

## Annual General Meeting is Postponed



To support the efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and in keeping with guidance from government and health authorities, the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society has been postponed. We will reschedule when public gatherings are again permitted and we will work to find a date when our invited speaker, Jeff de Jong, can join us.

Jeff de Jong is a horticulturist who has been actively working in the field for over 23 years. For much of this time he taught horticulture at Olds College and was also the Head of Horticulture Education at the Calgary Zoo. Upon moving to Victoria he was the Site Manager at Abkhazi Gardens. He continues speaking for numerous classes around BC and North America and teaches at the University of

Victoria in the Continuing Studies department.

Jeff plans to speak on how historical gardening touches us today. Stepping back in time is the perfect portal to entering the future. Government, fashion, food, culture and spiritual growth are only a few areas that historical gardens have influenced. This talk is not a journey into the past but rather a beautiful, rich experience of the world of horticulture that is relevant today. He ties this talk together with many images that he has collected from around the world.

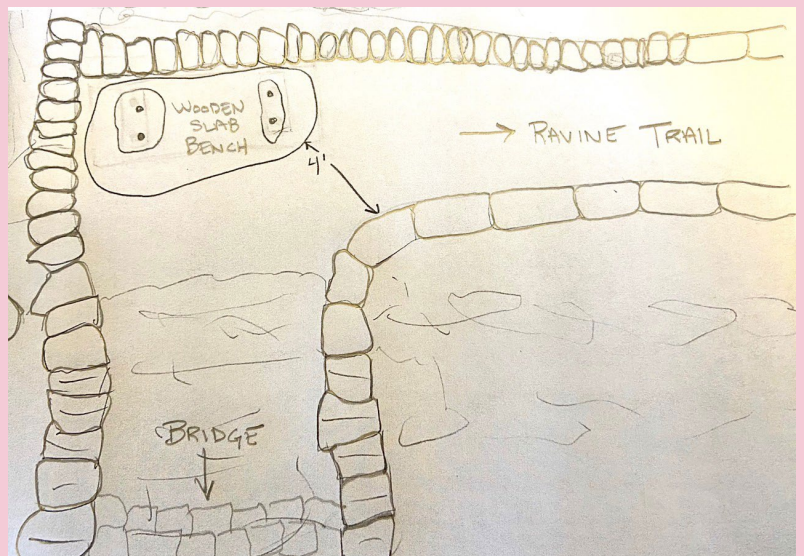
The AGM is open to members of the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society. Memberships can be purchased at the door, only \$20 for the entire household.

## We are building another Stone Wall!

A two-day workshop will be held on October 3 & 4 to complete the wall on the South side of the bridge. Instruction will be led by Rocks and Stones Masonry.

We have room for 10 participants. Participation will be by donation to the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society. If you are interested please send an email to [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca)

Last October some of the friends of Dominion Brook Park with *Rocks and Stones Masonry* built a dry stone wall flanking the North side of the stone bridge in the ravine. It was such a success that we all agreed to do it again.



## A Railway Tale Part III

By Ian Cameron



*A gas-electric car, similar (or maybe the same), as the one used on the Lochside line.*

When B.C. joined Confederation in 1871, part of the agreement was that the CPR would join B.C. to the rest of Canada, with a terminus in Victoria. When the time came to actually build the railroad, the CPR and the federal government reneged, and the line ended in Vancouver. But coal baron Robert Dunsmuir knew he could build a line from Victoria to his coal mines in Nanaimo and make it pay, especially considering that

the land grant would comprise 20% of Vancouver Island, and the governments (provincial and federal) would pay most of the construction costs. He was right, and the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railroad began making runs in 1886. It was taken over by the CPR in 1905 (in a great deal for Dunsmuir and the CPR, and a lousy deal for Vancouver Islanders), and that's where our story begins.

At the turn of the century there were three major railroads in Canada: the CPR, the CNR, and the Canadian Northern (CNoR). The CNoR was the last to be completed: its subsidiary, the Canadian Northern Pacific (CNoPR), was completed in 1915, running from the BC-Alberta border to Vancouver.

At the same time that the CNoPR was being built on the mainland, a line was constructed on Vancouver Island. It started in Esquimalt, crossed to Victoria on the Selkirk trestle, and just southwest of Swan Lake it split, one branch, nicknamed the Galloping Goose,

going west to Milne's Landing (now Sooke) and then up-island, and the other going through the Blenkinsop valley on a trestle, then along what is now the Lochside trail to Bazan Bay, then across what is now Canora Road (Canadian Northern Railway) to a long trestle at Pat Bay, where freight was loaded onto a steamer called the Canora to be shipped to the lower mainland and to Duncan.

The Pat Bay line was completed in 1916, and passenger service started in 1917, using a modern gas/electric car built by the McKee Motorcar company. (The gas engine generated electricity to power the wheels.) The competition from the BC Electric Interurban and the CNoPR spelled the end of the V&S, and the CNoPR took over the Sidney part of the V&S in late 1917, and was in turn taken over by the CNR in 1918. In 1919 passenger service was discontinued, although freight service continued until 1932.

So, for one year, 1917, three railways carried passengers on the peninsula. The last to call it a day was the Interurban line, which ceased operation in 1922.

# Calling all volunteers

Wednesday morning work parties will be starting up again - date to be determined after the COVID-19 situation. We meet weekly through to October, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., weather permitting. Our volunteers make an important contribution to the maintenance of the Park. If you have volunteered in the past, we hope you will join us again this year. And we are always looking for new recruits.

If you are interested, please get in touch at [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca) Details about the start date, time and meeting place will be communicated by email to the volunteers.

## Dog Safety

Many visitors to Dominion Brook Park bring their best friend - their dog! And wherever there are dogs, there is a possibility of dog fights or bites.

Children aged 5 to 9 receive the most dog bites in Canada, and usually they are bitten in the face. Children can miss the signs of a dog that is frightened or has been pushed past its tolerance limit. Prior to defensive biting, dogs are likely to become motionless, hold their breath, growl, curl their lip, and/or hold their eyes in such a way that the whites show. Most people do not know that many dogs dislike hugs.

Sometimes puppies bite during play because they have not learned how hard too hard is with those sharp puppy teeth. It is a good practice to be extra diligent when children or puppies are present to prevent a bite before it happens.

Sometimes a dog may be aggressive rather than just defensive. If you find yourself receiving attention from an aggressive dog, avoid eye contact and only occasionally glance at the dog out of the corner of your eye. Turn your body to the side, cross your arms and stay still for a few moments while completely ignoring the dog. Then slowly move away to a safe place. Turning your back on a dog may give certain breeds the impulse to chase you, so moving away while keeping your side to the dog is best. Do not try to be friendly - the dog may find any acknowledgment to be threatening. Being as boring as possible minimizes the chance that you will be attacked.

If a dog lunges at you, another person, or another dog and attempts to bite, use something as a barrier, such as a purse, rolled up jacket or stick to block the dog's teeth from a bite. Do not reach in with your hands to break up a dog fight but find something else to put between the dogs. Blocking the dog's eyesight with a blanket or jacket will usually cause a dog to disengage. Being quiet and moving calmly is best, as yelling at or hitting a dog will only increase its motivation to attack.

If you experience a persistent dog attack, which is extremely rare, convince the dog that you have been defeated by being silent and motionless, curling into a ball with your hands protecting the back of your neck and head until the dog leaves the area.

If you or your dog get bitten, place a clean cloth over the injury to stop the bleeding and keep the injured area elevated. Ask about the attacking dog's vaccination history and make sure to get the owner's name, telephone number and veterinarian's contact information. Don't drive if you are hurt or feeling upset. If you don't feel you need a doctor, wash the bite carefully at home with soap and water, and use sterile bandages and antibiotic ointment to prevent infection. If the bite becomes red, swollen, warm, or tender to the touch, you will need to see a doctor to treat the infection.

## How To Meet A Dog

### Do

- ✓ Kneel and turn to side
- ✓ Keep your face up and away from dog's face



- ✓ Walk up slowly and speak softly
- ✓ Allow dog to approach you
- ✓ Pet gently for a few seconds then stop
- ✓ Always ask before petting

### Don't

- x Reach towards or over head
- x Make direct eye contact
- x Make quick movement or loud noises
- x Hug a dog you just met
- x Pet a dog while holding a baby



A dog is afraid if you see:

- Wide, worried eyes
- Leaning or looking away
- Ears back, tail low or tucked

Courtesy of Pets and People in Harmony, Columbus Dog Connection, and CattleDog Publishing

## Winter dog walking clean up

Keeping our Park clean for everyone to enjoy is a shared responsibility. Volunteers work seasonally to help maintain the Park. Dog walkers do a great job picking up after their dogs. Trash cans are located by the picnic shelter and at the East Saanich Road entrance. The District of North Saanich contracts with a service to empty the trash from the cans.

The garbage bag at the Marshall Road entrance is there for the convenience of dog owners who leave from that gate, but it must be carried to a garbage can for disposal when it is full. Seasonal volunteers look after the bag from March to October, however, over the winter we need a dog walking volunteer to do that job. Please drop us a line at [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca) if you can help.

## Featured Plant *Viburnum x bodmantense* 'Dawn'

Dawn is a cultivar that was developed at Bodnant Garden, Tal-y-Cafn, North Wales in 1934-35.

A winter bloomer, this deciduous shrub displays clusters of highly scented pink flowers at a time when there are few other flowers around. Our specimen, which is beside the north fence across from the sunken garden, was blooming in December.

During the growing season, dark green textured foliage emerges on cinnamon coloured branches. In the fall, the leaves turn a coppery colour. The fruit matures from scarlet to black in the fall.

This tough shrub does best in full sunlight and well-drained soil. It is drought tolerant once established and needs little pruning. Its vase shaped growth pattern and 8-foot height make it suitable as an accent shrub.



Staff this issue: Jody Aylard, Karen Mervyn, Ian Cameron, David Lye, Dawn Gould

[www.dominionbrookpark.ca](http://www.dominionbrookpark.ca) | Box 20007, Sidney, B.C. V8L 5C9 | [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca)