

A PERFECT MARRIAGE *by John Shaw-Rimmington*



Our bridge dedication ceremony at Dominion Brook Park seemed a bit like a wedding. The sixty or seventy guests, who had gathered under the cathedral-like canopy of Douglas Fir trees for the 2 o'clock ceremony, were directed to one side or the other of the ravine to watch the proceedings. We might well have asked "Friends of the brook or friends of the bridge?" The brook in this case was the waiting groom - waiting for the new bride's 'veil' (the centering support) to be removed from the bridge. (Bride is 'bridge' without the 'g')

I thought about how the two landscape 'features' had now joined to have a beautiful life together. The happy union of brook and bridge would go on to be a blessing to all those who came along their path.



It is interesting that the wedded couple are in a relationship where neither one is there to be an obstruction to the other. Both allow for, and respect, the other's 'flow'. Both have the freedom to go in a direction that maintains nature's harmony and complements the other.

The meeting of the two is a place of blessing because it is crossing over, a spanning of differences, as well as a meeting of the elements. Stone and Water.

It will be a place where new and wonderful things will be conceived.

A place where dreams come true - a marriage of human skill and natural design which will hopefully come together to bring out the child in all of us.

Note to readers: John Shaw-Rimmington is the President of Dry Stone Walling Across Canada. He led the construction of the stone bridge. He spoke these words at the opening ceremony for the bridge and posted them on his blog. This is re-published in our newsletter with his permission.



*Bridge Opening Ceremony
Alice Finall, Jody Aylard, John Shaw-Rimmington*

*Mr. Barry Hall, long time Park volunteer and supporter, had the honour of christening the bridge.
John Shaw-Rimmington, Mr. Hall, Chris Hall (son)*

THANK YOU

It is that time of year again when words fail and just saying “thank you” seems inadequate.

We are speaking of the volunteer team who, each week from March to October, arrive at 9am every Wednesday morning with rakes, shovels, secateurs and a smile, ready to sweep, dig, plant and prune from the top to the bottom of 11 acres in all the beds, borders and open spaces.

Without these volunteers, the Park would be covered in blackberries and other noxious growth and would revert back to having large areas 12 feet deep in ivy. Many have been on the team for years, others are new, but all are dedicated to keeping your Park looking its best.

Our thanks also go to the District of North Saanich Parks Department for their contribution and support to our volunteers’ efforts.

So a very big THANK YOU to all who work together in keeping Dominion Brook Park a treasure on the Peninsula for all to enjoy.



EMPTY GARDEN

One of our long-time and most dedicated volunteers has been babysitting numerous Park plants for some time but now the plants have gone to their forever home. Her garden is empty of all the potted plants that have been part of her yard for some time. Over the last few Wednesday mornings of the work season our team of volunteers, with the help of the District of North Saanich, planted 32 plants, five trees, and 300 deer ferns.

- trees, specifically *Picea breweriana*, *Cornus Capitata*, *Gingko biloba* “Variegata”, *Pinus sylvestris* Woltings Gold, *Wollemia Noblis*
- a number of rhododendrons, *R. Crassum*, *R. Trewithen*, *R. Shamrock*, *R. Lady Chambarlan* and a group of Azaleas including two *Mucronatum Sekidera*, *Gardenia*, all from the famous Weejes’ garden
- three *A. Persils* propagated 20 years ago by Kimoff’s Nursery

- from the Victoria Rhododendron Society, *R. Violet Mist*, *R. Glenna* and *R. Early Winter*
- flowering plants along the brook bank (*Impatiens omeiana* and *Primulas*)
- rhododendrons gathered from other nurseries. *R. Ingrid Mehtiquist* and *R. Hansel*.
- *R. Onsloweanum* (Lord Onslow’s famous garden), *Sir William Gladstone* (British Prime Minister) and *Alexander Adie* (creator of the barometer) which were in the original 1913 shipment from Barbier Nursery in France and propagated by Don Whittle, a long time Society member, to continue some of the original plantings
- and three hundred Deer Ferns planted along the brook edges

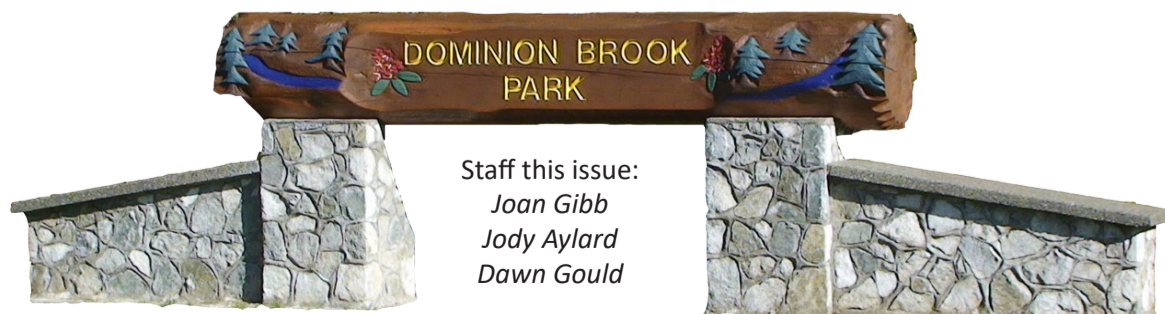
Almost all of these plantings are in the Ravine and are the beginning of the restoration of the slopes with rhododendrons, azaleas and companion plantings.



FEATURED PLANT

Azalea Persil

Three Azalea Persil have been planted in the ravine near the stone bridge. They typically grow 4 to 6 feet in height and have an upright bushy habit. This azalea flowers in May before the foliage has fully emerged. Large fragrant white blossoms are highlighted with a deep yellow flare in the throat. Described as a flamboyant variety, its showy character continues into the fall with the leaves turning beautiful shades of red and orange.



For more information on Dominion Brook Park, please visit www.dominionbrookpark.ca
To contact the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society please write to Box 20007, Sidney, B.C. V8L 5C9
email : contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca