

## WE DID IT!!!!

**Phase 1 of the Rhodo Ravine Restoration Project is complete!** We have a Concept Plan, bought and paid for, through the generosity of our 'Friends' members, a grant of \$2,000 from the Real Estate Foundation of BC and a sizable contribution from the District of North Saanich along with our own monies earmarked for this essential project.

We have begun Phase 2 which will include detail design, specifications and tender document preparation for the reconstruction of the ravine and updated cost estimates.

Some of the tasks for Phase 2 will include:

- a. Completing a more detailed topographic survey to improve the base plan for detailed design;
- b. Retaining a qualified biologist or ecologist to complete a screening level habitat assessment for CEAA Screening approval and Section 9 Water Act Approval;
- c. Retaining a geotechnical engineer to complete an assessment to review stability of ravine slopes, investigate options for improving drainage on ravine side slopes and assess foundation conditions for proposed stone bridge and stone retaining walls;
- d. Retain a qualified arborist to evaluate health of trees, identify risk trees and evaluate tree removal with respect to an overall landscape plan; and,

e. Preparing detailed design drawings, including details for proposed bridge, landscape elements, rock retaining walls, stream features, drainage improvements, etc.

We hope the community will support our efforts through contributions of money or specialist pro bono work. Our Grants Committee, Debbie Sherwood and Penny Boone, will be exploring all avenues possible for acquiring funds from granting agencies.

It is an exciting and worthwhile project and when completed, it will be a 'jewel in the crown' of this historic 98 year old botanical Park. If you feel able to contribute in any way, please [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca).

Newly Elected Directors for 2010-11



**Back Row, L to R:** Eleanore Arkesteyn (Secretary), Freda Thorne (Memberships), Penny Boone (Grants), Joan Gibb (Chair)

**Front Row, L to R:** Ed Johnson (Treasurer), Spring Harrison, Vern Weibe, Bob Williamson (Vice-Chair), Gerry Warren

# Master Gardeners Visit Dominion Brook Park

On June 16th, the first beautiful evening of the summer, members of the Victoria Master Gardener Association gathered to tour the Park and The Centre for Plant Health.

Under the informed guidance of Brian McCutcheon, Master Gardener, David Lye, Facilities Manager for the Centre for Plant Health and Joan Gibb, Chair of the Friends of Dominion Brook the group learned about the habits/history of a number of trees which flourish in the park. All were impressed with the variety of trees, the wonderful location and, of course, the history. Questions were exchanged, information jotted down and many 'oohs' and 'ahhs' could be heard during the tour.

As the group donated money toward the purchase of trees for the park, a future gathering will be arranged to celebrate their planting.



*Brian McCutcheon points out the unique qualities of *Tsuga sieboldii*, Japanese Hemlock.*

## ***A Reminder***

Have you renewed your Friends of Dominion Brook Park membership? If not, please send your fee (\$15.00 per household) to **Friends of Dominion Brook Park, Box 20007, Sidney, BC, V8L 5C9.**

It enables us to continue with the Newsletter, our volunteer Wednesday work parties, add to the fund for new plantings and many more of the tasks volunteers and professionals undertake.

We are so appreciative of the 'extra' sums that accompany the membership fee which make everything possible. Thank you, one and all.



The **North Saanich Parks Commission** held a Park Plan Open House on June 19 to showcase future Parks Commission plans and to allow North Saanich residents to voice their opinions on the strategic 5 and 25 year plans.

The Friends were invited to take part in the event to show off our Concept Plan and to bring more public awareness of the Park and its volunteer work.

## *DINGEE AND CONARD COMPANY (NURSERY), WEST GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA*

*On March 4th, 1913, William Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist, placed an order to Dingee and Conard for 2 each of 108 climbing roses to be sent via San Francisco and Vancouver to the Dominion Experimental Farm on Vancouver Island at the cost of \$54.00.*

*Dingee and Conard began nursery operations in 1868 (other sources suggest 1862) specializing in fruit trees, roses and other nursery products in West Grove, Pa. The firm started propagating roses under a new system introduced by Antoine Wintzer, the head nurseryman and world-class hybridizer. Conard conceived the idea of disposing of their rose stock through the mail. Their first catalogue offered bedding plants, shrubbery, bulbs, seeds and roses.*

*They began a mail order business in 1874 with an emphasis on roses which became the largest such operation in the USA. In 1892, Dingee and Conard separated and a new company was formed as Conard & Jones. Later it become Conard and Pyle, a horticultural house which has been based in West Grove, Pa for over 150 years and the introducer of the Peace rose to America (the peace Rose was developed in Europe) always specializing in rose production but at one time, they were the leading Canna growers and hybridizer in the USA. On June, 2010 the firm announced it is phasing out and within the year the Company plans only on royalties, licensing and plant breeding.*

*On December 23rd, 1922 the Dominion Experimental Station, as it was then called, published a list in the local newspaper of 71 roses and their capacity to be propagated under name, class, number of cuttings, when, and number and percentage struck. This was for the benefit of the local rose growers.*

*Unfortunately, there are only a handful of roses remaining in the Park near the Centre's Office. However, only a few days ago, quite by chance, volunteers noticed white flowers very high up in tree branches. From a distance it appeared to be a Snowball bush but on a closer look, it was a white rambling rose located in the original planting area and certainly by looking at the canes, a very old plant. So the search begins. By cross referencing the old invoices and planting plans, and with the help of a rose expert, we may be able to identify this specimen shown at right.*



# FLAVOUR TRAIL TOURS AND DOMINION BROOK PARK

Once again the Friends of Dominion Brook Park are participating in the North Saanich Flavour Trail Tours being held on August 21 and 22.

**SUNDAY ONLY, August 22**, the Centre for Plant Health will be conducting three tours starting at 9, 10 and 11 a.m. These **must** be booked ahead of time by calling Barbara at 250 656-7808.

After the Centre tour you are invited to take a guided stroll through Dominion Brook Park to learn of its history and see the amazing collection of shrubs and trees. End the tour with a leisurely stop at the Picnic Shelter for a coffee, tea and cookie.

For further information on the Flavour Trail Tours contact [www.northsaanich.ca](http://www.northsaanich.ca).



## Featured Plant

### *Acer saccharum* (sugar maple)

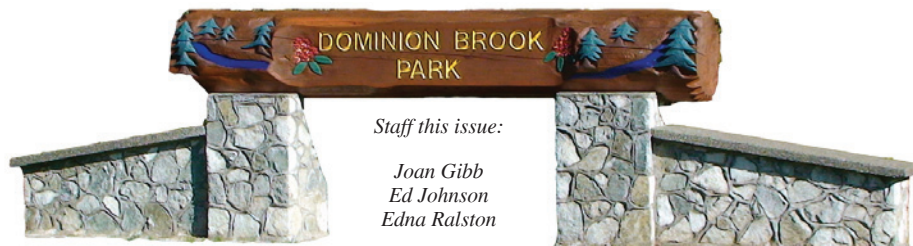
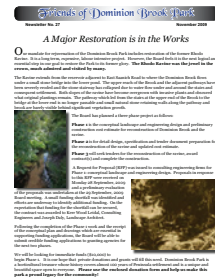
An ornamental, deciduous large tree. It resembles the Norway maple and is one of the finest trees for fall colour with different specimens displaying orange, gold or scarlet tints. Native to Central and Eastern North America. Introduced in 1735. It is the *Acer* which produces maple sugar and maple syrup.

Our specimen came from the sister Dominion Research Station in Kentville, Nova Scotia in 1967 and was designated a Heritage tree in April 1976. It is located west of the Picnic Shelter, tag #13983.

Be sure to visit the Park in the fall to witness the amazing colours not only in the Sugar Maple but other wonderful 'dressed' for fall trees and shrubs.



**DBP Website  
Now On-Line**  
[www.dominionbrookpark.ca](http://www.dominionbrookpark.ca)  
**Maps, Photographs,  
Past Newsletters,  
Future Events, and more !**



For more information on Dominion Brook Park, please visit <http://www.dominionbrookpark.ca/>  
To contact the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society please write to Box 20007, Sidney, B.C. V8L 5C9  
General and Membership enquiries : 250-656-4185  
email : [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca)