

## *The Volunteers Are Back!*



After a delay of almost three months due to COVID-19, the Wednesday volunteers were able to start in the park on June 3. The group of dedicated workers can easily respect the public health guidelines and keep 2 metres apart as they rake and pull weeds. As we are not currently permitted to share tools. Each volunteer brings their own tools to use in the park. The District encourages following the rules for safety during this time of cautious reopening.

With the departure of Joan Gibb as overseer of the volunteer work in the park, three Board members are striving to fill her shoes. Jody Aylard, David Lye, and Nancy Johnson have divided the workload and are taking turns as Wednesday morning 'supervisors'.



The District of North Saanich continues to support our work by having at least one employee on site with us, mowing, edging, filling watering bags, removing the green waste that we produce, and doing any heavy lifting as required.

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## *Rock Wall Workshop October 2020*

Last fall the Friends of Dominion Brook Park partnered with Rocks and Stones Masonry for a weekend dry stone wall building workshop. In less than two days we built the wall that flanks the south side of the stone bridge. The workshop was such a success that we hope to repeat it this October 3 and 4. This year we will build a wall flanking the north side of the bridge. Once again participation will be by donation to the Friends (\$100 recommended minimum). If you are interested in participating or would like more information please send us an email at [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca).



## *Membership Renewal*

Your support is valued and important. If you have not done so already, please consider renewing your membership.

This helps the Park in two ways. The funds go directly to benefit the Society's work in the Park. And, it helps with our grant applications. Granting organisations look at membership numbers as a measure of the level of community support for the Park – so the more members, the stronger our applications for funding.

You can mail your renewal and payment to Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society, Box PO Box 20007, Sidney, B.C. V8L 5C9. Or you can join and pay online at our website: [dominionbrookpark.ca](http://dominionbrookpark.ca)

## Birds in Dominion Brook Park

### Financial Matters 2019 in Review

For the first time since the creation of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society we are unable to hold an Annual General Meeting. We still want you, our members, to know our financial position and what we accomplished in 2019.

We began our year with a bank balance of \$7,700. During the year we raised \$10,100 and spent 7,500, ending the year with \$10,300 in our bank account.

Our income was comprised of our \$2,500 Grant in Aid from the District of North Saanich. A \$1,500 grant from the Saanich Peninsula Community Foundation was used to help fund the landscaping plan developed for the ravine. Membership dues accounted for \$1,300 and we received \$4,000 in donations and \$800 from GST rebates and interest.

Park maintenance, supplies and volunteer expenses totaled \$1,700 and administration and miscellaneous expenses were \$700. Our largest expenses, totaling \$5,100, were for tree work and ornamental pruning; the detailed planting plan for the rhododendron ravine; and the dry stone walling workshop held in October. Donations from the workshop participants paid for the cost of the instruction.

If you would like to see the comparative Balance Sheet and Income statement prepared for the AGM please send us an email request to [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca) and we'll be happy to provide a copy.



With its mix of open spaces, shrubs, mature trees and water, Dominion Brook Park is an ideal place to spot a wide variety of local resident and seasonal birds, from birds of prey to song birds. Here is a list of birds seen and heard in the Park recently. This is just a sample of what you can see when you stop, listen and look among the branches and in the sky above the Park.

Red tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Turkey Vulture, Anna's Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Hairy Woodpecker, Crow, Barn Swallow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red Breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Pacific Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Western Tanager, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

### 2020: The Year Ahead

In previous years our volunteers got into the Park in mid-March but this year following District and Provincial guidelines we delayed until early June. Our volunteers are now hard at work on Wednesday mornings weeding, raking and dead-heading, at a social distance of course. As you can imagine, given the late start, our focus is on clean-up, including the ravine.

Now that we have a detailed planting plan in place for the rhododendron ravine we are anxious to begin the next steps. The plan is divided into 15 zones and we will proceed zone by zone with site preparation and then planting. But before planting can begin we'll need help from the District to get water into the ravine so that we can irrigate any new plantings. This is in the works. We also need to remove a couple of maples in the ravine and to that end a contract has been awarded: the work will proceed this summer. If all goes well we may see our first planting as early as this fall.



### Featured Plant: *Ginkgo biloba Variegata*

Also known as the Maidenhair tree, this is an unusual Ginkgo cultivar with fan-shaped leaves that are striped, creamy-white and green. Each leaf can be different in colour, two-tone, all white or revert to green. The foliage turns golden-yellow in the fall.

The Park specimen is relatively new (2018) and still quite small but will grow to ten feet in height with an eight-foot spread. You can find it on the north border of the Park near the fence in the north east corner of the Park.

Staff this issue: Jody Aylard, Nancy Johnson, David Lye, Dawn Gould