



Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society

2014 Season has a successful conclusion

Another year under the belt of the faithful and fabulous Dominion Brook Park Wednesday volunteers.

It was a shorter season than usual due to wet weather early in the year but we got the job done-and spent almost 600 hours in labour. There were no special projects this year. However, the ongoing upkeep with weeding, removing noxious growth and just generally keeping the Park in good shape was a full time maintenance job.

And again, we have to extend our thank-yous to the District of North Saanich and especially Cliff Halliday and his team. The Centre for Plant Health continues to support our efforts.

We have added to our plant list a *Cornus variegata*, *Pinus nigra* (Black or Austrian Pine), *Berberis Concorde* and by December an *Abies procera*

Glauca (Noble Fir). All but the *Berberis* have been donated by Park supporters.

We have lost a few of our long time volunteers but have added new participants whom we hope will continue to join us on Wednesdays. We can always use an extra hand or two so if you feel like a few morning hours in the dirt, please join us next season. There are jobs for every level of activity.

We have a busy start to 2015 with the usual activities plus one special event. In attendance for their international convention at Mary Winspear, members of the American Rhododendron Society will be touring the Park in early May.

Let's give our Wednesday volunteers a hearty round of applause for their dedication to your Park and the work they do with such spirit and comradeship.



Stu and Brian between jobs



John Dawson Remembered



Family and friends gathered in late September to plant a *Pinus nigra* (Austrian or Black Pine) in the Park in memory of John Dawson.

The site was chosen in relation to Katie Dawson's memorial tree (*Davidia involucrata*, Dove or Handkerchief tree) which bloomed in May for the first time just days before John's passing. Those who knew both like to imagine it was a welcome to John.

Jane, John's daughter, read a poem which was so very appropriate to the occasion and it is reprinted here.

On the lighter side, we enjoyed reminiscing as we placed items around the tree before planting. All had a special story relating to the objects as varied as lemon tarts, ratty garden glove, pears, bits of garden hose, plaques celebrating the Flat Earth Society of which John was a member and a sign made by his grandchildren for the house which said 'John's Place' - all now residing under his tree.

As the founding father of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society, we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his perseverance and commitment to the Park. A description of the tree reads, "A tree of strong character" which is a very apt hallmark of the man.





Plant a Tree

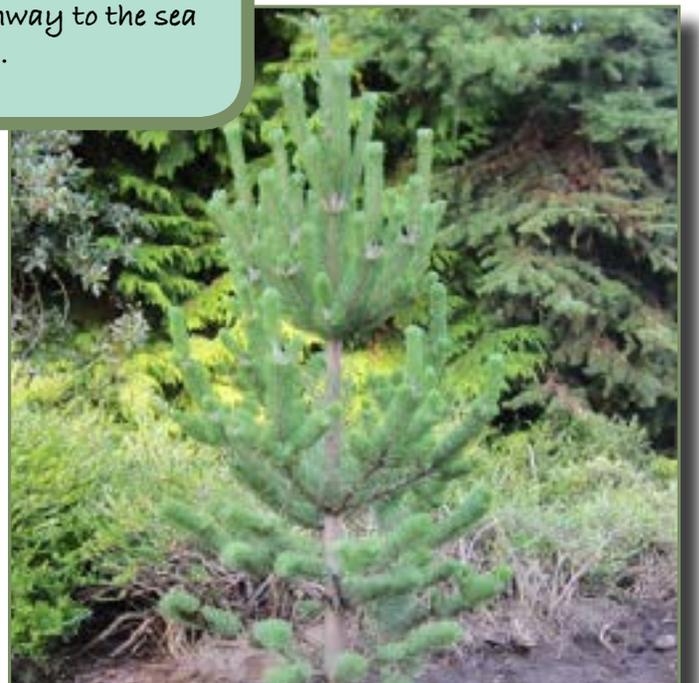
(by David H. Wright, with a few modifications)

If when I am gone
Thou wouldst honour me
Then plant a tree.

Some open field, wide and waiting,
Make green with pine needles.

So radiant and fair
And full of life my monument will be,
So ever full of tuneful melody.

My monument will be
A sight most rare -- trees planted
everywhere.
A parkland broad from highway to the sea
Plant this in memory of me.





The Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was held this year, October 18th, at the North Saanich Municipal Hall. Board members and volunteers in attendance were: David Lye, Ed Johnson, John Ashton, Bob Parr, Stu and Joan MacDonald, Barry and Millie Hall.

Thanks to the mayor and council for their support, and a special thank you to the organizer, Dawn Gould!

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.



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