA to use towards our wildfire prevention activities. The grant money was used to purchase rakes, gloves, clippers and saws for wildfire fuel reduction work, and posters, food and raffle items for Firewise & Safety Day.

Though the infestation of Browntail Moth caterpillar curtailed our chipping plans last year, many islanders cleared debris from their own properties. We also had over 60 islanders participate in our combined Firewise & Safety Day in July, which included; Fuel reduction training from Maine Forest Service Specialist, Kent Nelson; training from Freeport Fire & Rescue Department; training from the Bustins Safety Committee on the use of our new ATV, our GMC water truck and the sea pumps; children's activities at the library, supervised by Pam Canu; and a visit and photo-op from the National Forest Service's famous, Smokey Bear!

This spring, I applied for the NFPA grant again, but Bustins was not awarded this year. However, we plan to do some early season chipping with the help of the Maine Forest Service (date TBD), and will hold our Firewise & Safety Day on **July 28th**, so mark your calendars!

As usual, thank you for participating in Bustins fire prevention and protection activities, whether on your own properties or at our Firewise events. It is most important that you try to involve young people in understanding how to protect our precious island from devastating wildfires, so please make an effort to encourage their participation in these educational activities.

Faith Baker, Chair, Bustins Firewise Community