

Friends of Dominion Brook Park

Newsletter No. 34

March 2012



Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society
invites you to

Celebrate A Century

100th Anniversary of the Dominion
Experimental Farm and Park

April 18, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Pavilion, Centre For Plant Health
8801 East Saanich Road

Joan Gibb, Chair, Dominion Brook Park
will present an overview from 1912 to 2012.

The Acting Director, Centre for Plant Health will
speak on the current role of the Centre



RSVP by April 11, 2012
contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca
or 250 656-4185

The Annual General Meeting to follow at 8:30 p.m.

P I C N I C M E M O R I E S



— Contributed by Nancy Johnson

There were church picnics, with the tables in the picnic area laden with food. After lunch, while the ladies tidied up using the functioning kitchen, the men walked and the kids tore around to work off lunch. We would run through the paths in the tall bamboo at the east end of the park; someone nearly always got a bee sting from nests in the bamboo but we were undeterred. When it was hot, the ravine was inviting; there were paths along both sides of the creek and we could go around and around endlessly. The sunken garden provided detours as we travelled up or down the garden. My favourite spot was the dogwood tree at the top, near East Saanich Road. The low hanging branches were easy to get up onto; we would drape ourselves along the branches and perch there forever. The leaves kept us hidden from passersby, so eavesdropping was possible.

More frequent than church picnics were family picnics. We would spread blanket after blanket across the grass, and at least one vinyl tablecloth. The aunts each brought some signature dish that only they seemed to know how to make. After lunch, the coolers would be repacked and moved into the shade. The grownups would stretch out on the blankets, talking and sleeping the afternoon away. The cousins did what we kids always did. Eventually, someone would be hungry again, so the coolers were opened and another meal of leftovers was produced. Sometimes it was close to sunset before we shook and folded the blankets and loaded everything and everyone into the station wagon.

Photo: Experimental Farm Park, September 10, 1961, Hanson Family & Friends

Advice from J.E. Boshier, Plant Pathologist, Dominion Experimental Farm, 1925-1962, to his son, John F. Boshier concerning insects in the garden: "If it moves slowly, step on it. If it moves quickly, leave it alone because it will probably kill something else."

FAREWELL

...AND THANK YOU



David Lye, Facilities Manager, Centre for Plant Health, the Federal representative on our Board, problem solver, John Deere driver, adviser, big, really big, supporter of our efforts in the Park, all round good guy with a great sense of humour will be retiring in early May of this year.

Needless to say, those of us who have worked with him over the last five years will miss his presence. I am ever grateful for his support without which we could not have progressed to the present condition of the Park. He once said, "The Park was the joy in my job".

The Board of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society and our volunteers on the ground wish him all good things in his early retirement.

PS: After a suitable time away, we do expect him back working with us in some capacity as we continue Park restoration.



The 2012 AGM on April 18th will install the following positions:

Chairperson..... Ed Johnson
Vice Chairperson.....
Secretary.....
Treasurer.....Owen Redfern
Directors-at-Large Penny Boone
.....Vern Wiebe
.....Freda Thorne
.....
.....
Past Chairperson.....Joan Gibb

WANTED

The Society is looking for new faces to fill the positions of Vice Chair, Secretary and two Directors-at-Large. We're a congenial group working towards a common goal to continue the maintenance and restoration of a unique and beautiful Park. Contact info on last page. Don't forget to [renew your membership](#) for 2012 !

Featured Plant

Platanus orientalis

(Oriental Plane Tree)

Native to southeast Europe, Asia Minor and Kashmir, it is a large deciduous tree which in some areas can reach 45m in height though less hardy than London Plane and not nearly so common.

This is a tree with **history**. It is mentioned in Genesis, Ezekiel & Ecclesiastics and in connection with events c480BC and is one of the longest living broad leaved trees often exceeding 500 years. (The information on this varies from 100 to 1000 years)

The Tree of Hippocrates, under Father of Medicine, taught is Oriental Plane. Pliny's Natural westward progress of the plane individual specimens including Oriental Plane tree house at

The leaves have been used for treatment of eye conditions, chilblains, and treatment of toothache. Do not try this at been made from the twigs and

We have three magnificent along the North border. They Layritz Nursery in 1913 with these trees from East Saanich that time the Experimental Farm beach front - now Cy Hampson any source that confirms this was

The size of these fabulous shade aren't suitable for the regular have room, they are happiest willows and poplars.



which Hippocrates, reported to have been an History records the tree with mention of Emperor Caligula's Velletri.

medicinal purposes in to heal wounds and dysentery, hernia and home! Fabric dye has roots.

specimens in the Park were purchased from plans to have a row of Road to the ocean as at lands extended to the Park. We haven't found done.

trees suggests that they home garden. But if you in conditions similar to



Staff this issue:

*Joan Gibb
Ed Johnson
Edna Ralston*

For more information on Dominion Brook Park, please visit <http://www.dominionbrookpark.ca/>
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