

Volume 49



April 2017

## ***DON'T MISS THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 26, 7 p.m. - PAVILION, CENTRE FOR PLANT HEALTH***

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

A WARM WELCOME BACK to our Wednesday morning volunteers. For the umpteenth time everyone on our team has returned again this year. We do allow for holidays and medical issues without punishment! It is a privilege to work along side this wonderful group of dedicated volunteers.



It is they that keep your Park in tiptop shape, working together each week, to weed, to rake, to clean up, to struggle with invasive species, to repair stone walls, and last year they planted 16 trees and shrubs as well as 1400 deer ferns.

Our partner in these efforts is the North Saanich Parks department, headed by Cliff Halliday and his team who join us each Wednesday with their power tools and expertise. We could not complete our chores without their input.

We do hope to add to our team this year. Everyone welcome, jobs at every level and I guarantee you'll enjoy the morning and working with the team. We

meet at the Marshall Road entrance at 9 a.m. on Wednesday morning beginning on March 15th, weather permitting or telephone Joan at 250 656-4185 or [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca).

*ONCE AGAIN, our sincere thank you to Jeff Lambert for taking on volunteer duties during the winter break.*

### **WHY I LOVE THE PARK**

There are so many things I love about Dominion Brook Park. I love the history of the Park and knowing the history makes me appreciate being able to use it even more. I love thinking about how the Park is used for gatherings, picnics, and events by families of employees, dignitaries, and people of the Island. I love the social opportunities the beautiful environment enables. I love following the owls that are sighted in the Park. I've always loved the artists, painters, photographers, and



others who saw the beauty of Park and spent time capturing it for future generations. The first time I came to the Park, I was amazed by the groups of people who gathered regularly and visited with each other and their dogs. As a newcomer, I envied these people. When I came to know them, I love the friendships which continue to thrive to this day.  
Deb J.



I call Dominion Brook Park my 'happy place'. I've been going there almost every single day for the past 9 years, sometimes twice a day, to walk my dog. I started walking there for exercise for my dog and now I go for my own emotional well being. I love the light at different times of day. I love the quiet hidden pathways. I love the smell of the foliage on wet days. I love the dappled light on the leaves as the sun is setting. I love the beams of light coming through the trees as the sun is rising. I love the open fields on sunny days. I love the sound of the rushing stream during the rainy season. I love the 'lakes' of Glory of the Snow in the spring. I love the ducks, herons, turtles, owls and even the otter. It feels like my own personal arboretum—it's a place that soothes my soul.  
Patti C.



It's an oasis with a lot of history and care behind it – thoughtful long term management based on botanic knowledge – rare to find. The bed and flow of the brook itself is mesmerizing. The swept view across to the USA mountains is somehow just like Canada – a distance from the other side and a peaceful half of the equation. The very fact that it's a federal park – let's never be ashamed of the importance of "the state" in these times – especially when dedicated to nature. And, of course, our now personal connections to its soil and plantings.  
Doug D.



I can't describe Dominion Brook Park in six sentences! My grandsons have always loved to visit the Park. They love it so much because they can put their imaginations to full use when exploring all sorts of intriguing little spots, like the almost hidden sunken garden, hop, skip and jump back and forth again and again cross the tiny, elf-like bridge under which lives a friendly troll. On hot summer days the boys like to sit in the cool of the picnic shelter for their popsicle picnic and then to watch for the fish, frogs ducks and turtles in the pond. If there was ever a park that Thornton W. Burgess could

easily have written about, it is this Park. It is a joy to share Dominion Brook Park with my grandchildren.  
John A.



## RAVINE FUNDRAISING

Since completing the lower ravine last fall your Board members have been hard at work fundraising for the next phase of the restoration, the Rhododendron Ravine South Trail Project. This will open the ravine to visitors for the first time in decades.

Thanks to some excellent proposals we were awarded two grants of \$10,000 each, from the Greater Victoria Savings Credit Union Legacy Fund and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. We also received another generous gift from one of our members, shares of stock in a Canadian bank, which we sold for \$3,077 giving us a little over \$23,000 towards the trail project.

The South Trail Project is one of the two remaining phases left in the ravine rehabilitation, the final phase is the restoration of the uppermost section of the streambed which is not accessible from the trail system. We estimate that it will require a total of \$75,000 to complete these two final phases.

Our fundraising efforts continue. Membership fees as well as member donations can help us reach our goal to open the ravine to the public in the fall of 2017 as our contribution to mark Canada's 150th celebration of Confederation.

Visit [www.dominionbrookpark.ca/  
ravine-project](http://www.dominionbrookpark.ca/ravine-project)

**for a slide show presentation of the  
Ravine Project accomplishments!**

# PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE FRIENDS OF DOMINION BROOK PARK SOCIETY

For discussion and decision at the 2017 Annual General Meeting

## CONSTITUTION

1. The Society shall be named "FRIENDS OF DOMINION BROOK PARK" and **shall be a not for profit society.**

The highlighted section will be moved to the bylaws. This change is necessary because the New Societies Act requires that the Constitution only contain the name and purpose of the Society.

The new bylaw will be:

9. The FRIENDS OF DOMINION BROOK PARK SOCIETY shall be a not-for-profit society.

## BYLAWS

Management of the Society

2. (c) Disbursement of Society funds shall require two signatures to include the Treasurer, and either the President, Vice-President **or Secretary.**

The proposal is to add the secretary as one of the second signing officers to facilitate timely financial transactions.

## NEWSLETTER

5 (b) Copies of the Society's newsletter shall also be sent to the District Council, **North Saanich Parks Commission** and staff parks Supervisor, the Centre for Plant Health, local newspapers and other recipients as deemed appropriate.

The proposal is to remove reference to the North Saanich Parks Commission as it no longer exists.

## AUDITOR

Existing wording

8. Any independent auditor appointed by the Board of Directors shall conduct an annual audit of the Society's financial statements.

Proposed wording

8. The Board of Directors may appoint an independent auditor to conduct an audit of the Society's financial statements.

The proposed rewording is to clarify that the bylaws of the Society do not require an annual audit of the financial statements.

## FEATURED PLANT

### *Rhododendron auriculatum*

WE ARE SO LUCKY - This *R. auriculatum* has been featured previously but since that time, through a series of events, we found out our plant is very, very special. It was a donation from a well-known rhodo expert in 2009. Duly planted at 4' with extra care in the Sunken Garden. Four years later, it bloomed beautifully in August with lovely trumpet shaped, fragrant flowers and each year since that time.

A meeting with the donor and discussing the plant, I mentioned the blooms. Blooming? he said, "I've had mine for forty years and it has not bloomed yet". His friend had an even older version and his had not flowered either.

In Norman Todd's "The Complete Wit & Wisdom of Norman Todd", a chapter entitled Great Moments in History, March 1995, writes of the long wait for *auriculatum* trusses and the great moment when it finally flowers. He speaks of Peggy Abkhazi from the famous Abkhazi Garden who purchased a 20 year old tree and waited 40 years for it to bloom.

As I said, "we are so lucky". So if you're in the Park

late July or early August stroll to the Sunken Garden and on the north/left side visit our beautiful and precocious *Rhodo auriculatum*.



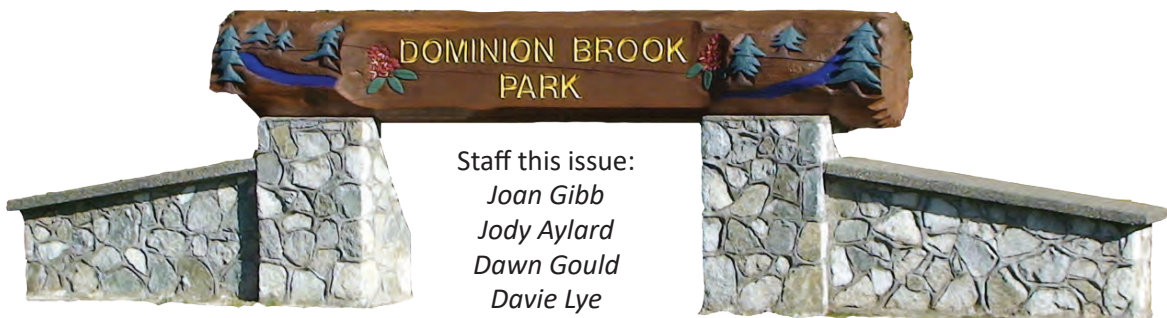
**OOPS!** Our apologies to Russell Nursery for omitting to mention their donation of the *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, 'Glauca' in the November Newsletter. It was among 16 specimens planted on our last work Wednesday in 2016.

## VOLUNTEER WORKING BEES

**Dominion Brook Park  
Wednesday morning work parties  
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

**Join our team of enthusiastic supporters to continue the restoration of the Jewel of the Peninsula. Experience not necessary and work levels for all ages - come and have fun with us!**

**Contact Joan Gibb for more information: 250 656-4185, or [contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca](mailto:contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca)**



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