



# NEWSLETTER

Volume: 63 - Summer 2021

## Flavour Trail

Dominion Brook Park is on the Flavour Trail again in 2021. The Flavour Trail Festival runs from July through to September. For more information visit their website: [flavourtrails.com](http://flavourtrails.com)

With lots of picnic table space, large trees offering shade and beautiful

vistas, Dominion Brook Park is the perfect place to have a picnic and enjoy the local treats that you have purchased while out on the Trail. If your group is interested in a tour of the Park, you can arrange a tour in advance through our email address: [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca)

## Come Rock the Ravine

Two-day Rock Wall Building Workshop, **October 2 and 3, 2021**

Join us for a productive and informative dry stone walling workshop with instructors from Rocks and Stones Masonry in Victoria.

In 2019, under the guidance of masons Kevin, Ben and Sandy, members of the Friends of

Dominion Brook completed the stone wall that flanks the south side of the stone bridge at the head of the ravine. We learned layout, foundation requirements, stone splitting and shaping, and more.

This year we are going to complete the wall that flanks the north side of the bridge. We need you to make it happen. We're looking for 10 volunteers, no experience necessary. We ask participants for a donation (\$100 recommended) to help offset the cost of the workshop.

If our experience from 2019 is any indication, a good time will be had by all.

Interested? Drop us an email at [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca) and we'll add you to our list.



## Ravine Planting Update

Thanks to our partners at the District of North Saanich, we have water piped to the ravine. This enabled us to plant the first of 18 zones in 2019. Without water, new plantings struggle to get established and we would likely have lost many of the specimens planted last fall during the uncharacteristic extreme heat that we experienced in June.

This year we plan to plant 6 more zones as well as the heavily shaded area above the stone bridge. We are busy sourcing the new specimens in preparation for fall planting. Thanks once again to the Saanich Peninsula Community Foundation (SPCF) for the \$1,500 grant which will go a long way to helping us to achieve this ambitious goal. The SPCF has been a strong supporter of Dominion Brook Park over the years and we are grateful for their funding.

Members donations and dues also go toward the restoration of the Park. Thanks to all of our supporters for making the ravine project possible.

## To our four-legged park visitors

We know you love the Park and enjoy play dates with your friends. But we ask that you stay out of sunken garden and resist the urge to dig in any freshly dug soil that you find. Please leave the garden beds for your two-legged companions to appreciate and instead, run and chase in the open spaces.

## Plant inventory and database

An important role of our Society is to protect the horticultural heritage and integrity of Dominion Brook Park and promote public awareness of what grows on the grounds. We have many mature trees and shrubs from various places around the world. Some date back to the Park's beginning in 1913. A plant inventory helps us keep track of the plants and their history.

The government kept an index card for each plant specimen, which included a unique identification number, its origin or source, when it was planted, where it is located or relocated, and its condition at various points in time. The Friends keep this card file up to date as the plant inventory in the Park changes (removals, replacements, new plants) and in 2006 we created a digital database containing the plant information.

Over the winter of 2020 the Board embarked on a project to update and rebuild our plant database. We were very fortunate to work with Gord Warrenchuk, Director of Savant Data Base. He is a software consultant and through his company, Savant Database, he offers software and IT support to non-profits. He developed a cloud-based biological database for our plant inventory and information.

Through the winter of 2020 – 2021 two Board members spent many hours cleaning up the data and adding information on recent plantings. The database is still a work in progress but we now have the ability to do inquiries, searches and run reports on the plants in the Park.

Specimen  
7903 anisatum

New Save Delete

Genus:   
Species:

Reference No.:  Location:  Date:

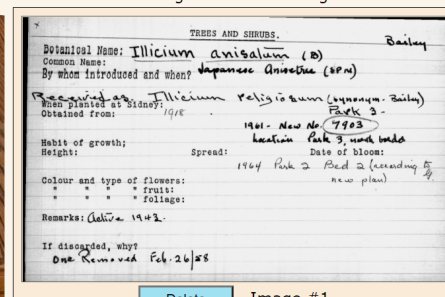
Source:  Condition:

Collection:  Features:

Notes:  
Received from Yokohama Nursery, (see original invoices) as *Illicium religiosum* (synonym)

Upload Image

Click on an image to see an enlarged version.



## Address update

Canada Post moved our post box, so we have a new mailing address. Please direct your correspondence to:

Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society  
PO Box 20007, Beacon Ave  
Sidney, BC  
V8L 5V9

## insect Feature Plant



Photo credit: David Lye

On some of the dry slopes in the open areas of the Park you may have seen many bees flying close to the ground. At first glance, they could be confused with yellow jackets but a closer inspection will reveal a different insect altogether. These are digger bees, native to British Columbia and an important pollinator. They are a solitary, ground nesting bee. They lay their eggs and raise their young in a tunnel. Because they all enjoy the same conditions, often many digger bees live in the same small area, making it look like one large colony but actually is more like a subdivision. Each hole in the ground is one bee nest and they have their homes close together in a bee neighbourhood.

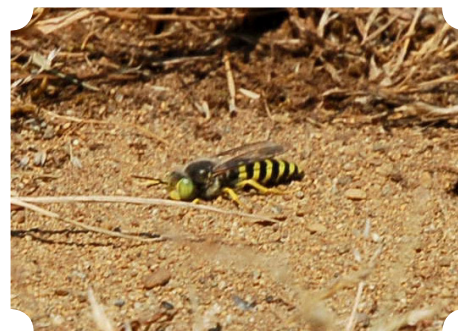


Photo credit: David Lye

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