



Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society

The Rhodo Ravine Project

The Rhododendron Ravine, encompassing the upper portion of Dominion Brook from the Reservoir adjacent to East Saanich Road to the Pond near the centre of the Park, is the true heart of the Dominion Brook Park. Nearly a century ago it held an extensive collection of rhododendrons from around the world, many of these can still be found on the ravine slopes. The restoration of the Ravine will continue to be a primary focus of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society.

In 2010 the consulting engineering firm, Kerr Wood Leidal, in collaboration with Joseph Daly, a Victoria Landscape Architect, was retained by The Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society to produce a rehabilitation and restoration plan for the Rhododendron Ravine. The Plan is composed of three phases. **Phase 1**, completed in the spring of 2010, includes conceptual landscape and engineering design and preliminary cost estimate for reconstruction of the Dominion Brook and Ravine. **Phase 2** includes detailed design, the completion of specifications and tender documents, and an updated cost estimate for **Phase 3**, the physical work of completing the rehabilitation and restoration of the Ravine. With **Phase 1** complete we considered the various aspects of **Phase 2** in order to determine what next steps could be taken.



Some of the tasks that need to be completed for **Phase 2** include: the completion of a detailed topographic survey; a screening level Habitat Risk Assessment; a Geotechnical Study to determine the stability of the ravine slopes and assess drainage and foundation requirements for stone retaining walls and the proposed stone bridge, and; retaining a qualified arborist to evaluate the health of affected trees in the ravine and to make recommendations regarding pruning and removal as required. Additionally, detailed drawings and construction specifications will need to be produced before construction can begin.

Since the AGM in April the Board has continued to move ahead with the restoration of the Ravine. Kerr Wood Leidal, consulting Engineers, has recently completed the Aquatic Habitat Assessment. The District of North Saanich has completed remedial work to the upper reservoir, a necessary step in regulating water flow into the Dominion Brook Ravine. As funding allows we will continue to focus on the central importance of the ravine within the park.

A Big Thank You !

From all of those who use and enjoy the Park: Every year the Park looks better revealing more of the past and creating potential for the future.

Thanks to the volunteers who give so much of their time to maintain the Park; this year much of the work was hidden along the north fence but it didn't go unnoticed or unappreciated.

Thanks to the District of North Saanich for your continued support, working with the Volunteers and the Board to ensure the shared vision for the Park.

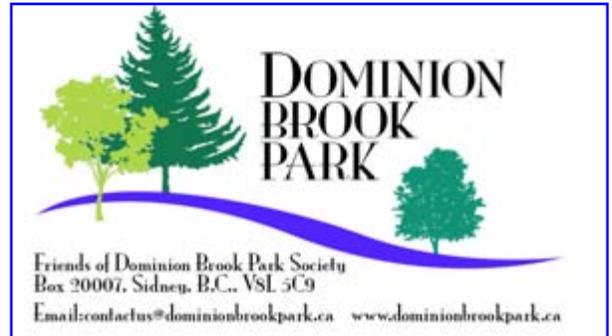
Thanks to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; Centre for Plant Health, and to Director, **Dan Thompson** for support and advice, and for sharing this wonderful place. Good luck in your retirement, Dan.

Thanks to **Sheila Mather** for our new Dominion Brook Park logo:

Thanks to the Flavour Trail volunteers for another successful year.

Thanks to the Board and all of the Friends for supporting the Park.

And a special thanks to **Joan Gibb** for everything she does on behalf of the Park.



"Beneath the Big Leaf Maple"

15" x 20" Pastel

Sheila Mather

2013 Membership Report

The Board of Directors of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society, would like to thank all those persons who renewed their 2014 membership as a “Friend of Dominion Brook Park”.

There are currently 119 member households but we are always seeking more memberships and involvement of interested parties. Members receive the newsletters containing informative articles on the history of the Park, about the interesting plantings throughout the Park, learn of the dedication of the on-the-ground volunteers and upcoming work projects which need our members’ support.

Many users of the Park have made separate, tax deductible donations to the Park which are used for the purchase of new, attractive plants and to fulfill our mandate of restoration which includes our special Rhodo Ravine Project and maintenance of the grounds beyond that of the weekly volunteer work parties.

We urge the members to spread the word about the fabulous, historic Dominion Brook Park, talk with your neighbours, tell newcomers so others may discover this Peninsula gem.

www.dominionbrookpark.ca and contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca

As a registered non-profit organization all donations are considered tax deductible by Canada Revenue.



Featured Plant

SINOCALYCANTHUS chinensis

Chinese wax or sweet shrub



A genus of one deciduous species closely related to Calycanthus. In the wild, the plant is known to survive on only a few wooded mountain slopes in Zhejiang Province in Eastern China. It is a late comer to the West and a few seeds were given to UBC Botanical Gardens in the early 1980s.

The shrub grows up to 3m with glossy green leaves turning yellow in the autumn. The nodding flowers (7cm) bloom in April/June and may be creamy white to pinkish white with maroon markings at the base.

It is a rather elegantly quiet shrub with easy to grow conditions as long as it does not dry out.

This issue is much better in colour: www.dominionbrookpark.ca/newsletter39.pdf

A Plea for Help !

In a little more than a decade an overgrown and neglected Park has been renovated by a group of dedicated individuals working diligently to restore the Park to its former glory. This takes commitment and work from many people to achieve this goal.

The Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society need new Members and Volunteers at all levels to ensure the continued success of the Park. The average age of our field volunteers is well over 60, so a few younger hands would help make light of the work.



Most of our **Members** are Park users and supporters, whose annual dues contribute to Park maintenance and restoration, but membership dues of \$ 20.00/year are not enough to complete all the projects we undertake, requiring us to ask for additional help from individuals and groups.

Our **Field Volunteers**: On Wednesday mornings from April to October volunteers work restoring and maintaining the Park - weeding, raking, watering and planting. Coffee and treats make for a pleasant morning, meeting new and old friends during break times.

Board Members meet monthly to review our financial situation, prioritize projects and discuss fund raising strategies, which are especially important as we proceed with the Rhododendron Ravine Restoration. Laughter is a common occurrence at these meetings!

It is vitally important that we expand our membership and recruit new volunteers in order to see the Park restored. If you are interested in helping in any way please contact us at the email or address provided in this Newsletter.

Please pass this Newsletter on to anyone you think may be interested.



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