

## An Ambitious Fall Planting



John Dawson and Ed Johnson.

Through the generous donations of Park supporters, both Friends and Nurseries, we were able to plant 28 trees and shrubs. I would especially like to mention Kimoff Wholesale Tree Nursery who donated two good sized trees and the Sheila MacKinnon and Patricia Lawson families.

Those additions are:

*Daphne x houtteana* (donated),  
*Daphne tangutica* (donated),  
*Viburnum harryanum* (donated), *Magnolia grandiflora* D.D.  
*Blanchard* (donated),  
*Chitalpha Tashkentensis* (donated), *Chamaecyparis pisifera cyano viridis*  
'Boulevard', *Picea omorika*,  
*Viburnum x bodmantense*

*Dawn*', *Euonymous alatus* 'Select', *Cryptomeria Japonica* 'Sekkan Sugi', *Cephalotaxus harringtonia sinenses* (donated), *Rhus typhina* (donated), *Cotinus coggygria* Golden Spirit, 'Ancot', *Philadelphus x lemoinei* 'Belle Etoile' (donated), *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Elegans', *Fagus atropunica* (donated), *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, *Abies concolor* (donated), *Acer plataneoides* 'Drummondii', *Skimia magic* 'Marlot', *Weigela* (donated), *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Mushroom', *Hydrangeo anomala subsp. Petiolaris*.



Jim Nelson on the tractor, and Chad from North Saanich.



L to R: Penny Boone, Joan MacDonald, Barry Hall, Lee Pears, Alan Warren, Herb Snite, John Dawson, John Boone.

Most are in the North Border near Sam's Garden and the remaining in the southeast corner of the Park. The majority of the new plants were once resided in the Park but lost for a variety of reasons.

For future additions we have a propagation program in place. Some of our specimens are ageing and will need replacing or can be included in the Rhodo Ravine area when the project is at the planting stage.

# End of 2010 Work Season

May I brag? The Park looks fabulous. Our hardworking volunteers have done a marvellous job once again this year. We may even be winning the war against blackberries and ivy in some areas of the Park. We did lose five weeks of work due to weather which delayed some of the proposed plans but all in all it was a successful season.

There was a  
Beds  
to

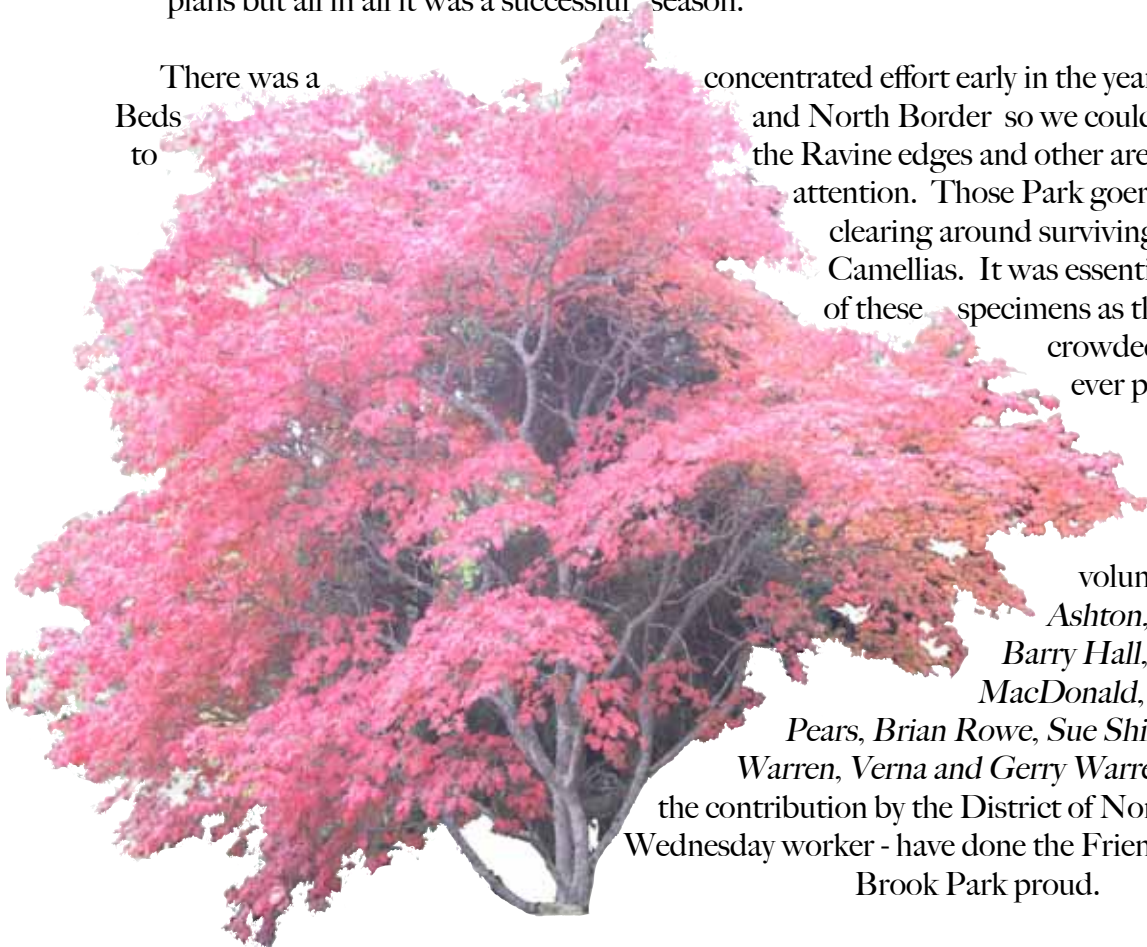
concentrated effort early in the year in the Island and North Border so we could move over the Ravine edges and other areas needing attention. Those Park goers will notice the clearing around surviving Rhodos and Camellias. It was essential to the health of these specimens as they were being crowded out by that ever present noxious growth.

Our smallish band of volunteers (*John Ashton, John Dawson, Barry Hall, Stu and Joan MacDonald, Bob Parr, Lee Pears, Brian Rowe, Sue Shillingford, Alan Warren, Verna and Gerry Warren*) have - with the contribution by the District of North Saanich of a Wednesday worker - have done the Friends of Dominion Brook Park proud.

Once again, our success would not have been possible without the District of North Saanich Parks Department, *Cliff Halliday* and his team especially *Dan* (power tool guy) who spent most of his Wednesday mornings working alongside our volunteers. An added bonus was the extension of the water to the bottom of the stone bridge. Previously, we were bucketing water from the pool to newly planted trees/shrubs in the area but now with the water stand pipe we are able to use hoses.

The Centre of Plant Health, *David Lye*, has facilitated our requests and given his OK to our plans as well as being our No 1 supporter.

Planning for next year has already begun and we would welcome suggestions and new volunteers for our Wednesday morning work party.





## A BOX ON THIEVES

Once again a thief has struck our field supplies. Three 100 foot hoses were removed from their resting place by the upper water stand pipe. This was not an easy removal as they are quite heavy and he/she would have to have made more than one trip to get to a vehicle or perhaps had an accomplice.

Speaking with a RCMP acquaintance, he gave the opinion it was not teenagers, homeless persons or vandals but someone who wanted to water his/her own property. Late in the season, two hoses were added to the lower water pipe but were not stolen. Perhaps the thief did not need more than 300 feet.

Could it be the same thief would took the sprinklers and hose attachments last year? Did he/she need to complete the set? We have removed our tool supply from the usual winter storage in case the thief had further plans to add to his/her garden equipment.

It is disappointing to know that someone has taken material that was obviously in use and needed and did not belong to them.

## What's in a Name?

*Lilac's Latin name is Syringa. It is said to have originated with Syrinx, a young woman who was relentlessly pursued by the lascivious god Pan. She wanted nothing to do with him but Pan refused to accept Syrinx's rejection. She was turned into a plant, the branches of which Pan carefully crafted into his trademark musical pipes. Lilac branches have hollow stems.*

*It's a mark of the tenacity of lilac that, although its natural home is limited to selected valleys of Eastern Europe and a handful of mountain locations in Asia, it is now found in most countries of the Northern Hemisphere.*

*Their trek to our gardens started in Kansu, a province of north China, south of Mongolia, and transported along silk routes into Persia, then Turkey, to Vienna and in 1570 on to Paris.*



*Pan Wooing Syrinx*

*On December 31, 1913, the Experimental Farm placed an order with the famous Spaeth Nursery in Berlin for 270 lilac plants of 125 varieties which were shipped via New York and San Francisco. Lilacs are wonderfully long lived with some in North America surviving 350 years after being planted by French Jesuit missionaries in Michigan.*

*Unfortunately that is not the case of the shipment from Spaeth. It appears that only one specimen is alive on the original Experimental Farm property. It gives new meaning to the word 'gnarled' but does have some new growth though a rather sad sight.*

*However, from a chance conversation, it was learned a number of ancient lilacs were thriving a stone's throw away from the Farm (Centre for Plant Health) and always referred to as French lilacs. Remember they ended up in France from Asia. The garden in question predates the Farm by one year and we do know local residents benefited with plant material from Experimental Farm nursery.*

*A volunteer has begun a propagation program including the French Lilacs and the gnarled specimen which we know belongs to the original shipment. Once again it may be 'lilac time' in Dominion Brook Park.*



*Summertime was a great time for a picnic at the park for the many visitors*



## *Featured Plant*

### *ILEX peryni*

*Ilex (holly) is a large genus with almost 400 species of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs. It is noted for its lustrous green, gold, blue-green or reddish purple leaves and berries that can be coloured red, yellow, orange or black. They range in size from compact shrubs (*I. crenata*) to majestic trees of 15m (*I. opaca*).*

*The Park has a dozen or so different hollies which are just now coming into glorious colour with the new winter crop of berries. One of the more unusual specimens is *I. peryni* which has boxwood like leaves no more than 2.5cm. Our tree is on the north border just down from the water stand.*

*The other hollies in the north border and island beds are worth searching out for their diversity in leaves and interesting bark as well as the berries.*

*The Arboretum at the Centre for Plant Health has one of the largest holly collections in the world. Kew Gardens in England refer to this *Ilex* plantation as second to none. Unfortunately it is not open to the public but some of the specimens can be seen in the Park.*



*Staff this issue:*

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For more information on Dominion Brook Park, please visit <http://www.dominionbrookpark.ca/>  
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